

*Jul 14 2022 11:28 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, July 13, 2022 at 6:03 PM in the Legislative Building, 700 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Paul Beauchemin, Derrick Cruz, Marcus DiNatale, and Anthony Zarrella. Councilor Andrew Van Hazinga participated remotely via Zoom.  
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.

206-22           ORDER:                           that there be and hereby is transferred from within the sum of FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$50,000.00) same to be transferred from RESERVE FOR OTHER MUNICIPAL PURPOSES, CAPITAL EXPENSES and credited to POLICE, CAPITAL EXPENDITURES, BUILDING RENOVATION for the purpose of contracting for designer services.

Discussion: Police Chief Ernest Martineau was present and stated that he is requesting these funds to continue the process of doing renovations at the Police Station. The last appropriation has been used to hire Colliers Project Leaders for OPM services. The city recently went out to bid for designer services and hired Context Architects. The funds being requested are to cover Phase 1 of design. They will go through the building and make recommendations and generate cost estimates for the recommendations.

Councilors asked the chief what his estimate is for total construction costs. The chief replied that in his conversations with Colliers, the estimated cost is four to five million dollars. A

lot will depend on the next phase of the design work and his goal is to get the station in a position to last another thirty years. Councilors noted that the funds for this appropriation are coming from the \$1,150,000 Reserve for Capital Expense included in the FY2023 budget.  
Action: On a motion by Councilor Zarrella, second by Councilor Beauchemin, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #206-22.

Councilor Cruz left the meeting.

207-22           ORDER:                       that the City of Fitchburg approves the expenditure of additional funds from the Massachusetts Collaborative for Action, Leadership, and Learning 3 Substance Misuse Prevention grant in the approximate amount of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$125,000.00) for the purpose of said grant, which is to prevent and reduce misuse of substances of first use (alcohol, nicotine, cannabis) among youth. This order is in addition to the amount approved in Council Order #077-21.

Discussion: Public Health Director Steve Curry was present. He reported that for FY2023, Massachusetts Department of Public Health has doubled this previously approved grant from \$125,000 to \$250,000. It is a regional grant, for which Fitchburg is the lead, and right now is more of a planning grant. The city is looking to hire someone to assist with implementing the project.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Zarrella, second by Councilor Beauchemin, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #207-22. (Councilor Cruz was absent.)

208-22           ORDER:                       that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of additional funds from the Massachusetts Public Health Excellence grant in the approximate amount of \$300,000.00 (THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is expand on shared services between municipalities in the Montachusett Public Health Network (MPHN). This order is in addition to the amount approved in Council Order #170-22.

Discussion: Mr. Curry remained and stated that this request is also an expansion of a previous grant. It is to be spent through MPHN during FY2023 to improve shared services. The city would be hiring to fill grant funded positions for an inspector and an epidemiologist to serve the thirteen member communities. It is part of a push by Massachusetts Department of Public Health to expand regionalization in central Massachusetts.

Councilors asked about the city's liability in hiring additional personnel. Mr. Curry said that the positions are considered temporary because of the grant funding and that the funding does cover benefit costs.

Councilor Cruz returned to the meeting.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Zarrella, second by Councilor Beauchemin, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #208-22.

209-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of additional funds from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services grant in the approximate amount of \$16,666.00 (SIXTEEN THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to assist individuals living in Fitchburg who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of overdose and to collaborate with other agencies to assess other city needs. This order is in addition to the amount approved in Council Order #013-20.

Discussion: Mr. Curry remained. This request is also an expansion of a previously approved grant and the city is planning to use the funds to purchase addition Narcan for use in the current street homelessness outreach.

Councilors asked about different departments working together on these efforts. Mr. Curry said that the different city departments do coordinate their activities and hold regular meetings to do so.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Cruz, second by Councilor Zarrella, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #209-22.

210-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division grant in the approximate amount of \$4,400.00 (FOUR THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to upgrade cameras located on the property.

211-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division grant in the approximate amount of \$114,400.00 (ONE HUNDRED FOURTEEN THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to repair roofs on Hangars 2 and 3.

212-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division grant in the approximate amount of \$48,400.00 (FORTY-EIGHT THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to repair doors on Hangars 2 and 3.

213-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division grant in the approximate amount of \$8,160.00 (EIGHT THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED SIXTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to upgrade the fuel farm.

Discussion: The chairman announced that he was taking up Orders #210-22, #211-22, #212-22, and #213-22. City Auditor Calvin Brooks said that these orders should have been submitted to City Council at the end of May when Order #176-22 had been. He lost them in the rush of the FY2023 budget process. Mr. Brooks noted that at the June 8, 2022 Finance Committee meeting

Airport Manager Peter Kettle indicated there were projects totaling \$219,000 and that grant funding would cover 80% of the cost. These four orders represent the 80% funding offered by Mass DOT and that Order #176-22 along with a previous appropriation represented the 20% local share. There should be no additional cost to the city for these projects.

Councilors reviewed the meeting minutes from June 8, 2022. They also applauded the work being done at the airport. The airport acts as a catalyst for economic activity and the city should begin to see the benefits of the recent improvements.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Zarrella, second by Councilor Cruz, the committee voted unanimously to approve Orders #210-22, #211-22, #212-22, and #213-22.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Calvin D. Brooks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Calvin D. Brooks, Clerk

DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to fund the Franklin Road Sidewalk/Safe Routes to School Enhancement project.

Discussion: Mr. Skwierawski remained. He said that the Community Development Department obtained the grant and that the Department of Public Works will oversee the project—a cooperative effort. The grant will be used to replace some aging sidewalks on the route used by Reingold School students.

Councilors thanked Mr. Skwierawski for the grant and asked if the work can extend to Exeter Street. Mr. Skwierawski will review that possibility.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Zarrella, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #174-22.

175-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Shared Streets and Spaces Program grant in the approximate amount of \$47,000.00 (FORTY-SEVEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to fund the Boutelle Street Traffic Calming project.

Discussion: Mr. Skwierawski remained. He said this grant is from the same program as the previous order, but in a different bucket. It is for obtaining road equipment—signs and flashing lights to indicate speed. His department has been working with residents and the ward councilor to develop this project.

Councilors asked if CDBG funds will be used. Mr. Skwierawski said that about \$30,000 in block grant funds will be used to complete this project. Chapter 90 funds will be used on the Franklin Road project mentioned in the previous order.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Cruz, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #175-22.

176-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Federal Aviation Administration, Airport Rescue Grant in the approximate amount of \$59,000.00 (FIFTY-NINE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to repair the hangers at the airport, or other projects which may arise.

Discussion: Airport Manager Peter Kettle was present. He indicated that they have applied for other grants totaling \$219,000 and that they will be using some of these funds to cover the city match. The plan is to repair the roofs and doors at two hangars that are about ninety years old. The structures are in good shape; they just need new doors and roofs.

Councilors were pleased that the city is not being asked to contribute its share directly. They are excited to see the airport growing.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Beauchemin, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #176-22.

177-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is transferred from within the sum of TWO HUNDRED SIXTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$260.00) same to be transferred from VETERANS BENEFITS, CASH BENEFITS and credited to VETERANS EXPENSES, MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION.