



*CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CONDUCTED AS AN ON-LINE ZOOM MEETING
Northampton, MA*

Announcement of Audio/Video Recording

A regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by Council President Gina-Louise Sciarra at 5:31 p.m. Councilor Sciarra announced that the meeting was being audio and video recorded.

Councilor Sciarra announced that zero lot line (ZLL) ordinances will be taken up at a special meeting this coming Monday at 7 p.m. and will not be discussed this evening. Items not reached this evening may be continued to Monday's meeting.

Public Comment

Councilor Sciarra explained the procedure she would use in conducting public comment and opened the floor to public comment.

For the next hour and 50 minutes, the council accepted public comment. (See Public Comment Record Sheet for names and topics of people making public comments.)

Roll Call

At 7:22 p.m. on a roll call the following City Councilors were present:

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| At-Large Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra | At-Large Councilor William H. Dwight |
| Ward 1 Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr. | Ward 5 Councilor Alex Jarrett |
| Ward 2 Councilor Karen Foster | Ward 6 Councilor Marianne LaBarge |
| Ward 3 Councilor James B. Nash | Ward 7 Councilor Rachel Maiore |
| Ward 4 Councilor John Thorpe | |

**Public Hearings
Announcement of Public hearing on National Grid/Verizon Pole Petitions to install three (3) poles on Finn St., King St. & Myrtle St. in connection with MassDOT King Street reconstruction project (Petition#24881246)
Announcement of Public Hearing on 21.279 National Grid/Verizon Pole Petition for Pine Street (Petition#30336314)**

**Public Hearings
Announcement of Public hearing on package of National Grid/Verizon Pole Petitions (21.257, 21.258 and 21.259) to install a total of three (3) poles on Finn Street, King Street and Myrtle Street in connection with the MassDOT King Street reconstruction project (Petition#24881246)**

Councilor Sciarra made the following announcement: Per M.G.L. Ch. 166, Section 22, the City Council will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, June 17, 2021 @ 7:05 p.m.** on the joint petitions of National Grid/Verizon New England and sole petition of National Grid to install a total of three (3) poles upon, along, under or across one or more public ways: Finn Street, King Street and Myrtle Street.

Instructions for accessing the hearing may be found on the June 17, 2021 City Council agenda to be posted on www.northamptonma.gov no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City Council will hear all persons who wish to be heard thereon.

Announcement of Public Hearing on 21.279 National Grid/Verizon Pole Petition for Pine Street (Petition#30336314)

Councilor Sciarra read an announcement as follows:
Per M.G.L. Ch. 166, Section 22, the Northampton City Council will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 7:15 p.m.** on National Grid/Verizon New England's petition to install one jointly-owned (JO) pole on Pine Street (Petition #30336314). Instructions for accessing the hearing may be found on the June 17, 2021 City Council agenda to be posted on the city website (www.northamptonma.gov) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City Council will hear all persons who wish to be heard thereon.

Recess for Committee on Finance Meeting

Recess for Committee on Finance Meeting

At 7:25 p.m., the City Council recessed for the Committee on Finance. The Committee on Finance adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

The City Council reconvened at 7:44 p.m.

Financial Orders
(on 1st reading
pending Finance)
21.280 Order to
Approve FY2022
General Fund
Budget - 1st
reading

Financial Orders (on 1st reading pending Finance review)

21.280 An Order to Approve FY2022 General Fund Budget - 1st reading

[Note: In consultation with the city solicitor, the council took steps to consider the components of the FY2022 budget separately from Order 21.280 itself since Councilor Jarrett was not eligible to vote on Order 21.280 because of a conflict of interest. After calling for a motion to "adopt the FY2022 General Fund budget," the Council President requested a motion to divide the question to separately consider the \$40,000 line item for the Pedal People contract in the Central Services budget. Removing this line item cured Councilor Jarrett's conflict, allowing him to participate in discussion of the remaining budget items.]

Councilor Dwight moved to adopt the FY2022 General Fund Budget for discussion. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

Councilor Dwight moved to divide the question to separately consider the \$40,000 line item in the Central Services Parking Maintenance budget for the Pedal People contract. Councilor Maire seconded. The motion passed unanimously 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Jarrett recused.

With the Pedal People line item removed, discussion of the FY2022 GF budget by all nine councilors was able to proceed.

With the question divided, Councilor Sciarra invited Councilor Jarrett back. She announced that they would now deliberate and vote on the FY2022 GF budget with the \$40,000 line item removed.

Councilor Maire said she is grateful to the mayor for this budget in general and for clearly listening and responding to the NPRC's recommendation to establish a new Department of Community Care (DCC). She is also grateful to the mayor and Senator Jo Comerford for pursuing a grant to supplement the budget to add \$150,000 to the \$423,955 appropriation for a total budget of \$573,955.

She is seeing \$308,647 more needed to meet the recommendation of the NPRC and to assure the viability of this investment and the safety of all of their residents.

The council has an agenda item tonight for approval of a slightly higher amount (\$435,635) for the Academy of Music (AOM) bathrooms, she pointed out. She considers the AOM a treasure and is going to approve funding but wanted to illustrate how, on a municipal level, the additional funding is less than a bathroom renovation.

Regarding the \$882,602 cut last year, it seemed that the mayor was willing to spend that amount last year on public safety during a struggling financial time, so, why not this year? She asked.

The council save for one abstention unanimously passed a resolution supporting the 14 recommendations of the NPRC, she reminded. Her concern is that they are going to waste the taxpayer's money by not fully investing in and committing to this department with the new services it will be tasked with. She wants the best and the brightest candidates for the DCC. The policing review commission and similar models in cities with similar demographics say the proposed amount of money will not get that for them. Again referencing the resolution, she questioned if this is "a meaningful investment that assures viability."

"I don't think this amount assures viability," she countered. She is concerned that the DCC that has been recommended by their own appointees is being set up to fail. Northampton has evidently been talking about providing cost-effective and quality policing and public safety alternatives to their community for 25 years, so why are we unnecessarily slowing that process down? It feels like there is a lack of confidence in alternative services and in a stand-alone accountable department.

Councilor Maire asked fellow councilors to support their own council resolutions, noting that they also passed a resolution committing to actions at the state, federal and local level to combat the public health crisis of systemic racism. Quoting directly from that resolution, she reminded members of the following resolves:

"We have an obligation to advance racial equity by undoing the inequities found in the law, and to proactively pass ordinances and make budget decisions that address inequity. . . We will act to update ordinances that have been shown to have a disproportionate impact on communities of color and adversely affect vulnerable populations. We will also consider these impacts during our annual budget process and as financial orders are brought to the council."

Councilors also said they wanted to shift municipal resources from punitive approaches to public safety to supportive and restorative ones and to support the work of the NPRC created on July 9, 2020 to study and make informed recommendations to change the city's approach to policing.

She truly appreciates the start but thinks they can do better. She will support this budget if the department is funded at the level of the NPRC recommendation or higher, she concluded.

With regard to the capital order related to the Academy of Music, the city clearly has many, many capital projects that are more expensive than departmental operating budgets, Mayor Narkewicz confirmed. He thinks the real comparison would be to look at where this department would fit relative to other departments. He screen-shared a chart with a comparison of FY2022 budgets for other departments showing that the DCC is funded at a higher level than 12 of them, including the senior center, parks and rec, Lilly Library, the Assessor's office, the City Council, City Solicitor and parking enforcement. He thinks it is important to put it in the context of operating budget to operating budget. He can certainly show capital projects in excess of many operating budgets.

In terms of the recommendations, he is extremely grateful to the NPRC for the work they did and the recommendations they made. He has done his best in this budget to come up with what he believes is a meaningful first allocation of funding. It is important to note that the commission provided a very broad overview of what it wanted. It looked at models around the country and arrived at a very specific model and asked the city to pursue that. They had a good discussion about the pluses and minuses of that approach. He took away from that joint meeting that the commission and the council felt very strongly that the city wanted to create a model that was somewhat unique. In terms of the budget, they have had long discussions about the \$880,000. It is not a real number, not a factual amount. It is not the amount of the cut the City Council made to the police budget.

He understands that that number has become sort of larger than life. Regarding the \$882,000 figure, the report says the commission's interpretation of the budget cut by the city council is that it was made in the spirit of reinvestment in the community, so the report directs the mayor to 'explore reinvestment opportunities.' However, policing review commission members did not provide a detailed itemization of departmental expenditures. He expressed his understanding that the commission was charged with making broad recommendations with the understanding that the governmental body with fiduciary responsibility; i.e. - the mayor and city council, would then take those recommendations and translate them into a budget.

His starting point was determining the best way to get the department up and running in a way that it could be fully expanded in the FY2023 budget.

He has heard a lot about grants. The NPRC report went on to say that it encourages the city to pursue grant funding as part of the establishment of the department. He has looked at what other communities have done and cited Northampton's own experience in converting central dispatch from uniformed officers and firefighters to civilian dispatchers. He believes they need a senior-level staff person to take these very broad recommendations and make them actionable. He's tried to provide staff and resources. The goal is not based on a number but rather on what he believes will get the department off to a strong start and get the work underway. He voiced his expectation that the work will include determining the level of staffing and number of responders needed, establishing necessary qualifications/certifications and anticipating required coordination with other departments, just as when the city made the decision to move away from uniformed officers to civilian dispatchers. They

brought in an experienced administrator who then set about to do the work. He sees the same thing happening here. There is a lot of grant funding available as police reform across the nation moves forward.

In terms of concerns about one-time funding, he totally agrees; in fact, it is one of the reasons he explained they are not reinvesting the funds cut last year. There are one-time funds involved in start-up such as vehicles, equipment, training, etc., and it is entirely appropriate to use grant funding for these start-up expenses, he indicated.

He understands the passion and symbolism of the number, but he has an obligation as the chief executive to come up with very clear budget numbers that fit the intended purpose. He believes the budget provides flexibility if the city wants to hire staff sooner. The Mayor's office frequently comes to the council mid-year if needed to move money from the OM to the PS side of the budget to expand a department or create a position that was unforeseen at the start of the fiscal year. The \$300,000 on the OM side of the budget could be transferred into PS mid-year if needed. The \$150,000 could also easily offset OM funds earmarked for one-time funding, freeing that amount for use on the personnel side. He doesn't know how many staff would be needed to launch a day-time pilot program and ramp it up to an over-night operation but that would be the type of expense money could be transferred to PS to support. He believes this is a significant investment in the DCC. The senior-level staff person will need to put together an advisory group and he has made sure the department has administrative staff to be able to support such a group.

During his time as mayor and as an elected official, he has been involved in departmental reorganizations, mergers and the elimination of city departments and is very much aware of what it takes to do that within the world of finance, procurement, personnel law and other factors. He believes this is a significant amount of funding. In looking at the city of Ithaca, it is in line with what they've proposed in the opening year. Ithaca is also bringing someone in as a project manager/program coordinator.

Councilor Maire said she was aware of the pivot to create a unique model and appreciates his responsiveness to that. \$800,000 to a million dollars is the amount needed to operate similar alternative to policing models across the country, she asserted. The 10% cut proposed last year was not a random number but represented the excess number of police officers employed by the city in a pandemic year, she claimed. The justification given for Northampton having a larger than average police force is the typical number of visitors and tourists to the city, but, due to the pandemic, Northampton did not have the usual influx last year. It also happens to be the amount it takes to get this type of program off the ground. She doesn't think they'll regret adding \$300,000 to this budget and thinks it will attract better candidates.

He was at those meetings and he does not remember her ever making that justification, Mayor Narkewicz commented.

DISCUSSION

Councilor LaBarge applauded Mayor Narkewicz for including funding in the FY2022 budget to stand up a Department of Community Care (DCC), saying it shows he has heard loud and clear the central recommendations of the 'Reimagining Safety' report of the NPRC. While the proposed \$575,000 is not comparable to the \$880,000 originally proposed, it is indeed a start.

She asked if there is a possibility of examining the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for funding to support new program development called for by the policing review commission.

Mayor Narkewicz said most definitely. He presented basic details of the ARPA program and said he would be coming forward with more details as they become available. There is also additional state funding and grant opportunities being shifted towards alternative to policing programs, including co-responder models, in light of police reform efforts across the country.

He explained that \$300,000 in the DCC budget the first year is basically allocated for one-time studies, so this money could immediately be shifted to PS in the following fiscal year without increasing the budget. He stressed that investment in the DCC is being made in the context of trying to create a balanced budget and renew a fiscal stability plan. The goal is to

keep from tapping into fiscal stability funds in the first year so that the city is able to extend its budget stability to cover all of its services for the next five years, he reminded.

ARPA money is related to CDBG funding and the amount allocated to Northampton is roughly \$22 million, Mayor Narkewicz presented. The four over-arching categories of grant-eligible activities are 1) COVID recovery for individuals and businesses, 2) replacement of lost local revenue in areas such as parking and meals tax, 3) water/sewer/Stormwater/broadband infrastructure and 4) hazard pay for employees during COVID. He purposely did not build this budget with ARPA funds because it is intended to be a very specific, one-time pot of money for the city.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Councilor LaBarge expressed her understanding that the first year budget supports a more thorough community needs assessment than was possible to be conducted by the volunteer policing review commission. She stated her belief that funding this assessment is very important. She also strongly asserted her belief that the city needs an advisory committee to guide the first-year process of development of the DCC. Many residents could lend their expertise to helping the project manager write a mission statement, develop job descriptions and figure out the new department's relationship to other departments, she suggested.

Mayor Narkewicz agreed on the importance of having an advisory committee, noting that he called this out in the budget as one of the things the project manager would need. In a similar vein, he has been in communication with the Center for Policing Equity, a leading nonprofit that works with municipalities around the country on police reform, including Ithaca, as a prospective source of technical support.

Councilor Jarrett asked the Mayor if he had a sense of how much will be needed on an ongoing basis to fund the DCC. He expressed concern that, if not fully-funded this year, in future years it will be necessary to take money away from other budgets to provide sufficient funding.

Mayor Narkewicz stated his belief that there will be a lot of one-time costs that won't be repeated and that it is enough to successfully get the program off the ground. As they move forward in future years, if additional positions are needed, they will have to make decisions as to how to pay for them as with any department. The project coordinator will have to develop job descriptions and run them through the HR process to be graded in order to understand the actual cost of positions created, he pointed out.

Quoting from the NPRC report, Councilor Jarrett cited its directive that the DCC should be accountable to those it serves in a way that city departments and social service agencies contracted by the city and state are not: *"Governance of the department should include people with lived experience of criminalization and marginalization and those impacted by it,"* he read. *"Without a direct charge to include these individuals and represent a balance, any department that is crafted would fail in its equity and justice goals."*

He asked the Mayor for his thoughts on how to implement that recommendation in terms of the advisory committee and the general running of the department.

This gets into the challenge of integrating the new department as a municipal department, Mayor Narkewicz indicated. The charter spells out how city government operates and collective bargaining agreements govern employment terms such as lines of supervision, management rights and grievance processes, he reminded. What Councilor Jarrett is proposing would be a significant departure from that so they would need to understand how and if a model like that could be accomplished. Northampton does not now have employees who report to non-city employees nor does any other municipality, so that's going to be one of those areas that has to be understood and explored to see if it is possible.

That is one of the contrasts with a model based on contracting with a private organization. He understands the desire for this to be part of municipal government but it presents certain challenges. In terms of making fiduciary, operational or personnel decisions, it will be interesting to understand how that will fit within a municipal structure, which is governed by laws, ordinances and collective bargaining agreements, he observed.

Councilor Foster said she has talked to a number of people who had never considered that their experience with policing was different from that of other people. There is a tremendous amount of support throughout the city for the idea of addressing issues that have been handed to policing through the new DCC. She expressed strong support for having the new department be a municipal department and said she is thrilled to see it in the city's budget. She hopes they do see budget transfer requests from OM to PS and she would support them.

Members asked questions about other specific budget changes, such as a dramatic increase in unemployment compensation from FY2020 to FY2021 and a cut in salary for two positions in the Auditor's office.

The city did not spend as much on unemployment in FY2020 because they were able to use CARES Act funds to cover unemployment costs, Finance Director Wright explained. They did lay off a number of employees and all those unemployment costs were picked up by the CARES Act. In the auditor's office, the payroll and AP coordinators were erroneously budgeted for 40 hours a week in FY2021 when they only work 35 hours a week. Their salaries were readjusted this year.

Mayor Narkewicz responded to additional questions about the funding and staffing of the DCC and its relationship to the resilience hub. He wouldn't want to form an advisory committee for the department until the program manager is in place, he volunteered.

The resilience hub is something the city has been working on for years and he sees it as an initiative separate and distinct from the DCC, Mayor Narkewicz clarified. Some of the same stakeholders will undoubtedly be involved in both ventures. He views the resilience hub as part of the overall effort to support the needs of the community, particularly the needs of its most at-risk members.

Councilor Nash noted the potential for the two initiatives to serve the same populations. Between the two, the city is committing roughly \$2.5 million to community-based services. If they include the resilience hub along with other programming, it is a significant commitment, he asserted. He thinks some of that is getting lost in the discussion of the \$880,000.

He has been doing some research, and the CAHOOTS contract with Eugene, Oregon runs about \$800,000, representing .11% of Eugene's budget, Councilor Nash reported. [Rye] Buckley pointed out that what Northampton is allotting is only .03% of Northampton's overall budget. If you add the \$150,000, they are pushing north of .04%. If you look at what they're dedicating to help people at risk in their community for a city of their size; it's substantial, he maintained. He referred to the many people who have approached him to say, 'Don't defund the police but fund the DCC.' While there's clear consensus not to defund the police, people are also firmly behind the idea that they need the DCC, he stressed.

He is going to support this budget and appreciates the effort the mayor has put into this, he concluded.

Councilors Quinlan, Dwight, Thorpe, Sciarra and Jarrett in turn made statements of support for the mayor's budget. As part of his statement, Councilor Quinlan stressed the importance of characterizing the \$882,600 figure correctly. When the final police budget passed last year, it was \$882,600 less than when first presented by the mayor, he affirmed. He also mentioned that, on a per capita basis, the CAHOOTS' budget represents \$9.22 per person, while Northampton's allocation to the DCC represents over \$15 per person. [According to that comparison, Northampton's allocation is greater.]

Councilor Dwight commented that one of the primary drivers of the urgency behind establishment of the new department was the energy invested by the community at large and particularly the BIPOC community after the George Floyd lynching and associated extrajudicial killings of Black and brown individuals.

Councilor Sciarra said she met with many NPRC members individually after presentation of their final report and asked each of them the most important first step in implementing the

report's recommendations. Many of them told her the first key step was to bring on a project manager, coordinator or director, someone with energy and talent to begin laying out how the department would function. Therefore, she is extremely grateful to see a project manager in the budget at a department head salary.

The mayor compared the new department's first budget to other departments but the other departments' budgets included their full operational costs. This first year budget is not the DCC's full operational cost; those costs are yet to be determined, she pointed out. She thanked the mayor for outlining the flexibility he sees in this initial budget and the possibility for additional funding. In the FY2022 budget, they have the example of the prevention coalition being grant funded for 10 years prior to being incorporated into the city budget. The end of a grant doesn't necessarily mean that all that came from it is lost or disappears.

She really heard that some feel more funding is needed this fiscal year, Councilor Sciarra continued. She wishes those folks felt the same hope and excitement she feels about this start. What has gone from an idea to a well- thought out and researched recommendation from the policing review commission has now moved to beginning funding. That feels like progress to her. She knows for some it feels like slow and maybe small progress. She hopes they can come together as a community around this. She's committed to seeing it through to being a fully operational department and making it into the supportive response to those in their community most in need of care.

Although not choosing the contracted model, they are certainly hoping to take lots of inspiration and information from the CAHOOTS program, its peer response in particular, Councilor Jarrett commented. Community care is not just about emergency response; investment is needed in all aspects of community safety. Meeting people's needs will reduce the need for policing. In a way, they are investing in the community with the resilience hub, he confirmed.

Mayor Narkewicz thanked him for making that point, adding that health and human services is the single largest increased division in the budget this year. The largest increases are in health and human services and education, he confirmed.

Councilor Jarrett read a brief prepared statement as follows:

"I hear the voices of those who want change; who want a reduced footprint of policing. As a member of the NPRC, I agree we need significant change and to move many functions away from police. It is clear that policing has a disparate and negative impact on Black and indigenous people, people of color and many others. This police budget is a level service budget like most other departments in the city. That level of service is the level of service that we made after last year's cut. That cut, although not the ideal way to do it, was I believe a necessary move to allow for funding of alternatives. Even though many of us agree that an alternative response would result in better outcomes for many services police are often who we have to respond now and that is an important service. I think that cutting too much too soon would undermine the very thing we are trying to accomplish, which is better public safety for everyone, and could backfire and we could lose support for those alternatives. The policing review commission report calls for fully funding alternatives and then evaluating moving funding from policing. I will certainly be following the approaches of other communities such as Ithaca, New York, which is replacing its police department with a new department of public safety. I think strong executive action will be needed to make real change, and I support that."

Councilor Sciarra called the motion on adoption of the FY2022 General Fund budget with the \$40,000 line item in the Central Services Parking Maintenance budget for trash removal removed to a vote. The motion passed 8:1 by roll call vote with Councilor Maire opposed.

See minutes of June 17, 2021 for second reading.

Councilor Jarrett recused himself so councilors could deliberate and vote on the \$40,000 line item for trash removal in the Central Services Parking Maintenance Budget.

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the \$40,000 line item for trash removal. Councilor

	<p>LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Jarrett recused.</p>
<p><u>Recess</u></p>	<p><u>Recess</u> At 10:10 p.m., the City Council recessed briefly. The City Council reconvened at 10:18 p.m.</p>
<p><u>Financial Orders (in 1st reading)</u> <u>21.280 Order to Approve FY2022 General Fund Budget - 1st rdg.</u></p> <p><u>21.281 Order to Approve FY 2022 Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st reading</u></p> <p><u>21.282 Order to Approve FY 2022 Water Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st reading</u></p> <p><u>21.283 Order to Approve FY 2022 Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st rdg.</u></p> <p><u>21.284 Order to Approve FY 2022 Stormwater and Flood Control Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st rdg.</u></p> <p><u>21.285 Order to Approve FY2022 Revolving Funds - 1st reading</u></p> <p><u>21.286 Order</u></p>	<p><u>Financial Orders (in 1st reading)</u> <u>21.280 An Order to Approve FY2022 General Fund Budget - 1st reading</u> Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed 7:1 by roll call vote with Councilor Maire opposed and Councilor Jarrett recused. <u>See minutes of June 17, 2021 for second reading.</u></p> <p><u>21.281 An Order to Approve FY2022 Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st reading</u> Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The City Council went through the rate-setting process for water and sewer fees earlier in the year and didn't raise rates, Mayor Narkewicz reminded. The four enterprise funds are all level-funded, he added. At Councilor Dwight's request, Mayor Narkewicz explained the general structure and function of the city's four enterprise funds. Enterprise funds are created under Mass. General Law and set up as separate cost centers. The enterprises are basically expected to be self-supporting and to derive their revenue from rate payers. All rates must go back into the utility to fund utility operations. The utility pays some indirect costs to the city. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote. <u>See minutes of June 17, 2021 for second reading.</u></p> <p><u>21.282 An Order to Approve FY2022 Water Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st reading</u> Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote. <u>See minutes of June 17, 2021 for second reading.</u></p> <p><u>21.283 An Order to Approve FY2022 Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st reading</u> Councilor Jarrett recused himself for the same reason stated in the Finance Committee. Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Jarrett recused. <u>See minutes of June 17, 2021 for second reading.</u></p> <p><u>21.284 An Order to Approve FY2022 Stormwater and Flood Control Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st reading</u> Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote. <u>See minutes of June 17, 2021 for second reading.</u></p> <p><u>21.285 An Order to Approve FY2022 Revolving Funds - 1st reading</u> Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote. <u>See minutes of June 17, 2021 for second reading.</u></p> <p><u>21.286 An Order Authorizing Acquisition of a Parcel on the Easterly Side of the Mill</u></p>

