

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**July 8, 2008**

**Upon Recess of BMA**

Chairman Lopez called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen M. Roy, Gatsas, Sullivan, J. Roy, Osborne, Pinard,  
O'Neil, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Ouellette, Domaingue

Absent: Alderman Smith

Chairman Lopez addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Bond Resolutions:

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Ninety Seven Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$197,225) for the 2009 CIP 411709, SCBA Update & Replacement Project.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$275,000) for the 2009 CIP 411609, Police Portable Radio Replacement Project.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the 2009 CIP 510509, Rockingham Recreational Trail Project.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the 2009 CIP 612309, Neighborhood Revitalization Project.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) for the CIP 710109, Residential 50/50 Sidewalk/Curb Program.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150,000) for the 2009 CIP 711109, Annual Bridge Rehabilitation Program/Design-Biron St. Bridge Project.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Million Two Hundred Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,211,500) for the 2009 CIP 711209, Annual ROW Reconstruction Program.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the 2009 CIP 711509, Sidewalk Discretionary Fund Program.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the 2009 CIP 711609, Storm Drain Infrastructure Project.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the 2009 CIP 711709, Storm Water Utility Study/Design Project.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the 2009 CIP 711809, Street Light Safety & Rehabilitation Project.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the 2009 CIP 712009, Elm Street Mast Arm Replacement Project.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the 2009 CIP 712109, Traffic Signal Reconstruction Project.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2009 CIP 810209, Strategic Planning for Facilities- Police- Fire- Highway Project.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000) for the 2009 CIP 810309, Motorized & Electronic Equipment Replacement (MEER) Project.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the 2009 CIP 810409, Hallsville School Roof Project.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$2,750,000) for the 2009 CIP 310209, Open Classroom Elimination- HGF Project.”

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman J. Roy, it was voted to read these bond resolutions by title only.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to waive reading of the bond resolutions.

On motion of Alderman O’Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted that these bond resolutions ought to pass and layover.

**Chairman Lopez** addressed item 4 of the agenda:

4. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2009 Community Improvement Program authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) for the FY2009 CIP 611709 Housing Initiatives Program.”

“Amending the FY 2008 Community Improvement Program, authorizing appropriating funds in the amount of Seven Hundred Twenty Nine Dollars (\$729) for FY1008 CIP 210208 Homeless Healthcare Program.”

“Amending the FY2007 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty Four Thousand Four Hundred Two Dollars (\$34,402) for the 2007 CIP 511207 Derryfield CC Rehabilitation Project.”

“Amending the FY 2009 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$5,400) for the FY 2009 CIP 411809 OHRV Wheeled Vehicle Contracts.”

On motion of Alderman O’Neil, duly seconded by Alderman J. Roy, it was voted to waive the reading of the Resolutions.

On motion of Alderman M. Roy, duly seconded by Alderman J. Roy, it was voted that the Resolutions ought to pass and be Enrolled.

Chairman Lopez addressed item 5 of the agenda:

5. CIP Budget Authorizations:

210208	Homeless Healthcare
210909	One to One Mentoring
211009	Building Better Lives Capital Campaign
211109	Inner City After School Program
211209	Homemaker Services
211309	Runaway & Homeless Youth
211409	Child Health Services
211509	Young Heroes
211609	Support to Abused & Neglected Children
211709	Café Lauren (Dinner Program)
211809	Girls Center Program
211909	Family to Family Support- Staff
212009	Center City Disease
212109	Children's Health & Nutrition
212209	Community Oral Health
212309	Indigent Care
212409	Pharmaceutical Program-Coordinator
212509	Pharmaceutical Program- Medications
212609	Family Coach
212709	Bright Start
212809	New Citizen Assimilation Initiatives
212909	Kids Café
213009	VNA Child Care
213109	Youth Opportunities Unlimited
213209	Disaster Services
213309	Firesafe Project
213409	Elder Nutrition Programs
213509	Arboviral Surveillance
213609	Primary Care For The Homeless
310109	Workforce Development
410009	Homeland Security Grant
411409	Defibrillator Replacement
411509	Weed N Seed
411809	OHRV Wheeled Vehicle Contracts
510009	Summer Performance Series
510109	Summer Youth Program
510209	Art Trolley
510309	Operations

510409	Project Greenstreets (CDBG)
510609	Art Initiatives
510709	Off The Streets & Onto The Stage
510809	Youth Recreation Program
510909	Blodgett Park/Playground & Trail Design
511009	Fun In The Sun/Special Sports
511109	Youth Recreation Activities
511207	Derryfield CC Rehabilitation
511209	Annual Park Improvement Program
511309	Hazard Tree Removal
511609	West Side Ice Arena
610009	Spruce Street Transitional Housing Program
610209	Neighborhood Pride
610309	Concentrated Code Enforcement Inspector
611009	Downpayment & Closing Cost Assistance
611309	NHLA Fair Housing Project
611409	Small Business Management
610409	Dilapidated/Blighted Building Remediation Program
610509	Emergency Transitional Housing
610609	Safe Haven Housing Program
610709	Renovations & Structural Repairs
610809	Capital Improvements
610909	Operational Assistance
611109	Neighborhoodworks Homeownership Center
611209	MicroEnterprise Program
611509	Angie's Shelter
611609	Operational Expenses
611709	Housing Initiatives
611809	Neighborhood/Community Planner
611909	Homeless Intervention/Prevention
612009	Tenant Assistance/Security Deposits
612109	Emily's Place Operations
612209	Millyard Maintenance
710109	Residential 50/50 Sidewalk/Curb Program
710409	Municipal Infrastructure
710509	Infrastructure ADA Access Improvements
710609	Annual Bridge Maintenance Program
710809	Chronic Drain
710909	Municipal Deferred Maintenance
711009	School Cash Maintenance Projects
712209	Cohas Brook Phase III Contract 1
712309	Construction of Cohas Brook Phase II
712409	CSO Phase II

712509	Sewer/Pump Station Infrastructure Repair
712609	Hartnett Lot/Resealing & Crack Repair
712709	Myrna Lot/Resealing & Crack Repair
712809	On-Street/Meter Maintenance Vehicle
712909	Parking Division/Maintenance Vehicle
713009	Parking Division/On Call Engineering
713109	Pay & Display Meters
713209	Victory Garage/Concrete Structural Repairs
713309	Victory Garage/Security Upgrade
713409	Victory Garage/Sweeper
713509	Capital Improvement Projects
810109	Community Development Initiatives

**Alderman Gatsas** stated Your Honor, correct me if I'm wrong. Didn't we ask MEDO to come forward with a list of vehicles so that we could review them and put them in some sort of order? Now we're approving things this evening.

Chairman Lopez responded I think Mr. Sanders can help us on that because...

Alderman Gatsas interjected I think it was a directive of the Board.

Mr. Bill Sanders, Finance Officer, stated what was being approved or being proposed for this evening was what was originally passed as part of the budget process and the vehicles that were originally intended to be purchased at that time. Since that time, Mr. Sheppard and the Fire Chief have come forward with other vehicles that they wanted to purchase, so Mr. Sheppard and I are working on a prioritization of the vehicle replacement schedule for the entire City. Our plan was to be ready probably for the August meeting with that information.

Alderman Gatsas stated I understand, but wouldn't it make sense that we would...I mean, I'm looking at something right here that says funding to seal, coat and fill cracks at the Merner parking lot. Not that \$5,000 is a lot of money, but if there are ten of those in here, maybe we're spending our money in a wiser direction on a vehicle. Wouldn't we want to look at every one of these? I'm looking at another one. It is funding to purchase a small vehicle to be utilized by the meter maintenance department, \$7,000. That's a pretty small vehicle. It's almost a Segway. So, why wouldn't we look at these all collectively to see what makes the most sense for the entire City?

Chairman Lopez stated I think the answer has been given. I agree with what you're saying, and I think that process is going to take place.

Alderman Gatsas stated on the next page there is another vehicle for parking enforcement.

Chairman Lopez stated these were all approved by the Board. And the items that you're asking to be moved forward, I think that's going to happen between Kevin Sheppard, the Fire Department and others. You have to remember that these went through the CIP Committee too.

**Alderman Gatsas** stated I understand, but here I'm looking at something again this evening, and I look at the purchase and installation of 120 Pay & Display meters over the next two years for \$500,000. Is that a bonded item or is that a cash item?

Mr. Sanders responded that is a cash item.

Alderman Gatsas asked if that's a cash item and we're \$500,000 short in this department, why would we move this thing forward right now and not hold the money to balance the budget?

Chairman Lopez responded I could probably give you an answer this way. When we started buying those meters, it's called economic development, which has been proven by Jay Minkarah and others before. We took that out of the economic development account. There's no reason in the world why we can't take money out of the economic development account and buy those meters.

Alderman Gatsas stated I don't think that's where this money is coming from. Correct me if I'm wrong.

Chairman Lopez stated it's not coming from there because it hasn't been approved to take the money out. From what I understand, the cash would pay for the meters, and Brandy, correct me if you want to come up here and answer the question. My recommendation in talking to the Finance Officer and Jay Minkarah, I believe we could buy those out of the economic development account. That's what the economic development account is set up to do. Do you agree with that?

Ms. Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, asked using the one-time economic development money to purchase the meters?

Chairman Lopez stated instead of spending \$500,000, cash, that would be revenue coming back to the City.

Ms. Stanley stated that is correct. That's obviously a policy decision that's not for me to make, but the way it is in the budget right now, it comes out of the cash generated by the operation. So if that money came from another source, the \$500,000 would go back to the general fund.

Chairman Lopez stated Mr. Sanders, we can make that decision between now and the time that you go up to the DRA. Is that correct? Do you understand my question?

Mr. Sanders responded I believe that's the case. I would like to consult with the City Solicitor about that because that wasn't part of the original budget as it was prepared.

Alderman Gatsas stated and just so that you know, Mr. Chairman, I made a motion for reconsideration on those rates, seeing that I voted on the non-prevailing side, for the next meeting.

**Alderman Domaingue** asked do you need a second?

**Alderman Gatsas** responded no.

**Alderman O'Neil** stated if I understood Alderman Gatsas right, to make sure we don't run into a revenue shortfall, are there a couple of these projects that we could or should hold off on till we see where we're at?

**Alderman Gatsas** stated and I guess my answer to Alderman O'Neil is that tonight we rush through, increasing rates, based on a shortfall we're worried about. What's going to happen in October? We could settle that problem right this second and not worry about changing the rates until somebody has a better understanding of how we're going to implement it. This right here cuts \$500,000 out of that fund, and we're back to a balanced budget very quickly. We just did it within ten minutes. It's amazing how things fall before us.

Alderman DeVries asked Mr. Chairman, are we speaking to a motion? Do you need a motion on the floor? Can I offer a motion to refer back to committee?

Chairman Lopez stated we have a question for Mr. Sanders about the one-time economic development account, whether or not they can buy these meters. That way the \$500,000 would come back to the City as revenue. What's your answer?

Mr. Sanders responded the answer is that the City Solicitor and I would need to consult a little bit tomorrow and make sure that we've re-read the ordinances that apply here and give you an answer in writing by the end of the week.

**Chairman Lopez** stated that's fine. It's not an emergency.

Alderman Gatsas asked Mr. Chairman, can we pass everything else except the referred vehicles and parking kiosks?

Alderman O'Neil stated I have another one. If we want to be cautious, why not hold the \$150,000 for the security staff until we know where we are?

