

J/G - ACCEPTED AND FILED

# SUSPENSION

Chelsea, Massachusetts, January 22, 2018

A Regular meeting of the Chelsea City Council was held. The meeting was held at the Chelsea City Hall located at 500 Broadway Chelsea Massachusetts. The following Councilors were Present. Councilors: Vidot, Lopez, Brown, Bishop, Tejada, Avellaneda, Robinson, Perlatonda, Garcia, and Recuperero. Councilor Rodriguez arrived at 7:02 p.m. Council President Vidot presided over the meeting. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

## Memoriums and celebratory resolutions:

The following Resolution was introduced by Councilor Vidot. Councilor Brown moved to adopt by roll call. The roll call passed 11-0-0-0. Voting yes were Councilors Vidot, Lopez, Rodriguez, Brown, Bishop, Tejada, Avellaneda, Robinson, Perlatonda, Garcia, and Recuperero.

## RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was an American Baptist and activist who became a spokesperson and leader in the Civil Rights Movement; and
- WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a man of courage who advocated for racial equality through non-violent resistance; and
- WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. dedicated his life in pursuit of justice and unity amongst all Americans until his assassination in 1968; and
- WHEREAS, *Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service* is celebrated each year on the third Monday of January to support and promote service and civic engagement to commemorate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; and
- WHEREAS, The People's A.M.E. Church Planning Committee has invited Reverend Basil Yarde to be a keynote speaker in collaboration with various groups in the community of Chelsea such as CHS REACH, Chelsea Public Schools, Chelsea Black Community, CHS Interact Club, Chelsea City Council, Chelsea Inter-Faith Alliance; and
- WHEREAS, Under the People's A.M.E. Church, the Youth and Young Adult Coalitions' homeless initiative 'Project Opening Doors,' along with the support of The Rotary Club, and Selah Ministries, Light of Christ Church have united to support the homeless community in Chelsea; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that We, the Members of the Chelsea City Council, on behalf of the Citizens of Chelsea, hereby recognize the efforts of all involved under the leadership of The People's A.M.E. Church and the Chelsea Community in exemplifying true leadership and representing Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of unity and beloved community.

The following Resolution was introduced by Councilor Robinson. A motion from Councilor Robinson to adopt under suspension was adopted.

### RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS,** the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a leader of great courage and skill who became known as a drum major of the American Civil Rights Movement to enfranchise black citizens; and

**WHEREAS,** Dr. King's life was tragically cut short by an assassin's bullet in April of 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee while he was there to champion the cause of underprivileged workers; and

**WHEREAS,** due to the efforts of many dedicated people who believe Dr. King deserves national recognition, the third Monday in January is nationally recognized as a day to remember Dr. King, his legacy, and the causes for which he so gallantly fought and died; and

**WHEREAS,** Massachusetts had the privilege of Dr. King's presence when he lived and studied in Boston at Boston University School of Divinity, receiving his PhD in 1953; and

**WHEREAS,** Dr. King's life will always shine as a light for those without hope and as an example to be emulated by all who care about their fellow human beings, regardless of race, religion, class or nationality; now therefore, BE IT

**RESOLVED,** that the Chelsea City Council hereby recognize January 15, 2018 as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the City of Chelsea and asks all citizens to reflect upon the significance of this extraordinary man's life.

#### **Public Speaking:**

The public speaking portion of the meeting opened at 7:12 p.m. The following came forward to speak:

Rev. Whitley Tewksbury Mass, spoke about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Robert Pereira 88 Gerrish Ave. Congratulated Rev. Whitley for all the hard work she does.

The public speaking portion closed at 7:18 p.m..

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the City Council Special Meeting dated January 2, 2018, and the Regular Meeting dated January 8, 2018 were approved at the request of Councilor Bishop under suspension.

#### **Communications from City Manager:**

The following communication was received from City Manager Thomas G. Ambrosino. A motion from Councilor Bishop to accept and file L.o.t. pending an order was adopted under suspension.

The Honorable Chelsea City Council  
Chelsea City Hall  
500 Broadway  
Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150

Re: *New PARC Vote*

Dear Councilors:

You may recall that, just before Christmas, the City Council approved an appropriation of \$400,000 for the improvements scheduled for O'Neill Playground. This cost will be reimbursed through a Parkland Acquisition and Renovation for Communities ("PARC") Grant from the Commonwealth once the work is completed. The City received formal notice of this PARC Grant award last week.

