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: October 3, 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 7:22 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 William H. Dwight, Alisa Klein, Jim Nash and Ryan O’Donnell. (Ward 2 Councilor Dennis Bidwell was absent.)

3. **Approval Of Minutes From The Previous Meeting**
   A. **Minutes of September 19, 2019**
      Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the minutes of September 19, 2019. Councilor Sciarra seconded. The motion passed 4:0 by voice vote.

4. **Financial Orders**
   A. **19.145 An Order To Authorize Surplussing 593 Elm Street And Leasing For Child Advocacy Purposes**
      Councilor Murphy read the order.

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

      The order is fairly self-explanatory, Mayor Narkewicz noted. Some may be familiar with the children’s advocacy center and the good work they do in this community. It has been located in this facility; its lease is coming up for renewal and the city needs to go through the process of declaring the property surplus in order to renew the lease.

      The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

   B. **19.146 An Order To Authorize Payment Of Prior Year Bills**
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Councilor Murphy read the order.

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

These are bills that were received close to the end of last fiscal year, Mayor Narkewicz explained. To pay a bill outside of the fiscal year in which the expense was incurred requires a vote of city council. Nicolai Law Group is the firm the city is using in the public construction matter discussed in executive session. It is a firm that specializes in public construction issues.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

C. **19.148 An Order To Authorize Borrowing $1.5 Million For Paving Projects**

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

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

In 2018, he came to the City Council at the end of the calendar year to seek early authorization for pavement projects the city was planning for the following year, Mayor Narkewicz reminded. At that time, Burts Pit Road was the big project that had been identified. Rather than waiting until March to do a bond authorization, city officials tried to get authorization early so they could get bids out during the winter time. Not surprisingly, they got competitive prices because firms were trying to line up work for the construction season.

They have been trying to knock off some of the bigger roadways with repair issues: i.e. - Glendale Road, Chesterfield Road, etc. The city has done almost five miles of paving.

The one roadway they weren’t able to address this year but did begin survey work on was North Farms Road. It has been on the list for quite a while. They want to get all the bid documents ready and put that out to bid early. The work will include North Farms Road and a section of North Maple Street all the way to Bridge Road.

This is not the only project they will be doing; administrators will be working on developing a full plan but some will be dictated by bids that come in for North Farms Road. They are not going to borrow immediately but can’t sign a contract unless they have an authorization.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

5. **New Business**

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

None.

6. **Adjourn:** There being no further business, Councilor Sciarra moved to adjourn. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

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