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March 4, 2010

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance convened on March 4, 2010, with Chairman Maryann Heuston presiding and Committee Members Aldermen William White, Bruce Desmond and Rebekah Gewirtz also present and voting. Also present were Administrative Assistant Matt Dias, Director of Transportation Michael Lambert, Attorney Anne Thomas from OSPCD, DPW Commissioner Stan Koty, Greg Jenkins from the Arts Council, City Solicitor John Gannon, Finance Director Ed Beane, Lt. Trant and Officer Ankerbauer from the Police Department, Director of Traffic and Parking Robert Bradley and interested members of the public.

188877 - Requesting approval to return \$20,000 from the MaxPak Stabilization Fund to KSS Investment LLC.:

Ms. Thomas discussed the agreement between the developers and the city, stating reasons that justified the return of the \$20,000.00. Alderman White questioned the legality of returning the money and suggested referring the question to the DOR. Mr. Beane informed the members that the covenant between the city and the developer must be amended and that the money was not treated as a gift to the city. Chairman Heuston stated she would like to see the amended covenant. Ms. Lamboy stated that the city requested items from the developer that were out of the scope of the original agreement such as an extra layer of gravel on the path and wheel washing. Alderman Desmond expressed concern that the city may be paying for things that the developer had to do anyway and Alderman White stressed the fact that some of the items referred to as extras were the result of the demolition being done in the winter, pointing out that the demolition was done because of safety hazards. Ms. Thomas told the members that Board of Aldermen approval is needed before the covenant can be changed. Alderman Gewirtz said that she felt that the developers are struggling financially and need the money. Alderman White suggested the possibility of negotiating the return of the money if financial conditions change.

188878 - \$350,000 grant from MassDOT for an Inner Belt and Brickbottom Urban Streetscape and Adaptive Re-Use Plan:

Mr. Lambert told the members that the city got a federal earmark for Innerbelt which will be important to the Green Line planning. The funds will be used for the study of economic feasibility, accessibility, infrastructure, phasing and financing of the Innerbelt development. There will be a comprehensive process for obtaining the best firms. Chairman Heuston requested that the RFP is clear and that the results of the study must be easy for the lay person to understand.

188808 -an appropriation of \$15,000 to purchase cameras for the prison cells, lobby, sally port, and garage at the Police Department:

Alderman Gewirtz expressed concern over who would have access to the cameras and Officer Ankerbauer explained how the cameras will be used.

188807 - an appropriation of \$40,000 to purchase 2 license plate readers for the Police Department:

Lt. Trant explained how the city generates revenue from the cameras by detecting violators and citing the offenders, noting that the city has already raised more than \$71,000.00. Alderman White requested that the committee be provided with figures as to the number of people detected by the cameras that have outstanding warrants.

188660 – extension of a contract with D & R General Contracting Inc. for a street resurfacing project:

Mr. Koty discussed the construction of raised tables at Curtis Street and Raymond Avenue and told the members that the work would cost \$99,000 due to the drainage that goes along with a raised ramp. There are also requests for the raised tables on Willow Avenue. Mr. Koty added that D & R General Contracting has been the street contractor for the city for the last 3 years.

188659 - transfer of \$32,000 in the Traffic and Parking Department to procure a meter technician/collections van:

Mr. Bradley told the members that a second vehicle is necessary due to the increased number of parking meters. Alderman Gewirtz asked if the new kiosk technology that is forthcoming has been taken into consideration. Mr. Bradley explained that the department would still need an extra vehicle since when the meters are full, they go into an out of order condition thereby causing the city to lose revenue. The city takes in \$20,000/week in coins. Chairman Heuston asked for information on the older van such as make, mileage, etc. Alderman Gewirtz requested a photo of the new vehicle.

188876 - contract with MassDOT for \$2,727,630 for nonparticipating items in the construction of Assembly Sq. Drive and offsite improvements:

Ms. Thomas and Ms. Lamboy discussed the non-participating work to be done, e.g., planting trees, curbing and things that will make the project more vibrant. Ms. Thomas stated that the DOR cannot appropriate funds based on a letter or credit alone and that the agreement has been changed to reflect this. The bid is already out by Mass Highway but it will not be opened until the agreement is signed. Alderman White expressed concern as to whether there is a contractor dispute and he wants to know who will have to pay statutory interest to a contractor if there is a court judgment. He also would like to know who is in charge of reviewing the quality of work. Ms. Lamboy stated the DPW will review the work and Chairman Heuston stated the DPW is already very busy and that there should be a clerk of the works to oversee the project. She encouraged the Administration to find the money to hire a watch dog who is looking out for the city's interest. Ms. Thomas stated that she and City Solicitor John Gannon would prepare a form of a vote for the next Board of Aldermen meeting, as per the language in the contract.

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following 20 items:

186090: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the appropriation of \$1,550,000 to procure a new Integrated Accounting and Financial Management System for all city depts., and borrow said sum in a bond.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

186574: Communication from Mayor - Updating the Board on the recent trash hauling bids.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

187805: Communication from Mayor - Requesting acceptance of a grant of \$50,000 from the 56 Clyde St. Acquisition LLC and 61 Clyde St. Acquisition LLC (MaxPak) to fund Ward 5 amenities and general community benefits.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file
VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

187868: Communication from Mayor - Updating this BOA with respect to negotiations for a new contract effective 1/1/10, for the collection of solid waste, recycling, and leaf and yard waste.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file
VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188314: Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$171,810 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to purchase 6 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptors for the Police Dept.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file
VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188315: Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$109,075 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to purchase 5 Ford Crown Victoria Detective Vehicles for the Police Dept.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file
VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188321: Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$35,980 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to purchase a Ford Van Prisoner Transport Vehicle for the Police Dept.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file
VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188322: Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$32,500 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to purchase a Ford Expedition Special Services Vehicle for the Police Dept.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file
VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188323: Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$26,295 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to purchase a Ford Van Animal Control Vehicle for the Police Dept.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file
VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188541: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the approval of a \$185,175 appropriation from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund for the acquisition of two vacant parcels at 46 Pearl St. and 0 Florence St.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file
VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188659: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to transfer \$32,000 in the Traffic and Parking Dept. from the Parking Meter Receipts Acct. to the Capital Outlay Vehicles Acct., to procure a meter technician/collections van.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188660: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to extend a contract with D & R General Contracting Inc. for a street resurfacing project to August 31, 2010.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188746: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to transfer \$2,300 in the Inspectional Services Dept., from the Salaries Acct. to the Professional & Technological Services Acct. (\$1,800) and the Office Equipment Acct. (\$500) for office equipment and software.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188748: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$3,428 from the MA Office of Public Safety, for the Fire Dept. to provide fire safety education to children.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188806: Communication from the Mayor-Requesting approval of a contract with MassDOT for \$2,196,387 for “nonparticipating items” in the construction of Assembly Sq. Drive and offsite improvements.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file.

VOTE: Unanimous, 4-0 in favor

188807: Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$40,000 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to purchase 2 license plate readers for the Police Dept.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188808: Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$15,000 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to purchase cameras for the prison cells, lobby, sally port, and garage at the Police Dept.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188812: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a \$12,213 grant from the MAPC Shannon Community Safety Initiative, for anti-gang efforts and youth violence prevention in the Police Dept

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188878: Communication from Mayor - Requesting authorization to expend a \$350,000 grant from MassDOT for an Inner Belt and Brickbottom Urban Streetscape and Adaptive Re-Use Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188879: Communication from Mayor - Requesting authorization to expend a \$20,000 grant from the MA Cultural Council for the Arts Council's ArtsUnion Union Sq. programming.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188880: Communication from Mayor - Requesting authorization to expend a \$2,000 grant from the MA Dept. of Public Health for the Fire Dept.'s Mass Decontamination Unit.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

Alderman Maryann Heuston, Chairman
Committee on Finance