

**CITY OF WOBURN
CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
COMMITTEE ROOM
WOBURN CITY HALL
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**

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

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

Also present: Mayor Michael Concannon, Cemetery Commission Chair John Sawyer, Human Resources Director Shawna Healey, City Auditor Charles Doherty, and City Solicitor Mark Salvati

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Reading and approval of previous meeting minutes: 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 13, 2025; all in favor, 5-0

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Order that \$766,841.49 be transferred from Mayor Salary Adjustment Acct# 0112151-511019 to SEIU City Hall Union for \$207,205.69, Teamsters Union for \$167,731.10, Library Union for \$30,704.65, and SEIU DPW/Cemetery/Parks for \$361,200.05: Mayor Concannon said this is a transfer from an account that is set aside for contractually negotiated pay raises to various union salary accounts. He said four of the six municipal unions have settled their contract negotiations. He said the Police Patrolmen's union has still not settled. He said HRD Healey, City Solicitor Salvati and City Auditor Doherty are here to answer questions. He said he appreciates their hard work. He said he is asking for support from the City Council for the approval of this transfer. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Mercer-Bruen that the order "ought to pass;" approved, 5-0.

Order that \$300,000.00 be transferred from Cemetery Perpetual Interest Acct#65259-595000 to New Equipment/Cemetery Acct# 0149058-586601 for \$200,000 and to Burial Sections Acct#0149058-586601 for \$100,000: Mayor Concannon said Cemetery Commission Chair Sawyer is here to answer any questions the committee may have. He said this transfer is from the Cemetery Dept.'s perpetual interest account. He said the money that is being transferred will address burial needs. Chair Sawyer said the Cemetery Commission is always in need of more land. He said they are getting a little thin on space. He said there is a mausoleum that is in disrepair and it has been fixed the best they could. He said right now all they have to offer for burial space is in the ground. He said with the money from this transfer they are hoping to create two cremation areas with 120 spots each. He said that would satisfy the need for people who

don't want to be in the ground. He said they need about \$85,000-\$100,000 for each unit, plus site work. He said if there is enough money they may be able to look at a third unit. He said these units will pay for themselves over time. He said this is the first phase of the cemetery improvement program. He said money from the perpetual care account has been used for roads before, but it can be used for any improvements or embellishments to the cemetery. He said this certainly fits the criteria. He said he believes this is an appropriate use for these funds. Councilor Campbell asked how many cremations the new facilities will be able to accommodate. Chair Sawyer said there are 120 units in each of two areas, so 240 spots. Councilor Campbell asked where the cremation areas will be located. Chair Sawyer said they have identified a few sites. He said they are hoping to use places where they are not able dig. Councilor Campbell asked if they are digging any existing burial areas. Chair Sawyer said they are not. He said there is a planned second phase where they are looking at areas for new graves. He said there is an area where they can get 900 new graves, which he said is a significant number. Councilor Demers said he appreciates the Cemetery Commission's outside the box thinking. He said he will support the transfer. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said the Cemetery Commission does an awesome job. She said she will support the transfer 100 percent. Chair Sawyer said Cemetery Dept. Administrative Asst. Claire Murphy has done some significant research. He said she has spoken to a couple of vendors. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Mercer-Bruen that the order "ought to pass;" approved, 5-0.

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MOTION made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Ferullo to adjourn; all in favor, 5-0. Chair Viola adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees