

**CITY OF WOBURN
CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024, at 6:40 p.m.
COMMITTEE ROOM
WOBURN CITY HALL**

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

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

Also present: Mayor Michael Concannon

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MOTION made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Ferullo to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the meeting of January 22, 2024; all in favor, 4-0.

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Order to transfer the sum of \$69,709 from Traffic Safety & Infrastructure Fund Account to Salem & Bow Pedestrian Safety Account: Motion made by Councilor Campbell and seconded by Councilor Ferullo to suspend the City Council's rules to allow Mayor Concannon to address the order; approved, 4-0. Mayor Concannon said the money from the appropriation will address a particular need identified by Councilor Mercer-Bruen. He said the Traffic Commission has endorsed the implementation of a pedestrian signal. He said the intersection of Salem and Bow streets along with Beach Street is a heavily trafficked area and serves as a pathway to the White School. He said there are speeding issues in the area, and the addition of a pedestrian signal with flashing warning lights will enhance safety in the area. He said he thinks it is a need the city has to address. Councilor Demers said Councilor Mercer-Bruen asked him to speak on behalf of what she feels is an important piece of legislation. He said the pedestrian signal will be located along the primary route to an elementary school. He said the intersection of Salem and Bow streets is dangerous and installing a pedestrian signal takes a pro-active approach to safety. He said the last thing anyone wants is for a child to get hurt crossing the street. He said he and Councilor Mercer-Bruen appreciate the mayor's willingness to move forward with this project. Councilor Pappalardo said he has also talked with Councilor Mercer-Bruen and he is 100 percent in support of installing a pedestrian signal at this intersection. Councilor Toro said there has been some discussion about reconfiguring that intersection and asked if there has been any consultation about the best place to put the pedestrian signal if that happens. Mayor Concannon said he thinks eventually there will be a transformation of that intersection. He said there was a study that was conducted and the result was that the location of the pedestrian signal was chosen with a future transformation of the intersection in mind. Councilor Toro said he will support the order. President Dillon said this matter was before the Traffic Commission in January. He said he appreciates the effort that Councilor Mercer-Bruen and Councilor Demers have put into this, and he thanked Mayor Concannon for recognizing that the city has to protect its citizens.

Councilor Campbell thanked the mayor for bringing this order forward. She said there have been similar requests for safety enhancements before and they have not always gone forward. She said she appreciates the mayor's commitment. Councilor DiMambro said he greatly appreciates this order moving forward and he hopes the council keeps in mind there are a lot of areas in the city than can use a pedestrian crossing signal. He said as a member of the Traffic Commission he knows there have been more requests for pedestrian signals. He said the signals can cost as much as \$60,000 to install. He said he hopes there is grant funding on the state level. He said Woburn Center has a problem with pedestrian safety. He said he understands the pedestrian signals are expensive but they are effective. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Campbell that the order "ought to pass;" approved, 4-0.

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MOTION made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Ferullo to adjourn; all in favor, 4-0. Chair Viola adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees