



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: April 19, 2018

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 7:55 p.m., Councilor Murphy called the meeting to order.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were Finance Committee members David Murphy, Chair, Maureen Carney, Marianne LaBarge & Gina-Louise Sciarra. Also present from the City Council were Bill Dwight, Jim Nash and Alisa Klein.
3. **New Business**
 - A. **Third Quarter Financial Report**

In terms of the General Fund, everything is pretty much on track, Finance Director Susan Wright reported. One thing that's good news is the Hotel/Motel Tax. Revenue for the first three quarters of this fiscal year is up 5.39% compared to the first three quarters last year, and the third quarter alone is up 15%. Similarly, revenue from the Meals Tax is up 6.8 percent, she advised.

In terms of revenue for the General Fund there is nothing to cause any alarm. In terms of expenses, the major fund that the city needs to supplement is Snow and Ice. She is planning on a transfer of \$400,000 from Free Cash to that account. Other than that, all other expenses in all departments are tracking fine. She doesn't see any major overtime expenses.

In the enterprise funds, generally revenue and expenditures are on track. The city is three quarters of the way through the year, so finances are "looking good," Councilor Murphy commented.
4. **Approve Minutes of April 5, 2018:** Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the minutes; Councilor Carney seconded. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.
5. **Financial Orders**

A. 18.083 Order To Appropriate \$15,482 From Free Cash To Health Department For Emergency Preparedness Activities

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the order with a positive recommendation. Councilor Carney seconded. The motion passed with 4 Yes and 0 No votes.

B. 18.084 Order To Reprogram NPS Generator \$24,000 To Leeds Parking Lot Paving Phase II

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

As he understands it, the superintendent is quite in favor of finishing this paving job and has not used the money for the generator in a number of years, Councilor Murphy observed. Councilor Klein asked if it is just repaving or if it is changing the traffic pattern.

Ms. Wright said she didn't believe a change in traffic flow is involved.

Councilor Klein commented that the parking lot is really awkward and there have been accidents there. Years ago when she was in the school department, school officials did a study aimed at improving the traffic flow and were unable to come up with a reconfiguration that represented an improvement, Ms. Wright related. Councilor Murphy said his recollection from discussions in Capital Planning is that it was just repaving.

The motion passed unanimously with 4 Yes, 0 No.

C. 18.085 Order To Appropriate Free Cash \$35,000 To ADA Sidewalk Improvements

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

Mrs. Krutzler informed members that when the Mayor's office submitted this financial order the Finance Director had requested that the council suspend its rules to allow two readings. She had meant to make a process note to that effect.

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

Councilor Murphy expressed his understanding that the project has to be done pretty quickly and that project managers want to have money on hand in case they need a contingency fund. The motion passed unanimously with 4 in favor and none opposed.

D. 18.086 Order To Appropriate Free Cash \$50,000 To Structural Repairs At Memorial Hall

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to return the order with a positive recommendation. Councilor Carney seconded.

Councilor Murphy said he assumed this work was discovered after the capital budget had been approved.

This is an area outside of the veteran's office, Human Resources and Retirement where a giant bell sits, Ms. Wright explained. The brass bell that sits there is part of the reason the floor is sagging. The bell really needs to be on concrete rather than on a framed floor. Contractors just discovered the sagging and can't wait until the next capital cycle to make the repair.

The bell was given to the city by the Department of Defense because it was on the USS Northampton.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

6. **Adjourn:** At 8:05 p.m. Councilor Carney moved to adjourn; Councilor Murphy seconded. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.

*Contact: D. Murphy @ david.murphy8@comcast.net
or 413-586-5461*