



**City of Fitchburg
Massachusetts 01420**

FITCHBURG CITY CLERK

Nov 16 2023 12:26 pm

CITY COUNCIL

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

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Anthony M. Zarrella

Vice President
Andrew J. Van Hazinga

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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 Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 6:05 PM in the Legislative Building, 700 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Anthony Zarrella, Paul Beauchemin, Samantha Squailia, and Andrew Van Hazinga

Committee Members absent: None

Others Present: Steve Curry, Director of Public Health; Nicholas Erickson, DPW Commissioner; Russel Karlstad, Director of Facilities; Liz Murphy, Executive Director of Community Development; James Bunnell, Director of Parks & Recreation

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

247-23 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of grant funds from the Mass DEP FY24 Sustainable Material Recovery Recycling Program, Recycling Dividends Fund, in the approximate amount of \$30,000 (THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to implement specific programs and policies to maximize reuse, recycling, and waste reduction of curbside and drop-off disposal in Fitchburg.

Discussion: Mr. Curry explained that this year's annual grant will subsidize the city's mattress disposal program. Links are available on the city's website for residents to arrange for mattress pickup. The grant also funds education and enforcement to correct recycling contamination.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

248-23 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of grant funds from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Sewage Notification Assistance Grant Program, in the approximate amount of \$71,800.02 (SEVENTY-ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND 02/100 DOLLARS), the purpose of which is to support municipalities in meeting the requirement to promote public awareness of sewage pollution during overflow events.

Discussion: Mr. Erickson explained that these funds are used to comply with state requirements to notify the public, the DEP, and the EPA, of overflow events at either the wastewater plant or at a regulator point. Residents can sign up for alerts on the city website.
Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

249-23 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of grant funds from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Dam & Seawall Repair or Removal Grant Program, in the approximate amount of \$76,800 (SEVENTY-SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS), the purpose of which is to complete an evaluation of the dam's stability and ongoing seepage issues, which will yield critical design information for future design and permitting phases.

Discussion: Mr. Erickson stated that the Scott Reservoir Dam is over 100 years old, and has had seepage issues since the early 1900's. Also, that preservation of the Scott Reservoir Dam is important for providing a backup water supply to the City.
Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

250-23 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Municipality Vulnerability Preparedness Program Action Grant for the Blue/Green Downtown Fitchburg – Climate Adaptation Plan project in the approximate amount of \$365,000 (THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to define causes of flooding, and will result in mitigation recommendations while also addressing heat impacts, and ensuring that development and infrastructure improvements will be climate smart.

Discussion: Mr. Erickson emphasized that this is the third grant received by the City this year under the State's Municipal Vulnerability program, for a total of about one million dollars.
Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

251-23 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby appropriates \$550,000 (FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS) from the following accounts to acquire the parcel of land at 580 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg. This property has strategic importance to the redesign of the intersection of John Fitch Highway and Lunenburg Street, and the reconfiguration of the adjacent portion of John Fitch Highway.

RESERVE FOR OTHER MUNICIPAL PURPOSES:

Capital Expenses \$245,550

RECEIPTS RESERVED FOR APPROPRIATION:

Bond Premiums Reserved \$245,000

City Property Sold \$ 59,450

Discussion: Ms. Murphy and Mr. Erickson emphasized the importance of acquiring this parcel now, while it is vacant and for sale. Ownership of the parcel will allow the City to qualify for MassDOT assistance in the reconstruction of the intersection at John Fitch Highway and Lunenburg Street, as well as the redesign & reconfiguration of the John Fitch Highway between Summer Street and Lunenburg Street. Councilors were very supportive of the land purchase.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

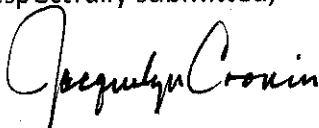
252-23 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby appropriates \$75,245 (SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE DOLLARS) from RESERVE FOR OTHER MUNICIPAL PURPOSES – CAPITAL EXPENSES to begin an architectural assessment of existing conditions at the Forest Hill Abbey mausoleum at Forest Hill Cemetery. The assessment will facilitate a more thorough and complete design of repairs on the part of the selected design firm.

Discussion: Councilors acknowledged the decades of neglect of the mausoleum and its current state of failure, and the need to honor the deceased and their loved ones.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacquelyn Cronin, Clerk