



Committee on Finance

June 23, 2009 – 7:00 pm – **Revised Agenda**
City Council Chamber, Room 214 – Municipal Building

View Minutes

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1. Communication, Mayor Lang to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$100,000.00 from the STABILIZATION FUND, to DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES REVOLVING FUND. (Ref'd 12/18/08, 2/11/09 - tabled)

- 1a. AN ORDER, (Ref'd 12/18/08, 2/11/09 - tabled)

INVITEES: DIS Commissioner Dan Romanowicz

2. Communication, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting FOUR LOAN ORDERS regarding school construction; the first Order RESCINDS portions of authorized, but unissued, debt relating to Normandin Middle, Keith Middle, Winslow Elementary, Campbell Elementary, DeValles Elementary and Brooks Elementary Schools; also submitting three separate LOAN ORDERS APPROPRIATING additional amounts for the Lincoln Elementary, Hannigan School and Sea Lab. NOTE: The Order relative to the HANNIGAN SCHOOL changes the purpose of the borrowing from remodeling of the existing school to THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SCHOOL AT THE SAME SITE. (Ref'd 5/14/09)

INVITEES: School Department's Chief Administrator of Finance & Operations Lawrence Oliveira; Chief of Staff William Burns; City Auditor Peter Schmidt; City Treasurer Renee Fernandes-Abbott

3. Communication, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, RESCINDING amounts of authorized, but unissued, debt for LOAN ORDERS for Normandin and Keith Middle Schools (\$5,642,803); Winslow Elementary School (\$16,000,000); Campbell Elementary/Middle School (\$45,700,000); DeValles Elementary School (\$10,680,000); and Brooks Elementary School (\$20,766,800). (Ref'd 5/14/09)

- 3a. AN ORDER, (Rescinding borrowing amounts of authorized, but unissued, debt on LOAN ORDERS FOR 6 SCHOOLS)

INVITEES: School Department's Chief Administrator of Finance & Operations Lawrence Oliveira; Chief of Staff William Burns; City Auditor Peter Schmidt; City Treasurer Renee Fernandes-Abbott

4. Communication, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, that the Order of the City Council authorizing borrowing \$3,000,000 for constructing, equipping and furnishing an addition to and remodeling, reconstructing and making extraordinary repairs to the Hannigan School, is AMENDED to APPROPRIATE \$18,500,000, for constructing, equipping and furnishing a NEW Hannigan School on the site of the existing school, including the demolition of such existing school. (Ref'd 5/14/09)

- 4a. AN ORDER, (Amending 1 LOAN ORDER for Hannigan School) (Ref'd 5/14/09)

INVITEES: School Department's Chief Administrator of Finance & Operations Lawrence Oliveria; Chief of Staff William Burns; City Auditor Peter Schmidt; City Treasurer Renee Fernandes-Abbott

5. Communication, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, that, in addition to the \$26,105,000 amount previously appropriated \$2,966,800 is APPROPRIATED for constructing, equipping and furnishing a NEW Abraham Lincoln Elementary School. (Ref'd 5/14/09)

- 5a. AN ORDER, (Amending 1 LOAN ORDER for Lincoln School) (Ref'd 5/14/09)

INVITEES: School Department's Chief Administrator of Finance & Operations Lawrence Oliveira; Chief of Staff William Burns; City Auditor Peter Schmidt; City Treasurer Renee Fernandes-Abbott

6. Communication, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, that, in addition to the \$8,500,000 previously appropriated \$5,387,860 is APPROPRIATED for the purpose of constructing, originally equipping and furnishing a SeaLab facility at the former Poor Farm site. (Ref'd 5/14/09)

- 6a. AN ORDER, (Amending 1 LOAN ORDER for the Sea Lab Facility) (Ref'd 5/14/09)

INVITEES: School Department's Chief Administrator of Finance & Operations Lawrence Oliveira; Chief of Staff William Burns; City Auditor Peter Schmidt; City Treasurer Renee Fernandes-Abbott

7. Communication, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, that \$5,419,000.00 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 \$5,419,000.00 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 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. (Ref'd 5/28/09)

- 7a. AN ORDER,

INVITEES: City Auditor Peter Schmidt; City Treasurer Renee Fernandes-Abbott; DPF Commissioner Lawrence Worden

8. Written Motion, City Council President Gonsalves, requesting that the Committee on Finance meet with the City Auditor and the City Treasurer, to review the savings incurred from the change in health insurance for FY 2008, and the projected savings for health insurance in FY 2009. (Ref'd 4/10/08, 3/9/09 – tabled, 3/31/09 – info requested from Mr. Tringale)

- 8a. Communication, Health Insurance Consultant Steven Tringale, to Councillor Gonsalves, Chairperson, Committee on Finance, RE: City of New Bedford health insurance changes. (5/7/09)

