



City of Fitchburg Massachusetts 01420

CITY COUNCIL

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David Clark
Marcus L. DiNatale
Samantha M. Squailia
Anthony M. Zarrella
One Vacancy

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Michael P. Kushmerek

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Ward Councillors

Ward 1 – Amy L. Green
Ward 2 – Paul R. Beauchemin
Ward 3 – Joel R. Kaddy
Ward 4 – Michael P. Kushmerek
Ward 5 – Marisa R. Fleming
Ward 6 – Elizabeth R. Walsh

Finance Committee

A meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Chairman DiNatale on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 6:02 p.m. in the Memorial Middle School Library, 615 Rollstone Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Paul Beauchemin, Marcus DiNatale, Michael Kushmerek, Elizabeth Walsh, and Anthony Zarrella.

Other Councilors present: Councilors David Clark, Joel Kaddy, and Samantha Squailia. Councilors Marisa Fleming and Amy Green arrived late.

Others present: Mayor's Chief of Staff A.J. Tourigny, City Auditor Calvin Brooks, City Solicitor Vincent Pusateri, City Purchasing Agent Mary Delaney, School Superintendent Andre Ravenelle, Assistant School Superintendent Robert Jokela, School Committee Member Jean Labelle-Pierce, and various representatives of Waste Management.

The meeting opened with a public forum during which the following people spoke:

- Jean Labelle-Pierce, 264 Tibbett Circle, School Committee member, spoke in favor of order 005-18, an order appropriating the costs of a feasibility study for a Crocker School K-4 or K-8 project.
- Adam Renda, Crocker School Principal, spoke in favor of the feasibility study for Crocker School. Students at the school were recently displaced to the Passios School in Lunenburg and St. Anthony's School in Fitchburg. It was a smooth transition, but a large disruption to the school year. The Crocker School does need a lot of work.

006-18

ORDER: WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the City Council in Resolution 296-17 to support the continuation of the Landfill, and

WHEREAS, the City, through the Health Department, Law Department, and the Mayor's Office have met with Waste Management, vetted and negotiated the enclosed Memorandum of Understanding and its exhibits and attachments.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the Honorable Stephen L. DiNatale execute and deliver any and all documents necessary, convenient, and helpful to facilitate the intent of the council's approval of Resolution 296-17, including but not limited to the execution of agreements in a form substantially similar to that which is attached.

Discussion: City Solicitor Vincent Pusateri stated that this order will help with the continuation of the landfill. The city is working with Waste Management on a continuation of the host agreement, which will also increase fees to the city. The benefits of having a landfill can not be overstated, and this expansion will extend the life of the landfill about ten years. Upon questioning by councilors, Atty. Pusateri indicated that the proposed land swap will increase the amount of conservation land. Furthermore, while there is no guarantee that the life of the landfill will extend to 2034, it is likely that it will. Waste Management must give the city notice when the landfill is one year to capacity. At that time, the city can reduce tipping amounts to extend the life of the landfill slightly. The plan is to pursue this expansion and then revisit the situation in 2030 to see if there is additional expansion available.

The agreement under consideration determines the relationship among the various parties. This order is the final say by City Council, which will take no further action regarding future changes in the host agreement. Another advantage for having the landfill is that sludge disposal is occurring at virtually no cost to the city. Upon questioning, Atty. Pusateri assured the committee that the city will still have some flexibility in setting the rules of operation at the landfill. He said that DCR is looking to add more conservation land and that DEP will not be stepping in anytime soon to close the landfill. There has been some general discussion about passive use of the landfill property after capping and closing, but serious discussions won't occur until about 2030.

Action: (5-0) Be adopted

005-18 ORDER: that \$1,000,000 be appropriated for the purpose of paying costs of feasibility study on Crocker Elementary School, 200 Bigelow Drive, Fitchburg, MA, for K-4 or K-8 project as outlined in the Order.

Discussion: School Superintendent Andre Ravenelle and School Business Manager Robert Jokela reported that the School Department has been working with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for a while to consider various options for the city's schools. MSBA has done extensive work on enrollment projections, which were originally lower than the city's. MSBA and the city are now ready to go ahead with a study to further explore several options for the Crocker School. It will take 2 ½ years to get schematic drawings and construction would commence about a year thereafter.

The \$60 million used in current financial projections is a placeholder, because a final decision on options has not been made. The basic options are to repair, rebuild, or replace. Several years ago the city completed Green Repair projects at other schools, replacing boilers, windows, and roofs. The city now needs to look at Crocker School and the other educational programs in the city.

When asked if a K-8 school would be double the cost of K-4, Mr. Jokela replied that the city has to go through the feasibility process to work out the costs. Superintendent Ravenelle added that cost is also related to the size and age of the school's students, and that shifting population and the health of the construction industry will also affect costs in the feasibility study. The feasibility study will provide more details on options in order to make an informed decision. It will also allow the process to begin to focus more closely on one option. At the end of a five year process should be a completed building.
Action: (5-0) Be adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Calvin D. Brooks".

Calvin D. Brooks, Clerk