

CITY OF GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF MARCH 11, 2020

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order by Council President James Walsh at 12:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall. Finance Committee Members Councillors Ronald Cormier and Elizabeth Kazinskas were also present.

Others participating were Airport Commission Chairman Kenneth Bonk; Nikolas Ippolito, P.E., Gale Associates, Inc.; Purchasing Agent Joshua Cormier; City Auditor John Richard; and, City Clerk Alan Agnelli.

President Walsh asked if anyone present planned to record the meeting, in accordance with the requirements of the Open Meeting Law, as follows:

Any person may make a video or audio recording of the open session of this meeting so long as it does not interfere with the conduct of the meeting. All documents and exhibits used or referenced at this meeting shall be submitted in duplicate to the City Clerk, as they become part of the minutes of the meeting. Is there anyone present who will be recording this meeting?

No one responded.

1-1 Reading and Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting.

On a motion by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Kazinskas, it was voted to approve the Minutes of the January 29, 2020 Regular Meeting, as printed.

2-1 #10250, An Order Appropriating \$52,788.00 from Free Cash to FY2019 Firefighters Salary and Wages Account (In City Council and Referred to Finance, 3/2/2020).

Citing March 2, 2020 correspondence from City Solicitor John Flick, Council President and Acting Mayor James Walsh stated that the Solicitor questioned whether that, as Acting Mayor, he [Walsh] could execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement (“CBA”) negotiated by former Mayor Mark Hawke. President Walsh informed the Committee that he requested that the City Solicitor initiate legal proceedings to obtain judicial determination as to his ability to act on the Agreement.

Councillor Ronald Cormier questioned the amount of time that such a legal proceeding would take.

President Walsh stated that the Law Department would notify the Firefighters Union of the City’s pursuit of a judicial determination, noting that these are unusual circumstances and that any action as Acting Mayor is potentially subject to challenge. He added that the facts are not in dispute, but whether executing the CBA is considered “not admitting of delay.”

On a motion by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Kazinskas, it was voted to request more time for study and report on the following Order:

CITY OF GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF MARCH 11, 2020

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING FROM FREE CASH TO FIREFIGHTERS SALARY AND WAGES FY2019 ACCOUNT.

ORDER: That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of Fifty-Fifty-two Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-eight and 33/100 (\$52,788.33) from Free Cash to the Fiscal 2019 Firefighters Salary and Wages Account.

2-2 #10251, An Order Appropriating \$54,818.67 from Free Cash to the Firefighters Salary and Wages Account (In City Council and Referred to Finance, 3/2/2020).

On a motion by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Kazinskas, it was voted to request more time for study and report on the following Order:

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING FROM FREE CASH TO FIREFIGHTERS SALARY AND WAGES ACCOUNT.

ORDER: That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of Fifty-four Thousand Eight Hundred Eighteen and 67/100 (\$54,818.67) from Free Cash to the Firefighters Salary and Wages Account.

2-3 An Order Appropriating \$24,929.00 from Free Cash to Airport Professional Services.

Airport Commission Chairman Kenneth Bonk and Nikolas Ippolito, P.E., Gale Associates, Inc., the Airport's Project Consultant, outlined the Airport's T-Hangar project and noted that the City's share is \$51,778.75, \$26,250 of which was appropriated in FY2018 based on 2016 construction estimates.

President Walsh noted that the City's share represents 3.3% of the total project cost. He added that the State's share must be expended by June 30, 2020; therefore, he considers the Order a "matter not admitting of delay."

Ken Bonk noted that the 6 new hangars are expected to generate \$20,000 per year in income to the Airport, or \$300 per month for each unit, adding that there is a market for hangar space in the area.

On a motion by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Kazinskas, it was voted to recommend to the City Council that the following Order ought to pass:

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING FROM FREE CASH TO AIRPORT PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.

ORDER: That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of Twenty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-nine Dollars and No Cents (\$24,929.00) from Free Cash to Airport Professional Services.

CITY OF GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF MARCH 11, 2020

6-1 A Measure Authorizing an Eighth Amendment to the April 9, 1968 Lease Between the City and Henry Heywood Memorial Hospital (Ref: Council Calendar No. 10119).

President Walsh stated that Atty. Phillips has communicated with the Hospital, but has not received a reply. The Committee postponed action until Attorney Phillips completes her research.

6-2 A Measure Authorizing an Easement Relocation Agreement Between the City of Gardner and Massachusetts Electric Company (Ref: Finance Committee Agenda No. 6-1).

President Walsh stated that Atty. Phillips has submitted proposed changes to National Grid, but that the process may take some time. The Committee postponed action until Attorney Phillips completes her research.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councillor Elizabeth Kazinskas and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier it was voted to adjourn at 12:15 p.m.