

Chelsea, Massachusetts May 4, 2020

A meeting of the Chelsea City Council was held. The meeting was held at the Chelsea City Hall located at 500 Broadway Chelsea Massachusetts 02150. The following Councilors were either present or participated via zoom. Councilors Zobot, Garcia, Taylor, Recupero, Brown, Vidot, Maldonado, Rodriguez, Avellaneda, and Lopez. Council President Avellaneda presided over the meeting. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

Communications from City Manager:

The following communication was read from City Manager Thomas G. Ambrosino. A motion from Councilor Robinson to accept and file was adopted under suspension.

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

Re: Emergency Action Pertaining to the COVID-19 Public Crisis-No. 3

Dear Councilors:

I am writing with another emergency appropriation request pertaining to the Coronavirus. The total requested here is \$1,576,650.00.

I am hoping that this major requests for funds will cover COVID-19 related costs through the end of May. The majority of these funds will be utilized for the food distribution effort being supported in Chelsea by the National Guard. The other large portion of costs is related to the continued operation of the Quality Inn Hotel in Revere to provide alternative housing for those COVID-19 positive who cannot isolate in their housing unit. A spreadsheet showing anticipated costs for these funds is attached. I have also attached a breakdown of the expenditures from the first emergency appropriation, which is now almost depleted.

I do continue to work closely with the Baker Administration to support this food distribution effort. The Commonwealth is already helping by providing National Guard units for distribution of food at the neighborhood pop-up pantry sites as well as transportation of food from the Greater Boston Food Bank and Salvation Army facilities. The Commonwealth has also secured volunteers from Rubicon to help with the packing and boxing effort at PORT Park. However, even with this help, the funding gap the food effort is significant. As you can see from the attached spread sheet, the acquisition of food alone to meet the needs of this distribution effort comes at a cost of \$210,000 per week.

The Governor has committed to help the City cover some or perhaps all of this gap. Unfortunately, money is not easily and quickly available, even to the Governor. Any state appropriation will require Legislative approval, and that body is not moving with deliberate speed at the moment. Federal Cares Act money could be an option, but federal guidance from the U.S. Treasury Department as to how state

governments may spend that money has likewise been very slow. In the interim, the City has no choice but to front the funding.

Of course, even if the state is unable to assist us, I remain hopeful that most, if not all, of these costs will ultimately be 75% reimbursement by FEMA. The City is carefully documenting expenditures in preparation for such a reimbursement request.

I respectfully ask for your approval of this appropriation. With the highest infection rate in the Commonwealth, it is obvious that COVID-19 has severely impacted this community, causing unimaginable hardship, suffering and tragedy. These municipal funds cannot possibly meet all the needs that exist but they will most assuredly help. Funds are available in Free Cash. A draft Order is attached.

Sincerely,
Thomas G. Ambrosino
City Manager

Communications and Petitions to the City Council:

A copy of a communication was received from the Community Preservation Board regarding CPA Rental Assistance. A motion from Councilor Robinson to accept and file was adopted under suspension.

New Business:

The following order was introduced by Councilor Avellaneda. The roll call passed the order 10-0-1-0. Voting yes were Councilors Zabol, Garcia, Taylor, Robinson, Brown, Vidot, Maldonado, Rodriguez, Avellaneda, and Lopez. Councilor Recuperero was absent.

ORDERED, that, based upon the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency as described in the Emergency Preamble adopted by the City Council on April 6, 2020, the Chelsea City Council authorizes the emergency appropriations of funds in the amount of \$1,576,650 from Free Cash to the HHS Department Administration Division, Operations Account #015052-538201 COVID-19 Emergency Services Fund for food, hygiene supplies, emergency housing and other emergency expenditures to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Avellaneda. The order passed 10-0-1-0. Voting yes were Councilors Zabol, Garcia, Taylor, Robinson, Brown, Vidot, Maldonado, Rodriguez, Avellaneda, and Lopez. Councilor Recuperero was absent.

ORDERED, that the City Council act on the report of the Commonwealth Preservation Committee on the awarding of grant funding for a FY2020 community preservation project, in accordance with MGL Chapter 44B, Section 5(3)(d) and in accordance with the Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Chelsea, Chapter 2 Article VII Division 3, Section 2-330:

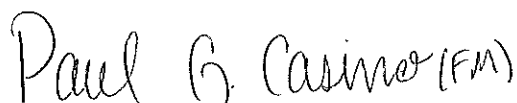
1. \$288,823 from the Community Housing Reserve for Project CP20-03 Emergency Rental Assistance-AHTF;

2. \$575,132 from the Budgeted Reserve for Project CP20-03 Emergency Rental Assistance-AHTF;
and
3. \$386,045 from the Community Preservation Fund for Project CP20-.03 Emergency Rental Assistance-AHTF.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Avellaneda and received late. No objections. A roll call was taken and the order passed 9-0-2-0. Voting yes were Councilors Zabol, Garcia, Taylor, Robinson, Brown, Maldonado, Rodriguez, Avellaneda Lopez. Absent were Councilor Vidot and Recupero.
ORDERED, that, a Special Subcommittee be created to discuss, report back and suggest to the City Council as a whole a CIOVID-19 Economic Stimulus Package to assist Chelsea-based businesses to reopen after the state ordered non-essential business shut down is lifted. City Councilors appointed to the Special Subcommittee are Council President Roy Avellaneda, Vice President Judith Garcia, Councilor At Large Robinson District Councilor Todd Taylor and District Councilor Calvin Brown.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul G. Casino
Clerk of the Chelsea City Council