

CITY OF GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF APRIL 3, 2023

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order by Council President Elizabeth Kazinskas at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chamber, Room 219, City Hall.

Finance Committee Members Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and Ronald Cormier were also present.

Also participating were Mayor Michael Nicholson; DPW Director Dane Arnold; and City Clerk Titi Siriphan.

Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz, it was voted viva voce, three (3) yeas President Elizabeth Kazinskas and Councillors Ronald Cormier and Aleksander Dernalowicz to waive the reading and to accept the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of:

- February 21, 2023
- March 1, 2023

FIRST TIME ON THE AGENDA

10952 An Order Appropriating \$23,091.00 from Free Cash to the IT Software Service License Renewal Account.

Mayor Nicholson informed the Committee that this appropriation request would allow the Treasurer's Department to utilize the Munis Financial Software to email out direct deposit slips to employees who elect to receive these items this way and thus greatly cut down on costs of paper and envelopes and substantially cut down on the amount of time staff is using to simply fold the checks, sort by department, and stuff into envelopes.

On a motion made by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted to recommend to the City Council that the following ORDER ought to pass:

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING FROM FREE CASH TO THE IT SOFTWARE SERVICE LICENSE RENEWAL ACCOUNT.

ORDERED: That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of Twenty-Three Thousand Ninety-One Dollars and No Cents (\$23,091.00) from Free Cash to the IT Software Service License Renewal Account.

10953 An Order Appropriating \$30,000.00 from to Water Surplus to Repairs to Mains.

Mayor Nicholson informed the Committee this is common practice in the City to replace these structures when roads get repaved to make sure the full amount of

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infrastructure improvements are made in a location while construction is already being done.

On a motion made by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz, it was voted to recommend to the City Council that the following ORDER ought to pass:

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING FROM WATER SURPLUS TO REPAIRS TO MAINS.

ORDERED: That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$30,000.00) from Water Surplus to Repairs to Mains

10954 An Order Appropriating \$50,000.00 from to Sewer Surplus to Repairs to Main – New Manhole Frames and Covers.

Mayor Nicholson informed the Committee that this appropriation will continue the practice of the City replacing these structures completely whenever roads are repaved, in order to make sure the system remains sealed and protected.

On a motion made by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz, it was voted to recommend to the City Council that the following ORDER ought to pass:

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING FROM SEWER SURPLUS TO REPAIRS TO MAINS.

ORDERED: That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$50,000.00) from Sewer Surplus to Repairs to Mains.

10955 An Order Appropriating \$150,000.00 from to Sewer Surplus to Repairs to Main – Relining.

Mayor Nicholson informed the Committee that this appropriation request from Sewer Retained Earnings for the purpose of relining sewer mains on the attached listing of street. This action is being done to help extend the life of these utility pipes and help protect the system from infiltration and inflow which could leach into the system and thus increase what the wastewater treatment plant is processing above what the residents are using.

On a motion made by Councillor Ronald Cormier and seconded by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz, it was voted to recommend to the City Council that the

following ORDER ought to pass:

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING FROM SEWER SURPLUS TO REPAIRS TO MAINS.

ORDERED: That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$150,000.00) from Sewer Surplus to Repairs to Mains.

REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE

10946 A Measure Authorizing an Intermunicipal Agreement between City of Gardner and Town of Ashburnham for Wastewater Collection, Treatment and Disposal.

Mayor Nicholson informed the Committee that the City of Gardner currently provides wastewater collection, treatment and, and disposal services for the Towns of Ashburnham and Templeton. This request that the City Council vote to authorize the Administration to enter into this agreement. If authorized, the City would then send this document to the Town of Ashburnham for their Select Board to review and authorize for signature by their Town Administrator.

On a motion made by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted to recommend to the City Council to GRANT the authorization:

AUTHORIZING AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GARDNER AND THE TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM FOR WASTEWATER COLLECTION, TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL

VOTED: To authorize the Mayor of the City of Gardner to enter into an Intermunicipal with the Town of Ashburnham for the purpose of providing wastewater collection, treatment and disposal among the two communities, under such terms and conditions as the Mayor deems appropriate and in accordance with the provisions of Section 4A of Chapter 40 of General Laws.

New Business

Mayor Nicholson informed the Committee that Chris Coughlin from the DPW was able to secure a grant of 1.57 million dollars for upgrades to the wastewater treatment facility to help remove nitrogen and be more in compliance with federal guidelines. Hopefully the grant will be received over the summer.

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ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councillor Aleksander Dernalowicz and seconded by Councillor Ronald Cormier, it was voted to adjourn at 6:16 p.m.