

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2022, at 6 p.m.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WOBURN CITY HALL**

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

Also present: Mayor Scott Galvin

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MOTION made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Campbell to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the meeting of June 27, 2022, and to approve; all in favor, 4-0.

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Communication regarding 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan (FY 2023-FY 2027): Mayor Galvin said he submitted a document to the City Council breaking down the 5-year capital improvement plan by sources of funding and departments. He said the total outlay is slightly more than \$89 million, with a good portion of that covered by grant funding. He said the grant funding amounts to about \$33 million. Mayor Galvin said the stormwater utility funding will be in front of the City Council sometime in the fall. He said that is there as a place holder. He said past practice is to buy a new ambulance every other year. He said the ambulance reserve account has been doing well. He said the rates were tweaked and that is helping the solvency of the account. He said the state legislature and in particular Rep. Haggerty have been instrumental in obtaining \$125,000 for improvements to Ferullo Field and \$125,000 for improvements to the pocket park on Main Street next to Gene’s Chinese Flatbread Café. He said he is hoping for more grant funding from the state. He said he thinks most members of the council are familiar with pay-as-you-go. He said vehicles and fire engines are paid for through the stabilization fund. He said the School Dept. has \$200,000 in a revolving fund to support the installation of new turf and practice fields. He said the School Dept. is going to ask the city for money. He said there is slightly more than \$2 million in ARPA funds. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said Leland Park is slotted in the pay-as-you-go category. She said there are some concerns about the aging equipment. She asked where in the 5-year plan the funding is to replace the playground equipment. Mayor Galvin said there is \$250,000 allocated in FY ’25 to replace the playground equipment. He said the city still has a design for a spray park. He said the city may want to include that. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said she is concerned about the equipment. She said some of the equipment is antiquated. She said she is very appreciative to see financing here. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Viola to suspend the rules to allow any member of the council not on the committee to address the communication; approved, 4-0. President Concannon asked if anything else didn’t make the cut. Mayor Galvin said he thinks the list is pretty thorough. He said something could come along unexpectedly, but as of right now all the big issues are covered. President Concannon asked if half of the \$4 million pay-as-you-go

items are covered by ARPA. Mayor Galvin responded affirmatively. Councilor Gately said the capital improvements plan pretty well touches base with everything. He said there was a problem with the water that came along unexpectedly that is being addressed. Mayor Galvin said the city has been testing the water for 2.5 years. He said the PFAS levels have been well under DEP limits for the past six months. He said he encourages people to stay on top of it via the city’s website. Councilor Gately said he does not think the problem is going away. Mayor Galvin said a decision was made to put carbon filters in. He said the filters need to be changed pretty frequently. He said there is going to be an annual cost. He said there are six filters and two are changed at a time. Councilor Gately said there appears to be plenty of money for cleaning and lining water pipes. He asked when the demolition of the Hurd School will occur. Mayor Galvin said the Hurd is scheduled to come down next year. Councilor Viola said the documents provided by the mayor are very in-depth and there is a lot of information. He asked if the city plans on putting money toward the media in the filtration system. Mayor Galvin said the media will be changed. He said that is part of the overall \$18 million expenditure. He said two wells will be rebuilt. He said one well has to be moved, and one of the older wells needs to be replaced. Councilor Viola asked if there are any plans to update Gillis Field at the Reeves School. Mayor Galvin said there can be a discussion about that. He said Gillis Field is very under-utilized. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Viola that the order to transfer \$4,196,640 from the stabilization fund to various capital accounts “ought to pass;” approved, 4-0.

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Capital Budget FY 2023: See preceding item.

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Order to transfer \$218,775.12 from Mayor Salary Adjustment Acct to Various Accounts Department Salaries: Mayor Galvin said the money will be used to pay contractually negotiated salary increases for union employees. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Viola that the order “ought to pass;” approved, 4-0.

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Order to transfer \$20,000 from Traffic Safety & Infrastructure to ACCT# 360058-588405 4 Presidential Way: Mayor Galvin said the money will be used for a design study. He said the guardrails on Presidential Way get struck on almost a daily basis and they are looking at designs to make the road more navigable for trucks. He said any proposals will be brought to the City Council. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said the money is coming from a Ward 5 infrastructure account. She said she does not see a transfer for a special light at Washington Circle. Mayor Galvin said that transfer will be submitted on Thursday. 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 Campbell to adjourn; approved, 4-0. Chairman Mercer-Bruen adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 6:25 p.m. Councilor Demers said he is clarifying his motion on item #2 on the agenda, which is a communication regarding the 5-year capital plan, which he said should be received and placed on file, and the “ought to pass” vote is in regard to #3 on the agenda, which is a \$4,196,640 transfer for the capital projects in FY '23. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Viola to adjourn; approved, 4-0. Chairman Mercer-Bruen adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees