

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

October 3, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Stewart, Trisciani, E. Sapienza, Cavanaugh, Heath

Messrs.: J. Belanger, J. Vieira, R. Cashin, Alderman Burkush

1. Summary of abatement requests submitted by Fred McNeill, Chief Engineer.

*On motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman Trisciani**, it was voted to approve.*

2. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$131,000 for CIP 410423 MHRA Community Policing.

*On motion of **Alderman E. Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman Heath**, it was voted to approve.*

3. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$76,365.75 for CIP 410523 Highway Safety Grant.

*On motion of **Alderman Trisciani**, duly seconded by **Alderman Heath**, it was voted to approve.*

4. Amending Resolutions and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$1,102,000 for CIP 610723 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences at 351 Chestnut Street and CIP 610823 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences at 351 Chestnut Street (Merrimack Street Parcel); as well as \$1,888,000 for CIP 610723 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences at 351 Chestnut Street, CIP 610823 Lincoln Avenue Capital-Residences (Merrimack Street Parcel), and CIP 610923 Families in Transition-Family Place First Floor Renovation Project.

Chairman Stewart asked staff members from Planning to come forward and explain this item a little further.

Jeff Belanger, Planning & Community Development Director, stated with me I have Julia Vieira and Todd Fleming. There is a little bit more detail in the memo we submitted but in summary, there was an RFP process for the allocation of over \$3 million of funding to promote affordable housing in the city. The three projects that Matt read into the record are the resulting projects that were granted these funds as a result of a selection committee process as you know, Chairman Stewart, because you were part of that. We also had a housing advocate and city staff as part of the selection process. The RFP

was sent out in June. We received five applications that came in in July and then the selection process began. This is the result. As a result of this RFP process, there will be 98 units of affordable housing constructed in the first project, 44 units in the second and Families in Transition, the third recipient, will get three units and also operate an emergency shelter. There is a fourth project run by 1269 Café which may also be able to qualify. They just need to do a little more work on their design and work with our Permitting Department to do that. A number of sorely needed affordable housing units will be created as a result of this allocation.

Chairman Stewart stated it is definitely very exciting to see that these will be coming online in the near future. I want to thank you and your staff for putting together this very rigorous rubric and taking a close look at it. Certainly all of the materials were very well researched and fully vetted by the time this selection committee had a chance to look at them.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked could you expand a bit on affordable housing income restrictions.

Julia Vieira, Planning & Community Development, replied for the two Lincoln Street capital projects, it would be up to 60% AMI. To be considered a low or moderate income family, it is up to 80% AMI. These projects have an income restriction of 60% AMI so even lower. They are also going to provide a total of 28 housing vouchers for veterans in partnership with Veterans Affairs. For the Families in Transition project, it would actually be a non-congregate shelter. There will be three units of non-congregate shelter.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked so it is bracketed and some are 60% and some are 80%. Did you say that?

Ms. Vieira answered no. They will mostly be 60% AMI. That would be the maximum. Within all of those units, there will also be 28 units that will receive housing vouchers.

*On motion of **Alderman Trisciani**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to approve.*

5. Request from Ryan Cashin, Interim Fire Chief, requesting an extension of CIP 410821 Emergency Management Equipment and Supplies through June 30, 2027.

*On motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman Trisciani**, it was voted to approve.*

6. Communication from the Interim Fire Chief to use up to \$600,000 in impact fees for the construction of the new Station 9 at 575 Calef Road.

***Alderman Trisciani** moved to approve. **Alderman E. Sapienza** duly seconded the motion.*

Chairman Stewart stated I see the alderman from Ward 9, where this station is located, is here. Do you have any comments you would like to make?

Jim Burkush, Alderman, stated we are excited to get the project going. We have been waiting at least 20 years for that station. Thank you.

Chairman Stewart stated it is an exciting project.

Chairman Stewart called for a vote. *There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

7. Communication from Jonathan Hopkins, Central Fleet Services Director, requesting authorization to issue RFP's and enter into contracts for the purchase of a Fire Department Rescue Truck and Fire Engine before the start of the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

Alderman Cavanaugh moved to approve. **Alderman Heath** duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Stewart asked can I get someone to clarify something. In the letter from Jonathan Hopkins, it mentioned a cost of \$1 billion for the rescue truck. I assume that is a typo and just want to clarify that.

Ryan Cashin, Interim Fire Chief, replied it is \$1 million.

Chairman Stewart called for a vote. *There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

8. Communication from Jeff Belanger, Planning & Community Development Director, providing a quarterly update on the City's federal allocation of ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.
(Note: Provided for informational purposes only; no action is required.)
9. Communication from the Planning & Community Development Director requesting authorization to apply for the Healthy Homes Production Grant from the U.S. Housing & Urban Development Department for an amount not to exceed \$2 million.

*On motion of **Alderman E. Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman Heath**, it was voted to approve.*

10. Communication from the Planning & Community Development Director requesting authorization to apply for an InvestNH grant for an amount not to exceed \$175,000.

*On motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to approve.*

NEW BUSINESS

Communication from the Planning & Community Development Director requesting authorization to apply for grants from the InvestNH Municipal Demolition Grant Program.

*On motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman Trisciani**, it was voted to approve.*

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman E. Sapienza**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Normand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Clerk of Committee