

**NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MEETING: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
**DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2018**  
**TIME: 7:00 P.M.**  
**PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLORS JOSEPH LOPES, CHAIRMAN; IAN ABREU, VICE CHAIRMAN; NAOMI CARNEY; HUGH DUNN; MARIA GIESTA; BRIAN GOMES (7:03); SCOTT LIMA; WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY; LINDA MORAD; DANA REBEIRO**

**ABSENT: COUNCILLOR DEBORA COELHO**

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Councillor Lopes called the Finance Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read a Communication from Councillor Coelho explaining her absence. This Communication was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Abreu.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting TWO (2) LOAN ORDERS, appropriating \$4,100,334 for an accelerated repair project at the Elizabeth Carter Brooks Elementary School and rescinding a \$1,000,000.00 portion of the appropriation for accelerated repair projects at Carney Academy and Hayden McFadden, Casmir Pulaski and Alfred J. Gomes Elementary Schools under the order approved on March 25, 2016 (Ref'd 1/11/18) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro. (1, 1a, 1b)

Andrew O'Leary and Barry Rabinovitch of the School Department were present and gave an overview of the Loan Orders. The Loan Order to rescind \$1,000,000 was due to savings on past school improvement projects coming in under budget. The Loan Order appropriation was to continue building improvements at the Carter-Brooks School.

Jeffrey R. Davis, the Architect for the Carter-Brooks plan gave an overview of the improvements to include, new boilers, hardware, windows and code upgrades and fire alarm systems.

Councillor Rebeiro asked when the work would be completed and she was told the project would start mid-April and last throughout the summer and should be completed by the beginning of the school year 2018.

Councillor Gomes asked if the work would extend the life of a rather old building, he was told yes, the work would add an additional 25 years to the school. He also asked about security installations as it related to cameras and protection for faculty and students. He was told it was not a part of the plan, but that the design of the office area would provide more security to monitor those entering the school.

Councillor Rebeiro expressed her concern that the one million dollar excess could have been used for smaller projects at the schools which were just completed, e.g. carpeting at Carney. Mr. O’Leary stated the carpet issue was being addressed.

Councillor Morad asked about the age of the school and number of students and staff, she was told the school was built in 1954; there are approximately 250 students and 20 staff.

Councillor Carney asked that when the project goes out to bid that New Bedford people be considered.

Councillor Abreu asked how the schools were considered for repairs. He was told not simply by age but the work that needs to be done.

Councillor Lima asked if the past issues in the window installation at the other schools had been addressed, he was told it had.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the TWO LOAN ORDERS, appropriating \$4,100,334 for an accelerated repair project at the Elizabeth Carter Brooks Elementary School and rescinding a \$1,000,000.00 portion of the appropriation for accelerated repair projects at Carney Academy and Hayden McFadden, Casmir Pulaski and Alfred J. Gomes Elementary Schools under the order approved on March 25, 2016. 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 a LOAN ORDER appropriating \$6,115,000.00 which constitutes the next round of projects for the FY2018-2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), these projects are intended to continue essential renovation and repair efforts while also designating local funding to supplement state aid for much-needed road and sidewalk repairs (Ref’d 1/25/18) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro. (2, 2a)

Christina Mills from the CFO’s Office was present and gave a power point demonstration on the Loan Order for FY 2018-2022 CIP. She provided an update on past CIP’s approved by the Council and how the money approved was allocated. The summary for the 2018 CIP figures included. School Department renovations \$1.5 million, Public Facilities, Buttonwood Zoo \$870,000, Main Library repairs \$775,000, West Beach Community Building \$300,000, Government Facilities, City Hall Elevator \$900,000, Core IT infrastructure support \$430,000, Fleet Improvements \$260,000, Roads and Infrastructure \$1 million, Capital Improvements Bond Total \$6,115,000.

Andrew O’Leary, Al Oliveira, Coach Tarpey and Headmaster Bernadette Coelho, all spoke in support of the School proposed CIP’s which includes the auditorium, the girls and boys locker rooms in the pool area, and interim athletic field repairs. They explained the rusting and ventilation problem in the locker rooms has gone without repairs for many years. The auditorium lighting system is old and posing a danger and needs to be replaced.

Councillor Morad asked for a breakdown of the \$1.5 million and she was told lockers \$400,000, auditorium \$450,000 and \$800,000 for the grounds.

Councillor Giesta asked if there was a better way to access lighting in the auditorium once repaired. She was told a new cat walk system would work, but it would be expensive. They hope by switching over to LED lighting in the main portion of the auditorium would result in the average light bulb lasting 15 years.

Ken Blanchard of DFFM, Mary Rapoza, Parks Director gave an overview of public facilities repairs, which included the elevator ant City Hall. He also explained he costs requested to properly install air conditioning units in the City Hall Server Room and the window repairs at the downtown Library, the West Beach Community Center.

Councillor Morad asked if the full \$775,000 would do repairs at the library and she was told yes, windows, shelving and security system.

Jamie Ponte of DPI gave an overview of the one million dollars to be appropriated for road repairs. Councillors Rebeiro, Morad, Giesta, Gomes and Carney expressed their concerns that money was being allocated to other projects when roads should be a primary concern especially where it affects all tax payers and that the proposed amount was not enough to appropriately affect road repairs in the city.

Keith Lovett of the Zoo provided an overview of the educational center to be built in the barn at the Zoo.

Councillor Morad asked for a breakdown from him and he said he would send it on to the full City Council.

Councillor Dunn asked Ken Blanchard to make the handicap access issue at the Agnes-Braz facility a top issue, as it is not scheduled to be looked at by the CIP program until 2022.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Councillor Morad spoke on the issue, explaining that the previous motion to table was so that Councillors would have the time to go over the CIP proposal and be able to ask any questions they may have at the next Finance meeting.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting THREE ORDERS for the TRANSFER from FREE CASH, to OPEB TRUST FUND in the amount of \$150,000.00; to POLICE, CAPITAL OUTLAY in the amount of \$194,000.00 and the STABILIZATION FUND in the amount of \$800,000.00 (Ref'd 1/25/18) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney. (3, 3a, 3b, 3c)

Bob Ekstrom, City Auditor, gave an overview of e proposed transfer from free cash to the trust fund, Police Capital Outlay and the Stabilization Fund. He was asked by

Councillor Morad about the recent sale of the eleven million dollars in tax liens where that money would go, she was told to the general fund.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Dunn, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of THREE ORDERS for the TRANSFER from FREE CASH, to OPEB TRUST FUND in the amount of \$150,000.00; to POLICE, CAPITAL OUTLAY in the amount of \$194,000.00; and the STABILIZATION FUND in the amount of \$800,000.00. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Lopes, requesting, that the Committee on Finance work with the Mitchell Administration on the adoption of the maximum 2% local sale tax option upon the sale or transfer of marijuana or marijuana products by a marijuana retailer operating within the City of New Bedford if Ballot Question 4 is passed. (To be Referred to the Committee on Finance and Mayor Mitchell) (Ref'd 9/22/16) (10/20/16-returned unsigned by the Mayor) (10/24/16-tabled) (3/29/17-tabled 90 days) (4)

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to refer to the Committee on Licensing and Zoning for Cannabis a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Lopes, requesting, that the Committee on Finance work with the Mitchell Administration on the adoption of the maximum 2% local sales tax option upon the sale or transfer of marijuana or marijuana products by a marijuana retailer operating within the City of New Bedford if Ballot Question 4 is passed. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Councillor Morad made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Markey.

This meeting adjourned @ 9:18 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Denis Lawrence, Jr.,  
Clerk of Committees