



Committee on Finance

September 9, 2015 – 7:30 PM - **Minutes**
Chambers of the City Council, Room 214

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2015
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS JOSEPH LOPES, CHAIRMAN; JAMES OLIVEIRA, VICE-CHAIRMAN; DAVID ALVES (7:36); HENRY BOUSQUET; NAOMI CARNEY; DEBORA COELHO; BRIAN GOMES (7:35); STEVEN MARTINS; LINDA MORAD; DANA REBEIRO; KERRY WINTERSON

ABSENT: NO ONE

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Councillor Lopes called the Finance Committee Meeting to order and took attendance, there was no one absent.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell to the City Council, submitting AN ORDER, appropriating \$1,117,502.00 from ORDINARY REVENUE AND MUNICIPAL RECEIPTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2016, to MAYOR, CHARGES & SERVICES in the amount of \$5,000.00; MIS, CHARGES & SERVICES in the amount of \$9,600.00; FACILITIES & FLEET MANAGEMENT, SALARIES & WAGES in the amount of \$50,000.00; FACILITIES & FLEET MANAGEMENT, CAPITAL OUTLAY in the amount of \$50,000.00; PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE, CHARGES & SERVICES in the amount of \$50,000.00; PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE, SUPPLIES & MATERIALS in the amount of \$25,000.00; SNOW, CHARGES & SERVICES in the amount of \$100,000.00; SOLICITOR, CHARGES & SERVICES in the amount of \$52,600.00; TOURISM, SALARIES & WAGES in the amount of \$37,417.00 and GENERAL GOVERNMENT UNCLASSIFIED, CHARGES & SERVICES in the amount of \$737,885.00 (Ref'd 7/16/15) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Oliveira. (1, 1a)

Ari Sky, CFO was present and addressed the Committee. He stated that \$2.3 million was cut from the city's budget by the Council in June, affecting the city's FY2016 budget. Unfortunately, the cut is not sustainable. He is looking to reallocate \$1,117,502 back. He reviewed each line item found in the communication above for the Council and the need to put the money back into each category.

Councillor Lopes explained he had gone over the list several times. He understands the need to return money to some of the line items referenced, and although he does agree, he will be looking to reduce the figures the Administration is seeking.

Councillor Bousquet asked if the General Government Unclassified figure includes claim settlements against the city. He was told yes, and he asked for additional details on some of the above-referenced line items.

Councillor Morad expressed her concerns on putting the requested funds back into the budget. She explained as to why she would be voting no, for a number of the requests. She explained she reviewed the FY15 budget and shared her findings with her Colleagues. She determined that at the end of FY15 with all of the departmental and inter-departmental transfers being made that FY15 ended up in excess of the \$1.1 million the Administration is asking the Council to restore and that the money she calculated was floating around between February and June of 2015. She reminded the Committee that money is always hidden in the budget.

On motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Martins, the Committee VOTED: To sever each item individually. This motion passed on a voice vote. The Roll Calls are as follows:

To restore \$5,000 to Mayor, charges and services, passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 3, with Councillors Alves, Carney and Morad opposed.

To restore \$9,600 to MIS, charges and services, passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 3, with Councillors Alves, Carney and Morad opposed.

To restore \$50,000 to Facilities and Fleet, salaries & wages, passed on Roll Call Vote of Yeas 10, Nays 1, with Councillor Morad opposed.

To restore \$50,000 to Facilities and Fleet, capital outlay, passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 2, with Councillors Carney and Morad opposed.

To restore \$50,000 to Department of Public Infrastructure, charges & services, FAILED on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 5, Nays 6, with Councillors Bousquet, Coelho, Gomes, Oliveira and Winterson in favor.

To restore \$25,000 to Department of Public Infrastructure, supplies & materials, passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 7, Nays 4, with Councillors Alves, Carney, Martins and Morad opposed.

To restore \$100,000 to Snow, charges and services, passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 11, Nays 0.

To restore \$52,600 to Solicitors, charges and services, passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 6, Nays 5, with Councillors Alves, Carney, Lopes, Martins and Morad opposed.

To restore \$37,417 to Tourism, salaries & wages, passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 10, Nays 1, with Councillor Alves opposed.

To Amend General Government Unclassified, charges & services to \$394,777, passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 7, Nays 4, with Councillors Bousquet, Coelho, Gomes and Oliveira opposed.

On motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, the Committee VOTED:: To recommend to the City Council, ADOPTION AS AMENDED, AND ORDER, appropriating \$724,394.00 from ORDINARY REVENUE AND MUNICIPAL RECEIPTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2016, to MAYOR, CHARGES & SERVICES in the amount of \$5,000.00; MIS, CHARGES & SERVICES in the amount of \$9,600.00; FACILITIES & FLEET MANAGEMENT, SALARIES & WAGES in the amount of \$50,000.00; FACILITIES & FLEET MANAGEMENT, CAPITAL OUTLAY in the amount of \$50,000.00; PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE, SUPPLIES & MATERIALS in the amount of \$25,000.00; SNOW, CHARGES & SERVICES in the amount of \$100,000.00; SOLICITOR, CHARGES & SERVICES in the amount of \$52,600.00; TOURISM, SALARIES & WAGES in the amount of \$37,417.00 and GERNERAL GOVERNMENT UNCLASSIFIED, CHARGES & SERVICES in the amount of \$394,777.00. This motion PASSED on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 6, Nays 5, with Councillors Bousquet, Coelho, Gomes, Morad and Oliveira opposed.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Bousquet, requesting that the City Council look into establishing a revolving fund for the Department of Parks and Recreation and Beaches in order to manage the care and maintenance of the proposed Dog Park in the City of New Bedford (Ref'd 7/16/15, 8/19/15-tabled) was removed from the table by Councillor Coelho and seconded by Councillor Carney. (2)

Ari Sky, CFO as present to answer questions from the Committee.

Councillor Bousquet explained he is looking to create a separate fund that would use the dog pass permits that would be paid to utilized the new Dog Park which allows for the proper upkeep of the property.

CFO Sky said he understands what the Council would like to do, such a fund could be set up, but other issues would need to be addressed, for example what department would get the funding and who would oversee that it was being spent as dictated.

Councillor Morad asked if the city has a projection of income the permits would generate and would we need to determine what amount the city would actually want to put in the fund.

CFO Sky said they did not have any projections to date. It's a welcomed concept, but further information will need to be gathered as the project moves forward.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Bousquet, the Committee VOTED: To table this mater at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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On motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Oliveira, the Committee VOTED: To waive the reading and follow the Chair's recommendation and take "No Further Action" on the following matters 3, 3a, 4, 5, 5a. This motion passed on a voice vote. They are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting a LOAN ORDER, appropriating \$950,000 for Phase I of the Ashley Park/Sagamore Street Improvement Project. (Ref'd 2/18/14, 02/19/15-tabled) (3, 3a)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Lopes, in light of the recent announcement of Unit C salary freezes, that the Administration reconsider the elimination of the water coolers, requesting that Ari Sky, CFO appear before the Committee on Finance, to discuss ways to keep the water cooler contract.(Ref'd 6/11/15) (4)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting AN ORDER appropriating \$246,627.00 from ORDINARY REVENUE AND MUNICIPAL RECEIPTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2016 to LABOR RELATIONS, SALARIES & WAGES in the amount of \$55,452.00; MAYOR, SALARIES & WAGES in the amount of \$161,969.00 and SOLICITOR, SALARIES & WAGES in the amount of \$28,846.00. (Ref'd 7/16/15) (5, 5a)

Councillor Alves made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Winterson.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:03 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Committees