

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
DATE: MARCH 19, 2019
TIME: 7:20 P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS JOSEPH LOPES, CHAIRMAN; IAN ABREU, VICE CHAIRMAN; NAOMI CARNEY; MARIA GIESTA; SCOTT LIMA; LINDA MORAD; DANA REBEIRO

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS DEBORA COELHO; HUGH DUNN; BRIAN GOMES; WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY

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Councillor Lopes called the Finance Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read Communications from Councillors Coelho, Dunn, Gomes and Markey explaining their absences from this meeting. These Communications were received and placed on file by Councillor Lima and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro.

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Councillor Lima made a motion to take items 2, 2a out of order, which was seconded by Councillor Abreu; so, without objection, items 2, 2a were before the Committee. They are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, that the City accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.43, §53F ½, establishing Cable Television Public Access as an Enterprise Fund effective Fiscal Year 2020, which begins on July 1, 2019 (Ref'd 2/14/19) were received and placed on file by Councillor Lima and seconded by Councillor Carney. (2, 2a)

Councillor Morad asked Ari Sky, CFO, to explain the need for Cable Access Enterprise. CFO Sky explained that Comcast surcharges customers a fee which is turned over to communities to provide local community channels. In 2014 MGL dictated that these funds could not be held in general funds and needed to be set up on enterprise funds, which is the reason the city is moving forward with this. The funds will show as separate enterprise fund line in the 2020 budget.

Jim Marshall from Cable Access was asked if his department had the capability to handle this and he said yes, they were already setting up the process.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of AN ORDER, that the City accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.43, §53F ½, establishing Cable Television

Public Access as an Enterprise Fund effective Fiscal Year 2020, which begins on July 1, 2019. 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 A LOAN ORDER, appropriating \$17 Million to construct the South Public Safety Center located on the property at Brock Avenue and Ruth Street and to include the demolition of the former St. Anne's Church and School (Ref'd 2/28/19) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lima. (1, 1a)

Ari Sky, CFO, introduced Ted Galante of The Galante Architecture Studio, Inc., 146 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA, the designer of the South End Public Safety Building.

Mr. Galante handed out copies of his presentation, which was received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro. He gave a Power Point presentation which explained how the building would be fronting Brock Avenue, would be a shared facility of the Police, Fire, EMS and Animal Control Departments. He explained ingresses and egresses on Brock Avenue, Ruth and Salisbury Streets.

Councillor Rebeiro asked if there was green space for dogs in the Animal Control area and she was told there was.

Councillor Morad asked about fencing and buffers for nearby residences and to avert any pedestrian issues. Mr. Galante reviewed such barriers. They also addressed her concerns of parking spaces. She asked about a design for the rectory which will be utilized by Loss Prevention in the Fire Department and Animal Control, she was told they were waiting on a budget figure to do the external design of the rectory. She explained she supports the project but has concerns about locating Animal Control in the South End and not a more centralized location that the city is twelve (12) miles long and it did not make sense to her.

Police Chief Cordeiro explained that this new space is much better than the current space being occupied by Animal Control and that they have looked and have not found a suitable centralized location for Animal Control.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the LOAN ORDER, appropriating \$17 Million to construct the South Public Safety Center located on the property at Brock Avenue and Ruth Street and to include the demolition of the former St. Anne's Church and School. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On a Related Motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, the Committee VOTED: That the Committee on Finance request that CFO Sky provide the Committee with a list of vacant city-owned property that is centrally located, for the purpose of relocating the City's Animal Control Division. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Councillor Abreu made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Lima.

This meeting adjourned @ 7:48 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees