

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

August 5, 2008

Upon Recess of BMA

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll. There were twelve Aldermen present.

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

Absent: Aldermen Devries and Garrity

3. Resolutions:

“Rescinding authorization on unissued Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases for a Environmental Protection Division- CIP Project that is no longer required.”

“Amending the FY2009 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Hundred Sixty Five thousand Dollars (565,000) for the FY2009 CIP 612409 788 Elm Street Redevelopment Project.”

“Amending the FY2006 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Six Million Dollars (\$6,000,000) for the FY2006 CIP 710306 Residential Sound Insulation Program.”

“Amending the FY2009 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Fifty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Sixteen Dollars and Thirty one Cents (\$58,516.31) for the FY2009 CIP 510907 Parks Improvement Project.”

“Amending the FY 2009 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Forty Four Thousand Eight hundred Twenty Four Dollars (\$44,824) for the FY2009 CIP 213709 Cities Readiness Initiative- Phase IV Program.”

On motion of Alderman M. Roy, duly seconded by Alderman J. Roy, it was voted to read the Resolutions by title only and it was so done.

On motion of Alderman Osborne, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted that the Resolutions pass and be Enrolled.

4. CIP Budget Authorizations:

210409	Public Health Awareness
210509	Refugee Translation Services
213709	Cities Readiness Initiative – Phase IV
310209	Open Classroom Elimination –HGF
410109	Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws
411304	Facility/Equipment Improvements
411609	Police Portable Radio Replacement
411709	SCBA Update & Replacement
510509	Rockingham Recreational Trail
510907	Parks Improvement Project
612309	Neighborhood Revitalization
612409	788 Elm St. Redevelopment Project
710109	Residential 50/50 Sidewalk/Curb Program
710306	Residential Sound Insulation Program
711109	Annual Bridge Rehabilitation Program/ Design Biron St. Bridge
711209	Annual ROW Reconstruction Program
711509	Sidewalk Discretionary Fund
711609	Strom Drain Infrastructure
711709	Strom Water Utility Study/ Design
711809	Highway Department
712009	Elm Street Mast Arm Replacement
712109	Traffic Signal Reconstruction
810209	Strategic Planning for Facilities-Police –Fire-Highway
810309	Motorized & Electronic Equipment Replacement (MEER)
810409	Hallsville School Roof

Alderman Gatsas asked are these the same items that were listed with amounts next to them or are these different, these CIP budget authorizations?

Deputy City Clerk Matt Normand answered no, these are all start-ups.

Alderman Gatsas asked is there a reason why we don't have an amount next to them?

Ms. Pam Goucher, Interim Planning Director, answered the amount is included on the actual documents attached to the agenda.

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted that the CIP Budget Authorizations be approved subject to final adoption of related resolutions.

TABLED ITEM

5. CIP Budget Authorizations:

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

(Tabled 7/8/08)

On motion of Alderman Lopez, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to remove item 5 from the table.

Alderman Lopez stated let me refer to the memo that the Parking Manager provided us tonight in reference to those items that were of concern by some Aldermen. I would recommend that we allow her to do these projects as so indicated in the memo. We have to start doing some maintenance and fixing of some of the parking lots that she is responsible for. You can bet if something happens it is going to cost us more than a few dollars.

Alderman Lopez moved to approve the CIP Budget Authorizations subject to final adoption of related resolutions. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Alderman O'Neil stated I think the only reason we held it up was in case the changes didn't go through. Now that the changes have gone through...I believe that was the only reason we held it up.

Alderman Gatsas stated I am looking at engineering required in the event of an emergency during the next two year period for \$15,000. Can somebody explain that to me?

Ms. Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, responded typically every year and this predates my coming to the City, but there has been \$15,000 in contingency engineering funds budgeted in our CIP. Since I have been here those funds have not been used and at the end of the last fiscal year they were returned to the general fund. Basically this is in case of some type of emergency, structural failure, or some type of issue that we need to have engineering services for.

Alderman O'Neil asked Brandy, might it be better titled for on-call instead of emergency?

Ms. Stanley answered I believe it is in the CIP as...it probably would be better titled as Emergency. I think it used to be.

Alderman O'Neil stated I remember at one point there was some damage done to the seal coating and stuff like that and they had to get called in. If we find a crack or something they have to get called in. It is really an on-call contract as needed.

Alderman Gatsas stated my next question is about the vehicles. What vehicle can you buy for \$7,000?

Ms. Stanley replied we actually already sent out an RFP and the bid that won is a fully electric vehicle. The base price on the vehicle is about \$6,595 or something like that. It is a very small vehicle and very fuel efficient. It plugs into a regular outlet and that is what the base cost of the vehicle is.

Alderman Gatsas asked so you think with the increase of electric rates it is less expensive to use that vehicle?

Ms. Stanley answered yes.

Alderman Gatsas asked it is? Do you know that the rates in New Hampshire are the fourth highest in the country?

Ms. Stanley answered I did know that.

Alderman Gatsas asked you did know that, and you still think that the electric rate is cheaper to run this vehicle?

Ms. Stanley replied if you would like me to I could do some research on how much energy it takes to charge it and how many miles we expect to drive it and give you a cost analysis but the fuel prices are pretty high.

Mayor Guinta called for a vote on the motion to approve the CIP budget authorizations subject to final adoption of related resolutions. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Lopez stated before we adjourn I do have one item of business. This will solve the problem of the revenue aspect. Right now the \$500,000 is coming out of her Enterprise money and we all received a letter from the Finance Officer indicating that it is appropriate and legal for us to take \$500,000 out of Economic Development funds to buy these Pay & Display meters. That way we will retain the revenue going into our FY09 budget.

Alderman Lopez moved to take \$500,000 out of the Economic Development account to buy the Pay & Display meters. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas asked are you not sure that this master parking plan that we all voted for to increase rates isn't going to bring forward the \$500,000 as we were told a couple of weeks ago? That is what it was for.

Alderman Lopez stated Brandy, you'd better get back up here because that isn't the way I understood it. The revenue won't come in if we don't buy them and she has to use her money and she explained that in a letter at the beginning of the budget.

Ms. Stanley stated I am not really sure I understand the question.

Alderman Gatsas responded the question was that the purchase of those kiosks was coming out of your Enterprise fund based on the assumption that the parking plan that was coming forward was going to generate \$500,000 additional in the fund. Isn't that where this whole thing was going?

Ms. Stanley replied as it was originally budgeted, there were offsetting revenues of about \$500,000 for this. However, it is not going into effect until October 1st and the downtown parking plan is not going to generate as much revenue as was originally budgeted back in January.

Alderman Gatsas asked budgeted when?

Ms. Stanley answered when I did my initial budget in January, some of the elements of the plan were different and have since changed, thus reducing the amount of revenue it generates.

Alderman Gatsas asked how much has it reduced it by?

Ms. Stanley responded approximately \$150,000.

Alderman Gatsas asked so all you need is \$150,000 out of that account?

Alderman Lopez stated I am trying to find your memo here Brandy in reference to...

Alderman Gatsas interjected the budget one? That stated that it was \$508,000 of revenue.

Alderman Lopez stated I am looking for the exact number. Brandy, if we give you this \$500,000 from the Economic Development account, what revenue are we projecting for the City?

Ms. Stanley responded if the \$500,000 comes out of the one-time Economic Development Fund and the plan goes into effect on October 1st, which is what these numbers are based on and is an achievable goal, what we will be returning to the general fund assuming that all of the revenues continue as they are, would be \$2,348,271, which is actually in excess of the budgeted figure.

Alderman O'Neil stated I have a question for the Finance Director. Bill, is this a prudent way to move?

Mr. William Sanders, Finance Officer, responded yes it is. We have used the one-time development fund in the past for the Pay & Display meters and there are sufficient funds in there.

Alderman Gatsas asked how much money is in there?

Mr. Sanders answered right now there is about \$1.8 million.

Mayor Guinta called for a vote on the motion to take \$500,000 out of the Economic Development account to buy the pay and display meters. The motion carried with Alderman Gatsas being duly recorded in opposition.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee