

**CITY OF WOBURN
CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE ROOM
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Voting Members present: Chair Charles Viola, Councilor Joseph Demers, Councilor Robert Ferullo and Councilor Darlene Mercer-Bruen. Absent: Councilor Joanne Campbell

Non-voting members present: President Jeffrey Dillon, Councilor Robert Toro, Councilor William Pappalardo and Councilor Lou DiMambro

Also present: Mayor Michael Concannon, Dept. of Public Works Supt. John Duran, Water Treatment Plan Manager Anthony Blazejowski and City Engineer John Corey

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MOTION made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Mercer-Bruen to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the meeting of January 8, 2024; all in favor, 4-0.

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Order authorizing the Mayor to apply for a grant or loan assistance for the purpose of conducting a water line inventory: Mayor Concannon said Supt. Duran, City Engineer Corey and Mr. Blazejowski are present to respond to any questions the committee has. City Engineer Corey said this is a 2-part project. He said Mr. Blazejowski can answer any inquiries regarding the technical aspects of the project. He said adopting the order will allow the city to move forward with an application for a grant from the state revolving fund or a low interest loan. He said the project is part of the Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) addition to the water treatment plant. He said the state Dept. of Environmental Protection has set aside funding for lead service removal from water distribution systems. He said the grant has a 100 percent value of the project. He said the city will be required to undertake a bond authorization. He said the project will cost the city nothing. He said the order authorizes the mayor to proceed with filing the grant application. He said this will be a good project to do. Mr. Blazejowski said the scope of the project does not involve any lines that are copper or plastic. He said money from the grant will be used to identify and replace any gooseneck sections of pipe that are made out of lead. He said the city is already well ahead of the game and there are probably only about 100 goosenecks that need to be examined. He said approximately 15 percent are made out of lead. He said those will have to be replaced. He said the first draft of the application will be given to DEP in April and the grant should be issued in October. He said the city can then start using GIS to identify the sections that need to be replaced. He said there is a lot of paperwork involved. City Engineer Corey said the genesis of this project is in response to the contaminated water issue in Flint, Mich., in 2002. He said Woburn does not have a problem with lead because the city transitioned to copper pipes. Supt. Duran said the city will also be able to update its data base. He said the cost will be zero. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said she wants to make sure if her constituents ask questions that the city does not have a problem with lead in the water. Mr. Blazejowski said the city had close to 600-700 goosenecks of unknown composition but they were replaced when the

streets were repaired. City Engineer Corey said the money from the grant will be used to locate and determine the composition of the 100 remaining goosenecks that have not been replaced. Mr. Blazejowski said the city mandated the conversion of water pipes from lead to copper in 1954. He said that helped. Councilor Mercer-Bruen asked if there will be any cost to residents. Mr. Blazejowski said there will be no cost to residents at this point. He said he cannot say there will be no cost to residents down the line. Supt. Duran said homeowners own their pipes to the property line. He said if residents have lead pipes, it is up to them to replace them. Motion made by Councilor Mercer-Bruen and seconded by Councilor Demers to suspend the City Council's rules to allow any member of the council not on the committee to address the order; approved, 4-0. Councilor DiMambro asked if the grant will cover all DPW and Water Dept. expenses associated with this project. Mr. Blazejowski said the order will allow the city to file paperwork for the grant at this time. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Mercer-Bruen that the order "ought to pass;" approved, 4-0.

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MOTION made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Mercer-Bruen to adjourn; all in favor, 4-0. Chair Viola adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees