

MINUTES FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 16, 2021 AT 5:30PM  
VIA ZOOM

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MAR - 3 2021

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM by the Chair. In attendance were Committee members, Figy, Matthews-Kane, and Sullivan. Also in attendance were Councilors Burns, Bean, Mello, and Onyski. City employees included Treasure Matthew Barnes, DPW Fran Cain, Purchaser Tammy Teft, Auditor Moro, Community Development Director P.J. Miller, Engineering Department Cresotti and Jeremy Cigal, City Planner Jay Vinski, and Superintendent Czaporowski. Also in attendance was Dan Pallotta, P3, Ken Roy, and Kathleen Hillman.

No one took advantage of Public participation.

Councilor Matthews-Kane made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2-2-21 Finance Committee meeting. Councilor Sullivan seconded the motion. There were no changes or additions. The motion passed 3-0 with Councilors Figy, Matthews-Kane, and Sullivan voting yes.

At this point Councilor Sullivan exited the meeting citing conflicts with the next two items on the agenda. His wife is the listing agent for one of the properties the School Department is requesting to purchase. His brother is employed by the Boys and Girls Club.

An appropriation of \$628,458.00 from Free Cash to the School Department, Purchases of Land and Building/Capitol account. Councilor Matthews-Kane made a motion to approve the item and Chair Figy seconded the motion.

The request is to purchase 129 and 131 Franklin Street. The houses would be demolished to make room for the proposed addition/ building of a school. This land would allow for bus and community traffic to enter and exit onto Franklin Street a main Highway instead of using Franklin Ave, a small residential street. Dan Pallotta, Manager for P3 showed a slide depicting the purchase sites and explained the importance of the acquisition of these two properties. Superintendent gave an overview of the project and stated that this would allow for the possibility of a single-story building which would be less expensive. The motion passed 2-0 with Councilors Figy and Matthews-Kane voting yes.

Acting Director Cain explained that this would allow the department to meet expenses as they arise for the remainder of FY 21. This is a inter departmental transfer and does not use general funds.

The motion passed 3-0 with Councilors Figy, Matthews-Kane, and Sullivan voting yes.

An appropriation of \$ 8,500.00 from the DPW Stormwater Division Undesignated account to the DPW, Stormwater Purchase of Services account. A motion to approve was made by Councilor Sullivan and was seconded by Councilor Matthews-Kane.

Acting Director Cain explained that this request is for services to address issues at the Williams Riding Way Flood Control Pump Station discharge. There is a problem with the 2 discharge pipes with sink holes developing along the way to the discharge point. Sink holes are beginning to appear along the 1200-foot discharge line. The money would be used to use a camera to scope the length of the pipes to determine the extent of the damage.

The motion passed 3-0 with Councilors Figy, Matthews-Kane and Sullivan voting yes.

An appropriation of \$700,00.00 from Free Cash to the DPW Water Division Construction account. A motion to approve was made by Councilor Sullivan for purposes of discussion, and was seconded by Councilor Matthews-Kane.

City Engineer explained that the request was for the underground infrastructure improvements for the Phase 2 Western Avenue Project which will begin this spring. The project will remove the two existing water mains that run along this stretch of road and to replace with a new larger water main. The tie ins would be replacing to the shut off valves as well. Acting Director Cain explained that the funds for this project were cut from the final FY 21 budget and the funds need to be in place before bids go out in April. Auditor Moro explained the due to the tight timelines for the project to go out to bid, Free Cash was felt by the Mayor as the quickest way to get the necessary funds.

Councilor Sullivan expressed great dismay with using Free Cash for this project as the department has an enterprise fund for such purposes. The discussion the turned to the possibility of a bond to fund this project and the Treasure explained the tight timeline. It was felt that if the Mayor could place onto the agenda a late communication for a Bond request for \$700,000.00 that it would be then referred to the Finance and L&O for a joint Committee meeting. If