Committee on Finance and the Northampton City Council

Councilor David A. Murphy, Chair
Councilor Jesse M. Adams
Councilor Maureen T. Carney
Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge

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

Meeting Date: February 18, 2016

Meeting Minutes

1. **Meeting Called To Order:** At 8:02 p.m. Councilor Murphy called the meeting to order.

2. **Roll Call: Committee Members Present were:** Councilors Murphy, Adams, Carney and LaBarge. Also present from the City Council were: Councilors Bidwell, Dwight, Klein, O'Donnell and Sciarra.

3. **Approval Of Minutes From The Previous Meeting:**

   A. **Minutes Of The January 21, 2016 Committee On Finance Meeting**
   Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the minutes; Councilor Carney seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.

4. **Financial Orders**

   A. **16.031 Financial Order For Free Cash To Recreation Dept. For Modular Structure**

   Mayor Narkewicz reported that the original estimates for this project were about $400,000. Twelve bid packets were sent out to potential vendors and about one-half dozen companies came to the site to see the project. The lowest bid came in at $414,000. The Mayor is requesting additional funds above the bid amount to build in a contingency (10% of project); an addition $5,000 to connect fiber optic system to the city network (not part of the original bid package); and $10,000 for design costs.

   The zoning board will have a hearing Thursday, February 25th about the project. The goal is to have a contract signed and in place to meet a project deadline of June, 2016.

   Councilor Klein indicated that she wanted to go on record to acknowledge the request of abutters to place the heating/cooling system inside the building. Mayor Narkewicz indicated that the plans take into account the abutter's concerns, including placement of the heating/cooling system other than the roof top, and the installation of a green screen behind the building to include 8-foot tall trees.

Central Services will act as Clerk of the Works for the project; since the building is prefabricated, there will not be a long construction project. The Mayor projects a 20-year life span for the building.

The committee voted to send the order back to the full city council with a positive recommendation on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.

5. **16.003 - Ordinance To Delete Fees From Chapter 174 Of City Code Book**

Mayor Narkewicz explained that this ordinance is a result of the work of the Ordinance Review Committee. In previous years, the city council had voted to allow departments to set their own fees. Since that time the city council has continued to vote on fee adjustments because the fee schedule remained in the book of ordinances. Removing them from the ordinance book will require departments to establish their own protocol for maintaining fee schedules. These new procedures will likely include a requirement for Mayoral approval to fee adjustments.

Councilor LaBarge moved to return the Ordinance back to the full City Council with a positive recommendation; Councilor Carney seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.

6. **New Business – None**

7. **Adjourn: At 8:30 p.m. Councilor Carney moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.**

Prepared by:
P. Powers, Administrative Assistant to the City Council