



Committee on Finance and the Northampton City Council

*Councilor David A. Murphy, Chair
Councilor Maureen T. Carney
Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge
Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra*

**City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street
Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building
Northampton, MA**

Meeting Date: November 7, 2019

Note: The Finance Committee Meeting took place during the City Council Meeting as announced. The City Council Meeting began at 7 p.m.

1. **Meeting Called To Order:** At 7:40 p.m. Councilor Murphy called the meeting to order.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were committee members David Murphy (Chair), Maureen Carney, Marianne LaBarge and Gina-Louise Sciarra. Also present from the City Council were Dennis Bidwell, William H. Dwight, Alisa Klein, Jim Nash and Ryan O'Donnell.
3. **Approval Of Minutes From The Previous Meeting**
 - A. **Minutes of October 17, 2019**

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the minutes of October 17, 2019. Councilor Sciarra seconded. The motion passed 4:0 by voice vote.
4. **Financial Orders**
 - A. **19.161 An Order to Establish A Tax Classification For FY2020**

Councilor Murphy read the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the order with a positive recommendation. Councilor Sciarra seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

- B. **19.162 An Order to Establish Revolving Fund for 593 Elm Street Building Rental**

Councilor Murphy read the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the order with a positive recommendation. Councilor Sciarra seconded.

An order declaring the property surplus is on tonight's agenda in second reading, so the order to establish a revolving account is in conjunction with it, Mayor Narkewicz advised. [Note: **19.145 An Order to Authorize Surplussing 593 Elm Street and Leasing for Child Advocacy Purposes** was actually approved in

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second reading on October 17, 2019.] The rents collected on the lease of the building go into this revolving account. The building is leased by the Children's Advocacy Center.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

C. **19.163 An Order to Purchase 20 Acres for Saw Mill Hills Greenway**

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the order with a positive recommendation. Councilor Sciarra seconded.

The land in question appears as a green sliver on the plan inserted in the order, Mayor Narkewicz said. It is an isolated parcel with everything else around already controlled by the city as part of the greenway. The land has been assessed for \$20,000. \$5,000 is actually owed in back taxes, so the owner will be receiving \$15,000. A private donor has agreed to donate the \$15,000 to cover the purchase price. The action will allow the city to clean up a tax title and recover a missing 'piece of the puzzle of the greenway,' he noted.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

D. **19.166 An Order To Accept Donation Of Steel-Toed Boots**

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the order with a positive recommendation. Councilor Sciarra seconded.

The owner approached the department indicating he had a free gift of waterproof, steel-toed boots, which Water Department employees are all required to wear. The city would like to accept and so is asking City Council to gratefully accept the donation from Mr. Aronson.

Councilor Carney asked if the DPW provides boots to workers.

Employees have an allowance for them to purchase boots, Mayor Narkewicz responded. It is not taking salary away from anyone, he assured.

In response to a question, Mayor Narkewicz reiterated his belief that the DPW was approached by Mr. Aronson about the donation.

Councilor O'Donnell asked if the boots were extra.

Mayor Narkewicz said he believed they are a discontinued model that the store no longer sells.

He believes it's important to ask questions before accepting gifts from businesses in their jurisdiction, Councilor O'Donnell explained.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0.

5. **New Business**

-Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.

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None.

6. **Adjourn:** There being no further business, Councilor Sciarra moved to adjourn. Councilor Carney seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

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