

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

JULY 25, 2022

A meeting of the Budget Review Committee was held Monday, July 25, 2022, at 8:24 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber and via Zoom which meeting link can be found on the agenda.

Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Chairman, presided.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. If you are participating via Zoom, please state your presence, reason for not attending the meeting in person, and whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.

Members of Committee present: Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Chairman
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien
Alderman Ernest Jette
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly (via Zoom)
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

Also in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Rose Marie Evans, Comptroller
Bobbie Bagley, Public Health Division Director

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-22-045

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$50,294.73 OF FY2022 UNANTICIPATED REVENUE INTO FUND 7024 "OPIOID ABATEMENT EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Jette

Thank you. So I understand that this is proceeds from the settlement that was made in litigation against the opioid manufacturers. As I understand it, we're just taking this money and putting it in this Expendable Trust Fund for use to be

determined later. Does anyone know how the Opioid Abatement Expendable Trust Fund is being used currently?

Chairman Dowd

Rose Evans is on. I think this Expendable Trust Fund is because we get monies from various sources to fight the opioid crisis and they put it in this one account so it has a place they can spend it from. Rose do you want to address Alderman Jette's concern?

Rose Marie Evans, Comptroller

Yes as Alderman Dowd explained, these funds are put into this Trust Fund. Not quite sure exactly but it is opioid related the purpose of the Trust Fund. I could certainly go look it up like right now and get back to in a minute with the exact wording is in the legislation. We have not spent any money from this fund. As I mentioned at the public hearing, this Expendable Trust Fund was created in Fiscal Year 2021 and the State anticipates that the city will be receiving these opioid litigation funds for many years. I want to say it's 25 to 30 years. Would you like me to go pull the legislation that created the trust fund and get back to you?

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Jette do you want her to do that or you've got Bobbie Bagley online too. She may have further insight.

Alderman Jette

Yeah, that'd be - I don't mean to make a lot of extra work for anyone. I'm just concerned that - I'm in favor of this. I just want to make sure that we use this money as soon as possible for the purpose for which it was intended.

Chairman Dowd

So I think because it's in a specific expendable trust, it can only be used for the opioid crisis. I would say that Director Bagley she has her hand up so I'm sure she has ideas on how we can use it.

Alderman Jette

Please.

Bobbie Bagley, Public Health Division Director

Yes, thank you Chairman Dowd. The funds that will be coming in from the trust fund will be used to mitigate what we're seeing with the opioid problem that we're having right now. We actually have a couple of applications that have come in from some of the partnering organizations that have put forth proposals to use this funding to support the work that they do to prevent overdoses. Those proposals have been reviewed by a committee that the information will then be presented to the Mayor once he's back.

We received four applications from community organizations about a month ago and we're just waiting to present that information before the Mayor so that some of the funds can be expended. The expectation is that dollars will be added into the funds just as Rose mentioned as the settlements continue to clear out over the next 18 years. So that the account that has been set up is an open account that funds will be entered into that as they are awarded to the City of Nashua as well as to the State. There's 15% that goes to the towns that are part of that litigation as well. So there'll be money that'll be coming in and our expectation is to spend it through the applications that we receive from other party organizations prevent overdoses in the City of Nashua and in our region.

Chairman Dowd

Thank you, Director Bagley. Follow up questions Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

No, thank you. Thank you very much.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you to Director Bagley, will either this Committee or the Board at large hear back on who was awarded the money through the Mayor?

Bobbie Bagley, Public Health Division Director

I do believe so yes.

Chairman Dowd

All set Alderman Sullivan?

Alderman Sullivan

Yes, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions? Seeing none, would the Clerk please call the roll?

