

Chelsea, Massachusetts June 8, 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 meeting was conducted also on the Zoom type of Broadcast with some members actually at City hall and others at home. This is because of the CIVID-19 pandemic. Present either at home or in City Hall were Councilors Zabol, Garcia, Taylor, Recupero, Robinson, Vidot, Maldonado, Rodriguez, and Avellaneda. Absent were Councilor Brown and Lopez. Council President Avellaneda presided over the meeting. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

Memoriums and Celebratory Resolutions:

The following Resolution was introduced by Councilors Vidot and Garcia. A motion from Councilor Vidot to adopt b roll call passed 8-1-2-0. Voting yes were Councilors Zabol, Garcia, Recupero, Robinson, Vidot, Maldonado, Rodriguez, and Avellaneda. Councilor Taylor voted no. Councilors Brown and Lopez were absent.

Resolution

WHEREAS, The murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd have sparked outrage and protest across the country, raising the same issues as those who protested in Ferguson in 2014 and in Los Angeles in 1992, demanding accountability, equity and respect from our system of law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Homicide is the fourth leading cause of death for Black men in the United States and Black men are 2.5 times more likely to be killed by the police than non-Hispanic white counterparts, with Black women 1.4 times more likely to be killed than white women; and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07) has introduced a resolution titled Condemning all acts of police brutality, racial profiling and the use of excessive and militarized force throughout the country, and

WHEREAS, The Congressional Black Caucus has also submitted an act titled The Justice in Policing Act of 2020; that mandates cultural training for all law enforcement, bans chokeholds, mandates use of dashboard and body cameras, reforms qualified immunity and other requirements to promote safety; and

WHEREAS, Protests have erupted across the country and have created civil unrest in communities in and surrounding Chelsea including our own Black Lives Matter Protest on June 7th organized by local young people of Let it Fly Classic and the Chelsea Black Community; and

WHEREAS, as public servants, it is incumbent upon the City Council to stand with those demanding accountability and equal representation under the law; and

WHEREAS, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Philando Castille, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, Amadou Diallo, Michael Brown, and so many more, remain in the public consciousness and that their memory serve as a

call to action to elected leaders and members of the public alike to hold themselves accountable to resilient yet underrepresented communities: NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Chelsea City Council offers its support for Congresswoman Pressley resolutions against police brutality, racial profiling, and the Department of Justice to reinstitute its role in investigating instances of police departments that violate the civil rights of our residents, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That the City Council affirms its moral obligation to protect the civil rights of the most marginalized communities in Chelsea, especially our BLACK RESIDENTS, BUT ALSO OTHER PEOPLE OF COLOR, LGBTQ+ individuals, people experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, and others who have historically suffered from institutional and systemic inequities that excessively criminalize them.

The following Resolution was introduced by Councilors Vidot and Garcia. A motion from Councilor Garcia to adopt by roll call passed 8-1-2-0. Voting yes were Councilors Zobot, Garcia, Recuperero, Robinson, Vidot, Maldonado, Rodriguez, and Avellaneda. Councilor Taylor voted no. Councilors Brown and Lopez were absent.

Resolution

WHEREAS, individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer("LGBTQ") include individuals from all States, the District of Columbia, and all nations of the world-including those from all faiths, races, national origins, socioeconomic statuses, education levels, abilities, and political beliefs, and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ people in the United States have made, and continue to make, vital contributions and transformational changes within the United States and in the World, and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ people in the United States have fought for equal treatment, dignity, equity, and respect and have achieved significant milestones, ensuring that future generations of LGBTQ+ people in the United States and in the world will enjoy a more equitable and just society, and

WHEREAS, despite experiencing marginalization and discrimination in the United States and elsewhere, LGBTQ+ people continue to celebrate their identities, build community, share love, and actively contribute to the United States and nations of the world through myriad expressions of Pride and,

WHEREAS COVID-19 has compelled organizations across the globe to cancel all large public gatherings until further notice, including Pride celebrations, and

WHEREAS, the Chelsea LGBTQ+ Coalition plans to raise the Pride Flag for the fifth year in a row in Chelsea on Saturday, June 6 at 11am, in celebration of LGTBQ+ Pride Month, and

WHEREAS, with an abundance of caution the Chelsea LGBTQ+ Coalition will restrict the gathering to a cameraman from the LGBTQ+ Coalition and the Department of Public Works staff to hoist the flag while maintaining proper social distancing protocols, now therefore, BE IT

RESOLVED, that we the Members of the Chelsea City Council, officially recognize June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month and celebrate and support the LGBTQ+ Community in Chelsea and beyond.

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: FY21 Budget

Dear Councilors:

Enclosed you will find my proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget. The Budget funds City expenditures at \$84,541,305 and School Department expenditures at \$96,513,407, for a total budget of \$181,054,712. This is actually 1.17% lower than we appropriated for FY20. The total would have been even less if not for the fact that the City's Budget is artificially inflated this year because FY21 is one of those periodic years when we have 53 pay periods, not the typical 52.

Obviously, this FY21 Budget is not the one I had hoped to present to the Council several months ago. But, the world has changed dramatically with the COVID-19 pandemic, and the consequences for the City's FY21 operations are substantial loss of anticipated revenues caused by the economic impacts of the COVID-19. Virus.

Despite the shortfall, the proposed budget does not include any reduction of workforce or layoffs. I have been successful in renegotiating certain union contracts. In other union workforce, I have been able to secure savings through attrition. It is my strong belief that further forced reduction for our workforce would be counterproductive. In light of the size of our deficit, any savings from layoffs would have a marginal effect and be more than offset by the negative impact on moral and constituent services.

The Budget does not include any expansion of services. But, it does seek to retain some of our previous important initiatives including the Navigators and the corresponding wrap around services, ROCA's workforce contract and the various Summer Youth Jobs programs. It is my opinion that eliminating the social services in our Downtown would be dangerous at a time when the outlook for that business corridor is especially precarious. Likewise, the ROCA and Summer Jobs programs may look a bit different in the COVID-19 era, but they still ensure work for vulnerable young adults and indirectly put money into economy via the spending habits of those receiving a paycheck. I would argue strongly against their reduction.

The FY21 Budget reflects the full implementation of the new DPW Water & Sewer Departments. As you will see, the City has saved more than anticipated from this transition. I have enclosed a spreadsheet comparing last year's projected savings with the actual savings in FY21.

Please note that this Budget is built upon some very uncertain assumptions about state aid to the City. Specifically, it is assuming that school aid, both to public schools and charter schools, will be level funded, eliminating all Student Opportunity Act money, and that Unrestricted General Government Aid

to the City will be reduced by 30%. But, the Commonwealth has given no real direction to cities, towns and school districts about these reductions, only ambiguous signals. If the assumptions used for this Budget prove dramatically inaccurate, I will need to amend this Budget before the City sets its FY21 Tax Rate.

Finally, I concede that utilizing almost \$5 million in General Stabilization Reserves to balance a budget is hardly optimal. But, these are unprecedented times. Thankfully, the City has spent the last decade or more building up a very healthy rainy day fund, and now it is time to use it. Naturally, we cannot sustain out-of-balance budgets with this level of reserves for long. But, if as hoped, this is a relatively short-lived economic recession and lasts no more than a year or two, we will have adequate resources to manage through.

Finally, I have included along with this FY21 Budget a Five Year Financial Projection, which is also a Charter requirement. I am prepared to provide a short presentation to the City Council and School Committee regarding this financial outlook in the next few weeks at the City Council's convenience. My staff and I will also be available to answer questions on the FY21 Budget in subcommittee.

Sincerely,
Thomas G. Ambrosino
City Manager

Unfinished Business:

The following Loan Order regarding the CIP FY21 was introduced by Councilor Robinson Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Finance. A motion from Councilor Robinson to adopt by roll call passed 9-0-2-0. Voting yes were Councilors Zobot, Garcia, Taylor, Recupero, Robinson, Vidot, Maldonado, Rodriguez, and Avellaneda. Absent were Councilors Brown and Lopez.

**City of Chelsea, Massachusetts
Fiscal Year 2021
Capital Improvement Program Loan Order**

BE IT ORDERED: That the various capital projects and equipment purchase shown under the heading of Grant Funding on the Schedule attached hereto ("the Schedule"), and consisting of: Miscellaneous Grants (\$4,980,000) and the Schedule, such grants to be expended under the direction of the City Manager and that the City Manager or his designee is hereby authorized to apply for, accept and expend any state or federal grants that are or may become available for these purposes; and

That the total sum of \$6,000,000 be and hereby is appropriated to pay the costs of various capital projects and equipment purchases, shown on the Schedule under the headings; General Obligation Bonds, (\$6,000,000); including the payment of any and all design, engineering, construction and installation costs associated therewith, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is hereby authorized to borrow the sum of \$6,000,000 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Sections 7 and 8, of the General Laws, as

amended, Chapter 44A of the General Laws, as amended or pursuant to any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor; and

That the sum of \$300,000 be and hereby is appropriated to pay costs of water system improvements eligible for financial assistance through the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority's Local Water System Assistance Program (LWSAP), including the payment of any and all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that the Treasurer with the approval of the City Manager, is hereby authorized to borrow the sum of \$300,000 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Sections 7 and 8, of the General Laws as amended, Chapter 44A of the General Laws, as amended or pursuant to any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the City thereto; and

That the sum of \$3,100,459 be and hereby is appropriated from Free Cash to pay the costs of various capital projects purchases, shown of the Schedule under the heading, Free Cash; and

That the sum of \$235,000 be and hereby is appropriated from Water Enterprise Fund to pay the costs of various water related capital projects purchases, shown on the Schedule under the heading, Retained Earnings; and

That the sum of \$235,000 be and hereby is appropriated from Sewer Enterprise Fund to pay the costs of various sewer related capital projects purchases, shown on the Schedule under the heading, Retained Earnings; and

That the sum of \$725,000 be and hereby is appropriated from School Stabilization to pay the costs of the Williams Middle School HVAC Project, shown on the Schedule under the heading, School Stabilization, with said funds for the school projects to be available upon approval of the Loan Order; and

ORDERED, That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the appropriated officials of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts (the "Commonwealth") to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all bonds of the City authorized pursuant to this order, and to provide such information and execute such documents as such officials of the Commonwealth may require in connection therewith. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this Loan Order, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this Loan Order in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs be a like amount.

Councilor Robinson requested that the Resolution pertaining to the CIP FY21 and endorsed by all members of the City Council be brought forward at this time and adopted under suspension. There were no objections and the Resolution was adopted under suspension.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The City Charter requires the annual adoption of a five year Capital Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, A Capital Improvement Program is an integral component of the City's financial planning and a cornerstone for our quality of life, both of which foster the economic development necessary to expand our tax base and sustain the life of the community; and

WHEREAS, A Capital Improvement Program is necessary for the maintenance and improvement of the City's infrastructure, possible only in conjunction with long term financial planning; and

WHEREAS, A Capital Improvement reduces on-going maintenance costs and the high cost of emergency repair work; and

WHEREAS, In this year, 2020, We, the City Council of the City of Chelsea, have now before us the twenty-third such capital improvement program, and hereby accept the submission of this capital improvements program as provided for in Section 5-4 of the City Charter, no other requirement being provided by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Adoption of the Capital Improvement Program prior to submission of the operating budget assists the City Manager in carrying out duties, as the impact of the capital budget expenditures for the on-coming fiscal year are reflected in the annual operating budget; and

WHEREAS, This Capital Improvements Program for fiscal years 2021-2025 includes projects for the maintenance and improvement of the City roadways, water, sewer and drainage systems, roadways and sidewalks, transportation, public buildings and facilities, parks and open space, public safety projects, and general equipment; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with section 5-4 C of the City Charter a public hearing was held on March 23,2020 prior public notice having been properly given.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, The City Council having reviewed the Chelsea's Capital Improvement Program 2021-2025, recognizes the hard work and continuing effort put into this document by City Officials, and does hereby adopt this Program.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Robinson. Councilor Robinson moved roll call and it passed 9-0-2-0. Voting yes were Councilors Zabot, Garcia, Taylor, Recupero, Robinson, Vidot, Maldonado, Rodriguez, and Avellaneda. Councilors Brown and Lopez were absent.

Ordered, That the sum of \$216,244 representing the portion of the \$340,000.00 appropriated from Free Cash under the Fiscal Year 2019 Capital Improvement Plan for design of the Mary C Burke Playground Improvements Project 55401915-530000 but which is no longer needed to complete that project, is hereby transferred in the amount of \$216,244 to a new building project, Fiscal Year 2021 CIP- Mary C. Burke Roof and Envelope Repairs (Phase 3).

The following order was introduced by Councilor Robinson. A motion from Councilor Robinson for roll call passed 9-0-2-0. Voting yes were Councilors Zabot, Garcia, Taylor, Recupero, Robinson, Vidot, Maldonado, Rodriguez, and Avellaneda. Councilors Brown and Lopez were absent.

ORDERED, That the sum of \$309,870 representing the unexpended portion of the \$1,800,000.00 appropriated from School Stabilization under the Fiscal Year 2020 Capital Improvement Plan for construction-Mary C. Burke Playground Improvements Project 55402014-584500 but which is no longer needed to complete that project, is hereby transferred in the amount of \$309,870 to a new building project, Fiscal Year 2021 CIP-Mary C. Burke Roof and Envelope Repairs (Phase 3).

The following order was introduced by Councilor Robinson. A motion from Councilor Robinson for roll call passed 9-0-2-0. Voting yes were Councilors Zabol, Garcia, Taylor, Recuperero, Robinson, Vidot, Maldonado, Rodriguez and Avellaneda. Councilors Brown and Lopez were absent.