Unfortunately, in crafting the Order for that December appropriation request, I identified the incorrect Stabilization Account. The Order provided to the City Council in December referenced the Operating Stabilization Account No. 7023. But, the correct account for the appropriation of this money should have been the General Stabilization Account, Fund No. 7020. Accordingly, I ask that the Council reauthorize the \$400,000, this time referencing the General Stabilization Account. The revised Order is attached. I apologize for the error.

For the Council's information, and to avoid these problems in the future, I do intend to consolidate the City's existing Stabilization funds into just two accounts moving forward: a School Capital Stabilization Fund into which we can direct funding for school construction projects; and a General Stabilization Fund for all other purposes. I hope to accomplish that accounting change in the near future.

Sincerely,  
Thomas G. Ambrosino  
City Manager

*The following communication was received from City Manager Thomas G. Ambrosino. A motion from Councilor Bishop referred the communication to the Sub-Committee on Finance under suspension.*

The Honorable Chelsea City Council  
Chelsea City Hall  
500 Broadway  
Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150

Re: *Free Cash Requests*

Dear Councilors:

I am writing to request City Council approval for several appropriations, all aimed at providing improved services and benefits to our residents. Each request is described in detail below. The Total amount requested is \$142,744.00. Funding is available from recently certified Free Cash.

**Improved Broadway Lighting -- \$50,000**

I would like to continue the City's recent efforts to significantly improve the decorative lighting in our business districts. Recently, the City completed upgrades to the decorative lighting in both Cary Square and Chelsea Square. The improvements have been dramatic and have generated very favorable comments from nearby businesses. The City would like to complete similar work on the remaining stretch of Broadway from City Hall to Chelsea Square. The total cost of this upgrade for all of the decorative fixtures will be approximately \$50,000.

Initially, it had been my intention to replace all of this decorative lighting in Broadway as part of the Reimagining Broadway upgrade. However, it is possible that some of this lighting, if improved as requested, may be able to remain as part of the reconstruction. But, even if some of this lighting is eventually replaced, the improvement in illumination and aesthetics we will gain from this upgrade over the course of just the next two years justifies the expenditure. Accordingly, I ask for the Council's approval.

#### **New Welcoming and Neighborhood Signage -- \$30,000**

I would like to add some decorative "welcoming" signage both to our major entryways to the City and to our significant neighborhoods and squares in the City, including Prattville, Cary Square and Chelsea Square. These decorative signs will add to the aesthetic appeal of our City. I would expect to work with resident groups, including the Beautification Committee, in determining the precise design and location of these signs. An example of the type of sign I have in mind is the new Chelsea Police Headquarters sign recently installed in Chelsea Square.

Although I don't have precise costs for these signs, similar signs in other communities generally run in the vicinity of \$5,000 per sign. I feel an appropriation of \$30,000 should be sufficient to fund signs in at least a handful of locations.

#### **Pole Removal at Broadway/Williams -- \$17,744**

One improvement I've been trying to accomplish for some time along Broadway is the relocation of the telephone pole and electrical wires in front of the Dunkin Donuts across from the Courthouse at the Broadway/Williams St. intersection. Because of the tight geometry of that corner, large trucks have often taken down that pole, at least several times in my tenure alone. The resulting power outages are extremely disruptive to commerce in that Downtown area.

After more than a year of discussion and design, Eversource has agreed on a plan for removal and relocation of the electrical facilities on this pole. But, the City must absorb the cost. The total amount required by Eversource for this work is \$17,444.

I ask that the City Council approve this expenditure from Free Cash. Even with approval, it will likely take several months to complete this work. And, we may still need to reach some agreement with Verizon, which owns the pole, before the pole is eliminated. But, at least this appropriation will allow progress to continue.

#### **OpenGov Software -- \$35,000**

For some time, at the Council's urging, my Administration has been working to implement technology that will make it easier to electronically publish data about our City, including financial information, and simpler for residents to access such data. After a public solicitation process, the City selected OpenGov as the software vendor for this effort. This is the same vendor utilized by the City of Boston for generating its consumer friendly data. We are hopeful that, within a short period of time after

implementing this software, we will be regularly publishing data on our website that is of interest to our residents in a user friendly format.

The cost of the OpenGov contract is \$55,000. The City did receive a grant from the Commonwealth to cover \$20,000 of this cost. I ask that the City Council appropriate the balance of \$35,000 from Free Cash.

**Rodent Control -- \$10,000**

As you know, for the past two years, the City has provided residential property owners with free rodent control services in an effort to reduce the rat population in this City. We recently increased our publicity of this free service so that more residents would take advantage of this opportunity.

The public relations effort has worked. Over the past few months, many more residents have signed up for these rodent control services. The only downside of this increased usage is that our contract with B&B Pest Control is expected to exceed the amount budgeted for FY18.

Based upon current utilization trends, the DPW expects that it will need an additional \$10,000 to cover the cost of the B&B Pest Control contract through the end of FY18. Because I do not wish to scale back this important service, I ask that the City Council approve this additional amount from Free Cash.

For the above reasons, I respectfully ask that the City Council approve these requested Free Cash appropriations. The proposed Orders are attached.

Sincerely,  
Thomas G. Ambrosino  
City Manager

**New Business:**

The following order was introduced by Councilor Recuperero. Councilor Recuperero moved to adopt under suspension. Councilor Robinson requested roll call. Councilor Tejada amended the order to refer it to the sub-committee on Conference by roll call. The roll call passed 7-4-0-0. Voting yes were Councilors Vidot, Lopez, Bishop, Tejada, Perlatonda, Garcia, and Recuperero. Voting no were Councilors Rodriguez, Brown, Avellaneda, and Robinson.

Be it hereby adopted as a policy of the City Council the following:  
The City Council will not vote to affirm the appointment of an individual to a multi-member board pursuant to Section 4-2 of the Charter, if that individual has already served two (2) consecutive terms and there are other residents willing to fill the vacancy. If there is no one willing to fill the vacancy then that board member will be affirmed for a new term.

The following order was introduced by Councilors Vidot and Lopez. A motion from Councilor Lopez to adopt under suspension was adopted.

ORDERED, that a Subcommittee on Conference be scheduled to discuss the expansion of Recycling across the city.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Robinson. A motion from Councilor Robinson to adopt under suspension was adopted.

REQUEST, that a Subcommittee on Conference be held on February 6, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. to discuss the Chelsea Youth and Community center with Chelsea's own John Quietman Ruiz and Mark C. Giblin and long-time manager Anthony Cardinale.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Vidot and submitted late. No objections to the late order. A motion from Councilor Lopez to adopt under suspension was adopted.

ORDERED, that a Subcommittee on Conference be scheduled to finalize Council priorities for 2018.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Lopez. A motion from Councilor Lopez to adopt under suspension was adopted.

REQUEST; that the City Manager instruct DPW to post three (3) "No Littering" signs on Central Avenue:

- 1) Between Shawmut and Lynn St. on the cemetery side
- 2) Between East Point Nursing Home 255 Central and 265 Central Murry Electric
- 3) Between Chelsea Housing and 270 Central Chelsea garage.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Bishop Chairman of Finance and Accounts. A motion from Councilor Bishop to adopt by roll call passed 11-0-0-0. Voting yes were Councilors Vidot, Lopez, Rodriguez, Brown, Bishop, Tejada, Avellaneda, Robinson, Perlatonda, Garcia, and Recupero.

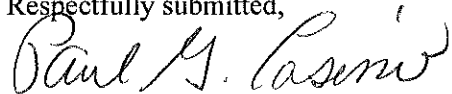
ORDERED: that the Chelsea City Council authorize the appropriation of \$400,000.00 from General Stabilization Account, Fund #7020 to provide for the balance of the full amount (\$575,000) of the O'Neil Playground project, and hereby directs that this appropriation replaces the Operating Stabilization appropriation contained in the O'Neil Playground Order dated December 4th, 2017.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Robinson. Councilor Robinson amended the order to insert the word Cost after Administration and adopt by roll call. The roll call passed 11-0-0-0. Voting yes were Councilors Vidot, Lopez, Rodriguez, Brown, Bishop, Tejada, Avellaneda, Robinson, Perlatonda, Garcia and Recupero.

REQUEST, that the City Manager provide the following information from all non-profits who have contracts with the City: Administration cost, Program, All Operating Expenses, and Clients Served.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul G. Casino  
Clerk of the Chelsea City Council