



Committee on Finance

February 8, 2010 – 7:10 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 John Saunders, Finance Committee Chairman, requesting the Finance Committees approval to renew Bond Anticipation Notes, sell new Bond Anticipation Notes and to sell Bonds. The budgeted interest on the notes payable is \$989,405.34. The notes are due and payable on February 12, 2010. (Ref'd 1/25/10)

INVITEES: R. Renee Fernandes-Abbott, Treasurer/Collector; Peter Schmidt, City Auditor

2. Related Motion, Councillor Saunders, asking that the Auditor, Treasurer, and Executive Aide Audette (acting as Chief Financial Officer) meet with the Committee on Finance, hopefully at the next Finance Committee meeting, to discuss the revenue stream and finances of the City of New Bedford, going forth for the next six (6) months of this Fiscal Year. (Ref'd 1/13/10)

INVITEES: R. Renee Fernandes-Abbott, Treasurer/Collector; Peter Schmidt, City Auditor; Normand Audette, Executive Aide to the Mayor

The Chairman would like the Committees clarification on what action it would like to take on the following items:

3. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the City report to the Committee on Finance as to where the funding is coming from to loan the Harbor Commission and Redevelopment Authority the monies to purchase buses to transport those using the Ferry from the Intermodal parking area in the Northern Terminal to the State Pier; and further, that an explanation be provided as to how and when the monies will be repaid to the City and when the Redevelopment Authority and HDC decided to take part in the bus transportation business. (Ref'd 3/25/04, tabled 10/21/04, 12/11/06 - severed from NFA remain in committee, 10/21/09 – severed from NFA remain in Committee)
4. 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, tabled 6/23/09)
- 4a. Communication, Health Insurance Consultant Steven Tringale, to Councillor Gonsalves, Chairperson, Committee on Finance, Re: City of New Bedford health insurance changes. (5/7/09, RPF, and tabled 6/23/09)
5. 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, tabled 6/23/09)
- 5a. AN ORDER, (Ref'd 12/18/08, 2/11/09 – tabled, tabled 6/23/09)
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. (Ref'd 12/18/08, tabled 2/11/09, 3/9/09 - tabled)

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, tabled 9/29/09)
8. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Administration advise the Committee on Finance as to what monies have been received over the years regarding the Route 18 project that has been proposed for this City, as there seems to be a conflict of what monies were coming, when they were coming, if they got there, and/or if they will ever get here, already resulting in a delay on this project until 2010. (Ref'd 4/23/09, 11/17/09 – waiting on Peter Schmidt to provide more info)
9. 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, tabled 6/23/09 – Invite Katherine Craven to next meeting)
10. 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, tabled 6/23/09 - Invite Katherine Craven to next meeting)
- 10a. AN ORDER, (Rescinding borrowing amounts of authorized, but unissued, debt on LOAN ORDERS FOR 6 SCHOOLS)
11. 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, tabled 6/23/09- Invite Katherine Craven to next meeting)
11. AN ORDER, (Amending 1 LOAN ORDER for Hannigan School)(Ref'd 5/14/09)
12. 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, tabled 6/23/09 - Invite Katherine Craven to next meeting)
- 12a. AN ORDER, (Amending 1 LOAN ORDER for Lincoln School)(Ref'd 5/14/09)
13. 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, tabled 6/23/09 - Invite Katherine Craven to next meeting)
- 13a. AN ORDER, (Amending 1 LOAN ORDER for the Sea Lab Facility) (Ref'd 5/14/09)
14. COMMUNICATION/VETO, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting a VETO of RELATED MOTION, #0001259, by Councillor Gonsalves, “Asking that the City Council send a letter to the City

Auditor to ask him to cite which language in the Bond lists the expenses for the purposes of the field house in accordance with Section 10-26 of the City Code, which further would advise him that he is required by law to report to the City Council Committee on Finance and the Mayor any appropriations which are misappropriated in the course of the expenditure of that Bond if that expense not specifically mentioned.” ADOPTED and Rule 40 Waived – Yeas 9, Nays 2, IN CITY COUNCIL, JUNE 25, 2009, and presented to the Mayor for approval on June 29, 2009, stating reason for the veto is that, Section 10-26 provides for notice to the Committee on Audit only when the City Auditor determines that the liabilities against any appropriation appear to be for purposes other than those set forth in the appropriation (in the judgment of the City Auditor) and, in this case, the Auditor did not determine that liabilities incurred against any appropriation appear to be for purposes other than those set forth in the appropriation. (Ref’d 7/16/09)

- 14a. Related Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, asking that the City Council send a letter to the City Auditor to ask him to cite which language in the conf lists the expenses for the purposes of the field house in accordance with Section 10-26 of the City Code, which further would advise him that he is required by law to report to the City Council Committee on Finance and the Mayor any appropriations which are misappropriated in the course of the expenditure of that Bond if that expense not specifically mentioned. (Ref’d 7/16/09)
15. 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, tabled 9/29/09)
16. AN ORDER, amending the Order of the City Council, approved by the Mayor on August 17, 2001, as amended by the Orders of the City Council approved by the Mayor on February 15, 2002, and the Order of the City Council, approved by the Mayor on June 7, 2004, authorizing a borrowing of the \$11,784,000.00, to pay a portion of the costs of the Keith Middle School Project and the Order of the City Council, approved by the Mayor on December 1, 2006, authorizing a borrowing of \$46,348,165.00, appropriated for acquiring land for, constructing, equipping and furnishing a new Keith Middle School and cleaning up contamination caused by the closed landfill at the site of the new Keith Middle School and the surrounding area; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor and the Committee on Finance , is authorized to borrow \$46,348,165.00 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws, Chapter 70B of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; that the Mayor is authorize to contract for and expend any Federal or State aid available for the project; 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; provided, however, that the amount of the authorized borrowing under this Order shall be reduced by any amounts recovered by the City from responsible parties for the contamination clean-up is hereby amended to read as follows, responsible parties for the contamination clean-up portion of the project prior to the issuance of bonds or notes hereunder. IS HEREBY AMENDED TO READ: “ORDERED: that \$41,848,165 is appropriated for acquiring land for, constructing, equipping and furnishing a new Keith Middle School and cleaning up contamination caused by the closed landfill at the site of the new Keith Middle School and the surrounding area; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor and the Committee on Finance, is authorized to borrow \$41,848,165 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws, Chapter 70B of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; that the Mayor is authorized to contract for and expend any Federal and State aid available for the project; 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; provided, however, that the amount of the authorized borrowing under this Order shall be reduced by any amounts recovered by the City from responsible parties for the contamination clean-up portion of the project prior to the issuance of bonds or notes hereunder.” (Ref’d 8/20/09)

17. Written Motion, Councillor Alves, asking that the two (2) Communications, dated August 19, 2009, addressed to City Clerk Arruda, indicating two (2) new part-time appointments as Inspectors of Wire, both be referred to the Committee on Finance. (Ref’d 8/20/09)
18. Communication, Purchasing Agent Debra L. Travers, to City Council, responding to Councillor Morad’s Related Motion, IN CITY COUNCIL, September 10, 2009, requesting a list of ALL cell phones in use by the City, as well as providing usage, by department and costs. (Ref’d 9/24/09)
19. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Administration notify and/or meet with the Committee on Finance, for the purpose of discussing where the monies that have been awarded, especially the \$800,000.00 for improvements in neighborhoods will be targeted, further, if possible, that the Councillors, and particularly the Ward Councillors, have some input as to what improvements/projects should take priority in their Wards across the City; and further, that the Administration take the opportunity to meet with the Committee on Appointments & Briefings to discuss this matter. (Ref’ 9/24/09)
20. Written Motion, Councillor Lawrence, asking that the City Council Finance Committee, meet with Administration, Economic Development Council, Treasurer and Auditor to discuss the creation of tax incentives to market and attract, Biomed/Life Science and Green Technology Corporations to the City of New Bedford. (Ref’d 11/12/09)
21. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, due to the fact that it was reported that Councillor Gomes “made a claim” that the overtime that has been spent on Commanding Officers throughout the New Bedford Police Department, which in this Councillor’s opinion was not a claim, but was a fact, nothing but the facts are now being requested, in asking that the City Council request the Police Chief to provide a breakdown of every Commanding Officer that received overtime between August 1, 2009, and October 21, 2009, and this information be forwarded to the City Council, 10 days before the hearings are held to discuss whether there are vacant positions within the Department or not, and whether these vacant positions have been creating an unusually large amount of overtime; and further, that, if possible from October 21, 2009, to the present date , that the overtime breakdown be provided by individual Officer and by shift to the City Council, so it can be proven that this was not the claim, but, that this was a fact, and is nothing but a fact, that large amounts of overtime and taxpayer dollars are being spent because the City chooses not to make the appropriate promotions amongst the ranking Officers, such as the two positions that are open in Booking and Detectives Gang Squad, and the Commanding Officers of other entities such as ranking Captain or Lieutenant. (Ref’d 11/12/09)
22. Written Motion, Councillors Gonsalves, Dehner, Martins, Saunders, Gomes, Lawrence, Coelho, Morad, Duarte, Pimental, and Alves requesting, that the Committee on Finance meet with the City Solicitor, and the Department of Health Director to explore the idea of asking the State to make public health funding part of its cherry sheet formula. (Ref’d 11/24/09)
23. Written Motion, Councillor Lawrence, requesting, that the City Treasurer secure a price to purchase and incorporate the “Point of Pay” Electronic Program in departments that accept payments, e.g., Treasurer, DPI, Zoning Board of Appeals, etc., and report back to the Committee on Finance with this information within 90 days. (Ref’d 11/24/09)
24. Communication, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting TWO (2) ORDERS to ADOPT the “local option on the state meals tax,” which provides an additional tax on meals of .75%; this local option meal tax will amount to an additional .75 cents per one hundred dollars spent on meals, the Department of

Revenue will allocate these funds directly to the City of New Bedford's General Revenue Account. (Ref'd 12/17/09)

- 24a. AN ORDER, (LOCAL OPTION STARTING APRIL 1, 2010) (Ref'd 12/17/09)
- 24b. AN ORDER, (LOCAL OPTION STARTING JULY 1, 2010) (Ref'd 12/17/09)
- 25. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, SECOND REQUEST, that Police Chief Ronald Teachman provide the Committees on Public Safety and Neighborhoods and Finance with an accurate dollar amount spent on overtime during the period of August 01, 009, through December 13, 2009, for the Commanding Officers' overtime and promotions as the overtime costs increase, which is about \$250,000.00, and why the department has not taken the opportunity to promote high ranking officers, such as Sergeants, Lieutenants and Captains; and further requesting, that this information be provided to the City Council within seven (7) business days after this Written Motion is heard in City Council. (Ref'd 12/17/09)