

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
DECEMBER 10, 2018 AT 6:00 p.m.  
COMMITTEE ROOM  
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Voting Members present: Chairman Michael Concannon, Alderman Michael Anderson, Alderman Lindsay Higgins, and Alderman Edward Tedesco. Absent: Alderman Richard Gately

Non-Voting Members present: Alderman Darlene Mercer-Bruen, Alderman Mark Gaffney, and President Richard Haggerty. Absent: Alderman Joanne Campbell.

Also present: Mayor Scott Galvin, Recreation Director Rory Lindstrom, Police Chief Robert Rufo

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**Order to amend an Order to authorize borrowing in the sum of \$1,300,000 for the construction of playground on former Clapp School site:** Chairman Concannon said there are four items in the agenda, the first of which is a \$1.3 million appropriation for playground equipment at the site of the former Clapp Elementary School. Mayor Galvin said Director Lindstrom is also in attendance to answer questions. He said the city went out to bid for the playground equipment at Fleming Field and there have been meetings with neighbors about the amenities at the playground and a design engineer has been hired. He said a \$1 million bond was initially set aside for the playground equipment that would include a basketball court, a splash park and walkways, and there were four options for the park. He said he was hoping the bids would come in better than they did. He said three of the four options for the playground were determined to be very important. He said first option involves poured-in-place rubber, which is required for handicapped access. He said the bid for that came in at \$1,067,000. He said there are also concrete walkways going up the side of the hill, which he said will add quite a bit of curb appeal. He said the area is going to be transformed into one of the premier parks in the city. Director Lindstrom said the estimated cost of transforming the lot into a playground is about \$1.1 million. Mayor Galvin said the cost is higher than expected because construction prices are coming in high. Alderman Anderson said the lot looks good now that the demolition of the old school is complete. Mayor Galvin said the demolition work has been paid for and the \$1.3 million order is to build the park. He said the demolition came in about \$20,000 under budget. He said the savings is from not hydroseeding the lot and that will be done once the playground is finished. Chairman Concannon asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the committee about the order. Rosa DiTucci, 82 Arlington Road, asked if the plans for the park have changed since the neighborhood meeting. Mayor Galvin replied the plans have not changed since the neighborhood meeting. Ms. DiTucci asked if the basketball court is half-court sized and if there are copies of the plans. Mayor Galvin said the basketball court is a full-size court. Director Lindstrom distributed copies of the plans for the park. Motion made by Alderman Tedesco and seconded by Alderman Higgins to accept a copy of the plan for the playground at Fleming Field and make it part of the permanent record; approved, 4-0. Alderman Mercer-Bruen asked if anyone will be able to use the splash park or if the Recreation Dept. will issue wristbands. Director Lindstrom said the splash park is not an extreme splash park and no wristbands will be required. President Haggerty said he thinks the plan for the park looks great. He said he knows

there is a lot of money involved but this is what things cost today. He said he thinks the city should do the park right. He said he does not want to see the city nickel-and-dime this park. Peter Gavin, 23 Nashua Street, said his mother still lives in the area of the Clapp School site and he thinks the park will be a great addition to the city. Motion made by Alderman Anderson and seconded by Alderman Higgins that the order “ought to pass,” approved, 4-0. Mayor Galvin said the vote to approve the order has to be done by roll call.

**Order for appropriation of \$45,000 for hiring of an IT Operations Specialist:** Mayor Galvin said the money will go toward hiring another person for the Information Technology Dept., which he said continues to grow. He said the appropriation will pay for \$35,000 in salary with the rest for benefits over a 6-month period for the remainder of the fiscal year. Alderman Tedesco said he was in favor of this in June. Chairman Concannon said it is 2018 and it is probably time to focus on enhancing the technology department. Alderman Anderson asked if the position will be included in the union. Mayor Galvin replied it will be a union position. He said Information Technology Director David Mastronardi will make the appointment, subject to confirmation by the City Council. He said department heads generally pick their own staff. Alderman Higgins said Director Mastronardi does a great job, but he definitely needs some help. Chairman Concannon asked about the status of a companion order currently in the Ordinances, Charter & Rules Committee amending the Municipal Code to create the new position. Mayor Galvin said the procedure to approve the appropriation should come first and then the council can approve the order to amend the Municipal Code. President Haggerty said he will definitely support the appropriation. He said the IT Dept. will definitely grow over time. He said his preference is to maintain a city-wide Information Technology Dept. rather than having departments with their own little fiefdoms. Motion made by Alderman Tedesco and seconded by Alderman Higgins that the appropriation “ought to pass;” approved, 4-0.

**Order for appropriation of \$180,000 for Police Department Reserve and new hire training:** Chairman Concannon recused himself and left the Committee Room. Alderman Tedesco assumed the chair on a pro tem basis. President Haggerty congratulated Chief Rufo on his promotion. Chief Rufo offered to the committee a 1-page handout breaking down the appropriation into line items. Motion made by Alderman Anderson and seconded by Alderman Higgins to receive and make part of the permanent record a document from Chief Rufo entitled “Option One – Five Officers to Fulltime Academy in January;” approved, 3-0. Chief Rufo said the department is in the process of hiring 12 new officers and that there is a need to replenish the reserves list. He said there are five officers who will attend the MBTA Academy in January and seven officers who will attend the reserves academy. Alderman Higgins asked when the seven reserves will be attending the academy. Chief Rufo said the academy for reserves starts in January and if they are not enrolled then they will not be able to enter the academy again until September. Alderman Andersons asked if there are five full-timers and seven reserves being hired. Chief Rufo said five reserves will replace retiring officers. Alderman Mercer-Bruen asked if any officers are being added to the traffic division. Chief Rufo said there is no one leaving the traffic division and he is not anticipating expanding the traffic division at this time. President Haggerty asked how many retirees there are. Chief Rufo said a captain, a lieutenant, a sergeant and three patrolmen are retiring. Mayor Galvin said the number of retirees is in flux because some really good veteran police officers have decided to remain on board now that Chief Rufo

has been promoted. Motion made by Alderman Anderson and seconded by Alderman Higgins that the appropriation “ought to pass;” approved, 3-0.

**Order for appropriation of \$45,000 for hiring of Library Facilities/Tech Manager:**

Chairman Concannon returned to the Committee Room and assumed the chair. Mayor Galvin said this will also be a union position. He said there is some importance to bringing someone to assist with technical support at the library. He said the new hire will wear many hats, and this position’s job description is modeled after a similar position at the high school. He said he does not want the committee to assume this position is just a tech director because the hire will also have to get into the trenches and perform some facilities work. He said the library is expanding significantly. Alderman Higgins asked if some of the new facilities at the library are going to be automated. Mayor Galvin said the new facilities at the library will be under warranty for a year but it is still a good idea to bring someone on board who is capable of doing a lot of troubleshooting. Mayor Galvin said the hire will have to be fluent in computers. Alderman Mercer-Bruen asked if the city is hiring someone who will have technical expertise as well as pick up trash. Mayor Galvin said the hire will be more of a manager on the facilities end. He said \$35,000 will pay for six months of salary plus benefits for the remainder of the fiscal year. Chairman Concannon said he can support the appropriation. Alderman Tedesco said he was opposed to hiring new staff in June but he can support this tonight. Motion made by Alderman Anderson and seconded by Alderman Higgins that the appropriation “ought to pass,” approved, 4-0.

**Motion made by Alderman Anderson and seconded by Alderman Higgins to adjourn;** approved, 5-0. Chairman Concannon adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gordon Vincent  
Clerk of Committees