Alderman Gatsas interjected I agree with you. I don't disagree with you, Alderman.

**Chairman Lopez** asked do you want to identify the numbers you're talking about?

**Alderman Gatsas** stated I think that's a MEDO account also, so anything that's in MEDO we would hold. And if any other Aldermen can identify anything else that...

Alderman Shea asked are we coming in the back way now to get that other situation resolved? I'm not following you at all. I'm sorry.

Alderman Gatsas stated let me try to go a little slower. I'm going to go really slow. I'm going to try.

Alderman Shea stated yes, because you've been talking a long time and some of the things that you've been saying...

Alderman Gatsas interjected I'm going to go very slow, for the benefit of all of us, even myself sometimes.

Chairman Lopez stated let me just jump in. Let's get back to order. Let's identify...you're talking about the CIP budget authorization, and give me the number that you're speaking of.

Alderman Gatsas asked do you want me to start from the beginning?

Chairman Lopez stated yes, the Clerk and the City Solicitor are not...

Alderman Gatsas interjected obviously I'm going to have to start from the beginning, and I really don't want to go that far, because it's anything that has to do with the MEDO account.

Alderman O'Neil stated I have the numbers in front of me. 712609, 712709, 712809, 712909, 713009, 713109, 713209, 713309, and 713409. Those are the MEDO Parking Division projects. He's just suggesting that until we settle this other issue, hold off on them. Table them; do something.

Alderman Gatsas moved that all of the CIP Budget Authorizations be approved except for those MEDO projects listed by Alderman O'Neil, subject to final adoption of related resolutions. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Garrity.

Alderman Gatsas requested a roll call vote.

Aldermen Gatsas, Sullivan, J. Roy, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Ouellette, Domaigne, and M. Roy voted yea. Alderman Smith was absent. The motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Gatsas stated we might be able to resolve that problem.

Alderman M. Roy stated I have a question for the Clerk. The numbers that were just removed from item 5, would they be placed on the table, and do we need a motion to do that?

Alderman Osborne moved to table the CIP Budget Authorizations that were removed from item five. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas stated there would have to be some sort of conjunction with the parking plan that was presented so that we have a very clear understanding of where we are. Obviously we passed the parking plan this evening, or some people voted for a parking plan, because there was a shortfall in revenue. Now maybe that plan can be altered with the adjustments that we have before us, so that we have an understanding that we don't have to do both because we certainly don't want to create a larger surplus than what we need. I made a motion for reconsideration, so maybe we'll have an opportunity to take a look at that parking plan and also the revenues to see where they offset, and maybe that parking plan can be changed if there's enough constituency out there from the businesses that want to weigh in.

Chairman Lopez stated I have a question for the City Solicitor. We voted in favor of the parking plan. Does she have to wait until the reconsideration?

Mr. Tom Clark, City Solicitor, responded I'm looking at it right now.

Chairman Lopez stated I just want to make sure, Brandy, that you understand everything that the Aldermen have spoken of that they want.

Alderman Shea stated just getting back to the CIP budget, now just review for my benefit. Wasn't this approved by the CIP Committee?

Chairman Lopez responded all of these items were approved by the CIP Committee.

**Alderman Shea** stated they were approved by the CIP Committee that Alderman Garrity is in charge of. So now what we're doing is we're scrutinizing this, and what are we going to do? Are we going to bring these back to the CIP Committee first and then present them to the Board, or is it going to come back to the Board? What is the procedure now?

Chairman Lopez responded I think the procedure is going to be, because we passed the ordinance, it's going to come back to the Board with the different questions that have been asked. He said he has a reconsideration vote.

Alderman M. Roy stated and just as a clarification, it doesn't trump the reconsideration; it just keeps these alive in the Finance Committee, not spent but alive and on the agenda.

Chairman Lopez called for a vote on the motion to table the CIP Budget Authorizations that were removed from item five. *There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

## **TABLED ITEM**

### 6. Resolution:

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Forty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$48,000) from Contingency to the Manchester Police Department.”

On motion of Alderman Osborne, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to take this item off the table.

On motion of Alderman M. Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to receive and file this item.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Alderman Gatsas stated I know the Chief has been waiting patiently. I know that he has been working very hard to find money for the Drugs & Guns. I appreciate that he's waiting patiently to move it forward. I would think that this Board would at least...he's looking for \$300,000 from a bunch of different venues. I would think that maybe this Board would at least cover his back, tell him to spend the money within his budget. If he comes short within the budget, at least for the first \$150,000, that we would support it, so that he could come back and tell us. If he's short in the budget we certainly would support making it go forward. I think that obviously getting it moving and getting it into a process, if the money comes in...

Alderman Shea interjected what I think is that the Mayor should be made aware of the fact that we are dependent upon whatever financial help and assistance we can receive.

Chairman Lopez stated I think the problem, too, is that the Feds have given the money to the state, or are going to give the money to the state. We're talking Drugs & Guns that we are funding. And we're also funding...there was an article in the paper saying it was federally funded for Weed 'n Seed. We're funding that out of the City. It's no longer funded federally, so we picked up the cost of Weed 'n Seed. We have the cost for Drugs & Guns, and the state has got to give us some of that money for Operation Streetsweeper. I think that you, Chief, and the Mayor are working on that, supposedly.

Alderman Gatsas moved to approve up to \$150,000 in expenses for Drugs & Guns with the expectation that the Chief will come back during the year if more funding is needed. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil.

Chairman Lopez stated I know, I know. Let the Chief answer that. I think it's very important what Alderman Shea brings up because I think we want to know...and I know everybody is going to go and vote for this, but we have to also remember we got the Chief's back when he was hit hard, those 225 police officers and he only has 51 weeks of pay in order to do that. So let's keep that in mind too.

Mr. David Mara, Police Chief, stated what happened is that money is going to go to the state police when they get it. The Mayor and myself went up to the Commissioner's office and we spoke to him and the Colonel. They're not yet sure when they're going to get their money. We requested that we get a portion of it. How much we're going to get, we don't know yet. We are keeping in close contact with the state police. We are staying on top of that. But in the meantime, our money ran out July 1<sup>st</sup> for Drugs & Guns, and we are requesting that we get more.

Alderman O'Neil stated based on...if I recall...Chief, you can confirm this, it's expected that the state is going to get less money than in the past, so the assumption is that we're going to get less money than we have previously. I'm optimistic, through the Mayor's effort and the Chief's effort, we are going to see some funds from the state police. But I think some of this obligation for Drugs & Guns is going to fall to us on the City side. As the Chief said, as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, there was no money to proceed. I think in the motion Alderman Gatsas made we're saying to proceed and we will cover your back at the end of the year in the operating budget, and whatever monies we do get in from the state police helps the cause. I think it's a good move and it allows the Chief to continue the program.

Alderman Gatsas stated I don't know if I'm giving them all that latitude! I'm saying maybe \$150,000 and he can come back and see us if he's short.

Chairman Lopez stated I think we all have to remember though that whatever he needs, we're going to give it to him. We have to find it within the budget that we approved.

Alderman O'Neil stated okay, but unfortunately, he can't turn the switch on and off on Drugs & Guns. He's got to keep it going to keep it effective. I think this is a proper action by the Board.

Chairman Lopez asked and how much money are we allocating?

Alderman O'Neil responded I think Alderman Gatsas' motion was up to \$150,000. That will at least allow the program to continue for the next six months or so, and then we can re-evaluate where we are with the state funding.

Chairman Lopez called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Shea stated I just want to commend the Chief for attending a Neighborhood Watch meeting that we had over at the Somerville Engine Seven. He did a great job. My constituents and myself, as well as my wife, appreciate your efforts. Thanks.

On motion of Alderman M. Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee

