



City of Fitchburg Massachusetts 01420

CITY COUNCIL

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Anthony M. Zarrella

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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 Zarrella on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 6:11 PM in the Legislative Building, 700 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Anthony Zarrella, Paul Beauchemin, and Samantha Squailia (via Zoom)

Committee Members absent: Councilors DiNatale and Van Hazinga

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

The chairman opened the meeting for public comment.

184-23 ORDER: that there be and hereby is transferred from within the sum of TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR AND 40/100 DOLLARS (\$26,684.40) same to be transferred from COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COVID-19, FOOD INSECURITY ASSISTANCE (\$3,620.40) and from COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COVID-19, BUSINESS LOANS & GRANTS (\$23,064.00) and credited to COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COVID-19, RENTAL AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE.

Discussion: Liz Murphy stated that based on review and consultation with sub-recipients, housing and utility assistance represents the highest need for these unspent Covid funds.

Action: (3-0) Be Adopted

185-23 ORDER: that there be and hereby is transferred from within the sum of FIFTY-SEVEN THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE AND 72/100 DOLLARS (\$57,651.72) same to be transferred from CDBG YEAR 47 STREETSCAPES PROJECT and credited to CDBG YEAR 48 PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS.

Discussion: Liz Murphy stated that these funds are no longer need for the Main Street conversion and would be repurposed to offset cost increases of the Parkhill playground equipment and the Mama Fitz park project.

Action: (3-0) Be Adopted

196-23 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs FY24 Greening the Gateway Cities Program Implementation Grant Award in the approximate amount of \$88,650.00 (EIGHTY-EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to achieve tree planting, promote stewardship and appreciation of Fitchburg's trees for the environmental benefits and energy savings that a healthy tree canopy brings to the residents of the City.

Discussion: James Bunnell explained that this grant is for areas outside of the environmental justice zone, and after walking identified areas of need with Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) staff, it was determined to use these funds for Coolidge Park, Parkhill, and to fund educational costs for three staff members to become Certified Tree Arborists. The grant does not require a city match, and can be applied for annually. Councilors' concerns regarding removal of tree stumps, placement of trees to avoid power lines and open recreational space, and tree maintenance were addressed.

Action: (3-0) Be Adopted

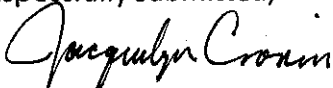
197-23 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs FY24 Greening the Gateway Cities Program Partnership Grant Award in the approximate amount of \$12,944.00 (TWELVE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to assist DCR Urban and Community Forestry as they plant trees in target neighborhoods in Fitchburg to increase tree canopy cover for environmental and energy efficiency benefits.

Discussion: James Bunnell explained that this grant is specifically for the Fitchburg environmental justice zone, which includes the Upper Common, Goodrich, Howarth Park, Bartley-Nolan, and Green Street Park. DCR will provide the trees, and this grant will cover the city's labor costs.

Action: (3-0) Be Adopted

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacquelyn Cronin, Clerk