



City of Fitchburg Massachusetts 01420

CITY COUNCIL

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Marcus L. DiNatale
Samantha M. Squailia
Anthony M. Zarrella
E. Thomas Donnelly

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Michael P. Kushmerek

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Ward Councilors

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, May 22, 2018 at 6:00 PM in the Memorial Middle School Library, 615 Rollstone Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Marcus DiNatale, Michael Kushmerek, and Elizabeth Walsh.

Other Councilors present: Councilors David Clark, Marisa Fleming, Amy Green, and Samantha Squailia. Councilor Thomas Donnelly arrived late.

Others present: City Auditor Calvin Brooks, Police Chief Ernest Martineau, Public Works Commissioner Lenny Laakso, Assistant City Solicitor Christine Tree, Mayor's Chief of Staff A.J. Tourigny, and Deputy Commissioner of Water John Deline.

141-18 ORDER: that there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of NINE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$9,500.00), same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to DPW HIGHWAY PERSONAL SERVICES, SUMMER HELP.

Discussion: Lenny Laakso stated that last year the city hired a couple of summer workers to assist the pothole crew. Their assistance was helpful in getting work done and funding will be built into future year budgets.

Action: Be adopted (3-0)

142-18 ORDER: that there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00), same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to ASSESSOR EXPENSE, CONTRACTED SERVICES.

Discussion: A. J. Tourigny reported that when a transfer was made earlier in the year from personal services to contracted services there was a shortfall because of the payment of sick

time buyback which had not been appropriated in the original personal services budget. This appropriation will allow the contract to continue to the end of the fiscal year.

Action: Be adopted (3-0)

143-18 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security earmark (MGL Chapter 47, Acts of 2017) in the approximate amount of \$50,000.00 (FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said earmark, which is to support handicap accessibility improvements at the police station, as well as camera and door security upgrades at the police station and city parking garages.

Discussion: Chief Ernest Martineau said that the Police Department is looking to expand camera capabilities at the station and parking garages and to make improvements to the station to make it more handicap accessible. He thanked Rep. Stephan Hay for getting the funds into the state budget and is now looking for permission to spend.

Upon questioning from Councilors, the Chief indicated that these funds are for the design phase of the project and that he will be looking for additional funding to execute the plans. The chief plans to spend about \$35,000 for cameras and \$15,000 for design. To meet construction needs he will be looking for additional grant money.

Action: Be adopted (3-0)

144-18 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the NewVue Communities gift in the approximate amount of \$45,000.00 (FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said gift, which is for the reconstruction of various sidewalks on High Street and Marshall Street.

Discussion: Lenny Laakso reported that NewVue Communities, working through ReImagine North of Main, received a grant to do sidewalk work. This work will coincide with Unutil's gas line work and with the repaving of Marshall Street.

Councilors stated that these sidewalks are some of the worst in the city and are in a densely populated section. When asked about a timeline, Mr. Laakso stated that the project has already started.

Action: Be adopted (3-0)

145-18 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Clean Energy Results Program, Gap II funding grant in the approximate amount of \$200,000.00 (TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is for the design, purchase, installation, and other ancillary work of an inline turbine at the Water Division's Narrows Road Pressure Reducing Valve Station.

146-18 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center grant in the approximate amount of \$78,357.00 (SEVENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is for the design, purchase, installation, and other ancillary work of an inline turbine at the Water Division's Narrows Road Pressure Reducing Valve Station.

Discussion: John Deline spoke on both Order #145-18 and Order #146-18. He had applied for both grants last fall for a project to install an inline turbine in the water flow coming from Westminster. This turbine will harness energy from the water flow to generate electricity. The city's net cost is about \$84,000 and the energy savings will be about \$10,000 per year. In the process, the city will also have a chance to do rehab work on the building, work that is badly needed.

Councilors asked if multiple turbines could be installed and were told that one turbine uses all the energy available from the water flow.

Action: Be adopted (3-0)

147-18 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Drinking Water Protection Program grant in the approximate amount of \$137,500.00 (ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is for the purchase of property on Piper Road in Ashby and for the costs of purchasing a conservation restriction on a certain parcel of land on Crocker Road in Ashby.

148-18 ORDER: that there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$137,500.00), same to be charged against FUND BALANCE RESERVED FOR LAND PURCHASES and credited to WATER CAPITAL EXPENDITURES, LAND PURCHASES.

Discussion: John Deline next spoke on Order #147-18 and Order #148-18. He stated that City Council had earlier approved the project and that it now needed to act on the financial arrangements. Originally there were four parcels being discussed; now there are only two. The two remaining properties are keys to protecting the tributaries that run into the Fitchburg Reservoir and therefore to protecting the city watershed and the city's water quality.

Action: Be adopted (3-0)

Councilor DiNatale announced that DPW Day, in honor of National Public Works Week, will be held on June 6th from 2 to 5 PM at DPW facility at 301 Broad Street.

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Calvin D. Brooks, Clerk