



Committee on Finance

June 16, 2014 – 7:05 PM - **Minutes**
Chambers of the City Council, Room 214

****View Agenda****

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
DATE: JUNE 16, 2014
TIME: 7:05 P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS LINDA MORAD, CHAIRPERSON; JOSEPH LOPES, VICE-CHAIRMAN; DAVID ALVES; HENRY BOUSQUET; DEBORA COELHO; STEVEN MARTINS; DANA REBEIRO; KERRY WINTERSON

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS NAOMI CARNEY; BRIAN GOMES; JAMES OLIVEIRA

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Councillor Morad called the Finance Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read Communications into the record as follows: Councillors Carney and Oliveira stating they would not be in attendance due to prior commitments and Councillor Gomes stating he would be late in attending due to a prior commitment. These communications were received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Lopes.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, amending the Order adopted by the City Council on June 27, 2013 and signed by the Mayor on June 28, 2013, which in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, authorized Revolving Fund under the control of the Purchasing Department known as the PURCHASING REVOLVING FUND, whose purpose is to provide office supplies, photocopy supplies, copier leases, etc., for City Departments, whose revenues and amount limited at \$262,000.00 is hereby authorized at \$287,000.00 for FISCAL YEAR 2014 (Ref'd 6/12/14) was received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Bousquet. (1, 1a)

Debra Travers, Purchasing Agent was present to answer questions from the Committee. Councillor Alves asked her why the increase, to which she stated it, was because the advertising expense went up about \$20,000.

On motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Bousquet, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the ORDER, amending the Order adopted by the City Council on June 27, 2013 and signed by the Mayor on June 28, 2013, which in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, authorized Revolving Fund under the control of the Purchasing Department known as the PURCHASING REVOLVING FUND, whose purpose is to provide office supplies, photocopy supplies, copier leases, etc., for City Departments, whose revenues and amount limited at \$262,000 is hereby authorized at

\$287,000.00 for FISCAL YEAR 2014. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 0.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$892,515.00 from WATER, FREE CASH, to WATER STABILIZATION FUND (Ref'd 3/13/14, 5/12/14 - tabled) and a Related Motion, requesting that CFO Ari Sky provides the Committee on Finance with a list of all transfers and withdrawals from the Water Stabilization Fund from the last five (5) years (5/12/14) was removed from the table and received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Winterson. (2, 2a, 2b)

Ron Labelle, DPI Commissioner and CFO Ari Sky were present to answer questions from the Committee.

On motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$892,515.00 from WATER, FREE CASH to WATER STABILIZATION FUND. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 0.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting a LOAN ORDER, appropriating \$5,900,000.00 for the purpose of paying costs of making energy efficiency improvements to City streetlights and traffic signals (Ref'd 6/12/14 and an ENERGY MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT, by and between the City of New Bedford and Siemens Industry, Inc. (Ref'd 6/12/14) were received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Coelho. (3, 3a, 3b)

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Alves, the Committee VOTED: To reduce the Loan Order from \$5,900,000.00 to \$5,400,000.00, which is the reduction of the 10% estimated cost overruns. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 7, Nays 1, with Councillor Rebeiro opposed.

On motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Bousquet, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the LOAN ORDER, AS AMENDED, appropriating \$5,400,000.00 for the purpose of paying costs of making energy efficiency improvements to the City streetlights and traffic signals. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 0.

On motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the ENERGY MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT, by and between the City of New Bedford and Siemens Industry, Inc. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On a Related Motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Alves, the Committee VOTED: That the City Council be provided with a listing six (6) months after implementation of the streetlight replacements for the savings purse per the energy budget

specifically for streetlights in the City of New Bedford and that it be referred to the Committee on Finance. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On a Related Motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Alves, the Committee VOTED: To request that CFO Ari Sky provide the Committee on Finance with a full financial breakdown of all the cost incurred in the \$5,400,000.00 Loan Order within thirty (30) days. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On a Related Motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: Requesting from CFO Ari Sky, that the attachments to the Energy Management Services Agreement once completed be provided to the full City Council no later than August 15, 2014. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$35,000.00 from LIBRARY, SALARIES & WAGES, to MAYOR, SALARIES & WAGES (Ref'd 6/12/14) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho. (4, 4a)

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$35,000.00 from LIBRARY, SALARIES & WAGES to MAYOR'S, SALARIES & WAGES. This motion FAILED on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 5, Nays 3, with Councillors Alves, Martins and Morad opposed.

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On motion by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To take "No Further Action" on items five (5) and six (6) at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote. They are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Alves, Bousquet, Carney, Coelho, Gomes, Council President Lopes, Martins, Morad, Oliveira, Rebeiro and Winterson, requesting, based on the Mayor's recent statement that the City continues to be fiscally strapped", that the Committee on Finance meet with a representative of the Administration to discuss the status of contract negotiations with all City and School Department employees to determine the financial implications of said negotiations on Fiscal years 2014 and 2015, to determine the status of the AFSCME lawsuit and implications of the order to compensate employees for lost wages during the furlough period, to determine the financial implications of the pending layoffs projected in the current School Department turn around proposal, and any remaining judgments that are currently pending against the City of New Bedford. (Ref'd 2/13/14, 3/10/14 – No action taken, item remains in Committee) (5)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$61,500.00 from FREE CASH, to MAYOR, SALARIES & WAGES. (Ref'd 2/27/14, 5/12/14 – Failed, Yeas 2, Nays 8, with Councillors Alves, Bousquet, Carney, Gomes, Martins, Morad, Rebeiro and Winterson opposed) (6, 6a)

Councillor Coelho made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Martins.

This meeting adjourned @ 9:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Assistant Clerk of Committees