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Minutes from the City Council Mayor's Briefing on Tuesday September 5, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Auditorium are as follows:

Laflamme, Frank N., President	At-Large Councilor	Present
Roy, Gerard (Jerry) A.	At-Large Councilor	Present
Tillotson, James K.	At-Large Councilor	Present via Zoom
Zygarowski, Robert J.	At-Large Councilor	Present arrived @ 6:44
McAuliffe, Joel D.	Ward 1 Councilor	Present via Zoom
Brooks, Shane D.	Ward 2 Councilor	Present
Lopez, Delmarina	Ward 3 Councilor	Present via Zoom, in person @ 6:37
Balakier, George A.	Ward 4 Councilor	Present
Krampits, Fred T.	Ward 5 Councilor	Present
Dobosz, Derek Gregory	Ward 6 Councilor	Present arrived @ 7:05
Courchesne, William C.	Ward 7 Councilor	Present
Labrie, Gary R.	Ward 8 Councilor	Present
Pniak-Costello, Mary Elizabeth	Ward 9 Councilor	Present

MO-1 Mayor's appropriation of Three hundred sixty-five thousand four hundred and 00/100 dollars (\$365,400.00) to the following named MIS accounts:

T.V. Production Director Salary	\$165,400.00
P.T. Chicopee TV Staff Salary	100,000.00
Chicopee TV Facilities/Equipment	<u>100,000.00</u>
Total	\$365,400.00

from available funds in the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation PEG Access Cable Account.

--Mayor stated no questions.

MO-2 Mayor's appropriation of Twenty-five thousand nine hundred sixty-one and 05/100 dollars (\$25,961.05) to the following named account: Human Resources Special Account for Indemnifications of Police & Fire from available funds in the Stabilization Fund.

--Mayor stated no questions.

MO-3 Mayor's appropriation of One hundred forty-six thousand three hundred seventy and 00/100 dollars (\$146,370.00) to the following named account: City Hall Maintenance Special Account for Main Library BAS (HVAC Controller) Replacement from available funds in the Stabilization for Capital Budgeting Account.

--Mayor stated important allows Dave to see what's happening from his office.

MO-4 Mayor's appropriation of One hundred nineteen thousand six hundred forty-two and 00/100 dollars (\$119,642.00) to the following named account: City Hall Maintenance Special Account for Fire Station #8 James Street BAS (HVAC Controller) Replacement from available funds in the Stabilization for Capital Budgeting Account.

--Mayor stated all credit to Dave Rice.

MO-5 Mayor's appropriation of Two hundred forty thousand seven hundred ten and 50/100 dollars (\$240,710.50) to the following named account: Police Special Account for Weaponry Equipment from available funds in the Stabilization for Capital Budgeting Account.

--Chief Major explained all of the differences in the guns. Told the amounts granted. Talked about officer involved shootings, limit the liability with officer involved shootings. Councilor Balakier stated good to get trade in for Glocks. Councilor Roy asked what caliber, answer 9mm Glock 147 grain.

MO-6 Mayor's appropriation of Three hundred ten thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$310,000.00) to the following named account: Fire Special Account for Repaving Apron and Parking Lot at Station #4 from available funds in the Stabilization for Capital Budgeting Account.

--Mayor stated the capital committee has decided to move forward. Chief Stamborski stated accident waiting to happen. DPW is helping and has calculated all costs to take care of this once and for all.

MO-7 Mayor's appropriation of Thirty-eight thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$38,000.00) to the following named account: Fire Special Account for Vehicle Purchase from available funds in the Stabilization for Capital Budgeting Account.

--Mayor stated last crown Victoria in the fleet. Will secure some cars tonight. For fire prevention. Chief Stamborski stated located Ford Bronco's with the help of Al Ryczek, current one on its last leg. Much needed.

MO-8 Mayor's appropriation of Two hundred fifteen thousand four hundred ninety and 00/100 dollars (\$215,490.00) to the following named account: Forestry Special Account for Purchase of a Chipper from available funds in the Stabilization for Capital Budgeting Account.

--Mayor stated trying to do more tree service in house. Recent failure with the current chipper. Respect for the tree warden and team. Liz Batista stated current chippers have seen a lot of recent use. Bigger chipper is needed, won't have to cut up into smaller pieces. Don't have equipment to handle current trees in yard. Diseased trees. Can dispose of at no cost if chipped. Councilor Labrie asked what size? Answer is 20" diameter. Councilor Zygarowski asked do we have enough people to operate this? Liz answered yes, will take less manpower.

MO-9 Mayor's appropriation of One hundred two thousand nine hundred twenty-five and 15/100 dollars (\$102,925.15) to the following named account: D.P.W. Parks Special Account for Purchase of Vehicles from available funds in the Stabilizations for Capital Budgeting Account.

--Liz Batista stated Al Ryczek is the expert. Al stated the dump truck has a twisted rear end. Not safe anymore. Mayor stated the capital committee reviewed and prioritized, brought from 3.5 million to 2 million.

MO-10 Mayor's appropriation of One hundred forty-two thousand five hundred and 00/100 dollars (\$142,500.00) to the following named account: D.P.W. Parks Special Account for Purchase of Equipment from available funds in the Stabilization for Capital Budgeting Account.

--Liz Batista stated backhoe for parks has been very difficult to repair. Parks has borrowed from another department. Mayor stated the backhoe is over 20 years old. New one can get in between and will be able to dig graves. Al Ryczek stated parts are obsolete. Caterpillar will be the new one. Parts will be interchangeable with Water and DPW parts. Will be able to dig graves in a tight area.

MO-11 Mayor's appropriation of Sixty-six thousand one hundred seventy-eight and 40/100 dollars (\$66,178.40) to the following named account: D.P.W. Parks Special Account for Purchase of a Crew Cab Pickup from available funds in the Stabilization for Capital Budgeting Account.

--Mayor stated pickup to be replaced is a 2009 model. Liz Batista stated Frankenstein truck. Al Ryczek stated 2005 or 2006 hodgepodge truck put together. Time for a new truck.

MO-12 Mayor's appropriation of Sixty-six thousand one hundred seventy-eight and 40/100 dollars (\$66,178.40) to the following named account: Flood Control Special Account for Purchase of Vehicles from available funds in the Stabilization for Capital Budgeting Account.

--Mayor stated F350 that has outlived its life. Liz Batista stated been with out a truck with a plow for several years now. Al Ryczek stated 2002, time for a new truck. Cutting the dikes, more economical to put all staff in one vehicle. Councilor Roy asked what do we do with the old trucks? Al stated when there are enough put up for bid, get them sold off for scrap.

MO-13 Mayor's appropriation of Forty-nine thousand seven hundred sixty-five and 00/100 dollars (\$49,765.00) to the following named account: D.P.W. Administration Special Account for Purchase of Vehicles from available funds in the Stabilization for Capital Budgeting Account.

--Mayor stated new F-150 this would be the best fit. Liz Batista stated requested replacement with a pickup truck. Sometimes you have things you don't want to put in an enclosed vehicle. Al Ryczek stated 2009, been through four people. Extensive rot, not road worthy. Councilor Laflamme stated glad to see a pick up truck. Was on a site with John Beaulieu, rot underneath. Miles are too high. Just last so long. Councilor Pniak-Costello stated commendable they've gone so far with these vehicles. Asset to the city. No waste at all. Maintenance run very efficiently. Councilor Labrie asked will be a plow? Liz answered no. Al stated both Fire vehicles are being held at Marcott. Liz stated central maintenance does an excellent job. Mayor commends Al and his team.

MO-14 Ordered that the City Council accept the Planning Department Grant in the amount of One hundred sixteen thousand six hundred and 00/100 dollars (\$116,600.00) from the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Formula Program. Funding from this grant will be utilized to reduce the cost of much needed updates of severely outdated and inefficient lighting in the City Hall Building. Said grant is accepted in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53A.

MO-15 Ordered that the City Council accept the Planning Department Technical Assistant Grant through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program. The City of Chicopee's project has a value of One hundred five thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$105,000.00) and the MBI will provide funds directly to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission on the City's behalf. Said grant is accepted in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53A and 53A ½.

--Mayor stated this is the share for the city to make sure digital accessibility and digital equity.

- MO-16 Ordered that the City Council accept the Planning Department Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness 2.0 Pilot Grant in the amount of Ninety-five thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$95,000.00) from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs. Funding from this grant will accommodate an updated, in-depth assessment of vulnerabilities and pertinent responses to climate change scenarios that will be strategically implemented. Said grant is accepted in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53A.
- Councilor Lopez asked what are we using this for? Mayor stated grant, vulnerable assets. Will be a study. City wide masterplan. Councilor Lopez asked would we have been doing this without the grant? Mayor stated study to see where we stand.
- MO-17 Mayor's appropriation of Ninety-five thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$95,000.00) to the following named account: Planning Department Special Account for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program from available funds in the Stabilization Fund.
- Mayor stated we accepted the grant now we have to fund the grant.
- MO-18 Ordered that the City Council accept the FY'22 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant to the Chicopee Fire Department in the amount of Forty thousand nine hundred seventy-seven and 27/100 dollars (\$40,977.27). Said grant will be used to purchase personal protective equipment including turnout gear, helmets and SCBA equipment and it is accepted in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53A.
- Chief Stamborski stated FEMA grant, outstanding timing. Hired 9 new firefighters.
- MO-19 Mayor's appropriation of Forty thousand nine hundred seventy-seven and 27/100 dollars (\$40,977.27) to the following named account: Fire Special Account for Purchase of Equipment from available funds in the Stabilization Fund.
- Mayor stated funding the grant.
- MO-20 Mayor's appropriation of Ten thousand two hundred and 00/100 dollars (\$10,200.00) to the following named account: Police Special Account for Purchase of Bullet Proof Vests from available funds in the Stabilization Fund.
- Mayor stated new cadets. Chief Major stated city fronts the money, we seek reimbursement. Councilor Lopez asked same process? Last time asked does half go back into the general funds? Councilor Roy asked Kevlar or plates. Chief answered both.
- MO-21 Mayor's appropriation of Six thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$6,000.00) to the following named account: Health Expense Account for Special Services from available funds in the Stabilization Fund.
- Lisa Sanders stated landlord tenant issues/serve the landlord so we fare better in housing court.
- MO-22 Ordered that the City Council accept the Bulletproof Vest Reimbursement Grant in the amount of Ten thousand eight hundred and 00/100 dollars (\$10,800.00) from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security Office of Grants and Research to the Chicopee Police Department. Said grant is accepted in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53A.

--Mayor stated reimbursement.

MO-23 Ordered that the City Council accept the attached named donations in the amount of Three thousand five hundred and 00/100 dollars (\$3,500.00) for the National Night Out Event. Said donations are accepted in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53A.

--Mayor stated couldn't do this without donators.

MO-24 Ordered that the City Council accept the attached in-kind donations with a value of eight hundred sixteen and 00/100 dollars (\$816.00) for the National Night Out Event. Said donations are accepted in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53A ½.

--Mayor stated for t-shirts worn by volunteers.

MO-25 Be it Ordered that the City of Chicopee Golf Commission is hereby authorized to prepare and release a request for proposal for a five (5) year maintenance contract for the City golf course and the City is hereby authorized to enter into said five (5) year maintenance contract with the successful proponent.

--Councilor Balakier asked do we have a projected cost for the project? Mike O'Neill stated will be higher than the last contract.

--Motion made by Councilor Labrie to recess the Mayor's Briefing at 7:15. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

--Motion made by Councilor Lopez to return to the Mayor's Briefing at 7:18. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

MO-26 To the City Council

You are hereby notified that I have this day appointed, Stephen Zajchowski, 23 Caddyshack Drive, Chicopee, MA 01020 as Chief Human Resource Officer, to serve in such office for the term of 3 years beginning on July 1, 2023. To which appointment I ask the confirmation of your honorable council.

*New appointment

--Mayor stated think he's doing a great job. Working on things we need to work on.

MO-27 Be it Ordered that the City Council hereby approves the employment agreement between the City of Chicopee and its Chief Human Resources Officer, Stephen Zajchowski, which is attached to this Order as Exhibit A.

-- Mayor stated Stephen Zajchowski was unanimously voted by the committee. Councilor Pniak-Costello stated is there anyone here that was on the committee? Answer Liz Batista was on the panel Liz stated interviewed three applicants. None had a masters degree. Looked at the years of experience. Very knowledgeable. Councilor Lopez stated looking over the job description requirement was for the person to have a masters degree. Not meeting the education as posted. Master CHRO, was being paid less. Mayor states it is the same salary. Stipend for being the ADA coordinator. Councilor Lopez stated add on after the first year? Never added on formally? Why are we compensating a bachelors CHRO without the

qualifications? Were there applicants that were masters level? Appreciate the commentary, make a requirement, you should have followed through. Salary of someone who did. Liz Batista stated the former CHRO achieved his masters while in office. Auditor didn't give MOA. Mayor stated former CHRO worked from a generalist up to the CHRO. Your choice is to approve that agreement or not. Councilor McAuliffe stated ridiculous grand standing in a Mayoral election year. Resume is exquisite.

MO-28 To the City Council

You are hereby notified that I have this day appointed, Elizabette Batista, 77 Howard Street, Ludlow, MA as DPW Superintendent to serve in such office for the term of 5 years beginning on July 1, 2023. To which appointment I ask the confirmation of your honorable council.

*Re-appointment

MO-29 Be it Ordered that the City Council approve the five year contract beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028, for the Superintendent of Public Works and authorize the Council President to sign the contract.

--Mayor stated hard to get a PE at Liz caliber. Councilor Pniak-Costello stated over 9 years gone through 6 superintendents in other city. Councilor Laflamme stated do this soon. There are other people that are looking for her too. Councilor Courchesne stated on March 18th got a \$2,000 raise now giving a \$12,000 raise that is \$14,000 in four months. Others can't put food on the table. Mayor stated the pay parody study. Want to retain talent. Engineering is down to three employees. Huge demand for engineers. Lot of design work that needs to be done. Projects that need to be done.

MO-30 Ordered that the City Council accept the grant to the Chicopee Council on Aging in the amount of Eighteen thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$18,000.00) from the City of Chicopee Community Development Block Grant. Said grant will be used for an exercise program for seniors and it is accepted in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53A.

--Councilor Laflamme stated block grant.

MO-31 Ordered that the City Council accept the donations in the amount of Five thousand eight hundred ninety-six and 50/100 dollars (\$5,896.50) to the Chicopee Council on Aging for senior meals for the month of July 2023. Said donations are accepted in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53A.

--Councilor Laflamme stated self-explanatory.

Adjournment: --Motion made by Councilor Pniak-Costello to adjourn at 7:37. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

ATTEST:



Keith W. Rattell, City Clerk