



# Committee on Finance

May 16, 2017 – 7:02 PM – **Minutes**  
Chambers of the City Council, Room 214

**MEETING:** COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
**DATE:** MAY 16, 2017  
**TIME:** 7:02 P.M.  
**PLACE:** CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

**PRESENT:** COUNCILLORS LINDA MORAD, CHAIRPERSON; JAMES OLIVEIRA, VICE CHAIRMAN; NAOMI CARNEY; DEBORA COELHO; HUGH DUNN); JOSEPH LOPES; STEVEN MARTINS; DANA REBEIRO (7:14); KERRY WINTERSON

**ABSENT:** COUNCILLORS IAN ABREU; BRIAN GOMES

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Councillor Morad called the Finance Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read Communications from Councillors Abreu and Gomes explaining their absences and a Communication from Councillor Rebeiro explaining her tardiness for tonight's meeting. These Communications were received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Lopes.

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Councillor Morad asked that item number three (3) be taken out of order, there were no objections.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Bousquet, requesting that the City Council look into establishing a revolving fund for the Department of Parks and Recreation and Beaches, in order to manage the care and maintenance of the proposed Dog Park in the City of New Bedford. (To be Referred to the Committee on Finance) (Ref'd 7/16/15) (Tabled-8/19/15; 9/9/15; 2/24/16) (3)

The Clerk read a Communication from Mary Rapoza, Director of Parks and Receptions explaining her absence from this meeting and that she met with CFO Sky to discuss the revolving fund for the Dog Park and they agreed to move forward with establishing the revolving account in FY19 after they have a better understanding of the number of passed that will be sold for the Dog Park this year. This Communication was received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Oliveira.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Martins, the Committee VOTED: To take "No Further Action" on this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$182,167.00 from AIRPORT, FREE CASH to AIRPORT, CAPITAL OUTLAY in the amount of \$106,000.00 and AIRPORT, STABILIZATION FUND in the amount of \$76,167.00 (Ref'd 4/27/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Oliveira and seconded by Councillor Coelho. (1,1a)

Scot Servis, Airport Director was present and gave an overview of the transfer to the Committee. He told the Committee that repairs have been made to the Airport Fire Truck to include seals and pumps and engine/exhaust repairs and replacements. This accounts for \$106,000 of the request; the balance of the money will be put into the stabilization fund to be used towards the FAA 139 inspection. It will allow for repairs and/or improvements recommended by the FAA when they visit for the certification process. Mr. Servis feels they may ask that runway 523 be remarked, as it is two years old and looks good in the day light but not in the evening. Full marking could cost \$200,000, partial markings \$34,000.

Councillor Oliveira asked what a healthy Enterprise Fund would be. CFO, Ari Sky told the Committee that he would like the Enterprise Fund to end each fiscal year between \$100,000 and \$200,000.

Councillor Morad asked if the Fire Engine will fall under the New Bedford Fire Department Budget and Chief Gomes said it would. Mr. Servis said the Fire Department has paid for most of the training. \$16,000 in training costs has been incurred to date. Training for FY18 has been estimated at \$16,000 as well.

The Chief stated engine 7 is responsible for the Airport and based on the new certification an engine would need to be on site one hour before an aircraft lands and one hour after.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$182,167.00 from AIRPORT, FREE CASH to AIRPORT, CAPITAL OUTLAY in the amount of \$106,000.00 and AIRPORT, STABILIZATION FUND in the amount of \$76,167.00. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$180,000.00 from FREE CASH to GENERAL GOVERNMENT UNCLASSIFIED – RESERVE FOR APPROPRIATION (Ref'd 4/27/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Winterson. (2, 2a)

On motion by Councillor Oliveira and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$180,000.00 from FREE CASH to GENERAL GOVERNMENT UNCLASSIFIED – RESERVE FOR APPROPRIATION. This motion FAILED on a Roll Call VOTE of Yeas 5, Nays 4, with Councillors Martins, Morad, Rebeiro and Winterson opposed.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting a LOAN ORDER in the amount of \$6,499,000 authorizing the borrowing of funds to pay costs of environmental cleanup and remediation projects for the Parker Street Waste Site, including assessment, planning, design, permitting, settlement or remediation projects costs at the New Bedford High School mechanical room, Keith Middle School wetland, Nemasket Streets lots, certain acquired residential properties and private properties and the cost of the EPA settlement (Ref'd 4/12/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Coelho and seconded by Councillor Martins. (4, 4a)

Councillor Morad informed the Committee that this issue has some sensitivity so she spoke with the City Solicitor and our Legal Counsel and they would like the opportunity to discuss this matter as it relates to the Parker Street Waste Site in Executive Session and the reason for that is obviously because discussing this strategy in respect to collective bargaining or litigation in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect to the bargaining or litigation position to the public body. The Chair is declaring that this item be heard in Executive Session.

The Chair also asked that item number five (5) be taken up as well.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, City Solicitor Mikaela A. McDermott, to City Council, providing an overview of how the funds in the Judgments, Claims and Settlements line item in the General Government Unclassified account have been spent thus far in FY17; and an overview of the claims and litigation currently pending against the City and finally an estimate of how much additional funding will be needed for Judgment/Claims/Settlements line item for the remainder of FY17 (Copy all Councillors 01/27/2017) (Ref'd 2/23/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Oliveira and seconded by Councillor Carney. (5)

Councillor Morad informed the Committee that this item as well needs to be heard in Executive Session because discussing this strategy in respect to collective bargaining or litigation position in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect to the bargaining or litigation position to the public body.

The Committee went into Executive Session at 7:33 with the intent to go back to regular session for motions and votes.

The Committee came out of Executive Session at 8:43.

Item #4

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Oliveira, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council, ADOPTION of the LOAN ORDER in the amount of \$6,499,000 authorizing the borrowing of funds to pay costs of environmental cleanup and remediation projects for the Parker Street Waste Site, including assessment, planning, design, permitting, settlement or remediation projects costs at the New Bedford High School mechanical room, Keith Middle School wetland, Nemasket Street lost, certain acquired residential properties and private properties and the cost of the EPA settlement. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 6, Nays 2, with Councillors Carney and Martins opposed and Councillor Coelho not present for the vote.

#5

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To take "No Further Action" on a COMMUNICATION, City Solicitor Mikaela A. McDermott, to City Council, providing an overview of how the funds in the Judgments, Claims and Settlements line item in the General Government Unclassified account have been spent thus far in FY17; and an overview of the claims and litigation currently pending against the City and finally an estimate of how much additional funding will be needed for Judgment/Claims/Settlements line item for the remainder of FY17. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Councillor Winterson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Rebeiro.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:52 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Denis Lawrence, Jr.,  
Clerk of Committees