Ordered, That the sum of \$29,580 representing the cancelled project appropriated under General Fund in the Fiscal Year 2020 Capital Improvement Plan for City Clerk-Poll Books Project 0116158-587000-but which has been cancelled, is hereby transferred in the amount of \$29,580 to a new project, Fiscal Year 2020 CIP-Parking Department, Vehicle Acquisition-Service Van 0129358-585200.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Robinson. A motion from Councilor Robinson for roll call passed 9-0-2-0. Voting yes were Councilors Zabol, Garcia, Taylor, Recuperero, Robinson, Vidot, Maldonado, Rodriguez, and Avellaneda. Councilors Brown and Lopez.

Ordered, That, in addition to the amounts previously appropriated for the Fiscal Year 2020 Capital The following order was introduced by Councilor Improvement Program pursuant to an order of the City Council passed June 3,2019, the sum of \$1,630,000 be and hereby is appropriated to pay costs of sewer system improvements in connection with the Beacham/Williams Corridor Reconstruction Project eligible for financial assistance through the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority's Community Infiltration/Inflow Local Financial Assistance Program, including the payment of any and all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation (a) the City Manager is authorized to apply for, accept and expend a grant from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (the "Authority") in the amount of \$1,222,500, and (b) the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow the sum of \$407,500 from the Authority under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Sections 7 and 8, of the General Laws, as amended, or pursuant to other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor; and, in connection therewith, the Treasurer and the City Manager are authorized to enter into a loan agreement and/or financial assistance agreement with the Authority and otherwise to contract with the Authority with respect to such grant and loan for the project.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Robinson. A motion from Councilor Robinson to adopt by roll call passed 9-0-2-0. Voting yes were Councilors Zabol, Garcia, Taylor, Recuperero, Robinson, Vidot, Maldonado, Rodriguez and Avellaneda. Absent were Councilor Brown and Lopez.

Ordered, That the sum of \$550,000 representing the unexpended portion of the \$1,828,701.00 appropriated from Free Cash under the Fiscal Year 2017 Capital Improvement Plan for MassWorks Phase V-Everett Ave and Locust Street Project 55401713-584500 but which is no longer needed to complete that project, is hereby transferred in the amount of \$550,000 to a new roadway project, titled Beacham Street/Williams Corridor Street Reconstruction Project, Fiscal Year 2021 CIP.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Robinson. A motion from Councilor Robinson to adopt by roll call passed 9-0-2-0. Voting yes were Councilors Zobot, Garcia, Taylor, Recupero, Robinson, Vidot, Maldonado, Rodriguez, and Avellaneda. Councilors Brown and Lopez were absent.

Ordered, That the sum of \$308,550 be and hereby is appropriated from Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to pay the water related costs of a new roadway project, titled Beacham Street/Williams Corridor Street reconstruction Project, Fiscal Year 2021 CIP.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Robinson. A motion from Councilor Robinson to adopt by roll call passed 9-0-2-0. Voting yes were Councilors Zobot, Garcia, Taylor, Recupero, Robinson, Vidot, Maldonado, Rodriguez, Avellaneda. Absent were Councilors Brown and Lopez.

Ordered, That the sum of \$322,716 be and hereby is appropriated from Sewer Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to pay the sewer related costs of a new roadway project, titled Beacham Street/Williams Corridor Street Reconstruction Project, Fiscal Year 2021 CIP.

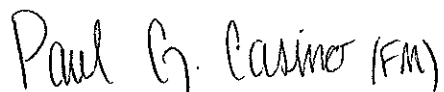
The following order was introduced by Councilor Robinson. A motion from Councilor Robinson to adopt by roll call passed 9-0-2-0. Voting yes were Councilors Zobot, Garcia, Taylor, Recupero, Robinson, Vidot, Maldonado, Rodriguez, and Avellaneda. Councilors Brown and Lopez were absent.

Ordered, that, based upon the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency as described in the above Emergency Preamble, the Chelsea City Council authorizes the emergency appropriation of funds in the amount of \$103,000 from Free Cash to the FY2020 Law department Legal Services Account #0115152-530100 for the payment of legal fees to outside counsel.

The Request by the Chelsea Retirement Board for the authorization to go forward with the Retirement Board Pay Increase was approved on a 9-0-2-0. Vote of the City Council. Voting yes were Councilors Zobot, Garcia, Taylor, Recupero, Robinson, Vidot, Maldonado, Rodriguez, and Avellaneda. Councilors Brown and Lopez were absent.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul G. Casino
Clerk of the Chelsea City Council