INVITEES: City Auditor Peter Schmidt; City Treasurer Renee Fernandes-Abbott

9. Communication, Attorney David Gerwatowski, Legal Counsel to Councillor Gonsalves, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, Re: City Code requirements with regard to Police collective bargaining agreement. (4/15/09)

- 9a. Communication, City Solicitor Irene Schall, to Councillor Gonsalves, Chairperson, Committee on Finance, Re: City Code requirements with regard to Police collective bargaining agreements. (5/5/09)

10. Communication, City Treasurer Renee Fernandes-Abbott, to Councillor Jane L. Gonsalves, Chairperson, Committee on Finance, Re: Ben Rose Field documentation request made at the March 31, 2009 Finance Committee; further, submitting a letter providing the language for the Loan Order prepared by Edwards, Angell, Palmer and Dodge, as well as the Loan Order that was written on December 31, 2006 to be presented to the City Council. (5/29/09)

INVITEES: City Treasurer Renee Fernandes-Abbott

11. Communication, Mayor Lang to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$4,000.00 from TRAFFIC, SALARIES & WAGES to ELECTIONS COMMISSION, CHARGES & SERVICES. (Ref'd 4/23/09, 4/30/09 – tabled, 6/15/09 - tabled)

- 11a. AN ORDER,

INVITEES: City Auditor Peter Schmidt; City Treasurer Renee Fernandes-Abbott; Elections Commissioner Maria Tomasia

12. Communication, Mayor Lang to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, for the TRANSFER of \$31,000.00 from TRAFFIC, SALARIES & WAGES to ELECTIONS COMMISSION, SALARIES & WAGES. (Ref'd 4/23/09, 4/30/09 – tabled, 6/15/09 - tabled)
- 12a. AN ORDER,
INVITEES: City Auditor Peter Schmidt; City Treasurer Renee Fernandes-Abbott; Elections Commissioner Maria Tomasia
13. AN ORDER, That Mayor Scott W. Lang, and the New Bedford School Committee immediately cease all planning and/or expenditures of monies in conjunction with the \$4.5 Million Dollar Field House, purportedly being constructed at the former Keith Junior High School site; and further, that the Mayor and School Committee Vice-Chair meet with the City Council's Committee on Finance to review the plans and funding sources for said field house, and that this meeting be held within the next 7 days; and further, ORDERING that the City Auditor Schmidt, Purchasing Agent Travers, and City Treasurer Abbott-Fernandes, immediately cease payment of all invoices associated with the Keith Middle School Project until said meeting has been held and this CITY COUNCIL ORDER is rescinded. (Ref'd 6/11/09)
INVITEES: Mayor Scott W. Lang; School Committee Vice-Chairman Dr. John J. Fletcher; School Department's Chief Administrator of Finance & Operations Lawrence Oliveira; City Auditor Peter Schmidt
14. Communication, Renee Fernandes-Abbott, Treasurer/Collector to Councillor Gonsalves, Chairperson, Committee on Finance, informing the Committee that the City will be entering the financing market within the next couple of weeks to secure funds to cover deficits in capital projects, specifically Keith, (McCoy Field) and Lincoln School and also reviewing the cash flow projections on all the capital projects to determine whether it is prudent to borrow funds in the current financial market to carry us through February 2010. (Ref'd 6/9/09)
INVITEES: City Treasurer Renee Fernandes-Abbott; City Auditor Peter Schmidt
Chairperson suggests taking "No Further Action" on the following items:
15. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Chief Financial Officer provide the Committee on Finance with a breakdown of last year's revenues generated from the property taxes in the City of New Bedford; and further that the projected revenue for the 2007 property tax also be provided to the Committee on Finance. (Ref'd 1/11/07)
16. Related Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, asking that the two Resolutions Adopted today (for the Hannigan and Taylor Schools) also be Referred to the Finance Committee for further discussion of details on these projects. (Ref'd 8/16/07)
17. Related Motion, Councillor Morad, requesting that the Committee on Finance request that the members of the Park Board in December 2006, who signed the contract for the Ben Rose Field Project, Peter Boswell, Sandra Grace, Thomas Viera, and representatives from the Solicitor's Office at that time, appear to discuss their authority to enter into this contract considering this property was not City-owned and therefore not under the control of the Park Board; and further, that the Committee on Finance also invite the members of the Park Board that did NOT sign the contract in December 2006. (4/30/09)
18. Written Motion, Councillors Gonsalves, Lawrence, Martins, Morad, Pimental, Saunders, and Gomes, IN CITY COUNCIL, April 07, 2009, was RETURNED UNSIGNED by Mayor Lang on April 20, 2009, asking ONCE MORE "that the City Council voice our concerns regarding the current financial status of the FY2009 Police Departments Budget, and requesting that the position of recently retired Deputy Chief Hegarty remain unfilled and be removed from the FY2010 Budget Submission." (Referred to Mayor Lang, Police Chief Teachman and Auditor Schmidt IN CITY COUNCIL April 07, 2009; returned UNSIGNED by Mayor Lang April 20, 2009.) (Ref'd 5/14/09)