Authorizing Acquisition of a Parcel on the Easterly Side of the Mill River - 1st reading
21.289 Order to Approve Mayor's Youth Commission Gift Fund Expenditure for T-Shirts-1st reading

River - 1st reading

Per request of the sponsors, this order will be taken up at the Monday, June 7, 2021 City Council meeting, Councilor Sciarra noted.

21.289 An Order to Approve Mayor's Youth Commission Gift Fund Expenditure for T-Shirts - 1st reading

Councilor Quinlan moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded.

The money is being requested to purchase custom t-shirts to be used for downtown canvassing to raise support for the Youth Commission's initiative to lower the voting age in municipal elections to 16, Mayor Narkewicz explained. The money was generated through fundraising, Councilor Dwight added.

The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

21.290 Order to Appropriate \$435,653 Free Cash for AOM Restroom Expansion and Renovation - 1st reading

21.290 An Order to Appropriate \$435,653 Free Cash for AOM Restroom Expansion and Renovation - 1st reading

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

Over the last several Capital Improvement Programs (CIP's), the city has been making some significant investments in the Academy of Music, the oldest municipally-owned theater in the United States, Mayor Narkewicz related. The Mayor's office has been working closely with Executive Director Debra J'Anthony and the theater's private board of directors on significant safety upgrades and other improvements, including expanding the fire suppression system and installing a backstage ramp to improve access. During the last year while the theater has been dark they have actually accelerated some of those upgrades.

The restrooms are small and undersized in terms of the capacity of the theater. Academy directors have been working on a project to modernize and expand the bathrooms including adding proper ventilation, doubling the number of stalls, upgrading urinals and sinks and moving to touchless fixtures. For the current project, theater operators have sought various grants, including a Mass. Cultural Council (MACC) grant and Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds. Central Services went out to bid recently, and bids came in higher than anticipated. They feel really strongly that this is a critical project. After managing to get through the pandemic and continue to pay employees, the theater is slated to reopen September 1st and has pretty much a full schedule lined up.

The theater is a cultural gem as well as a major economic development driver which brings thousands of visitors to the city each year for performances, which has a multiplier effect in the local economy. After meeting with the director, AOM board chair and Central Services Director David Pomerantz, he really feels like this is an investment the city should make at this critical time with the theater temporarily closed, so he is bringing forth this order to supplement funds already appropriated in the capital plan. If the council is willing to fund the project, he respectfully requested two readings since contractors would like a letter of intent in order to order materials.

Councilor Jarrett said he looked through the last two CIP's but did not see this specific project.

Academy officials secured their own funding for this particular project but sought funding from the city for other projects such as the sprinkler system, Finance Director Wright clarified.

Administrators sat down with academy directors to go through the theater's capital needs and strategize which projects to fund through the CIP and which AOM operators would seek independent funding for, Mayor Narkewicz explained. This is a project theatre operators thought they could fund through their MACC grants, but they can't and they don't have any other source of funding.

If they aren't able to do the project the academy will lose almost \$300,000 in other funds they have leveraged towards this project, Director Wright attested.

Councilor Jarrett said he thinks it is a great project to support, he is just a little

uncomfortable because councilors only received a few lines about it and they usually get a whole page. Also, because of the request for two readings.

Mayor Narkewicz offered to have folks from the AOM come Monday to present more detailed information.

The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of June 7, 2021 for second reading.

21.292 An Order to Appropriate Additional \$608,500 from Various Sources for Roundhouse Parking Lot Reconstruction - 1st reading

21.292 An Order to Appropriate Additional \$608,500 from Various Sources for Roundhouse Parking Lot Reconstruction - 1st reading

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded.

Mayor Narkewicz described the scope of work and addressed questions from councilors. The project received site plan approval from the Planning Board and has been put out to bid, he reported.

Councilor Foster raised concerns brought forward by some of her constituents about the project's lighting, which they claim does not meet the five principles of outdoor lighting endorsed by the Northampton Energy and Sustainability Commission (NESC).

The lighting met the Planning Board's approval and replacement fixtures will all be 'dark sky' approved, Mayor Narkewicz advised. It is a balancing act because concerns about light pollution have to be balanced with concerns about public safety. In terms of meeting existing standards, the project does, but they are going to work with and listen to some of these additional concerns.

Councilor Maiore, who serves on NESC, said she holds the same concerns. NESC members discussed that, not only does the lighting not meet some of the principles of outdoor lighting, it actually violates some of Northampton's own lighting tenets, she elaborated. Director Pomerantz agreed to go on an evening site visit to look at the proposed fixtures, and she's hopeful that he will be able to address some of those concerns.

Councilor Jarrett thanked Councilor Foster and Councilor Maiore for addressing his concerns and said he hopes to be involved in this nighttime walk as well. He would love to see these concerns addressed.

