

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
March 19, 2018

1. Chairwoman McMenimen called the meeting to order at 10:40pm.
2. Chairwoman McMenimen requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – Committee members LaCava, Mackin, Romard, Vidal and McMenimen were present.
3. Councillor Mackin moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on March 5, 2018. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the meeting on March 5, 2018 were accepted.
4. A request was received from the Mayor to accept the donation of \$1,000 from Kevin and June O'Toole towards a bench to be placed at the McCabe Playground. Councillor LaCava moved to hear from the Assistant Planning Director, James Lacrosse. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Mr. Lacrosse answered questions from Councillor Romard concerning the cost and placement of the bench. Councillor Romard moved to accept the \$1,000 gift for the bench. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the gift of \$1,000 was accepted.
5. Councillor LaCava moved to take the matter of the Mid-Year Budget Review from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor LaCava moved to hear from School Superintendent Dr. Drew Echelson and School Business Administrator Leanne Wilcinski. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Romard stated the report provided by the School Department was well done and gave good data. Ms. Wilcinski gave an overview of the budget report and pointed out several accounts that had unusual budget to actual variances. Ms. Wilcinski stated the rationale for the differences. Ms. Wilcinski explained the Special Education budget will need to absorb 10 additional out of district placements and would most likely be funded from excess Circuit Breaker funds. Councillor Romard asked several questions about the several School revolving accounts, including the reasons for the revenue collected. Councillor Mackin commented on school security issues. Chairwoman McMenimen stated three areas of concern that would be addressed during the FY2019 budget review with the School Department – (1) School security/safety of students (2) Special Education mandates, including unexpected expenses and (3) Increase of the homeless population and its impact on local hotels. A motion to file the Mid-Year Budget Review was adopted on a voice vote.

6. A resolution concerning the Environmental Specialist position was submitted by Councillor Romard. Since the resolution contained a reference to the Fernald property, Chairwoman McMenimen recused herself from the discussion and Councillor LaCava assumed the Chair. Councillor Romard spoke about the increased activity required of the position and believed the City would be best served if the status was changed from part-time to full-time. Councillor Romard moved to approve the resolution and that the City Council requests the Mayor to fund the Environmental Specialist as a full time position. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 3 in favor (Mackin, Romard & Vidal), 1 recused (McMenimen) and 1 presiding (LaCava) and the resolution was approved. Chairwoman McMenimen resumed the Chair.
7. A motion by Councillor LaCava to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote and Chairwoman McMenimen declared the meeting adjourned at 11:35pm.

Paul G. Centofanti – Clerk to the Finance Committee