



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, December 11, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the Legislative Building, 700 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Marcus DiNatale, Paul Beauchemin, Derrick Cruz, and Elizabeth Walsh. Councilor Anthony Zarrella arrived at 6:05 PM.

Committee Members absent: none.

Others Present: Police Captain Matthew LeMay; John Deline, Deputy Commissioner of Water; Nicholas Erickson, Public Works Commissioner.

203-24 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security State 911 Department Training Grant in the approximate amount of ONE HUNDRED SEVEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT and 82/100 DOLLARS (\$107,658.82) for the purpose of training Fire Department dispatchers in Emergency Medical Dispatch procedures, and Police Department dispatchers in 911 Emergency procedures.

Discussion: Captain LeMay stated that the grant is effective through June, 2025 to enhance Dispatch training and professional development. He also noted that continuing education is mandated by the State.

Action: (4-0) Be Adopted

205-24 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby appropriate and transfer the sum of THREE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,400,000) from ARPA – Boulder Drive Water Mains, to ARPA – Main Street Water Mains.

Discussion: Deputy Commissioner Deline explained that initial project estimates for Boulder Drive were high based on COVID pricing at the time and on the extent of work expected on Boulder. As of now, Boulder is complete, and the remaining work to connect side streets will be part of the Main Street phase. This transfer ensures that all ARPA funds will be sufficiently obligated to Main Street as of December 31st - the ARPA obligation deadline.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

Prior to discussion, Councilor DiNatale requested a motion to amend Order #206-24 as denoted below. The motion passed without objections.

206-24 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby appropriate and transfer the sum of TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO AND 65/100 DOLLARS (\$280,782.65) ~~NINETY FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$94,500)~~ to EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - Health Insurance from the following ARPA Fund accounts:

Fitchburg Business Loan Pool	\$ 62,500
Crocker Field Turf Replacement	\$ 32,000
Parkhill-Mama Fitz Parks	\$ 186,282.65

Discussion: Auditor Cronin confirmed with Councilor DiNatale that the purpose of the transfer is to securely obligate otherwise uncommitted ARPA funds before December 31st - the ARPA obligation deadline, not because there is a known deficit in Health Insurance. Commissioner Erickson spoke about the ParkHill-Mama Fitz amendment, assuring that the project is moving forward and explaining that final costs are uncertain, so the funds will be safely obligated under this order, and a final appropriation will be requested at a future date.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

207-24 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby appropriate and transfer the sum of FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000) from RESERVE FOR OTHER MUNICIPAL PURPOSES - Expenses to AUDITOR EXPENSES - Contracted Services.

Discussion: Auditor Cronin discussed the purpose of procuring a 5-year financial forecast to assist in management decision making for Fiscal 2026 and beyond. The study will highlight options and provide a working blueprint to take the city beyond its current structural budget deficit. Councilor DiNatale asked that the report be presented to the City Council before the Fiscal 2026 budget is discussed.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,


Jacquelyn Cronin, Clerk