



Committee on Finance

February 11, 2009 – 7:00 pm – **Agenda**
City Council Chamber, Room 214 – Municipal Building

View Minutes

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1. Communication, R. Renee Fernandes-Abbott, Treasurer/Collector, to Councillor Gonsalves, Chair of the Committee on Finance, requesting the Finance Committee's approval on the renewing of Bond Anticipation Notes in the amount of \$38,077,374.00; the Notes are due and payable on February 13, 2009.

INVITEES: R. Renee Fernandes-Abbott, Treasurer/Collector

2. Communication, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, that \$3,500,000.00 is appropriated for the purpose of remodeling, reconstruction and making extraordinary repairs to City-owned buildings, that to meet this Appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor and the Committee on Finance, is authorized to borrow \$3,500,000.00 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project; and that the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any or all of the Bonds and to provide such information and execute such documents as the Board may require for these purposes.

- 2a. AN ORDER,

INVITEES: Peter Schmidt, City Auditor; Lawrence Worden, DPF Commissioner; John Perry, Superintendent Facilities-Construction & Maintenance; Stephen Fulchino, Library Director; Ron Teachman, Police Chief; Paul Leger, Fire Chief; Mark Mahoney, Emergency Management Director

3. Communication, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$2,000.00 from CEMETERY DEPARTMENT, SALARIES & WAGES to CEMETERY DEPARTMENT, OTHER FINANCING USES.

- 3a. AN ORDER,

INVITEES: Peter Schmidt, City Auditor; Joaquim Oliver, Assistant Superintendent of Cemeteries

4. Communication, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$4,000.00 from PLANNING DEPARTMENT, SALARIES & WAGES to PLANNING DEPARTMENT, OTHER FINANCING USES.

- 4a. AN ORDER,

INVITEES: Peter Schmidt, City Auditor; David Kennedy, City Planner

5. Communication, Mayor Lang to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$100,000 from the STABILIZATION FUND to DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES REVOLVING FUND. (Ref'd 12/18/08)

- 5a. AN ORDER,

INVITEES: Peter Schmidt, City Auditor; Dan Romanowicz, Acting DIS Commissioner

6. Written Motion, Council President Gonsalves, Councillors Lawrence, Saunders, Gomes, Alves, Coelho, Martins and Pimental, asking that the City Council request that the Mayor's Office, and the Department of Public Facilities provide the City Council with a breakdown of expenditures inherent in the renovation and rehabilitation of the Sister Avelar Community Center, and that the breakdown include the scope of the work, the cost of the work, a list of who is doing the work, and the source of funding for that work; and further, that the breakdown should be line by line.

INVITEES: William Burns, Mayor's Chief of Staff; Lawrence Worden, DPF Commissioner

7. Written Motion, City Council President Gonsalves, requesting that the Committee on Finance explore the possibility of eliminating direct deposit paycheck stubs on paper and providing those to the employees solely online; and further, that the Treasurer and the MIS Director be invited to the meeting to discuss the possibility. (Ref'd 5/22/08)

INVITEES: Renee Fernandes-Abbott, Treasurer; Rob Tetreault, MIS Director

Please NOTE the last item on every Finance Agenda will be the review of the City's Monthly Report.

8. Communication, City Auditor Peter Schmidt, submitting to the City Council the City's Monthly Reports for the month of December 2008, to be reviewed by the Finance Committee.

INVITEES: Peter Schmidt, City Auditor

CHAIR SUGGESTS TAKING NO FURTHER ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

9. Communication, Blair S. Bailey, to City Council, re: Acquisition of New Tax Possession, advising that, on May 15, 2007, the Land Court issued a Decree of Foreclosure, and the City acquired the following property as a Tax Possession: OSGOOD AND BARNUM STREETS, Plot 130/Lots 390, 381, 382, 383 and 384, Area of 8,000 square feet. (Former owner(s): Delia V. Harding) Total amount due on parcel as of the date of the Decree is \$10,294.32, and Tax Title Attorney Blair S. Bailey, to City Council, re: Acquisition of New Tax Possession, advising that, on May 16, 2007, the Land Court issued a Decree of Foreclosure, and the City acquired the following property as a Tax Possession: OSGOOD AND BARNUM STREETS, Plot 130A/Lots 385, 386, 397, 388 and 389, Area of 8000 square feet. (Former owner(s) Delia V. Harding) Total amount due on parcel as of the date of the Decree is \$12,615.02. (Ref'd 6/28/07)
10. Communication, Blair S. Bailey, to City Council, re: Acquisition of New Tax Possession, advising that, on May 16, 2007, the Land Court issued a Decree of Foreclosure, and the City acquired the following property as a Tax Possession: W.S. ACUSHNET AVENUE, Plot 37Lot 10, Area of 3,879 square feet (Former owner(s); Antonio P. Vincente, U. S. Small Business Administration.) Total Amount due on the parcel as of the date of the Decree is \$23,101.92. (Ref'd 6/28/07)
11. Communication, Blair S. Bailey, to City Council, re: Acquisition of New Tax Possession, advising that, on May 16, 2007, the Land Court issued a Decree of Foreclosure, and the City acquired the following property as a Tax Possession: S.S. BELAIR STREET, Plot 130B/Lot 386, Area of 6,400 square feet; AND N.S. KINGCROFT STREET, Plot 130B/Lot 410, Area of 6,400 square feet. (Former Owner(s): Laurier T. Bellemare and Claire T. Bellemare.) Total Amount due on the parcels as of the date of the Decree is \$21,290.36. (Ref'd 6/28/07)
12. Communication, Blair S. Bailey, to City Council, re: Acquisition of New Tax Possession, advising that, on JUNE 4, 2007, the Land Court issued a Decree of Foreclosure, and the City acquired the following property as a Tax Possession: 131 TALLMAN STREET, Plot 92/Lot 235, Area of 4,122 square feet. (Former Owner(s): Nicholas Chirigotas and Phyllis Chirigotas.) Total Amount due on the parcel as of the date of the Decree is \$80,723.28. (Ref'd 6/28/07)

13. Communication, Blair S. Bailey, to City Council, re: Acquisition of New Tax Possession, advising that, on June 12, 2007, the Land Court issued a Decree of Foreclosure, and the City acquired the following property as a Tax Possession: 45 COVE STREET, Plot 21/Lot 45, Area of 187,463 square feet. (Former Owner(s): G. & L. Bedford Realty, Inc.) Total Amount due on the parcels as of the date of the Decree is \$883,388.48. (Ref'd 6/28/07)
14. Communication, Blair S. Bailey, to City Council, re: Acquisition of New Tax Possession, advising that, on June 14, 2007, the Land Court issued a Decree of Foreclosure, and the City acquired the following property as a Tax Possession: 117 TREMONT STREET, Plot 44/Lot 540, Area of 1,980 square feet. (Former Owner(s): Dawn M. Cohen n/k/a Dawn M. Bergeron). Total Amount due on the parcel as of the date of the Decree is \$5,646.18. (Ref'd 6/28/07)
15. Communication, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, which in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E-1/2, the Revolving Fund under the control of the Environmental Stewardship Department, known as the ZBA REVOLVING FUND, whose purpose is to support the activities of the City's Zoning Board of Appeals including supplies, postage, advertising, technical and administrative support staff and Members' stipends, whose revenues and amount limited to be spent estimated at \$42,000.00 is hereby authorized for FISCAL YEAR 2008.
- 15a. AN ORDER,
- 15b. Communication, Scott Alfonse, Director, Environmental Stewardship, to Councillor Saunders, Chairman, Committee on Finance, in response to the Committee's request for Zoning Board of Appeal's decisions resulting in completed and pending lawsuits.
16. Written Motion, Councillor Lawrence, requesting that the City Council Committee on Finance meet with Chief Financial Officer Dan Patten, a representative from the Lang Administration, a representative from the Massachusetts State Building Authority and invited a representative from the Massachusetts State Treasurer Timothy P. Cahill's Office to discuss the financing of the Keith Middle School and the proposed six new schools for the City of New Bedford. (Ref'd 1/26/06)
17. Written Motion, Councillor Lawrence, that the City Council Committee on Finance meet with Mayor Lang and Environmental Stewardship Director Scott Alfonse to discuss the results of the PCB testing recently done at the new Keith Middle School Site, the New Bedford High School property, Paul Walsh Field as well as the surrounding neighborhoods; the purpose of the meeting is to ascertain what, if any, finances will need to be made available by the City, State or Federal Government to cover the costs of any potential need for remediation. (Ref'd 3/9/06)
18. Related Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, requesting that the City Council ask Commissioner Labelle if there is any mechanism in place to recover the money that is over-abated. (Ref'd 3/27/08, 4/9/08 – tabled)
19. Written Motion, Councillor Alves, asking that the City Council request the presence of the City Auditor, City Treasurer, and representatives of the City Assessors Office and the Private Audit Company that performed the Audits from the years 2004, 2005 and 2006, to appear before the City Council Committee on Finance to explain and respond to the recent comments from the Department of Revenue noting that the City had overdrawn without City Council approval or appropriation over \$1,171,875, and what systems/regulations have been put in place to ensure that the situation does not happen again; and further, that he parties also come prepared to explain the over \$2.6 million difference between the City's Cash-on-Hand Account and the City's Financial Records; also requesting that the Committee on Finance Chairperson make the issue a priority and place it on the next Committee meeting agenda. (Ref'd 1/11/07)