

Budget and Finance Committee

9/14/22 6:30 pm Council Chambers

Meeting Post: <https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/budget-finance/events/307131>

Roll:

B/F: Zeid, Khan, Wright

Committee of the Whole: McCauley, Vogel

Staff: Ethan Manning, Greg Earls

Agenda:

Priority Business:

ORDR00354_05_09_2022 – project #4 AND

**ORDR00355_05_09_2022 Loan Order \$2,574,000 Bartlet Mall
Improvements Project (COTW) AMENDED (ATTACHED)**

- Chuck Griffin presentation
- ORDR00354_05_09_2022 – project #4 as well
- MW – question of timeline on money recently appropriated. That was design phase
- KT – 216k was for design that was approved
- KT – right now focusing on permitting
- KT – now looking for bond order, hoping for next season but maybe want to get well dug
- AK – did we talk about this for a while
- KT – yes and they gave presentation
- SZ – all funding sources
- EM - \$200k is morrill
- SZ – will be done at 4m which is the number (1.3m plus another 2.6m)
- SZ – Are we doing this in order
- KT – They are working with playground designers
- SZ – concerned plan isn't fully fleshed out. Need more detail
- JM – did have in notes that we would get more of an update on the \$200k but something more rough. Pumps and engineers. Also what is the maintenance
- SZ – motion to approve contingent on “a final plan and cost estimate being presented to the council for approval”. Ethan to provide final language

Jane Snow – 9 Coffin St. – Really appreciate the presentation and didn't know all of that. Feel confident in Commission and Project Mgr. All go smoothly.

Andrea Eigerman – 83 High St. – Volunteer on Bartlet Mal Commission. Want to speak in support. National significance of the Park. Lots of people since the 60's that have tried to help. Haven't found the solution.

"Subject to a final plan being

3-0

ODNC00117_06_27_2022 Building Inspector Enforcement (NOW AMENDED)

- Discussed with Greg Earls
- No amendments offered
- GE wants something to issue to cause compliance
- SZ – concern over language and how it counts
- SZ – counts as current
- MW – state is \$300 max per fine an daily is fine. 10 years
- AK – snow and ice reminded of. Wanted fine. Suggest choosing either warning or a fine but not make it an option
- GE – required to provide written information and warning. Have to provide that.

Amendment B(1)- change the word "or" to "and"

MW, AK – 2-1

- AK – don't like 4th rominet
- AK – "Enforcement Action" could be to shut down site
- What is that

Keep in committee to continue to edit, AK/MW

- GE – straight out of code
- AK – will work with sponsor
- "Building inspector"
- Rominet #4

ODNC00118_07_11_2022 Amend Municipal Fees

- 2A – AK will follow up with Health Director for rationale
- 2B – Does it need to say "Maximum"
- 2C – "Fee to get permit for work started without a permit"

Stays in Committee

COMM00430_09_12_2022 FY22 Year-End Financial Report (contingent upon referral to Budget and Finance)

- EM - Method of budgeting has tightened up so there is less flex built in
- This explains why what is left is basically approaching 100%
- Most of the turn backs were staff vacancies
- Prop tax large – DOR directives – utilities methodology for assessment and the way that the way 2 family homes get assessed
- Other Excise Rooms tax – mostly returning back to pre-covid and then STRU fees
- 7 to 128 STRU operating.
- DOR does not tell us what the breakdown is of STRU
- STRU 5.7 to state, 6 to city, and then another 3 is possible (local option)
- Tax title fees down, function of better collections
- Lic. Commission – talking about reinstating the fees now that pandemic is over
- Medicaid – prior year reimbursement
- Misc Non-Recur – Tailing adjustments, Sick leave reimbursement, etc
- Misc Non recur – goes to general fund
- State aid came in slightly better than expected
- \$2.1 in excess revenue from what was budgeted
- Enterprise funds had a good year last year, higher use of water and higher use of boating. Funds were up a lot (>10%). Now down 2-5% as they normalize.
- Sewer outpaced water because of insurance payout on generator payment
- Free cash started at 2.68 and ended at 1.104M
- We expect to roughly get a free cash 4m of free cash overall
- ARPA now sitting at approx. \$2m to spend down that balance
- ARPA 12/31/24
- Bonded part of the Fire Station. Up to \$10m is considered tax free. To the extent \$10m.

Motion to receive and file – MW/AK – 3-0

ORDR00382_09_12_2022 Approval to Pay Prior Year Bills (contingent upon referral to Budget and Finance)

Arbitration – Union

Landscapers Depot – Supply hours

2-0

Motion to recommend approval MW, AK 3-0

Old or Lower Priority Business (unlikely to get to):

ORDR00336_03_28_2022 ARPA Amesbury 250K (COTW)

Did not discuss

Public Comment:

None

Motion to adjourn:

Motion to adjourn at 8:41pm AK/MW – 3-0

Recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/0AiS0iKCFglQsC81ydKedSsY-wKE3XUSaV5GttCmnSDiZa4JSId7RJp70Mq2RXAv.CNry7L4w13M8-0oV>

Passcode: ?q9cCEi@

ORDR00355_05_09_2022 – AS AMENDED

May 9, 2022

THAT, upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, \$2,574,000 is appropriated, subject to a final plan being presented to the Council for approval, to pay costs of the Bartlet Mall Frog Pond Improvements project, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto. To meet this appropriation, the Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), M.G.L. c. 44B (the Community Preservation Act), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor; and that the Mayor and the Treasurer are authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this vote.

Councillor Sharif I Zeid