

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday, May 15, 2023

1. Chairman LaCava called the meeting to order at 8:05pm in the City Council Chamber.
2. Since the Clerk was absent, Chairman LaCava also assumed the role of the Clerk. Chairman LaCava called the roll – Committee members Durkee, LaFauci, McMenimen, Vidal, and LaCava were all present in-person.
3. Chairman LaCava stated the minutes of the meeting on May 1, 2023 were not available for approval. Councillor LaFauci moved to table the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
4. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the appropriation of \$185,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance to fund the roof replacement at the Veterans' Memorial Rink. A motion to hear from the Mayor was adopted on a voice vote. The Mayor gave a brief explanation of the scope of work and design/bid process. The Mayor answered questions from President McMenimen, Councillor Vidal and Councillor LaFauci. A motion by President McMenimen to approve the appropriation of \$185,000 was adopted on a voice vote.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the acceptance of various memorabilia items from Kathleen McMenimen for display in the City Hall Museum Room. President McMenimen gave a detailed itemization of the various items and their significance. Councillor LaFauci moved to approve the donation and a note of thanks is sent from the City Council to the donor. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
6. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the acceptance of a \$5,000 grant from MEMA to conduct a traffic study on vehicles carrying hazardous materials for the Emergency Management Services (EMS) Department. A motion to hear from the EMS Director Bernie Mullin was adopted on a voice vote. Mr. Mullin gave a detailed explanation of the intended scope and purpose of the grant. Councillors LaFauci, Durkee, and President McMenimen asked several follow up questions to get a better understanding and the potential impact of the conducting the study. Councillor LaFauci moved to accept the \$5,000 grant. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
7. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the acceptance of a K-9 bullet proof vest from Mass Vest A Dog valued at \$3,479 for the Police Department. A motion to hear from Police Chief Kevin O'Connell was adopted on a voice vote. Chief O'Connell gave an explanation of the vest program and the donor purpose. Councillor LaFauci asked several follow up questions of the Chief and spoke of the value of the program. Off-committee, Vice-President McLaughlin also spoke favorably of the program and cited some nationwide statistics. Councillor LaFauci moved to accept the K-9 bullet proof vest. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

8. Chairman LaCava stated the Mayor would be presenting the FY2024 Budget at the City Council meeting on May 22, 2023. Chairman LaCava informed the Committee the budget review meetings with Departments would be held on Thursday, June 1 at 9:30am and Tuesday, June 6 at 9:30am. The FinCom budget cutting/approval meeting would be held on Monday, June 12 at 7:00pm and the City Council budget approval meeting would be held on Tuesday, June 20 at 7:30pm.
9. A motion by Councillor Vidal to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote and Chairman LaCava declared the meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Paul G. Centofanti – Clerk to the Finance Committee