



Committee on Finance and the Northampton City Council

*Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra, Chair
Councilor Marianne LaBarge, Vice Chair
Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr.
Councilor John Thorpe*

On-line Zoom Meeting

Meeting Date: June 7, 2021

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

1. **Meeting Called To Order:** At 8:40 p.m., Councilor Sciarra called the meeting to order.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were committee members Gina-Louise Sciarra (Chair), Marianne LaBarge (Vice-Chair), Michael J. Quinlan, Jr. and John Thorpe. Also present from the City Council were William H. Dwight, Alex Jarrett, Karen Foster, Rachel Maiore and Jim Nash. Also present were Mayor David Narkewicz, Finance Director Susan Wright and Administrative Assistant Laura Krutzler.
3. **Approval of Minutes of April 15, 2021 and May 6, 2021**
Councilor Thorpe moved to approve the minutes of April 15, 2021 and May 6, 2021. Councilor Quinlan seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.
4. **FINANCIAL ORDERS**
 - A. **21.286 An Order Authorizing Acquisition of a Parcel on the Easterly Side of the Mill River**
Councilor Sciarra read the order.

Councilor Quinlan moved to forward the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Thorpe seconded.

This is one of the city's owner unknown parcels, Ms. Misch explained. The last owner of record has been deceased for many years probably going back to the early 1900's. In 1976, both the City Council and Conservation Commission voted to support acquiring the property and took steps to do so but never quite sealed the deal by recording the instrument at the registry of deeds. This time they'll actually take that final step, she assured.

That's all to say that the city has looked at this property for many years and intended to require it, she said. It fits in well with the ongoing work to look at alternatives along the Mill River for open space and water access. The city has arranged with the Leeds Civic Association to take on maintenance responsibilities as part of this. It is supported by a number of groups, and they hope to actually 'tie the bow.'

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They are all very excited about this in Leeds, Councilor Maiore reported. The Leeds Civic Association (LCA) has been working very thoughtfully on this as well as the river inclusion group. The LCA has been working on signs and is working with the river inclusion group on long-term trash pick-up. She thinks this is really vital to solving some of the issues that have arisen as swimming holes have begun being used more and more. Presently, there are no posted guidelines so no one knows if they are on legal property or not. The new arrangement will provide some guidelines and structure and make it easier to regulate and protect the land but also easier for visitors to feel comfortable there.

The dam is privately owned by Chartpak and there is another piece of private property on the other side, so that is still potentially an issue, Ms. Misch clarified. She screen-shared an aerial photo showing the parcel.

It abuts city conservation land, Councilor Maiore said. It's true this will not solve the problem of her cringing watching teenagers jump off the Chartpak dam, she quipped.

There being no further questions, the motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

5. **New Business**

None.

6. **Adjourn:** There being no further business, Councilor Quinlan moved to adjourn. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote of 4 Yes, 0 No. The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

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