

Jun 27 2022 8:44 am



**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, June 22, 2022 at 6:05 PM in the Legislative Building, 700 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Paul Beauchemin, Derrick Cruz, Marcus DiNatale, Andrew Van Hazinga, and Anthony Zarrella.

Committee Members absent: None.

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.

194-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts earmark in the approximate amount of \$75,000.00 (SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said earmark, which is for training and equipment related to our newly established crisis response clinician.

Discussion: The chairman announced that this order was approved at the City Council meeting held June 21, 2022 under suspension of the rules and did not need to be discussed at this meeting.

195-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Highway Safety Division grant in the approximate amount of \$2,810.60 (TWO THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED TEN AND 60/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to purchase and install federally approved child passenger safety seats.

Discussion: Police Chief Ernest Martineau was present. He stated that the city has received this grant for several years and is for the purchase and installation of child safety seats given to those who have a need. He estimates that twenty-four seats can be provided.

Councilors applauded the grant and asked how residents could receive one. The chief said that they have them available at certain city events. Residents may also reach out to Lt. Howe, the community engagement officer, and their request will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Beauchemin, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #195-22.

196-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is transferred from within the sum of TWELVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$12,000.00) same to be transferred from POLICE, PERSONAL SERVICES, CIVILIAN DISPATCHERS and credited to POLICE, PERSONAL SERVICES, DISPATCHER OVERTIME.

Discussion: Chief Martineau remained. He said that in reviewing the budget for the end of the fiscal year they found they needed additional funds in overtime due to staffing issues. The funds would be transferred from within the Police Department budget.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Beauchemin, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #196-22.

197-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is transferred from within the sum of THIRTEEN THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$13,500.00) same to be transferred from HUMAN RESOURCES PERSONAL SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES GENERALIST and credited to the following accounts:

HUMAN RESOURCES, PERS. SERV., OVERTIME	\$5,000.00
HUMAN RESOURCES, EXPENSES, TEMP. P.S.	\$8,500.00

Discussion: Human Resources Director Susan Davis was present. She said that the Human Resources Generalist had left the department on March 28th, but was still assisting with some of the work, albeit as overtime, while the department was looking for a replacement. They also brought in a temporary worker to assist with filing.

Councilors asked about a timetable for the replacement and the third staff member included in the FY2023 budget. Ms. Davis said that a person is scheduled to start work on Monday, June 27th and that the application period for the third position will close next week. She indicated that the previous Human Resources Generalist has been available for assistance since her departure and would also assist with some training of new personnel. There may be a small amount of overtime spent in July during the transition.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Zarrella, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #197-22.

198-22 LOAN ORDER: that the City appropriate the amount of FOUR MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$4,800,000.00) for the purpose of paying costs of an Accelerated Repair Project at the Arthur M. Longsjø Middle School, located at 98 Academy Street, Fitchburg, Massachusetts, to replace windows and doors, as outlined in the enclosed order.

Discussion: School Superintendent Robert Jokela was present. He announced that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) approved their share of the project, which would be 80% of eligible costs or approximately \$3.4 million, during a meeting earlier in the day. The Owner's Project Manager (OPM) is already lined up and the work is scheduled for next year. He estimated that the windows are from the mid-1980's and are opaque and not functional.

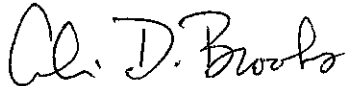
Councilors asked about using ARPA funds on the city share. Mr. Jokela replied that using ARPA or other grant funds would unfortunately reduce the amount being covered by MSBA and would not benefit the city.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Zarrella, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #198-22.

On a motion made by Councilor Zarrella, second by Councilor Beauchemin, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Calvin D. Brooks".

Calvin D. Brooks, Clerk