

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
AUGUST 28, 2017 AT 7:10 PM
COMMITTEE ROOM
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Voting Members:

Attending: Chair Michael Concannon, Alderman Michael Anderson,
Alderman Richard Gately, Alderman Lindsay Higgins,
Alderman Edward Tedesco
Absent: None

Non-Voting Members:

Attending: Alderman Joanne Campbell, Alderman Mark Gaffney, Alderman Darlene Mercer-
Bruen,
President Richard Haggerty
Absent: None

On the order to appropriate \$1.1 million from the Stabilization Fund to the Montvale Avenue Infrastructure Account; and the order to appropriate \$255,243.40 from various mitigation accounts to the Montvale Avenue Infrastructure Account; motion made by Alderman Tedesco and seconded by Alderman Higgins to take the orders collectively; all in favor, 5-0. Mayor Scott Galvin requested leave of withdrawal of the two orders, due to subsequent filings. Alderman Tedesco made a motion seconded by Alderman Higgins to recommend leave of withdraw of both orders, all in favor, 5-0.

On the Memorandum from Mayor Scott Galvin regarding the city of Woburn's Financial Policies & Objectives: Mayor Galvin said the version of the memo submitted to the council was slightly adjusted by the City Auditor and bond counsel from the Collins Center for Public Management. Mayor Galvin noted the city maintains aggressive goals for reserve cash levels, which he said allows the city to maintain a strong bond rating, the second-highest available. Mayor Galvin said the city's finances are being monitored by a strong financial team. City Treasurer/Collector Timothy Donovan said it will be good for his office to have official policies for reference and the official policy will aid the city when the city seeks a bond. Treasurer/Collector Donovan said the Collins Center has viewed the city's financial practices favorably for some time now. Alderman Gately asked how much input the city's auditing firm, Powers & Sullivan, had into the financial policies and objectives. Mayor Galvin replied some of the recommendations came from Powers & Sullivan. Treasurer/Collector Donovan said the audit should be available in November. Alderman Anderson asked if any other communities in Eastern Massachusetts have adopted similar policies and objectives. Mayor Galvin said there has been an effort by Gov. Baker to stress community financial accountability, though the city's goals are a bit different state because the free cash objective is 15 percent while the state Dept. of Revenue recommends 5 percent. Mayor Galvin noted the collection rate is ridiculously high at about 99 percent. Treasurer/Collector Donovan added the payment process has been streamlined to keep the cash flow going, and he thinks the system is more efficient. Alderman Tedesco said he has

read through the policies and objectives and is fairly comfortable with the text, though he did suggest the following amendment to section A-1 – Annual Audit; Policy: “4. The Finance Committee shall review the audit plan with the independent auditor(s) prior to interim testing and year-end fieldwork. Upon completion of the audit, the City Council shall meet with the independent auditor(s) to discuss the results of the audit and the annual financial reports.” Motion made by Alderman Anderson and seconded by Alderman Mercer-Bruen to accept Alderman’s Tedesco’s amendment; all in favor, 5-0. Alderman Gately told Treasurer/Collector Donovan he is doing a fabulous job with tax collection. Treasurer/Collector Donovan said the amount of uncollected taxes has been reduced from \$5.5 million to \$3 million. Mayor Galvin noted a portion of the uncollected taxes are dead money attributed to Brownsfields. Alderman Concannon said he would like to see mitigation accounts addressed in the policies and objectives. Motion made by Alderman Tedesco and seconded by Alderman Anderson to recommend Woburn’s Financial Objectives & Objectives “ought to pass,” as amended; all in favor, 5-0.

Motion made by Alderman Tedesco and seconded by Alderman Anderson to adjourn, all in favor, 5-0. Adjourned: 7:25 p.m

Attest: _____
Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees