



Committee on Finance

February 24, 2016 – 7:30 PM – **Agenda**

Chambers of the City Council, Room 214

1. Communication, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting a LOAN ORDER in the amount of \$520,000.00 to pay the costs of improving Hazelwood Park for recreational purposes including new pedestrian entrances and walkways, enhanced lighting, benches, table and other amenities and all other costs incidental and related thereto (the “Project”) for which project the City has been awarded grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the amount of \$24,500 for design costs and \$339,500 for construction costs. (Ref’d 1/14/16)

1a. LOAN ORDER

INVITEES: Ari Sky, CFO; Mary S. Rapoza, Director of Parks Recreation & Beaches

2. 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, 8/19/15-9/9/15- tabled until May 2016)

INVITEES: Ari Sky, CFO; Mary S. Rapoza, Director of Parks Recreation & Beaches; Emanuel Maciel, Director of Animal Control

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

3. Written Motion, Councillor Lopes, requesting, AGAIN, that the City of New Bedford adopt M.G.L., Chapter 59, Section 5N, which allows Cities and Towns to create a work-off tax abatement program for Veterans, this would allow Veterans to earn abatements on their property taxes by working for the community (Ref’d 3/27/13, 4/15/15- table for 30 days pending additional info from Carlos Amado and Chris Gomes)
4. Resolution, Approving Certified Project Application and Special Tax Assessment Agreement with DARN IT! INC. and DARN IT! PROPERTIES LLC. (67-75 David Street) (Ref’d 9/10/15, 9/16/15- tabled until March 2016)
5. Written Motion, Councillor Martins, requesting, that the Committee on Finance meet with a representative of the MIS Department, City Auditor, CFO and City Treasurer for the purpose of having the City of New Bedford’s checkbook placed online for all taxpayers and Citizens to view; and further, that the City has a large budget, monies being transferred, items being bought and salaries being paid for that although the City Budget it posted on the web, it’s not easy to follow and doesn’t give them, the information needed to follow the monies being spent, nor the access to see what they pay for and what we do with City funds; and further, that this process would increase transparency of local government and we should have our books open to the public to show the people of New Bedford what is being done with their tax dollars; and further, this process should include the School Department’s budget,

especially during times like these when so many Citizens and taxpayers want answers to their questions and rightfully so.(Ref'd 5/09/13, 11/19/13- table for 6 months, 7/14/14- table until 10/14 Finance Committee Meeting)