



# **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, February 28, 2024 at 6:05 PM in the Legislative Building, 700 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Anthony Zarrella, Paul Beauchemin, Derrick Cruz (remote), and Elizabeth Walsh    Committee Members absent: None

Others Present: Police Chief Ernest Martineau, Fire Chief Dante Suarez, Director of Parks & Recreation James Bunnell, Director of Public Health Steve Curry

038-24        ORDER:        the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Department of Mental Health police-based Jail Diversion Program (JDP) in the approximate amount of FIFTY-NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$59,000) for the purpose of maintaining the Police Department Crisis Intervention Team (CIT).

Discussion: Chief Martineau noted that this on-going grant supports Open Sky and will also go toward augmenting the compensation of the full-time clinician, and other staff, when called to respond to evening and weekend incidents. In response to Councilor Beauchemin's inquiry, the Chief said that the crisis team response to a person in crisis can vary from talking to or sectioning that person, depending on the situation.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

039-24 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from Massachusetts Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) in the approximate amount of TWENTY THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$20,150) for the purpose of purchasing hazmat suits, a dry suit, swift water foot protection, and gas meter upgrades.

Discussion: Chief Suarez stated that this grant awarded by MEMA will allow the department to purchase and upgrade outdated emergency response gear and meters. He also noted that hazmat suits are generally one-time use, but replacements can be funded through insurance proceeds.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

040-24 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of grant funds in the amount of ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SEVEN DOLLARS (\$1,407) from the Fitchburg Cultural Council in support of the Parks and Recreation Department Concerts on the Common music series.

Discussion: Councilor Cruz commended the Fitchburg Local Cultural Council for the work they do in reviewing grant applications and allocating grants. Councilor DiNatale noted that the summer concert series is a community staple enjoyed by many.

Action: (5-0) Be Adopted

041-24 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the transfer of SIXTY-NINE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$69,000) from HEALTH – SANITARY LANDFILL EXPENSES to HEALTH – RUBBISH REMOVAL EXPENSES.

Discussion: Director Curry stated that this appropriation is to cover an outstanding debt owed on the Fiscal 2023 Curbside Collection contract. The city has been negotiating with Waste Management since the last City Council meeting when a proposed order was held. He explained that the final bill is approximately \$97,000, and the negotiation resulted in a recognition of \$28,000 in penalties for lack of services provided. The settlement also calls for a \$10,000 contribution back to the city in the form of a Community Betterment Fund for the purpose of funding ward cleanups. Councilors acknowledged satisfaction with the company's on-going recycling pickup, but expressed grave dissatisfaction with past performance on the curbside collection contract.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacquelyn Cronin, Clerk