The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

Financial Orders (in 2nd reading)
21.271 Order to Authorize Conservation Commission to Acquire MA Audubon Society Conservation Restriction – 2nd reading

Financial Orders (in 2nd reading)

21.271 Order to Authorize Conservation Commission to Acquire Massachusetts Audubon Society Conservation Restriction – 2nd reading

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following order passed two readings:

City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council, May 20, 2021

Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz, Planning & Sustainability, and the Conservation Commission

21.271 An Order to Authorize Conservation Commission to Acquire Massachusetts Audubon Society Conservation Restriction

WHEREAS, the *Open Space, Recreation, and Multi-Use Trail Plan: 2018-2025* recommends the preservation of ecologically valuable land and filling gaps between protected areas within the Connecticut River Greenway; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Audubon Society has an agreement to purchase 16.5 acres of Meadows, adjoining land already permanently protected as part of Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, in exchange for \$2,000 contribution to the purchase price, to be provided from the Community Preservation Act Conservation Fund already on-hand, the Massachusetts Audubon Society will grant the City a conservation restriction on the property; and

WHEREAS, the project will advance the City’s partnership with MassAudubon to provide public access in the Meadows, create and maintain grassland bird habitat and protect ecologically valuable floodplain forest;

Ordered, that

The Conservation Commission is authorized to acquire for conservation and passive recreation purposes, as provided by MGL Chapter 40, §8C, any fee, easement or conservation restriction defined in MGL Chapter 184, §31 or any other interest in the above land and any immediately adjoining land; that the City Council hereby accepts such conservation restrictions; that the Conservation Commission is authorized to accept conservation restrictions on any land so acquired, with such related restrictions and agreements as the City determines are agreeable.

Passed two readings and enrolled.

<p><u>Continuation of Agenda</u></p>	<p><u>Continuation of Agenda</u> The rest of the agenda will be continued to a special City Council meeting on Monday, June 7, 2021, Councilor Sciarra announced. Councilor Dwight moved to continue the meeting to Monday. Councilor Nash seconded.</p> <p>Mayor Narkewicz asked if the council would be willing to entertain a second reading on the Roundhouse project on June 7th. Councilor Dwight said he would make a motion to suspend rules to allow a second reading.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.</p>
<p><u>New Business</u></p>	<p><u>New Business</u> None.</p>
<p><u>Motion to Adjourn</u></p>	<p>Upon motion made by Councilor Dwight and seconded by Councilor LaBarge, the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m. The motion passed 9:0 by roll call vote.</p> <p>Attest: _____ Administrative Assistant to the City Council</p>

NORTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC COMMENT RECORD SHEET

June 3, 2021

NAME	ADDRESS	SUBJECT
<u>Carol Owen</u>	<u>Ward 6</u>	<u>Served on NPRC. Wanted to emphasize importance of closing the gap between year 1 line item for DCC and \$880,000 recommended by the policing review commission. They know of the availability of \$574,000, including \$150,000 in bill submitted by Senator Comerford. Urged Mayor and council to consider committing a portion of ARPA money to close the funding gap between proposed budget and what recommended by commission. Without something closer to \$880,000 new DCC would be limited to hiring one and a half staff. Would be more meaningful if could see hiring of direct staff and actual piloting of some of alternative responses.</u>
<u>Cynthia Suopis</u>	<u>Northampton</u>	<u>Thanked mayor and city council for willingness to listen and engage with the recommendations of NPRC to develop a Department of Community Care. While initial budget allocation supplemented by the state illustrates commitment, she would like them to consider reasons for augmenting this funding. She urged them to consider doubling the funding allocation for the DCC to speed things up and put coordinator and staff in a position to put city in the position next year to have a fully functioning DCC.</u>
<u>Allyson Spencer-Bunch</u>	<u>Ward 5</u>	<u>Calling on City Council to substantially cut the police budget and mayor to fund DCC at least to the level recommended by the policing review commission. Trust the people describing the harm the police are doing right here in Northampton. Divest in the police department and invest in the DCC.</u>
<u>Aaron Clark</u>	<u>Ward 7</u>	<u>the budget is a moral document reflecting the city's values. They also know current proposed budget raises the police budget by 3% while sabotaging the DCC by underfunding it from the get go at \$424,000, which is less than half the amount recommended by the NPRC. Show Black Lives Matter in Northampton by defunding the police at least 50% and fully funding the DCC and ultimately divesting in policing.</u>
<u>Jose Adastra</u>	<u>Ward 1</u>	<u>In the past year, he has been called a liar and an extremely dangerous minority. Accused council of cutting budget as a social justice cut and then not even reassigning it. They should at least reassign \$2 million to the DCC.</u>
<u>Lill P.</u>		<u>said would like to save her time for later because not quite ready.</u>
<u>Henry Morgan</u>	<u>Ward 5</u>	<u>In support of city fully funding the DCC. Genuinely believes Northampton can build real community safety based on informed consent and not coercive state violence like the police department.</u>
<u>Meghan</u>	<u>Springfield</u>	<u>Lived in Northampton for a long time and worked at ServiceNet. As someone who has worked in the field of mental health for a long time wanted to speak in favor of cutting the police budget further and funding the DCC. Works with people with Alzheimer's and dementia. Wants to also think about other populations terribly impacted and not served by the police such as people with dementia, mental health conditions, disabilities, POC, etc.</u>
<u>Amy Olson</u>	<u>Ward 3</u>	<u>Agreed with previous statements urging council to cut police budget by 50% and fully fund DCC.</u>
<u>Janet Gross</u>	<u>Ward 2</u>	<u>Added full support to Councilor Jarrett's at least 20 feet between houses amendment and Bill Ryan's No Extra-Wide Houses (NEWH) amendment.</u>
<u>Dan Cannity</u>	<u>Ward 4</u>	<u>member of NPRC here to ask council to reject this budget and ask for full funding of DCC. He like many people is really excited about the potential for grant funding to come through the state and other avenues but cautioned that report said majority of funding should not come through grants but should come through the city. One of reasons thought important to be part of city is that grant funding can disappear. Current budget has money for a planner but not a doer.</u>
<u>Jackie Ballance</u>	<u>Bay State</u>	<u>also wants city to fully fund community care and implement environmentally-conscious outdoor lighting and support Main Street for everyone. ZLL amendment was already confusing when first entered City Council April 1st. Left Community Resources with unanimous neutral vote. Planning Board and Legislative Matters punted ordinance for full council to fix. At last meeting, two councilors said they were confused and requested clean version. There's been unresolved confusion every step of the way. Referred to citizen's amendment titled NEWH. It is to retain more consistent setbacks within all districts. Councilor Jarrett and Bill Ryan's amendments together make it work. Without those amendments the ZLL ordinance fails utterly. Asked to please read email the Emperor Has No Clothes.</u>

Debra Bercuvitz Warner Street In 2013 city planners told them there would be basic design standards that would alleviate resident's concern that past projects evolved without these standards. She supported these zoning changes and they didn't get any of the design standards they were promised. Instead they got the developments of Nu-Way Housing in Bay State. It's clear to her that everyone is struggling with what seem to be intentionally confusing amendments. Bill Ryan has made an elegantly clear proposal, no more extra-wide houses (NEWH).

Kathryn Komidar, Warner Street Here to support two zoning amendments, Councilor Jarrett's reduced lot line amendment to require at least 20 feet between houses and Bill Ryan's NEWH amendment.

Sarah Field, Ward 6 appreciates comments heard around police budget and DCC. Here to also advocate that follow recommendations of policing review commission, fully fund DCC and reallocate funding from police budget and defund police by 50%. Said wanted to talk about love and power. Often seen as being in opposition but are actually not. Said councilors have tremendous power they can use in service of love. Councilors have the opportunity to shift power from an organization with history and present-day practice of abuse and violence (power without love) to a new seedling of an organization they can co-create as a community to really manifest power fused with love. Can do that by moving power which in our current world is funding. Encouraged them to think about where they want to place the power in our community, in a situation devoid of love or in an entity that is love backed by power.

Lill, Ward 6 supports previous comments. Current 2022 budget does nothing to cut from police budget. Increases budget by 3% and reallocates less than half the amount cut from police last year to DCC. She has had mental breakdowns and domestic disputes. Her own mother had to keep calling the police on her because she didn't have any alternatives to call. Underfunding the DCC will mean people like her and perhaps more vulnerable than her will not get the care they need for another year.

Luke Midnight, Ward 3 supports cutting police by 50% and funding DCC. Works as restorative justice program director at Holyoke High School. Has seen powerful potential of alternative models and what happens when community comes together to dream. Couldn't be more grateful to live in a place where this conversation is happening. Budget at Holyoke High for restorative justice is about \$350,000 a year and it's not enough. To think city could operate something effective at a similar amount is a joke.

Amy Bookbinder, Ward 7 thanked hundreds of people who had called in speaking truth to power, sharing stories of abuse and harm at the hands of police. If councilors vote for budget they will be ignoring voices of people in a classic case of white privilege. Mayor called the George Floyd memorial an art installation; No, mayor, it was a memorial. Asked council to reject a budget which doesn't reflect their support of the policing review commission's recommendations.

NPD Spouse, Westfield She cannot afford to be silent when just last week two NPD officers were threatened in broad daylight while working a traffic detail. Council's decision to cave under pressure and defund the department by 10% opened the door to everything she's talking about and more. She referred to a comment by a councilor that the decision to cut the budget last year was 'out of expediency.' Councilors were willing to endanger others to alleviate the stress and attention from themselves. Two councilors have come out publicly in the media in support of NAN and defunding.

Cathy McNally, said shocked by the mayor's under-budgeting of the community care department. As Rep. Sabadosa has often said, budgets represent values. Feels like half-price, half-loaf support Mayor Narkewicz has given the DCC is an insult. Thinks police department has much more money than they need. Shared neighbor's comment that, "I don't know if it's because I'm white, but I think the police are great." It *is* because she is white.

Elliot Oberholtzer, Easthampton urged council to defund police budget by 50% at least. Expressed awareness of council's strange position in that is able to defund but cannot reallocate. Said even if the only thing they can do is cut, they still definitely should. Knows not directly in control of funding DCC but hopes council will use what power it can to encourage Mayor to fund DCC. The power they do have is to cut the police budget, and that is the way they should proceed.

Emma Lintermann, Florence Supports full funding of community care department as recommended by NPRC but speaking to Zero lot line development. Supports equitable, environmentally-responsible infill development. Urged to support NEWH amendment. Is modest proposal that provides formula for figuring out house size for any district or lot. Also supports amendments proposed by Councilor Jarrett. Strongly urged to conduct comprehensive review of infill zoning regulations from 2013 forward.

Ryan Wadsworth, echoed Dan Cannity and NAN in calling for council to use its power in this historic moment to stand up, be bold and reject this budget. Re: procedural constraints, has heard is only possible to provide funding for specified line item positions. Is mayor who failed to provide way for department to step into its work.

Shannel Fishel, Ward 7 Senate passed state budget including \$150,000 for community care department. Aware that Mayor applied for co responder funding. Would like more transparency about application mayor applied for. Responded to NPD spouse that, while saddened to hear someone threatened her spouse with a gun, police take off blue uniforms and walk around as civilians while the people not listened to thoroughly are those that have to live in their skins. Said she could envision their city becoming a very white, gated city with new developments and armed police force, limited access to their land and an increase in zones of exclusion. Doesn't think that's the vision they want for Northampton.

Marina Maulucci, Amherst is her perspective that defunding and divesting from the police is not just a BLM movement but is essential for saving people's lives. Black lives will be lost if the police are not defunded and demands of BLM are not listened to. In places where mental health crises are found, people with guns cannot be the solution.

Mareatha Wallace, works at JFK Middle School said doesn't have much hope they will do the right thing. From what she's seeing, they are not very interested in helping at all. She is tired of fighting and fighting and fighting and having what she and people who look like her need fall on deaf ears.

Jesse Hassinger, Ward 4, wrote lengthy email. Read truncated version. Asked how people's involvement would change once the momentum of the 2020 protests inspired by George Floyd's death have subsided. Black people do not need allies; they need people to stand up and take on problems as their own. What was begun last year by starting to divest must continue by investing in the community. Urged not to vote for the budget as written but to demand fully funding the DCC.

Aimee Francaes, said doesn't think can say anything better than what Dan Cannity, Elliot Oberholtzer, Mareatha Wallace and Jesse Hassinger have said. Sang song to tune of 'Muppet Show.' Said please reject this budget.

Lydia Irons, Amherst about to graduate nursing school. Said other towns around them are doing it. She is part of defund in Amherst. Have had significant move toward crisis response group. It can be done; it's happening around you. Can reject budget, make one-month budget.

Rue Walther, 16 Warner Street supports words of Jackie, Debra, Emma, etc. supports Councilor Jarrett's amendment to at least require 20 feet between houses. Thanked Alex for taking the time to make them feel like he's listening. Also supports Bill Ryan's NEWH amendment.

Bennett Sambrook, Ward 3, Hasn't spoken before but is speaking because he thinks it is critically important that council hear as many people as possible saying defund police by 50% and fully fund department of community care.

Rye Buckley, Ward 3, current funding for DCC is .03% of total budget of Northampton. Any opposition to funding DCC more is not financial; it is purely to sabotage the department. Is a meaningless funding commitment to the department. As usual funding and an as usual budget is white supremacist. City can afford a team to support this department head. A team can and should be representative of our community, our country and the folks this department will serve. Can we please invest at least a million.

Ally Keup, Northampton has been to many of these meetings over the past year but this is her first time speaking because she agrees is really important. Urged to reject this budget and fully fund DCC.

Joyce Rosenfeld, moved by speakers on both topics. The balance someone spoke about between love and power is so little taken into consideration in our world. Urged them all to be fearless and choose love and listen to each other. All of these matters they are speaking about come circling around social justice; to have light and space and air circling around their homes and to have homes that are affordable. She urged councilors to have open hearts.

Ashwin Ravikumar, Amherst have heard from him about the importance of divesting from police. He'd like to speak tonight about the operational aspect of building new, bold and innovative programs. One things he knows is that it really takes a team to do big innovation. With just one person and an assistant you don't get that critical mass necessary to drive the level of innovation needed. Having a team of people with deep expertise with a lot of time to be together and build community with one another requires a lot more resources than the \$400,000 in the Mayor's proposed budget. Asked to take into account how much better this would be to do this with a team.

Javier Luengo-Garrido, thanked City Council. Commission wouldn't have been created if they didn't create it. Knows how hard Council President and Mayor worked in appointing them. The key part of the report was the creation of the Department of Community Care, significantly funded, that answers to the people it serves and has a diverse advisory board with people from criminalized and over-policed communities. Appreciates that councilors have been very open to talk about this. Right now, how the budget looks like it is not enough. Another specific direction of NPRC is that it has to be a city department because it has to be accountable to people of the city. Another important point is that foundational amount of money given to the department has to come from the city, not from grants. Department

has to be well-funded and city has to give option to new director to do his or her work. Without real funding, you don't have doers. Hoped would send message to mayor to have between \$880,000 and a million to DCC.

Kristen Sykes, Chapter President of Mass Bike Ct. River Valley Chapter, owns Sykes Family Farm, a dairy farm. Thanked Councilors Sciarra, Jarrett and Foster for attending most recent bicycle/pedestrian committee. very excited mayor has chosen option 3 to make sure have a downtown that's safe for everyone - bikers, walkers. etc.

Ezekiel Baskin, Northampton, echoed other speakers, particularly members of NPRC. \$400,000 and one and a half staff people is not enough to do what needs to be done this year. Without that, we're not going to be where we need to be this time next year. It's possible to do this within the budget. Please make it happen.

Shelby DCC cannot be staffed by a dedicated and diverse group as is recommended by policing review commission without solid, consistent funding. This budget simply does not give the department the means it needs to meet the goals the community would like to see from this department.

Jess Johnson, council has the opportunity to do one of two things. Can do something that seems transformational or could do something that is transformational. Creating and underfunding a department is not transformation. It's not what you're here for and we look forward to your doing more.

Maddy Fischer, Ward 3, also has been to a lot of these meetings but hasn't spoken. Wanted to speak to make sure council hears the voices of the community asking them to please defund police by at least 50% and fund DCC. The police don't make us safer and cause a lot of harm. Thinks have incredible opportunity to create peer led and crisis response team as laid out by the commission. Please use your power to do so.

Emma Ryan, Ward 3, also has been to many of these meetings and has not yet spoken. Wanted to echo what everybody else has said that is their responsibility as elected officials to listen to what the community wants and needs. Not heeding those recommendations is to not heed the community. The only reason not to heed the voices of the community is that they do not believe these voices. Please use your power and this time to make the right choice.

Holly 50 years ago may have been in support and said defund the police but as she has aged, she thinks defunding the police is not the way to go. She believes the community-based program certainly needs more support. Also supports Councilor Jarrett and Bill Ryan's amendments to ZLL ordinance.

Danielle Amodeo, Ward 3, supports defunding police by as much as possible and at least 50%. Requests that not kneecap DCC by underfunding it and setting it up for failure. Got email from Councilor Nash that many people in Ward 3 in favor of funding the police. Wanted to know if councilors could make data available about calls in support and against defunding police. Would like to see transparent data about that. Her perception is support is overwhelmingly for defunding the police.