

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022, at 6:05 p.m.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Voting Members present: Chair Darlene Mercer-Bruen, Councilor Joseph Demers, Councilor Robert Ferullo, and Councilor Charles Viola. Absent: Councilor Joanne Campbell
Non-voting members present: Councilor Richard Gately, Councilor Jeffrey Dillon, Councilor Lou DiMambro, and President Michael Concannon

Also present: Mayor Scott Galvin and Fire Chief Donald Kenton

* * * * *

MOTION made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Ferullo to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the meeting of March 7, 2022, and to approve; all in favor, 4-0.

* * * * *

Communication and order to transfer \$285,000.00 from Unreserved Fund Balance Account to Engineering/New Boston Street Account: Mayor Galvin said this is the final bill for the design work for the New Boston Street bridge. He said there were changes requested by EPA and the utilities that amounted to a substantial amount of work. He said this will also be the final payment for the construction manager. Motion made by Councilor Ferullo and seconded by Councilor Viola that the order “ought to pass;” approved, 4-0.

Communication and order to transfer \$1,700,000.00 from Water/Sewer Enterprise Unreserved Fund Balance Acct to Commercial Meters Account: Mayor Galvin said the water meters that were installed in 2008 have a 15-year life expectancy. He said the longer the city goes without replacing the meters, the more revenue the city will lose. He said the city’s water system consultant, Weston & Sampson, has recommended replacement of the meters. He said commercial customers will be charged over a 5-year period. Chairman Mercer-Bruen asked how long it will take to change the meters. Mayor Galvin said it will take two years to replace the approximately 1,000 commercial meters in the city. He said the cost of the project is \$1.7 million. Councilor Demers asked if the payments were spread across five years when the meters were installed in 2008. Mayor Galvin answered affirmatively. Councilor Gately asked if the same company is doing the installation. Mayor Galvin said the contract for installation will be put out to bid. He said Weston & Sampson will prepare the bid. Councilor Gately said the second time meters are installed, it gets easier. He said he is in favor of the order. President Concannon asked if \$1.7 million will cover the cost of replacing all commercial meters. Mayor Galvin said the \$1.7 million outlay will cover the cost of the meters, MIUs, software and Weston & Sampson’s services. President Concannon asked if there will be a need for more money later. Mayor Galvin said there will not. President Concannon asked if businesses paid for the meters in 2008. Mayor Galvin answered affirmatively. He said he is asking that the ordinance revert to what it was in 2008. President Concannon asked what the cost of the installation will be. Mayor

Galvin said the cost will depend upon the size. President Concannon asked if small mom and pop stores will pay less. Mayor Galvin said smaller businesses will require much smaller meters. President Concannon said a sliding scale makes sense. Mayor Galvin said stretching the payments over five years will make it much more manageable. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said the council has received a letter from Christopher Kisiel, Executive Director of the Woburn Chamber of Commerce, in regard to the commercial water meters. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Ferullo to accept the letter from Executive Director Kisiel and make it part of the permanent record; approved, 4-0. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Viola that the order "ought to pass;" approved, 4-0.

Order to transfer \$1,054,008.53 from BLS/Ambulance Receipts Account to various Fire Department Accounts: Chairman Mercer-Bruen said this is ordinarily a routine transfer, but she asked Chief Kenton to attend the meeting for the benefit of the newer councilors. Chief Kenton said in the past this type of appropriation has been done incrementally, but this year it was decided to transfer money from the ambulance receipts account to various fire department accounts, but it was decided to request only one transfer this year. He said he wanted to show ambulance salaries are paid for with ambulance receipts. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Ferullo that the order "ought to pass;" approved, 4-0.

* * * * *

MOTION made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Ferullo to adjourn; approved, 4-0. Chairman Mercer-Bruen adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees