



APPROVED 2-23-2023

FINANCE MEMBERS

Frank Laflamme, Chairman
Robert J. Zygarowski, Vice Chairman
George Balakier
Gary Labrie
James Tillotson
Jerry Roy
Shane Brooks

MINUTES
February 1, 2023

The following are the minutes of a public hearing held Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 6:30 PM in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

Members Present Laflamme, Zygarowski, Balakier, Labrie, Tillotson (zoom), Brooks (zoom)

Absent Roy

Also Present Dan Garvey (Associate City Solicitor), Councilor Pniak-Costello, , Councilor Krampits, Councilor Dobosz, Marshall Moriarty (City Solicitor), Timothy Reilly (Assistant City Solicitor), Elizabette Batista (DPW Superintendent), John Beaulieu (Assistant DPW Superintendent), Quinn Lonczak (Project Supervisor) (zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM

In compliance with the Open Meeting Law the Chairman asked if anyone in the audience was recording the meeting. Hearing none the meeting continued. The City is recording for future broadcasting.

ITEM #1

ORDERED THAT the Finance Committee meet to discuss financial issues associated with Bluebird Acres Mobile Home Park.

Councilor Dobosz stated that he supported Mayor Kos' decision regarding Blue Bird Acres. He believes that this is one of the best things that the Mayor did was a public private partnership between the City and Blue Bird Acres Mobile Home Park. What happened was the septic failed and the park was put on sewer system and the City paid half for the project. He stated that he filed this

so that the residents would have an opportunity to come in and speak with the Council. He did not have enough time to collaborate with the residents about this meeting.

Councilor Labrie asked if the sewer is fully operational now. Councilor Dobosz replied that it is operational right now. There may be some meter issues still being worked out.

Councilor Balakier asked if there are other issues that have popped up. Councilor Dobosz stated that some of the residential properties near this park were hoping to get connected to the sewer system but that would be an additional cost.

Elizabethte Batista stated that some of the issues that they are having is not with the sewer but the electrical work and locations which is being addressed.

Motion made by Councilor Labrie and second by Councilor Laflamme to place on file.

Roll call:

	Yes	No	Absent	Out of Chair	Abstain
Laflamme	X				
Zygarowski	X				
Balakier	X				
Labrie	X				
Tillotson	X				
Roy			X		
Brooks	X				

Motion passed.

ITEM #2

ORDERED THAT THE SUM OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) BE AND HEREBY IS APPROPRIATED TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED ACCOUNT:

LAW EXPENSE ACCOUNT FOR SPECIAL SERVICES
(ACCT# 11510002-538000)

SAID AMOUNT IS TO BE TAKEN FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE STABILIZATION FUND (ACCT# 83001008-599980)

Councilor Laflamme asked who is currently working in the Law Department and their titles.

Marshall Moriarty replied:

Marshall Moriarty, City Solicitor

Tim Reilly, Assistant City Solicitor

Mark Albano, Associate City Solicitor

Jack St. Clair, Chief of Litigation and Labor Relations

Dan Garvey, Counsel for the Council, Associate City Solicitor

Kevin Corridan, Associate City Solicitor
Chantal Paul, Paralegal
Andrea Joslyn, Paralegal

Councilor Laflamme stated that the Law Department has requested an appropriation for \$100,000 from the Stabilization Fund for Uniroyal and the Neece case. He asked if the \$100,000 was used for any other issues.

Marshall stated that the City has spent over \$83,000 so far on the Neece trial. He continued that \$600 per month is for a retainer for Uniroyal.

Councilor Laflamme stated that the list of problem properties provided includes about 50 properties. He said Chrissy Pikula used to handle the problem properties. Marshall Moriarty stated that it was part of her responsibilities. He continued that in the last few months the Law Department has tried to address the problem properties. He also stated that Attorney Riley has been hired as the Assistant City Solicitor and part of his responsibilities is problem properties. Marshall Moriarty stated that Housing Court is a specialty. When folks began complaining about the problem properties he looked at it and tried to determine what is the best way to address it. He stated that someone internally was needed to handle the cases. He continued that the Law Department is trying to catch up. The courts were not hearing cases for two years during COVID. Attorney Riley does the background work for all the problem property cases.

Councilor Laflamme stated that he was taken a back when he heard that the City has another attorney in the Law Department. Some folks are telling him that the City has too many attorneys. He stated that he does not agree with that statement. He feels that everyone does a good job.

Councilor Balakier stated that in the past a Problem Property Committee met at least once per month and he asked if that committee could be resurrected. He stated that some Councilors attended these meetings regularly.

Attorney Riley stated that the Distressed Property meeting takes place on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 9 AM at the DPW. He also stated that any Councilor could reach out to him with any problem properties that arise in their wards.

Councilor Tillotson stated that the Law Department should specify what the appropriation request is for at the time of the request.

Marshall Moriarty stated that the original request clearly specifies what the appropriation is for.

Councilor Pniak-Costello stated that communication needs to be improved throughout the City. She also asked how the Council could be updated on problem properties.

Councilor Labrie stated that there is a lot of in house work done with problem properties before the Law Department gets involved.

Councilor Laflamme asked that the City Council Office receive a monthly Problem Property update. Marshall Moriarty agreed.

Councilor Krampits and Councilor Dobosz both spoke highly of the old Problem Property Committee meetings and how successful the committee was. Councilor Dobosz stated that business properties should be treated the same way as residential properties. He also mentioned that he would like a meeting with residents and the Law Department regarding William Park.

Motion made by Councilor Zygarowski and second by Councilor Laflamme to approve.

Roll call:

	Yes	No	Absent	Out of Chair	Abstain
Laflamme	X				
Zygarowski	X				
Balakier	X				
Labrie	X				
Tillotson	X (zoom)				
Roy			X		
Brooks	X (zoom)				

Motion passed.

ITEM #3

Minutes – April 13, 2022 and June 30, 2022

Motion made by Councilor Tillotson and second by Councilor Laflamme to approve.

Roll call:

	Yes	No	Absent	Out of Chair	Abstain
Laflamme	X				
Zygarowski	X				
Balakier	X				
Labrie	X				
Tillotson	X (zoom)				
Roy			X		
Brooks	X (zoom)				

Motion passed.

Motion made by Councilor Zygarowski and second by Councilor Laflamme to adjourn at 7:36 PM.

Roll call:

	Yes	No	Absent	Out of Chair	Abstain
Laflamme	X				
Zygarowski	X				
Balakier	X				

Labrie	X				
Tillotson	X (zoom)				
Roy			X		
Brooks	X (zoom)				

Motion passed.