

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020 AT 6:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE ROOM
WOBURN CITY HALL**

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

Non-Voting Members present: Alderman Jeffrey Dillon, Alderman Darlene Mercer-Bruen and President Michael Anderson. Absent: Alderman Joanne Campbell

Also present: Mayor Scott Galvin, and Engineer John Corey

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VOTED to dispense with the reading of the previous meeting's minutes and to approve, all in favor, 4-0.

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Order to appropriate \$45,000 to Infrastructure Safety Ward 5 Acct for professional engineering service for Cedar Street on-ramp: Mayor Galvin said he has been working with Alderman Mercer-Bruen to build a ramp from Cedar Street to Interstate 93. He said the \$45,000 appropriation will get the city to the 25 percent design phase. He said there was a great meeting at the library with some of the businesses in the area. He said the effort to build the ramp is supported by Rep. Richard Haggerty. He said the city intends to hire Richard Benevento from World Tech Engineering to engineer the ramp. He said the ramp will ease traffic in the East Woburn area. Chairman Concannon said he appreciates the presence of Mayor Galvin and City Engineer Corey to explain the appropriation. Alderman Mercer-Bruen said one of the questions is who will do the project. She said putting the project out to bid is not required. She asked Jay what the city has to do in order to get onto MassDOT's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for this year. Engineer Corey said there has been some push back from MassDOT District 4 and the city will have to undertake a functional design report, which will get the project to MassDOT headquarters. He said at that stage the city will have to complete a Project Information Form (PIF) and Project Notification Form (PNF). He said that gets the project to the design review board, which then gets the project onto the TIP. Alderman Mercer-Bruen asked what the cost will be of the functional design piece. She said this sounds like the first stage. Engineer Corey said the cost of the PNF and the PIF is included in the \$45,000 appropriation. Alderman Mercer-Bruen asked what happens if the city does a functional design report and MassDOT says there is no need to go further. Engineer Corey said the city must go through the design review process at District 4 before the project can go forward. Alderman Mercer-Bruen said the MassDOT website indicates the TIP dates are April 16, August 20 and December 17. Engineer Corey said those dates are moving targets. He said he doubts the city could make the spring date because it takes three months to collect the data. He said the August date is more realistic, and that it will more likely occur in September or October. He said once that happens, the project will get on the TIP. He said World Tech has been very successful in getting projects on the TIP. He said it may take up to a year to get comments from MassDOT. Alderman Mercer-Bruen said she is concerned the council is going to approve the \$45,000 appropriation without there being a solid timeline for the project. She said she wants to make sure the money is only used for this

project. Engineer Corey said there is a contract for \$45,000. Alderman Mercer-Bruen asked if the council can get a copy of the contract. Engineer Corey said he would furnish the council with a copy of the contract. Mayor Galvin said there is no guarantee of funding by MassDOT. He cited as an example the widening of Bedford and Cambridge roads, which City Engineer Corey noted has been pending since 1996. Mayor Galvin said the city is committed to getting this project done. Alderman Mercer-Bruen said the council is approving \$45,000 and she wants to make sure the aldermen know the scope of the work. Engineer Corey said he does not think that will be a problem. He said the most difficult part of a TIP project is that you are at the mercy of MassDOT. He said there is a 120-day deadline for MassDOT review, but if they don't make it, they don't care. Alderman Mercer-Bruen she understands that the only part of this the city can control is the end product of producing the study and providing it to Mass DOT in a timely fashion. Alderman Bruen said she appreciates we are moving forward but she wants to ensure if we are approving the \$45K now that we have the resources in place to get the study completed and sent to Mass DOT. She said once the city has provided the report to Mass DOT that perhaps the business community and constituency can work with us to lobby the state as we did in the past with Montvale Ave project and New Boston Street. Alderman Mercer-Bruen said she would like to condition approval of the appropriation on the provision of the contract. Engineer Corey said the effort to reconstruct the New Boston Street bridge started in 2003, and the city is at the mercy of someone else's review. He said he will do his part to advance the project. Alderman Mercer-Bruen said she knows there is an offer to pay for up to half of the project. She said she knows there has been some resistance to the project. Engineer Corey said the total cost of the project will be between \$10 million-\$12 million. He said the city is looking at an expenditure of \$1 million-\$2 million before construction.

Motion made by Alderman Tedesco and seconded by Alderman Higgins that the order "ought to pass," pending receipt of a copy of the contract for professional engineering services and the scope of the work; approved, 4-0.

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Motion made by Alderman Higgins and seconded by Alderman Tedesco to adjourn; approved, 4-0. Chairman Concannon adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees