



City of Fitchburg Massachusetts 01420

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Ward 5 – Marisa R. Fleming
Ward 6 – Derrick J. Cruz

Finance Committee

A meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Councilor DiNatale on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 6:02 PM in the Legislative Building, 700 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Anthony Zarrella, Paul Beauchemin, Derrick Cruz, and Elizabeth Walsh.

Committee Members absent: none

Others Present: James Bunnell, Director of Parks & Recreation; Liz Murphy, Executive Director of Community Development.

137-24 ORDER: there be and hereby is transferred the total sum of THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED ONE DOLLARS (\$33,201) to LAW EXPENSES – City Solicitor from the following accounts:

LAW PERSONAL SERVICES – Dept Head	\$ 2,871
LAW OTHER EXPENSES – Code Enforcement	\$ 600
LAW OTHER EXPENSES – Damages Persons & Property	\$10,000
LAW OTHER EXPENSES – Litigation/Special Counsel	\$ 9,730
LAW OTHER EXPENSES – Labor Negotiator	\$10,000

Discussion: Councilor Zarrella noted that this is an intradepartmental transfer, not a request for additional funds. Councilor DiNatale stated that this signals the extent to which the FY25 budget may not be adequate, given the level of funds needed to end the fiscal year. He stated that the firm is doing a lot, and a good job, but most charges are not due to getting their “feet wet”, but to the city’s complex challenges. He further stated that privatizing costs more, and that time spent on legal issues has declined by as much as fifty percent. Councilor Cruz said that he

appreciated his colleague's financial diligence, but that transfers are common in other departments. He further referenced that this is only half a year, and we still need to see the indirect costs, beyond the monthly formula, and that he is in support of seeing the present arrangement out.

Action: (4-1) Be Adopted (DiNatale)

138-24 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of grant funds from the United Way of North Central Massachusetts, in the approximate amount of THIRTY-EIGHT THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SIXTY DOLLARS (\$38,360), awarded to the city Summer Recreation Program from the DESE After School and Out of School Time Program Grant.

Discussion: Mr. Bunnell explained that this funding consists of three parts – weekly field trips, experiences brought to Coolidge Park and Parkhill Park, and supplies for hands-on activities.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

139-24 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of grant funds from North Central Massachusetts Development Corporation, in the approximate amount of TWELVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$12,000), for the purpose of assisting businesses with signs and awnings.

Discussion: Ms. Murphy stated that this grant will add to the existing sign grant program, but will allow more flexibility in assisting businesses outside of the CDBG target area.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacquelyn Cronin, Clerk