



City of Fitchburg Massachusetts 01420

CITY COUNCIL

Councilors at Large

Marcus L. DiNatale
Sally H. Cragin
Amy L. Green
Elizabeth R. Walsh
Anthony M. Zarrella

President
Anthony M. Zarrella

Vice President
Andrew J. Van Hazinga

Ward Councilors

Ward 1 – Bernard J. Schultz, III
Ward 2 – Paul R. Beauchemin
Ward 3 – Andrew J. Couture
Ward 4 – Andrew J. Van Hazinga
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, July 10, 2024 at 6:03 PM in the Legislative Building, 700 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Anthony Zarrella (arrived 6:06), Paul Beauchemin, Derrick Cruz, and Elizabeth Walsh.

Committee Members absent: none

Others Present: Fire Chief Dante Suarez; Nick Erickson, DPW Commissioner; Susan Davis, Human Resources Director; Steve Curry, Board of Health Director.

145-24 ORDER: there be and hereby is transferred from within Fiscal 2024 accounts the sum of ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000) same to be charged to MAYOR PERSONAL SERVICES – Assistant Department Head, and credited to:

MAYOR EXPENSES – Office Supplies	\$400
MAYOR EXPENSES – Travel & Meetings	\$600

Discussion: Motion made, seconded, and approved.

Action: (4-0) Be Adopted

146-24 ORDER: there be and hereby is transferred from within Fiscal 2024 accounts the sum of FIFTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVEN and 81/100 DOLLARS (\$15,887.81) same to be credited to ELECTION & REGISTRATION EXPENSE – Street Listing, from the following accounts:

CITY CLERK PERSONAL SERVICES – Clerical	\$ 4,591.04
ELECTION & REGISTRATION P.S. – Election Workers	\$11,296.77

Discussion: Councilor Zarrella noted that he spoke with Joanna (City Clerk) who said this is something that happens every year, the state provides a certain amount of money to do the street listing, and if the city can do it cheaper, they're allowed to transfer the excess to other election related line items to keep up with the workload.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

147-24 ORDER: there be and hereby is transferred from within Fiscal 2024 accounts the sum of TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,000) same to be charged to FACILITIES PERSONAL SERVICES – Dept Head and credited to FACILITIES PERSONAL SERVICES – Overtime.

Discussion: Councilor DiNatale noted that funds are available due to the current vacancy in the Facilities Department Head position.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

148-24 ORDER: there be and hereby is transferred from within Fiscal 2024 accounts the sum of FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$15,000) same to be charged to FIRE PERSONAL SERVICES – Incentives, and credited to FIRE BUILDING MAINTENANCE – Electricity.

Discussion: Chief Suarez attributed the need in the electricity budget to the raising of rates by Unutil. In response to Councilor Beauchemin's question, the Chief stated that this covers all three stations.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

149-24 ORDER: there be and hereby is transferred from within Fiscal 2024 accounts the sum of SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$6,000) same to be charged to BUILDING PERSONAL SERVICES – Assistant Inspectors, and credited to BUILDING PERSONAL SERVICES – Overtime.

Discussion: Motion made, seconded, and approved.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

150-24 ORDER: there be and hereby is transferred the sum of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$120,000) to DPW CAPITAL – EQUIPMENT from the following accounts:

DPW ADMIN/ENG P.S. – MS4 Temporary Labor	\$ 9,000
DPW STREETS P.S. – Summer Help	\$31,000
DPW STREETS P.S. – Labor	\$80,000

Discussion: Commissioner Erickson stated that the funds will be used to purchase either a new one-ton, or a street sweeper, or a box truck depending on quotes. Other needs include salt & sand trucks which tend to be more expensive, and a road-side mower. The labor funds are available because there were no MS4 applicants last summer, the Streets Summer Help included only one hire late last summer, and Streets Labor had several vacancies over the past fiscal year. The vacant Labor positions included a General Foreman.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

151-24 ORDER: there be and hereby is transferred the sum of FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000) to PARKS EXPENSE – PLAYGROUND SAFETY WOOD FIBER from the following accounts:

PARKS PERSONAL SERVICES – Labor	\$20,000
PARKS PERSONAL SERVICES – Summer Help	\$30,000

Discussion: Commissioner Erickson stated that labor funds are available due to a vacancy in the Working Foreman and LMEO positions, and due to no hires last summer. Mr. Erickson and Human Resources Director Susan Davis confirmed that hiring advertisements go out to local high schools and the university. Councilor Beauchemin asked how long the safety fiber lasts. Mr. Erickson replied that it “walks away”, the depth required is marked on the equipment, and that \$50,000 should be budgeted every year.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

152-24 ORDER: there be and hereby is transferred from within Fiscal 2024 accounts the sum of SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$7,500) same to be charged to HEALTH PERSONAL SERVICES – Nurses, and credited to HEALTH PERSONAL SERVICES – Overtime.

Discussion: Mr. Curry explained that the Nurse retired in February. The overtime account overage is due to landfill coverage on Saturdays by higher paid staff, as well as scale master time for weighing of trucks due to construction that requires a few more hours/days per week.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

153-24 ORDER: there be and hereby is transferred from with Fiscal 2024 accounts the sum of ~~TEN~~ FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (~~\$10,000~~ \$15,000) from HEALTH SANITARY LANDFILL EXPENSES – Closed Landfill to HEALTH RUBBISH REMOVAL EXPENSES – Contract Fees.

Discussion: At Mr. Curry’s request, and by a vote of 5-0, the Order was amended to \$15,000 to satisfy the final fiscal year bills. The increase was partially due to increased use of the Bulk Item program, and waste ban items collected at the ward clean-ups. Councilor Beauchemin inquired as to setting aside monies for the eventual landfill closure. Mr. Curry explained that Waste Management is required to set aside funds for the closure, the balance is currently about \$33 million; the city’s closed landfill account is for Blueberry Lane.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted as amended

The following two ORDERS were renumbered as noted below, by a vote of 5-0.

~~155-24~~ 154-24 ORDER: there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of FIFTY-SEVEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FORTY-TWO DOLLARS (\$57,242) same to be charged against the FY2025 TAX LEVY and credited to FISCAL 2025 accounts as follows:

HUMAN RESOURCES PERSONAL SERVICES – Clerical	\$30,860
CITY CLERK PERSONAL SERVICES – Clerical	\$26,382

Discussion: Councilor DiNatale confirmed that the City Clerk position will restore a part-time position that was not included in the Mayor's budget. Ms. Davis explained that the HR position will be part-time to address the need for a third person after a full-time position was cut from the Mayor's budget last month. She stated that HR customers are internal, so this will relieve the strain on departments to get what they need when they need it. Councilor Cruz addressed concern for the timely advertising for applicants.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

~~154-24~~ 155-24 ORDER: there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$600,000) same to be charged against Fiscal Year 2024 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – HEALTH INSURANCE and credited to FISCAL 2025 - RESERVE FOR OTHER MUNICIPAL PURPOSES.

Discussion: Councilor DiNatale reminded the committee that several months ago Orders were approved to fund Health Insurance and School Transportation deficits. Of those amounts, \$600,000 is now requested to be set aside to address any remaining deficits in Fiscal Year 2024 Net School Spending.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Jacquelyn Cronin, Clerk