

Sep 30 2022 9:30 am



City of Fitchburg Massachusetts 01420

CITY COUNCIL

Councilors at Large

Marcus L. DiNatale
Sally H. Cragin
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Anthony M. Zarrella

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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, September 28, 2022 at 6:02 PM in the Legislative Building, 700 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.

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

Committee Members absent: Councilor 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.

239-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is transferred from within the sum of SIX THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED TWO AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$6,802.00) same to be transferred from RESERVE FOR OTHER MUNICIPAL PURPOSES, CAPITAL EXPENSES and credited to LIBRARY, EXPENSES, BUILDING MAINTENANCE for the purpose of supplementing repair costs for the HVAC system.

Discussion: Library Director Deb Hinkle was present. The chairman read a letter from Ms. Hinkle dated August 11, 2022. Councilors asked if the renovated library would have a brand new heating and ventilation system. Ms. Hinkle replied in the affirmative. Councilors asked about the possibility of recycling or reusing some of the current equipment. Ms. Hinkle said she will be working with the Chief Procurement Officer on that issue. She also stated that she had been hired to keep the building running until the renovation project started. This past summer was very hot and the cooling system failed. This work and these funds allowed the library to continue being used as a cooling center for residents.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Cruz, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #239-22.

240-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) grant in the approximate amount of \$150,000.00 (ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to address issues of vaccine equity.

Discussion: Public Health Director Steve Curry was present. He indicated that this national grant is to address the drivers for vaccine hesitance for both Covid and flu vaccines. In answer to a question, Mr. Curry estimated that 65% of Fitchburg residents had the first series of Covid vaccine and that about 30% have had the booster.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Beauchemin, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #240-22.

241-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, State 911 Department Training Grant in the approximate amount of \$76,426.15 (SEVENTY-SIX THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX AND 15/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to train both Fire and Police Department dispatchers in medical and 911 emergency procedures.

Discussion: Police Chief Ernest Martineau was present. He said that this recurring grant from the state 911 system is for training. The Police oversee all dispatch, while the Fire Department does medical dispatch. All dispatchers are required to undergo annual training and this grant will handle training costs for the year. Councilors asked about EMT certification. The chief replied that here we are talking about medical dispatch training, which is different from EMT certification.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Van Hazinga, second by Councilor Cruz, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #241-22.

242-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, State 911 Department grant in the approximate amount of \$174,594.00 (ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOUR THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to support salaries and provide repair and enhancement to the E911 service system in the Police Department.

Discussion: Chief Martineau remained. He reported that this big grant is received annually to supplement the city budget supporting the dispatch center. The grant has been in the \$175,000 range for several years. Councilors asked about using these funds to improve service. The chief replied that they are constantly making software upgrades and that some of these funds will be used to upgrade equipment. This grant has been used in budget calculations for about twenty years.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Beauchemin, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #242-22.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Calvin D. Brooks, Clerk