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Caron, Alderman Wilshire, Alderman Sullivan, Alderwoman Kelly
Alderman Jette, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd 7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

R-22-046

- Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
- Alderman Thomas Lopez
- Alderman Richard A. Dowd
- Alderman Patricia Klee
- Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
- Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF \$4,500 FROM DEPARTMENT 194 "CONTINGENCY", ACCOUNT 70100 "GENERAL CONTINGENCY" TO DEPARTMENT 103 "LEGAL", ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION 51 "SALARIES & WAGES"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Klee

Thank you and thank you for indulging me. St. Andrews has been a lot in need, as I'm sure Alderman O'Brien has spoken over and over again.

Chairman Dowd

That's not this one.

Alderman Klee

Sorry. I'm looking at the wrong one. I jumped ahead. I apologize. Yes, pause on it and I'll come back to it.

Alderman Jette

Yeah, I think you could someone explain what exactly this is doing?

Chairman Dowd

Rose? I think in the legislation it says that there were increased costs to the salaries in the Legal Department and this is covering the difference.

Rose Marie Evans, Comptroller

That is correct Alderman Dowd.

Chairman Dowd

Sorry. Okay.

Alderman Jette

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Okay. Any other questions? Seeing none, would the Clerk please call the roll?

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Caron, Alderman Wilshire, Alderman Sullivan, Alderwoman Kelly
Alderman Jette, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd 7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

R-22-047

- Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
- Alderman John Sullivan
- Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
- Alderman Thomas Lopez
- Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
- Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
- Alderman Alex Comeau
- Alderman Richard A. Dowd
- Alderman Derek Thibeault
- Alderman Patricia Klee
- Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$75,000 OF FY2022 UNANTICIPATED REVENUE INTO FUND 7058 "PARK REHABILITATION EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman O'Brien

As those of you around the horseshoe know, I've been working on this for the past several years. Alderman Caron can say probably the last by her previous employment when was the last time Saint Andrews was repaired? Received a lot of inquiries from the people of Ward 9. So I brought it up and I've been, you know, bringing this championing it forward with Mr. Nick Caggiano when he was in charge of Park and Recreations. Since then, we've had three Directors. They all told me the same thing and then so fortunately with us, nobody ever really budgeted it. In this year's budget, there was no real money really put aside for it until all of a sudden we found out in Infrastructure that we did come across \$50,000. So the \$50,000, which was unanticipated revenue that did come into the city, we decided that if we could turn around and effect the only park that has – and I'm talking about a tot park that has not been touched by the city.

It's been a long time and coming, patience is a virtue but with the help of former Alderman Harriett Gathright, she kept it in the forefront with the new fight with Alderman Sullivan has kept it in the forefront. So I'm very happy to say for passage of this we will fix our last remaining tot park that is in dire need. I think if I had grown up in Nashua I probably would have played on that equipment when I was a tot. It definitely needs to be replaced, and safety, and other things. So I'm glad to have this done. So I hope you support me with this motion. Thank you.

Alderman Klee

The comment that I wanted to make was much of what Alderman O'Brien had said. A lot of work has been gone into it. I know Alderman O'Brien has been fighting the good fight. When Alderwoman Harriett Gathright did not win her election, she called me and said the only thing I'm going to ask is that Saint Andrews is given the do that it deserves. I know she's worked very hard on it, as I'm sure that Alderman Sullivan has as well since he's taken over. It's long do and I agree 100%. I think this is something that we should all when the vote comes to the Board and so on, it should be unanimous. Thank you.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am in agreement with the sentiment and this is great for Ward 9. It is a park that is in dire need of attention. It still has an aluminum slide, which I don't know how many parks in the city have that. I think I went down one maybe when I was four. So to speak to that, I do know that the tree work in the park is cued up and ready to go. I've seen plans. I was delighted to see how this was funded very creatively through the Office of Economic Development. I was thrilled to hear that this legislation was getting put in. I could see obviously from the endorsements from the Board that this should pass, but I wanted to give it my full throated endorsement as well.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Chairman Dowd. I want to thank Alderman O'Brien for getting this done because it was, you know - I'd coached there for many, many years at Dube Field which is right there. