



Committee on Finance

July 27, 2016 – 7:06 PM – **Minutes**
Chambers of the City Council, Room 214

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS BRIAN GOMES; STEVEN MARTINS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: JULY 27, 2016

TIME: 7:06 P.M.

PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS JOSEPH LOPES, CHAIRMAN; JAMES OLIVEIRA, VICE-CHAIRMAN; HENRY BOUSQUET; NAOMI CARNEY; STEVEN MARTINS (7:29); LINDA MORAD; KERRY WINTERSON

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS IAN ABREU; DEBORA COELHO; BRIAN GOMES; DANA REBEIRO

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Councillor Lopes called the Finance Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read Communications from Councillors Coelho, Gomes and Rebeiro stating the reasons for their absences. These Communications were received and placed on file by Councillor Bousquet and seconded by Councillor Oliveira.

Councillor Lopes announced he received a call from Councillor Martins stating he would be late in attending this meeting as he is attending the Traffic Commission Meeting and a call from Councillor Abreu stating he would be unable to attend this meeting.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, R. Renee Fernandes, Treasurer/Collector to Councillor Joseph Lopes, Chairman, Committee on Finance, requesting the Finance Committee's approval of the sale and rate, as well as the Financing Agreement for the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust Interim Loan for CWP-14-19-A – CSO Abatement in the amount of \$2,681,930 at a rate of 0.0%, was received and placed on file by Councillor Oliveira and seconded by Councillor Winterson. (1)

Renee Fernandes, Treasurer/Collector gave an overview of the 2004 Coggeshall Street CSO Loan of which the \$2,681,930 is a part of. This figure is tied into the original \$21 million funding approved by the City Council. It is not additional to the original funding. Several Councillors expressed their concern as it related to the over run and asked for the reason why. The Treasurer was unable to provide this information; she apologized but informed the Committee she had told the DPI Commissioner that he did not need to attend this meeting.

Councillor Morad expressed a concern that the overrun was so high and that she would prefer to have seen a breakdown prior to voting on it. Ari Sky, CFO stated he could approach Commissioner Arruda to send a breakdown to the Committee.

Councillor Bousquet asked how, if by tabling the request until they received the breakdown, it would affect the sale and rate. He was told that the money was already spent and was a part of the original funding process and would not increase the original amount that was granted in 2004.

On motion by Councillor Bousquet and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To approve the request for sale and rate, as well as the Financing Agreement for the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust Interim Loan for CW-14-19-A-CSO abatement in the amount of \$2,681,930 at a rate of 0.0%. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 6, Nays 0.

On a Related Motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Bousquet, the Committee VOTED: That the Committee on Finance request the DPI Commissioner Zeb Arruda to appear before the Committee on the construction project on Coggeshall Street, Belleville Avenue, North Front Street and Acushnet Avenue progress to date along with the costs associated with the project, obstacles and overruns. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, R. Renee Fernandes, Treasurer/Collector to Councillor Joseph Lopes, Chairman, Committee on Finance, requesting the Finance Committee's approval to refund \$13,785,000 of 2008 and 2010 bonds. The estimated savings to the City as a result of this action is in excess of \$1,000,000 over the life of the debt service. The savings are preliminary and subject to change based on market conditions on the sale date was received and placed on file by Councillor Oliveira and seconded by Councillor Bousquet. (2)

Ms. Fernandes, Treasurer/Collector gave an overview of the refund and informed the Committee that the city did not spend the entire amount of proceeds funded in 2008 and 2010. The five banks moved to refund the existing bonds which included Citi Group as the taking on the largest role in refunding the existing bonds, which resulted in a savings of over \$1,000,000.

On motion by Councillor Oliveira and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To amend the \$13,785,000 figure in the original Communication to \$14,430,000 and the \$1,000,000 figure to \$1,551,482.04 and approve. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 6, Nays 0.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting AN ORDINANCE, amending Chapter 19 Personnel, relative to the reclassification of the City Planner (Ref'd 3/10/16) was received and placed on file by Councillor Bousquet and seconded by Councillor Winterson. (3, 3a)

Sandy Vezina, Director of Personnel gave an overview of the need to change the classification. The salary amount currently being offered is not enough to attract qualified candidates. There were a total of six (6) New Bedford applicants and eleven (11) applicants outside of New Bedford who applied for the position.

Patrick Sullivan, Director of Planning, Housing & Community Development was present and answered questions from the Committee. He informed the Committee that the highest the City Planner could be paid now is \$80,000; the Ordinance will allow the salary to increase to \$100,000. Of the seventeen (17) applicants only four (4) were interviewed, two (2) were current City Planners in other states and two (2) had experience as Assistant City Planners in other communities. The current salary schedule has created a hiring barrier. The reason they did not consider those who had recently graduated with degrees in City Planning, was that this would be a position that would be responsible for working with the Planning Committee and ZBA and experience is a necessity in filling this position.

On motion by Councillor Bousquet and seconded by Councillor Oliveira, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the ORDINANCE, amending Chapter 19 Personnel, relative to the reclassification of the City Planner. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 6, Nays 1, with Councillor Carney opposed.

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

This meeting adjourned @ 7:37 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees