

Committee on Finance and the Northampton City Council

*Councilor Rachel Maiore, Chair
Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge, Vice Chair
Councilor Stanley W. Moulton, III
Councilor Jim Nash*

**Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: April 14, 2022
Scheduled during City Council Meeting to begin no earlier than 7 pm
Virtual meeting**

The Finance Committee meeting was held by remote participation. The public was able to follow the committee's deliberations by joining the virtual meeting by phone or computer. The meeting was recorded for later broadcast. Live public comment was available using telephone call-in or video conferencing technology.

- 1. Meeting Called To Order: At 8:50 pm the Committee on Finance was called to order. Present were: Councilor Rachel Maiore, Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge, Councilor Stanley W. Moulton, III, and Councilor Jim Nash. Councilor Maiore announced that the meeting was being audio and video recorded.**
- 2. At 8:50P.M. a Public Hearing To Consider Altering The Lay Out Of Portions Of Parsons St, Union St, Pomeroy Ter, Hawley St, & Holyoke St was called to order. The public hearing was advertised in the Daily Hampshire Gazette seven days prior to the meeting as follows:**

Pursuant to M.G.L Chapter 82, Section 21, the City Council Committee on Finance is holding a public hearing by remote participation to consider altering the lay out of the following public ways as shown on a plan (three sheets) entitled, "Street Alteration and Easement Plan, Plan of Land in Northampton, MA Prepared for the City of Northampton," dated March 3, 2022 ("the plan"):
Parsons Street: By adding to the layout thereof parcels E-1 through E-9, inclusive, and easement E-11, all as shown on the plan, and by discontinuing a portion of the layout shown on sheet 2 of the plan as "Discontinued Area City of Northampton Area About: 192 S.F."
North Street: By adding to the layout thereof parcel E-1 as shown on the plan.
Highland Avenue: By adding to the layout thereof parcels E-2 and E-3 as shown on the plan.
Walnut Street: By adding to the layout thereof parcel E-6 as shown on the plan.
Cherry Street: By adding to the layout thereof parcels E-9 as shown on the plan.

A copy of the referenced plan was available for review on the city's website.

Councilor Nash moved to open the public hearing; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 4 Yes (LaBarge, Moulton, Nash, Maiore), 0 No.

Proponents:

Director Wayne Feiden of the Office of Planning and Sustainability was present to discuss the plan. There is an order before City Council for a series of land takings to allow for the Safe Routes to School project. All of the alterations described in the order are related to that project. Some are small as one square feet; the takings would be added to the roadway right of way. Some of the takings include sidewalks that have historically been private property. There is a portion of the described takings that include a small section of Bridge Street Cemetery; this area will become city property, but will not become part of the road right of way.

The order for takings also includes temporary easements, but none of those are part of the

alteration of the right of way.

Director Feiden identified nearly 30 permanent and temporary takings which will cost approx. \$44,000 that will be paid to landowners. Hired appraisers determined the amounts to be paid for each parcel based on commonly accepted appraising methods.

There are two components under review for the public hearing: The alteration of the right of way (Parsons Street), and the acquisition of the easements and takings.

Councilor Nash explained that the planning department conducted extensive outreach with the landowners affected by the changes.

Opponents - None

At 9:02 pm Councilor Moulton moved to close the public hearing; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion, The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 4 Yes (Moulton, Nash, Maiore, LaBarge).

Financial Orders

A. 22.066 An Order Authorizing Acquisition Of Easements For Alteration Of Public Ways For MA Safe Routes To School Program

Councilor Nash moved to return this item to the full city council with a positive recommendation; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 4 Yes (Nash, Maiore, LaBarge, Moulton), 0 No.

B. 22.067 An Order To Alter The Layout Of Portions Of Certain Streets - Parsons Street, Union Street, Pomeroy Terrace, Hawley Street And Holyoke Street

Councilor Moulton moved to return this item to the full city council with a positive recommendation; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 4 Yes (Maiore, LaBarge, Moulton, Nash), 0 No.

C. 22.071 An Order To Approve \$50,000 From Short Term Rental Impact Fees To Affordable Housing

Councilor Nash recalled that the intent of referring this item to Finance was to review the item outside of City Council. There is discussion about having another Finance Committee meeting on May 5th, and he thinks that may be a better time. Councilor Moulton agreed. The next Committee on Finance meeting is planned for May 5, 2022 @ 6 pm.

Director Feiden noted that he will not be available on May 5th; Councilor Maiore indicated that this meeting is intended to hear comments from the public and believes that his attendance at the meeting is not required.

Councilor Nash moved to postpone discussion until May 5, 2022; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 4 Yes (LaBarge, Moulton, Nash, Maiore), 0 No.

6. New Business: None

7. At 9:10 pm councilor Nash moved to adjourn; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 4 Yes (Moulton, Nash, Maiore, LaBarge), 0 No.

Attest: 
Pamela L. Powers, City Clerk