

Apr 28 2022 2:07 pm



City of Fitchburg Massachusetts 01420

CITY COUNCIL

Councilors at Large
Marcus L. DiNatale
Sally H. Cragin
Amy L. Green
Samantha M. Squailia
Anthony M. Zarrella

President
Anthony M. Zarrella

Vice President
Andrew J. Van Hazinga

Ward Councilors
Ward 1 – Bernard J. Schultz, III
Ward 2 – Paul R. Beauchemin
Ward 3 – Andrew J. Couture
Ward 4 – Andrew J. Van Hazinga
Ward 5 – Marisa R. Fleming
Ward 6 – Derrick J. Cruz

Finance Committee

A meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Councilor DiNatale on Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 6:00 PM in the Legislative Building, 700 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Derrick Cruz, Marcus DiNatale, and Andrew Van Hazinga.

Committee Members absent: Councilors Paul Beauchemin and Anthony Zarrella.

The chairman read an announcement regarding the recording of public meetings, noting that FATV was recording and broadcasting the meeting. No other person stated that they were recording the meeting.

The chairman opened the meeting for public comment. No one spoke.

067-22 ORDER: that that there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$55,000.00) same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to BUILDING DEPARTMENT, VEHICLE REPLACEMENT for the purpose of replacing an inspection vehicle. (Held from April 13, 2022)

Discussion: Building Commissioner Mark Barbadoro was present. He said that he originally thought he needed to buy a hybrid vehicle in order to meet Green Communities standards, but that in fact he could buy a gasoline powered vehicle that meets Green Communities standards. He currently has a vehicle quoted at \$35,406, but it may have expired. He would like \$4,000 or \$5,000 more to cover any additional costs of acquisition. This new vehicle would replace the Electrical Inspector's vehicle which was totaled in a crash several months ago. Currently he is using the Plumbing Inspector's vehicle, but the city will shortly have a new Plumbing Inspector, so that vehicle will not be available. All his vehicles are nine years old, so he would also like to begin replacing one per year.

Councilors asked about the accident and whether there would be insurance proceeds. Mr. Barbadoro said that the matter had been referred to the City Solicitor for filing a claim.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Van Hazinga, second by Councilor Cruz, the committee voted unanimously to amend Order #067-22 to reduce the amount of the appropriation from \$55,000.00 to \$40,000.00.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Van Hazinga, second by Councilor Cruz, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #067-22 as amended.

098-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, Firefighter Safety Equipment grant in the approximate amount of \$25,000.00 (TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to purchase in-suit communication system radios to be used by the Haz-Mat team and a combustible gas meter.

099-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Office of Grant and Research grant in the approximate amount of \$2,500.00 (TWO THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to purchase a defibrillator.

Discussion: Fire Chief Dante Suarez was present. The chairman announced that he was taking Orders #098-22 and #099-22 together. Chief Suarez said that the first order was for the purchase of four portable radios for the Haz-Mat suits and a gas meter to monitor the gases outside the suit. The second grant was to purchase a defibrillator to replace an older model.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Van Hazinga, second by Councilor Cruz, the committee voted unanimously to approve Orders #098-22 and #099-22.

100-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is transferred from within the sum of SIXTEEN THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$16,750.00) same to be charged against HEALTH PERSONAL SERVICES, WEIGHTS & MEASURES INSPECTOR and credited to HEALTH EXPENSE, WEIGHTS & MEASURES CHARGES for the purpose of covering expenses associated with the annual testing and sealing of commercial weighing and measuring devices.

Discussion: Public Health Director Steve Curry was present. He explained that this request was to move funds from Personal Services to Expenses to cover the costs of the state performing weights and measures services for the city during FY2022. There had been a job posting for the weights and measures position, but very low interest. Mr. Curry said the plan is to repost the opening.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Van Hazinga, second by Councilor Cruz, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #100-22.

