

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
October 16, 2023

1. Chairman LaCava called the meeting to order at 9:15pm in the City Council Chamber.
2. Chairman LaCava requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – Committee members Durkee, LaFauci, McMenimen, Vidal and LaCava were all present in-person.
3. Councillor Durkee moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on October 2, 2023. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the meeting on October 2, 2023 were accepted.
4. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the dedication of two existing benches at the Paine Estate for Stephen and Marcia Goodwin. Councillor LaFauci read the plaques that are to be affixed to each bench. President McMenimen expressed her support. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to approve the dedication was approved on a voice vote.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the transfer of funds totaling \$129,000 to fund the design services for the structural phases for the Embassy Parking Garage Renovations.

FROM:

Stabilization Fund	#250-135-7405-5205	\$129,000
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TO:

Building – Design Embassy Garage	#001-192-5800-6610	\$129,000
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The request of \$129,000 is to fund the following structural phases:

Schematic Design/Design Development	\$50,000
Contract Documents	\$38,000
Bidding & Negotiation	\$ 7,500
Construction Administration	\$33,500

A motion to hear from the Director of Building Maintenance, Jon Millian was adopted on a voice vote. Mr. Millian explained the need for the improvements and noted several deficiencies that were discovered during periodic evaluations. Councillor Vidal asked several follow up questions concerning the age of the structure and the timeline to complete the design. Councillor LaFauci asked if the deficiencies were due to neglect and the expected life of the facility once renovated. Off-committee Councillor Paz asked questions about the timeline of the project and its impact on the residents in the area. Councillor Vidal moved to approve the funding request of \$129,000. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

6. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the dedication of existing benches at the Hillcroft Playground for Janice Palmer and at Lowell Filed for Joseph and Virginia LaRosa. Councillor LaFauci spoke about each of the individuals and their contribution to the City. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to approve each dedication was approved on a voice vote.

7. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the acceptance of a Green Communities Competitive Grant from MA DOER in the amount of \$198,000 for the following projects:

City – Administrative assistance	\$ 10,000
25 Lexington St – Heat pump system	\$145,657
25 Lexington St – Insulation	\$ 12,170
Northeast School – LED lighting	\$ 30,173

A motion to hear from Principal Planner, Frank Nakashian was adopted on a voice vote. Upon questions from Councillors Durkee and LaFauci, Mr. Nakashian gave a detailed explanation of the intended use of the funds including the scope of the project and the potential energy savings the City may receive. A motion by Councillor Durkee to accept the grant of \$198,000 was adopted on a voice vote.

8. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the acceptance of a Sustainable Materials Recovery Program grant from MA DEP in the amount of \$24,500 for the CPW– Recycling Division. A motion to hear from CPW Director, Michael Chiasson was adopted on a voice vote. Mr. Chiasson explained the new requirements imposed by the State on mattress disposal. Mr. Chiasson stated the grant funds would be allocated to the mattress program and to replenish the inventory of composters that the City sells. Councillors Vidal and LaFauci asked several follow up questions about the mattress program. A motion by Councillor Vidal to accept the grant of \$24,500 was adopted on a voice vote.

9. A motion by Councillor Vidal to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote and Chairman LaCava declared the meeting adjourned at 9:45PM.

Paul G. Centofanti – Clerk to the Finance Committee