



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 20, 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 11:53 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**
Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the minutes of April 1, 2021. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The minutes passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.
4. **FINANCIAL ORDERS**
 - A. **21.271 An Order To Authorize Conservation Commission To Acquire Massachusetts Audubon Society Conservation Restriction**
Councilor Sciarra read the order.

Councilor Thorpe read aloud an email from Conservation/Preservation Land Use Planner Sarah LaValley. According to Ms. LaValley, the Massachusetts Audubon Society has negotiated the purchase of 16 acres in the Meadows at Potash and Old Springfield Road. This area entirely within the flood plain includes wildlife and bird nesting habitat, including areas identified as priority for rare and endangered species. The property is almost entirely surrounded by protected open space owned by either the Conservation Commission or Mass. Audubon and will make a valuable addition to the Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. In exchange for a \$2,000 contribution to the purchase price, the city, in care of the Conservation Commission, will be granted a permanent conservation restriction. This will not only further the city's long-standing partnership with Mass Audubon but will act as a belt and suspenders to make sure this land is protected forever. Money will come from the Conservation Fund, a fund established using Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to provide for fast action as well as due diligence when needed for open space preservation purposes. No funding is sought with this order.

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Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the order with a positive recommendation. Councilor Thorpe seconded. 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 11:57 p.m.

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