101-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$150,000.00) same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to POLICE PERSONAL SERVICES, OVERTIME.

Discussion: Police Chief Ernest Martineau was present. He reported that as the department is approaching year end, the overtime budget is almost depleted. His department is down roughly twelve positions, so backfilling positions has had a cost. There were also two incidents in April that required overtime. Third, the department has had to pay out chunks of money in compensatory time or time owed. This request for funds should cover the balance of the year, unless there are additional unanticipated large events.

Councilors asked about the overage in overtime. The chief said he regularly scrutinizes the overtime spending and budget. As an example of overtime spending, the chief mentioned that next week is Spree Day at Fitchburg State University, which requires extra officers on overtime to prevent bigger problems erupting. Councilors asked if FSU reimburses city costs. The chief said that FSU does make a contribution, but not for the entire cost. Because Spree Day is not a university sanctioned event and takes place on city streets, the city is responsible for maintaining the peace. Spree Day is also only one such event which the police need to cover.

Councilors noted that this request is not related to budgeting issues. The chief said he is budgeted for 83 officers and currently has 69 officers. There are an additional 4 in the police academy now, 6 scheduled for this summer, and 5 scheduled for the fall. It takes about twelve months for a new recruit to be ready to take their own shift. The chief is hoping to be back to a manageable situation by January, 2023. He also noted that this is the first time in his eight years as chief that he has had to ask for additional overtime funds.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Cruz, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #101-22

103-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of FIFTY-SEVEN THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY-TWO AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$57,972.00) same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to the following accounts:

MAYOR, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 3,289.00
CITY AUDITOR, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 5,691.00
PURCHASING, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 2,610.00
ASSESSOR, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 2,715.00
TREASURER, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 4,959.00
HUMAN RESOURCES, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 3,915.00
CITY CLERK, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 2,349.00
COMM. DEV., PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 2,715.00
FACILITIES, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 2,454.00
POLICE, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 4,907.00
FIRE, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 5,481.00
BUILDING, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 2,819.00
PUBLIC WORKS, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 3,237.00

HEALTH, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 2,976.00
COUNCIL ON AGING, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 2,349.00
LIBRARY, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 2,506.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, OTHER BENEFITS	\$ 3,000.00

104-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is transferred from within the following PERSONAL SERVICES accounts the sum of SEVEN THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$7,830.00) same to be credited to the following accounts:

WATER ENTERPRISE FUND	\$ 2,976.00
WASTEWATER ENTERPRISE FUND	\$ 2,715.00
AIRPORT FUND	\$ 2,141.00

Discussion: The chairman announced he was taking Orders #103-22 and #104-22 together and out of order. He noted that the ordinance containing the matrix was not included in the City Council meeting so he suggested that these two orders be held in committee until the next meeting.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Van Hazinga, second by Councilor Cruz, the committee voted unanimously to hold Orders #103-22 and #104-22.

102-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$161,865.00) same to be charged against WASTEWATER ENTREPRISE FUND, RETAINED EARNINGS and credited to the following WASTEWATER PERSONAL SERVICES accounts:

Technicians	\$10,300.00
Maintenance	\$40,861.00
Operators	\$86,006.00
Overtime	\$17,995.00
Clothing Allowance	\$ 3,500.00
Vacation/Sick Buyback	\$ 3,203.00

Discussion: Human Resources Director Susan Davis was present. The chairman read a letter from Ms. Davis dated April 13, 2022. She reported that negotiations had been successful. She noted that the wages for some groups needed to be more competitive with other communities, especially the operators. Obtaining a license takes time to get, both in training and experience. She was pleased that the rates are in line with other communities, because it is important to attract and retain employees. She also mentioned that this group in April, 2020 went on a six week cycle of 24 hour, 7 day shifts living at the wastewater plant, in order to avoid any disruption due to the pandemic.

Councilors noted that the efforts of the staff do not go unnoticed and that it is important to remain competitive.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Cruz, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #102-22.

