



Committee on Finance

September 29, 2009 – 7:00 pm – **Agenda**
City Council Chamber, Room 214 – Municipal Building

View Minutes

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1. Communication, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, to provide for the payment of unpaid bills of a previous fiscal year of the City of New Bedford, the sum set against the MARKETING/TOURISM DEPARTMENT is hereby approved to be expended in FISCAL YEAR 2010, in the amount of \$3,524.00. (Ref'd 9/10/09)

- 1a. AN ORDER,

INVITEES: Marketing /Tourism Director Ann Marie Lopes; City Auditor Peter Schmidt

2. Communication, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, to provide for the payment of unpaid bills of a previous fiscal year of the City of New Bedford, the sum set against the CEMETERY DEPARTMENT is hereby approved to be expended in FISCAL YEAR 2010, in the amount of \$ 116.00 (Ref'd 9/10/09)

AN ORDER,

INVITEES: Superintendent of Cemeteries Joaquim "Jack" Oliver; City Auditor Peter Schmidt

3. Communication, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting, AN ORDER, to provide for the payment of unpaid bills of a previous fiscal year of the City of New Bedford, the sum set against the DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES, CHARGES AND SERVICES, is hereby approved to be expended in FISCAL YEAR 2010, in the amount of \$393.00. (Ref'd 9/10/09)

AN ORDER,

INVITEES: Community Services Director Cynthia Wallquist; City Auditor Peter Schmidt

4. 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 meeting; further, submitting a letter providing the language for the Loan Order that was written on December 31, 2006 to be presented to the City Council. (5/29/09, tabled 6/23/09 – Letter to Ron Labelle asking for a response prior to the next Finance meeting)

- 4a. Communication, DPI Commissioner Ron Labelle, to Chairperson of the Finance Committee Councillor Gonsalves, re: Ben Rose Appropriation, and submitting for review an outline of every value expended through the Urban Self Help Grant, as well as the corresponding City share. (7/16/09)

5. City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the City Council along with the Mayor reverse their decision to cut out of the Budget the \$20,000.00 appropriated every year for the purposes of Walecka Movers providing storage, repairs and set-up for City elections since A. Walecka and Son Movers has done this for some 70 years here in the City with no problems, and this appropriation should be reinstated due to the fact that this work has been done by with professionalism and with no worries to the City about set-up; and further, this Councillor feels that, if monies are not reinstated, that the costs to the City will be much greater by having city workers set up and take down the equipment, etc., where, in the past, we have the convenience of this company taking care of this

work for the City for all of these years and they should be able to continue to provide their services to the City due to the importance of each and every election running smoothly. (Ref'd 7/16/09)

INVITEES: Chief of Staff William Burns; Elections Commissioner Maria Tomasia

6. Communication, Councillor Morad, submitting her copy of the letter from Maria Tomasia, Chairwoman of the Board of Elections Commission, in response to a Council Motion regarding the number of Police Officers to be assigned to various polling locations during the City of New Bedford during the City's primary, and general elections. (Ref'd 8/20/09)

INVITEES: Police Chief Ron Teachman; Elections Commissioner Maria Tomasia

7. Related Motion, Councillor Lawrence, asking that the Committee on Finance meet with the Traffic Commission, Police, City Clerk, City Auditor and a representative of the Administration, to discuss the disposition and the collection of Noise Violation Tickets issued in the City of New Bedford. (Ref'd 2/26/09, 4/30/09 - tabled to the next meeting invite Scott Downing & Rita Arruda – ask them to come prepared to discuss issuance/collection of fines)

INVITEES: Traffic Commissioner Scott Downing; City Clerk Rita Arruda; Police Chief Ron Teachman

8. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, asking that the Committees on Finance, Labor and Industry and Public Safety and Neighborhoods request that a copy of the contract signed by the City and NSTAR be provided to said Committees, as well as how much money was paid to NSTAR for the City to obtain ownership of all streetlights throughout the City; further, that the said contract be provided to the Committees within ten business days; and further, that the Administration also explain how the City will maintain the present lighting system throughout the City and implement the repairs that are needed as soon as possible throughout the City. (Ref'd 2/9/06)

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

Chairperson suggests taking “No Further Action”, on the following items:

9. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Finance, meet with the New Bedford Economic Development Commission to discuss the Sherwood Brands, Inc. TIF, since Sherwood has not presently held up to its obligations; and further, that the Committee on Finance find out how many jobs are being provided by Sherwood Brands, Inc. as their contract had stated. (Ref'd 8/23/05, 12/11/06 – severed from NFA remain in committee)
10. Communication, Gerard D. Perry, Director of Accounts, Massachusetts Department of Revenue, to Scott W. Lang, Mayor, City of New Bedford, re: commending good working relationship between New Bedford and the Department of Revenue, but also commenting on the lack of filling the position of Chief Financial Officer, which was recommended in Financial Management Review of July 2006, and that the City must hire a qualified candidate, whether with or without residency in the City of New Bedford. (Ref'd 4/24/08, 6/12/08 - tabled)
11. Written Motion, Councillor Morad, requesting that the City Treasurer be invited to the Committee on Finance, to provide a detailed review of the Financial Institutions with which the City currently transacts business; and further, to seek the Council's annual approval for the Compensating Balance Agreements for the period of July 01, 2008 through June 30, 2009. (Ref'd 9/11/08, tabled 4/30/09)
12. 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, tabled 6/23/09)

- 12a. 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, tabled 6/23/09)
13. Communication, Mayor Lang, to City Council submitting AN ORDER, that the sum of \$20,806,120.67 be adopted as a 1/12 operating budget for Fiscal year 2010. (Ref'd 6/25/09)
- 13a. AN ORDER, that the sum of \$20,806,120.67 be adopted as a 1/12 operating budget for Fiscal year 2010. (Ref'd 6/25/09)
- 13b. Communication, City Solicitor Schall, to City Council, as additional support for the above items (M1. And M1a.), noting that the Mayor's proposed ORDER is being submitted pursuant to his authority under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 32; and the submission of a one-month budget is due to "circumstances beyond the [City's] control," i.e., State's failure to communicate the amount of State Aide to the City for Fiscal Year 2010. (Ref'd 6/25/09)