



# Committee on Finance

May 24, 2016 – 6:00 PM – **Minutes**  
Chambers of the City Council, Room 214

**MEETING: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**DATE: MAY 24, 2016**

**TIME: 6:00 P.M.**

**PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLORS JOSEPH LOPES, CHAIRMAN; JAMES OLIVEIRA, VICE-CHAIRMAN; IAN ABREU; HENRY BOUSQUET; NAOMI CARNEY; DEBPRA COELHO; BRIAN GOMES (6:12); STEVEN MARTINS; LINDA MORAD; DANA REBEIRO (6:07); 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 City Council, submitting AN ORDER authorizing the Mayor, on behalf of the City for the consideration of the sum of \$587,500.00 to execute an offer to sell easement between the City and the United States of America; and further, authorizing to execute an Easement to be recorded at the Registry of Deeds in a form acceptable to the City Solicitor for the completion of any work necessary and incident to design and construction of the New Bedford Harbor Superfund remedy on a portion of City owned property located at 103 Sawyer Street (Ref'd 4/28/16) was received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Bousquet. (1, 1a)

Attorney Mathieu from the City Solicitor's Office gave an overview of the order and answered questions from the Committee.

Councillor Bousquet asked for a status on the superfund recovery, when is completion expected to take place. He was told the federal government has requested an additional 10 years to complete the harbor cleanup.

A discussion ensued where questions were asked by Councillors Morad, Winteron, Abreu and Coelho, where the following was revealed: (Answers were received from Attorney Mathieu and Michele Paul from Environmental Stewardship.

- a. The federal government is responsible for the cleanup of the superfund site. Liability for health claims would fall to the federal government.
- b. The monitoring of the work is done by federal government and the contaminates are handled in a controlled environment.

- c. All of the operations are conducted by the EPA.
- d. The government came up with the figure of \$587,500.00, it is an increase over the late agreement arrived at when the work originally began. It was originally \$22,000 per year and is now \$60,000 per year.
- e. Attorney Gerwatowski found no issues with the language proposed. He did mention that the Council could establish how the money is to be spent by amending the language if they so desired.
- f. The language always included the term “easement” and not lease, which is why it stayed the same. The language was provided by the federal government.
- g. Amidst concerns of the time being taken to complete the clean up, the time consumed is used to dredge the entire harbor and when done will leave the area in a condition that the city can use to their advantage.
- h. That once the work is completed it can help to contribute to the economic rebirth of the area.
- i. Ari Sky informed the Committee that the money would go to the general funds as written.

Councillor Lopes asked about the original agreement between then Mayor Lang and contractor D.W. White that they were to build the boat house on the site, was that still in place. He was told he was not certain and it was agreed Attorney Mathieu investigate to further and report back to the Committee.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, the Committee VOTED: to amend the order to add after the words “103 Sawyer Street” the words, “; and further that the \$587,500 be divided equally into the six (6) wards to allow the Councillors of each ward along with the Councillors at Large an opportunity to utilize their share of the proceeds for streetscape improvements and quality of life issues in the ward neighborhoods.” This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 11, Nays 0.

On motion by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Bousquet, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the ORDER AS AMENDED, authorizing the Mayor, on behalf of the City for the consideration of the sum of \$587,500.00 to execute an offer to sell easement between the City and the United States of America; and further, authorizing to execute an Easement to be recorded at the Registry of Deeds in a form acceptable to the City Solicitor for the completion of any work necessary and incident to design and construction of the New Bedford Harbor Superfund remedy on a portion of City owned property located at 103 Sawyer Street“; and further that the \$587,500 be divided equally into the six (6) wards to allow the Councillors of each ward along with the Councillors at Large an opportunity to utilize their share of the proceeds for streetscape improvements and quality of life issues in the ward neighborhoods. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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

This meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk of Committees