On a motion made by Councilor Van Hazinga, second by Councilor Cruz, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM.

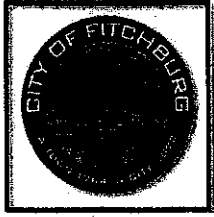
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Calvin D. Brooks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Calvin D. Brooks, Clerk

City of Fitchburg
Available Funds Summary
Fiscal Year 2022

Available Funds Certified as of July 1, 2021			8,882,198
Less Approved Appropriations:			
12/07/21	201-21	Stabilization Fund	-350,000
12/07/21	202-21	OPEB Trust Fund	-450,000
12/07/21	203-21	Reserve for Other Municipal Purposes, Capital Expenses	-125,000
12/07/21	204-21	School Expenses	-600,000
12/07/21	207-21	Police Maintenance of Buildings, Repair & Care	-8,380
12/21/21	208-21	Health Expense, Weights & Measures	-16,750
12/21/21	209-21	Library Trust Fund, Wallace Fund	-31,320
12/21/21	218-21	Facilities, Tax Possession Maintenance	-9,000
02/15/22	011-22	Law Other Expenses, Litigation and Special Counsel	-115,000
02/15/22	021-22	Law Other Expenses, Appraisals	-10,700
04/19/22	065-22	Fire, Ladder Truck	-1,400,000
Subtotal - Approved Appropriations			-3,116,150
Balance Available			5,566,048
Less Proposed Appropriations:			
04/05/22	067-22	Building, Vehicle Replacement	-55,000
04/19/22	101-22	Police, Overtime	-150,000
04/19/22	103-22	Mayor, Ordinance Matrix	-57,972
Subtotal - Proposed Appropriations			-262,972
Balance Available If Proposed Appropriations are Approved			5,303,076
Possible Appropriations:			
Snow & Ice			
Stabilization Fund 5% - \$6,974,000 7% - \$9,764,000 Current - \$7,517,897			
OPEB Fund Current - \$1,997,632			
Labor Contracts			
Comp Time			
Veterans - Cash Benefits			
Community Development - Rail Trail - Phase 2			
Main Street Garage - Phase 1			
One Wood Place			
Salary Study			
Crocker Field			
DPW - Equipment List			
DPW - Paving			
DPW - Street Light Repairs			
DPW - Traffic Light Repairs			
DPW - Stormwater Expenses			
DPW - Oak Hill Road Bridge			
Library - Asbestos Abatement on windows and HVAC pipes			
Schools - Longsjo School - Window Replacement			
Police Station Renovation			
Senior Center Renovation			
Community Development - Demolition			
Building - Demolition			
Demolition - Laurel Street School			
Police - Vehicles			
Fire - Vehicles			
Marketing City			
Cemetery Software			
Cemetery - Vehicles			
Cemetery - Masoleum			
Cemetery - Engineering & Design for Expansion			
Cemetery - Construction for Expansion			
Parks - Downtown Summer Groundskeeper			
Parks - Various Improvements			



**City of Fitchburg
Department of Human Resources**

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April 13, 2022

Honorable Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale
Municipal Offices
718 Main Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420

Dear Mayor DiNatale:

Kindly be advised that negotiations, for fiscal years 2021 – 2023, with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 888 representing the Wastewater Facilities group have concluded.

I have attached the signed Memorandum of Agreement and all related documents pertaining to this Collective Bargaining Agreement.

As a result of these successful negotiations, I am requesting an appropriation from available funds in the amount of One Hundred Sixty-one Thousand and Eight Hundred and Sixty-five dollars (\$161,865). This amount represents the first two years of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and associated retroactive wages.

Please contact me should you have any questions related to this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan A. Davis".

Susan A. Davis
Director of Human Resources

Cc: Calvin Brooks, City Auditor
Enc: Memorandum of Agreement
Education/Training Conditional Waiver
Wage Matrix