

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday – August 7, 2023

1. Chairman LaCava called the meeting to order at 9:51pm 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 LaFauci, McMenimen, Vidal, and LaCava were present in-person. Councillor Durkee was absent.
3. Councillor Darcy announced that he was recording the committee meeting.
4. Councillor LaFauci moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 26, 2023. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the meeting on June 26, 2023 were approved.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the acceptance of a plaque from 1888 for the Waltham City Hall Museum Room from the City of Waltham's Building Department. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to approve the donation was adopted on a voice vote.
6. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the acceptance of a donation of a picture taken of a Waltham Pumper and firefighters from Arthur Sawin for the City Hall Museum Room. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to approve the donation and that the City Council send a thank you note to the donor was adopted on a voice vote.
7. A motion by Chairman LaCava to hear from all off-committee members was adopted by a voice vote.
8. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the acceptance of two gifts from Kevin O'Connell (Police Chief) for the City Hall Museum Room: a Waltham Bicentennial Celebration booklet and an Arthur J. Clark pencil sharpener/ruler. Chief O'Connell explained that the items were from his father-in-law, who recently passed away. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to approve the donation and that the City Council send a thank you note to the donor was adopted on a voice vote.
9. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the acceptance of the State 911 Department Training Grant (renewal) in the amount of \$91,674.04. Chief O'Connell gave a brief description of the training grant for the 911 system. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to approve the acceptance of the grant was adopted on a voice vote.
10. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the acceptance of the State 911 Department Support and Incentive Grant program for E911 (renewal) in the amount of \$271,871.00. Chief O'Connell explained that the grant supported the dispatchers. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to approve the acceptance of the grant was adopted on a voice vote.
11. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to take an item out of order was adopted on a voice vote.
12. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the acceptance of the State 911 Department Emergency Medical Dispatch Grant in the amount of \$19,067.52. Chief O'Connell stated that this was a new grant for the dispatchers. A motion by Councillor Vidal to approve the acceptance of the grant was adopted on a voice vote.

13. A request was received from the Mayor to approve a transfer of funds totaling \$950,000.00 from various funding sources for traffic signal upgrades at many intersection locations throughout the City. Upon questions from Councillors LaFauci, Vidal, Paz, Bradley-MacArthur, and Darcy, Traffic Engineer Michael Garvin explained that the Wires Department hired a consultant to perform a study on 30 locations to determine what upgrades were needed to improve traffic. The Traffic Commission has approved the transfer of funds. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to approve the transfer of funds was adopted on a voice vote.

14. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$100,000.00 from Gann Academy that will be used towards the Veterans' Fields turf replacement project. Upon questions from Councillors Vidal and LaFauci, Recreation Director Kim Hebert explained that the school utilizes field one, which cost approximately \$900,000.00 to complete. Chairman LaCava highlighted, along with Director Hebert, that the project was under budget and ahead of schedule. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to approve the donation and that the City Council send a thank you note to the donor was adopted on a voice vote.

15. A request was received from the Mayor to use the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the amount of \$500,000.00 for the Chesterbrook drain replacement project. Upon questions from Councillor LaFauci, City Engineer Robert Winn explained that the current drainage is in very bad condition and the project will also relieve issues on Stanley Road. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to approve the funding request was adopted on a voice vote.

16. A request was received from the Mayor to use the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the amount of \$200,000.00 for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Upon questions from Councillor LaFauci, the Mayor stated that most of the funds from the original appropriation have been expended and there is still an ongoing need. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to approve the funding request was adopted on a voice vote.

17. A request was received from the Mayor to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$88,108.00 from the Cemetery Sale of Lots & Graves account to purchase a new Chevrolet Silverado 3500 truck with a snow plow package for use by the Cemetery Division of the CPW Department. Upon questions from Councillor LaFauci, CPW Director Michael Chiasson explained that the vehicle was a 1 ton dump truck. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to approve the appropriation was adopted on a voice vote.

18. A motion by Councillor Vidal to take an item out of order was adopted on a voice vote.

19. A request was received from the Mayor to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$80,000.00 from the Cemetery Sale of Lots & Graves account for the removal of trees in the Mount Feake and Grove Hill Cemeteries. Upon questions from Councillor Vidal, CPW Director Michael Chiasson explained that an outside company would be completing the tree removal work. A motion by Councillor Vidal to approve the appropriation was adopted on a voice vote.

20. A motion by Councillor Vidal to take an item out of order was adopted on a voice vote.

21. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the FY2024 Chapter 90 allotment in the amount of \$1,571,525.48 for the resurfacing of various streets and sidewalk improvements. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to approve the appropriation was adopted on a voice vote.

22. A request was received from the Mayor to approve a loan authorization in the amount of \$1,515,000.00 for the resurfacing of various streets and sidewalk improvements. Upon questions from Councillor McMenimen, CPW Director Michael Chiasson explained that this would complete the funding needed for the list of streets that was provided to the Finance Committee on June 26, 2023 for a project grand total of about \$5,500,000.00. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to approve the loan authorization was adopted on a voice vote.

23. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the acceptance of a gift from the Trust of Yelva R. Joseph in the amount of \$10,000.00 to be used specifically for making capital improvements or for the sole purpose of purchasing furniture and/or equipment for the Fire Station located at 699 Trapelo Road. Fire Chief Andrew Mullin stated that he will assess the station's needs and prioritize when utilizing the funds. Councillor Darcy requested that a thank you note be sent to the donor's family. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to approve the donation was adopted on a voice vote.

24. A request was received from the Mayor to approve a transfer in the amount of \$415,000.00 to fund the first and second year of the three-year collective bargaining agreement between the City and the Police Superior Officers' Union for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025. The funding for the third year of the agreement will be recommended in the FY2025 operating budget for the Police Department.

FROM:

Auditor – Collective Bargaining #001-135-5400-5111 \$415,000.00

TO:

Police – FT Salaries #001-210-5100-5111 \$415,000.00

The request also included the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the amount of \$93,000 to be committed for Year 1 (FY2023) of the agreement. Assistant City Auditor Laura Doane explained that in addition to compensation, agreement was reached on an increase in the OPEB employee contribution to the OPEB Trust Fund, superior officers to be trained and equipped with Tasers, and contract language that will benefit management. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to approve the funding request was adopted on a voice vote.

25. A request was received from the Mayor to review a draft application for the Small Business Recovery Funding Program as a follow up to her communication from March 22, 2023. Upon questions from Councillors Vidal, LaFauci, and Bradley-MacArthur, the Mayor explained that the draft application was being provided for informational purposes only and that language questions can be addressed once the draft has been reviewed by the Councillors. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to table the matter was adopted on a voice vote.

26. A motion by Councillor Vidal to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote and Chairman LaCava declared the meeting adjourned at 10:47pm.