



Committee on Finance

October 23, 2013 – 7:30 PM - **Agenda**
Chambers of the City Council, Room 214

****View Minutes****

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE – OCTOBER 23, 2013 (REVISED)
MEETING @ 7:30 PM, IN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER – ROOM 214
AGENDA

1. Communication, City Treasure/Collector Renee Fernandes-Abbott, to Finance Committee Chairperson, Councillor Jane L. Gonsalves, requesting the Finance Committee's approval on an Interim Loan for CW-1304- Intergrated Wastewater and Stormwater Plan in the amount of \$1,995,000 at a rate of 0.11%. (10/2/13)

INVITEES: City Treasurer Renee Fernandes-Abbott

2. Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the APPROPRIATION of \$46,650.00 from ORDINARY REVENUE AND MUNICIPAL RECEIPTS, to HEALTH DEPARTMENT, SALARIES & WAGES. (Ref'd 9/12/13)

2a. AN ORDER

INVITEES: CFO Ari Sky; Health Department Director Dr. Brenda K. Weis, PhD

3. Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the APPROPRIATION of \$50,513.00 from ORDINARY REVENUE AND MUNICIPAL RECEIPTS, to INSPECTIONAL SERVICES, SALARIES & WAGES. (Ref'd 9/12/13)

3a. AN ORDER,

INVITEES: CFO Ari Sky; Inspectional Services Director Dan Romanowicz

4. Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the APPROPRIATION of \$106,775.00 from ORDINARY REVENUE AND MUNICIPAL RECEIPTS, to PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S, SALARIES & WAGES ACCOUNT, in the amount of \$21,775.00 and CHARGES & SERVICES ACCOUNT, in the amount of \$85,000.00. (Ref'd 10/10/13)

4a. AN ORDER,

INVITEES: CFO Ari Sky; City Planner Jill Maclean; Community Development Director Patrick Sullivan

5. Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, that the City Council and Mayor hereby approve the policy entitled "Fund Balance Management" for the purpose of establishing a policy for management of the City's fund balances. (Ref'd 9/26/13)

5a. AN ORDER,

INVITEES: CFO Ari Sky; Rep. of the Mayor Christina Connelly

6. Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, that the City Council and Mayor hereby approve the policy entitled "Debt Issuance and Management" for the purpose of establishing a policy for management of the City's debt. (Ref'd 9/26/13)

6a. AN ORDER,

INVITEES: CFO Ari Sky; Rep. of the Mayor Christina Connelly

7. Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, that in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, the Revolving Fund, known as the **TANGIBLE SUPPLY DISPOSITION REVOLVING FUND**, whose purpose is to fund replacement fund and vehicles utilizing proceeds from the disposition of tangible supply in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30B, Section 15, and whose revenue and amount limited to be spent in FY14 is restricted to revenue deposited into the fund, is hereby authorized for **FISCAL YEAR 2014**. (Ref'd 9/26/13)

7a. AN ORDER,

INVITEES: CFO Ari Sky; Rep. of the Mayor Christina Connelly

8. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Administration provide the Committee on Finance at its' April meeting a breakdown of the monies received through FEMA's SAFER Grant and a breakdown of how the monies were spent throughout each year by the Fire Department; and further, that through the calculations of this Councillor, there presently is \$2.5 Million Dollars unaccounted for that was transferred out of the SAFER Grant, that the Committee on Finance would like to know how and when the money got transferred out of the SAFER Grant to the City. (Ref'd 3/14/13)

INVITEES: CFO Ari Ski; Fire Chief Michael Gomes

9. Written Motion, Councillor Lawrence, in response to the Standard-Times Article, of July 15, 2013, stating that City Leaders are confident that New Bedford will be awarded a SAFER Grant, which would extend the employment of seventy of our firefighters and sustain the opening of the two fire houses once closed, even though the Federal Government has yet to release the applications for the next round as said applications were thought to be released in June, requesting that the City Council's Committee on Finance meet with the CFO Sky and Fire Chief Gomes to discuss the following: 1) When the SAFER Grant application will be released by the Federal Government for New Bedford to reapply; 2) What is the projected turnaround time for the Government to review and inform the City whether they have been approved or not; and 3) When will we know if the current SAFER Grant allows the City to retain its seventy firefighters until September, and when in September if the monies are not received, will the layoffs begin, and will there be a reduction in the number of layoffs as a result of retirement attrition; and further, what is the projected time frame for the closing of the two stations which were reopened as a direct result of New Bedford securing the original SAFER Grant; and further, requesting that a letter be sent to our Federal and State Delegations expressing the urgency in securing the funds necessary to maintain our current compliment of firefighters. (Copy of Standard-Times article dated July 15, 2013, enclosed.) (Ref'd 7/18/13)

INVITEES: CFO Ari Sky; Fire Chief Michael Gomes

10. Discussion, regarding a Communication/email from Exchange Solutions Sales Development Consultant, Rob Clark to Councillor Jane L. Gonsalves, Chairperson, Committee on Finance, pertaining to sustainable health benefit strategies for the upcoming Affordable Care Act (ACA) transformed health care landscape. (10/10/13)

INVITEES: Exchange Solutions Sales Development Consultant Rob Clark

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

11. Written Motion, Councillors Gonsalves and Oliveira, requesting, that the Committee on Finance meet with a Representative of the Health Department regarding their Dental Hygiene Program and its benefits to the City of New Bedford. (Ref'd 7/18/13)
12. Written Motion, Councillors Gonsalves, Alves, Lopes and Martins, requesting, that the Economic Development Council meet with the City Council and provide us with the loan documents relative to the loans made to Andrew Rocket d/b/a Rocket Enterprises, for the purchase of properties in New Bedford and that we review those loans, their terms and conditions including whether there is a claw back provision in light of recent events relative to Mr. Rocket. (Ref'd 1/10/13)
13. Written Motion, Councillors Gonsalves, Lopes, Council President Duarte, Oliveira, Martins, Saunders, Coelho, Alves, Lawrence, Gomes, Bousquet, requesting, that the Committee on Finance meet with the CFO and the Auditor to review the status of each department's budget going into the 4th Quarter of Fiscal Year 2013, to determine which departments are running surpluses and which are running deficits. (Ref'd 2/28/13)
14. Written Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, requesting, that the Committee on Finance take up the issue of assignment of Tax Title to private agents and that Legal Counsel Gerwatowski be invited to the Committee on Finance meeting when the matter is heard. (Ref'd 4/26/12)
15. Written Motion, Councillors Gonsalves, Lopes, Saunders, Morad and Martins, requesting that the Committee on Finance meet with representatives from the Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District to discuss the details of their operating budget, specifically, the salary and benefits line item to review same, whether it is comparable to City employees benefits packages; and further, said discussion to be the next in a series of discussions intended to provide information for us to eventually reduce our assessment at the landfill. (Ref'd 12/16/10, tabled 2/9/11)
16. Written Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, requesting that the Executive Director and Members of the Retirement Board, along with the City Auditor be invited to the Committee on Finance to discuss the document provided to the Finance Committee Members at the May 25, 2011 meeting, which details the status of the New Bedford Contributory Retirement Board. (Ref'd 6/9/11, 9/21/11 – tabled for 6 months at which time another update would be given to the Committee)