



Committee on Finance and the Northampton City Council

*Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra, Chair
Councilor Marianne LaBarge, Vice Chair
Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr.
Councilor John Thorpe*

On-line Zoom Meeting

Meeting Date: May 6, 2021

Note: The Finance Committee Meeting took place during the City Council Meeting as announced. The City Council Meeting began at 7 p.m.

1. **Meeting Called To Order:** At 12:34 p.m., Councilor Sciarra called the meeting to order.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were committee members Gina-Louise Sciarra (Chair), Marianne LaBarge (Vice-Chair), Michael J. Quinlan, Jr. and John Thorpe. Also present from the City Council were William H. Dwight, Alex Jarrett, Karen Foster, Rachel Maiore and Jim Nash. Also present were Mayor David Narkewicz, Finance Director Susan Wright and Administrative Assistant Laura Krutzler.
3. **Approval of Minutes of April 1, 2021**
Members skipped approval of the minutes because they were not attached to the agenda.
4. **FINANCIAL ORDERS**
 - A. **21.264 An Order for FY2021 Budget Transfers**
Councilor Sciarra reviewed the proposed transfers.

Councilor Quinlan moved to forward the order with a positive recommendation. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

Finance Director Susan Wright asked if anybody had any questions.

Councilor Quinlan asked about the equipment replacement in the fire rescue department.

Director Wright said it is for a vehicle listed on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for replacement next year that needs substantial repairs now. It actually broke down on Route 2 out near Fort Devens and had to be towed back, Mayor Narkewicz added.

Councilor LaBarge asked about the transfers for overtime and permanent salaries in the Mayor's office.

The overtime is for additional salaries for some projects and the \$14,000 transfer to permanent salaries is because the new finance director will be starting May 24th, Director Wright explained. There will be an overlap of a few weeks between her retirement and the official start date for the new director.

Annie Lesko has been doing some additional staffing for the policing review commission and the License Commission to cover additional meetings related to the pandemic, Mayor Narkewicz added.

The motion passed 4:0 by roll call vote.

B. 21.265 An Order Authorizing Acquisition and Establishment of a Municipal Light Plant

Councilor Sciarra read the order. Members called attention to a few small scrivener's errors.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the order with a positive recommendation. Councilor Quinlan seconded.

This vote is critical in order to establish municipal broadband, Councilor Dwight reminded. Establishment of a municipal light plant is a structural requirement by the state to move forward with a municipal broadband system.

This is the 2nd step in the process and the third step is for the question to go to the voters of Northampton on the ballot, Mayor Narkewicz advised. Similar to the constitutional amendment process in Massachusetts, the action requires the City Council to take two separate votes in separate fiscal years and voters to affirm the vote of the council. That will be the next step down the road.

The timing is good because they have a municipal election in November.

There being no further questions, the motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

5. **New Business**

None.

6. **Adjourn:** There being no further business, Councilor Quinlan moved to adjourn. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote of 4 Yes, 0 No. The meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

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