

**CITY OF WOBURN
CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2024, at 6:06 p.m.
COMMITTEE ROOM
WOBURN CITY HALL**

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

Non-Voting Members present: President Jeffrey Dillon, Councilor Robert Toro, Councilor William Pappalardo and Councilor Lou DiMambro. Absent: Councilor Darlene Mercer-Bruen

Also present: Mayor Michael Concannon, City Auditor Charles Doherty, Veterans Affairs Agent Robert Davis

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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 May 14, 2024; all in favor, 5-0.

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Order that the sum of \$219,589.15 be transferred from Drug Task Salary 0112251-518904, Auditor Salary 0113451-511000, and Mayor Salary Adj 0112151-511019 to City Council 0111151-511000, Mayor Salary 0112151-511000, Purchasing Salary 0113651-515400, Assessor Salary 0113751-511000, City Solicitor 0115151-511000, IT Salary 0115451-511000, City Clerk Salary 0116151-511000, Election Salary 0116251-511000, Election Workers 0116251-512005, Library Salary 0161051-511000, Library Overtime 0161051-513100, and SLBB/Library 0161051-515400: Mayor Concannon said this is a typical end-of-the-fiscal-year transfer to balance some accounts. Councilor Demers asked if there is money involved that the city received from the drug task force. Auditor Doherty said all of these are general fund line items. He said there was an unexpectedly high amount of sick leave buy back and out-of-grade pay. He said there are also raises due to a renegotiated contract in the Information Technology Dept. He said the money comes from several sources. He said there is an open position in the Auditor’s department. He said there is a 75/25 split on the drug task force position that was funded by an opioid settlement. Mayor Concannon said the source of funding for the drug task force is still there. He said there is going to be more activity in that office. Motion made by Councilor Mercer-Bruen and seconded by Councilor Campbell that the order “ought to pass;” approved, 5-0.

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Order that the sum of \$50,000.00 be transferred from Workers Comp Acct# 0198051-517100 to Veterans Cash Aid Acct# 0154357-577000: Auditor Doherty said a portion of veterans cash aid is reimbursed by the state. He said this transfer should cover the remainder of

the fiscal year. Motion made by Councilor Mercer-Bruen and seconded by Councilor Campbell that the order “ought to pass;” approved, 5-0.

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Order that the sum of \$48,500.00 be transferred from Draper Street Sewer I & I Acct# 360058-588082, Draper Street T2 Signal Control Acct# 360058-588083, Dunkin Donuts – 75 Main Street Traffic Acct# 360058-588275, 307 Main Street Acct# 360058-588276, 29 Draper Street Acct# 360058-588295, LCS Development LLC Acct# 360058-588433 to Green & Nashua Street Project TEC Engineering Company Acct# 0112158-589384: Mayor Concannon said the transfer will cover the costs to begin a traffic study of the intersection of Green, Nashua and Holton streets. Councilor Pappalardo said that area is among the top 5 percent of crashes in metropolitan Boston. He said available funds have been identified. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said she applauds everyone for moving forward with this. She said she thought the city was going to look at that intersection and get three or four ideas to improve that entire area. Mayor Concannon said the order was brought forward after a series of conversations. He said everyone is working toward the same goal. He said this is the amount of money that will yield the minimum amount of data to move forward at the state level. Councilor Pappalardo said meetings have been held with consulting agencies. He said it was made clear there needs to be a short-term solution. Councilor Mercer-Bruen asked Councilor Pappalardo if he is comfortable with the order. Councilor Pappalardo answered affirmatively. Councilor Demers said the key piece to the puzzle is the road safety audit. Mayor Concannon said the goal is to get this project placed on the Transportation Improvement Program. He said hopefully the next step will yield some type of short-term solution. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Mercer-Bruen that the order “ought to pass;” approved, 5-0.

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Order that the sum of \$110,000.00 be transferred from Cemetery Interest Fund to various Cemetery Accounts for FY2025: Mayor Concannon said this the Cemetery Dept.’s annual transfer that allows it to fund operations. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Mercer-Bruen that the order “ought to pass;” approved, 5-0.

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Order authorizing Mayor to accept donation from South End Italian Club in the sum of \$130,086.00 for the Veterans Donation Fund: Director Davis said the South End Italian Club (SEIC) has been collaborating with the Office of Veterans Affairs since October 2023 with regard to this donation. The SEIC ceased operations at the end of December and the building was sold. He said the proceeds of the sale were supposed to be disbursed to founding members but there are no founding members left. He said SEIC reached out to a number of charities. He said SEIC eventually wrote out a check to Veterans Services. He said this money will be used to take care of monuments and cash aid for veterans who do not qualify under the state guidelines. He said there are a lot of veterans who are a tad under the cash aid minimum and this money will

help a lot. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Mercer-Bruen that the order “ought to pass;” approved, 5-0.

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Order that the sum of \$100,000.00 be transferred from Stabilization Sped Acct #704259-59610 to Sped Out of District Acct #0222504-532500: Chair Viola said there is one more order that can be considered under the “any other matter legally before the committee” proviso on the agenda. Mayor Concannon said the council set aside \$1.8 million for unforeseen special education expenditures and this will cover some of the out-of-district costs. Auditor Doherty said this order goes hand-in-hand with the stabilization account. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said the council took the stabilization fund off the School Dept.’s books and put it on the city side of the budget. She said this gives the city quite a bit of oversight. Auditor Doherty said it has been beneficial to the city to have this account on the city side of the budget. Motion made by Councilor Mercer-Bruen and seconded by Councilor Campbell 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 6:17 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees