



Lowell City Council

Finance SC Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: March 15, 2022
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall / Zoom(Hybrid)

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Scott, C. Gitschier and C. Robinson. Also present C. Drinkwater, M. Chau, Conor Baldwin (CFO), C. Mercier, C. Yem, C. Jenness, C. Nuon, C. Rourke, Terry Ryan (Parking), Allison Chambers (Asst. CFO), Brendan Flynn (ARPA Mgr.) and C. Leahy

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Scott called the meeting to order noting those in attendance and the purpose of meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Scot began discussion regarding parking garages and kiosks and opened matter up to public with no response. Mr. Baldwin commented on report provided to subcommittee entitled "Existing Condition Evaluation Report – George A. Ayotte and Joseph M. Downes Parking Facilities. Mr. Baldwin indicated that a loan order would be proposed to do the repairs needed and outlined the scope of the work. Mr. Ryan further commented on the scope indicating the needs on both garages; which included drains, roof leaks, stairs and flooding issues. Mr. Baldwin outlined the financials on both facilities noting the debt service schedules. Mr. Ryan noted that EV charges will be increased under new loan package. Mr. Ryan commented on use of current kiosks as being outdated and in need of replacement. Mr. Ryan noted new kiosks will provide greater flexibility with pricing and increase revenues. C. Robinson questioned if exterior stairs could be covered up. Mr. Ryan noted not part of scope but some protection could be afforded. C. Robinson questioned if kiosks would have service agreement as well. Mr. Ryan noted software was available and training would be done. Mr. Baldwin provided outline of the Parking Enterprise Fund which would finance the loan order through existing rates, which may have to be raised at later time, if warranted. Mr. Baldwin noted if enterprise fund cannot cover costs then it would be on tax payers. C. Gitschier noted the old debt service and commented that there could be less kiosks due to increases in parking technology; including aps. C. Gitschier noted that any new equipment purchased should be insured. C. Gitschier



noted the need for increased electric vehicle charges as demand may grow. C. Scott commented on available grant money for electric vehicle charging stations. C. Scott noted there needs to be a space plan during rehabbing of the garages. C. Gitschier commented on the ARPA funds being used to cover loss of revenues in parking department. Mr. Baldwin outlined the loss of revenue due to pandemic. C. Jenness noted the degrading condition of the garages and questioned what other garages may need work. Mr. Ryan outlined the condition of other garages noting these two current ones are on top of priority list and that maintaining these facilities is important. C. Jenness commented on the condition in the Roy Garage. **Motion** by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Gitschier to request City Manager have Law Department prepare loan order for upgrading of Ayotte and Downes garages as well as kiosks to go before Council. So voted.

C. Scott introduced ARPA budget preparation item and open to public. The following individuals addressed the subcommittee: Nancy Coan; Amy Pessia; Sidney Liang; Dawn Sauma; Angel Brunelle; Yun-Ju Choi; Levini Furusa; Jonathan Grossman; Pam Andrews; Paul Gaudet; Laura Gilmore. Mr. Baldwin provided a presentation entitled "ARPA Overview" outlining the total amount of assistance; eligible categories; added public input; total spent to date; surveys conducted; and time frames under federal guidelines. Mr. Baldwin noted the next steps include public forums at eight different locations throughout the City outlining the format and structure. Mr. Baldwin introduces Brendan Flynn as the new ARPA budget manager. City Clerk noted correspondence from CTI; GLCF; Chamber of Commerce; Lowell Plan and Lowell Humane Society to be made part of the record.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Continue and Adjourn this portion of meeting by C. Gitschier, seconded by C. Robinson. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
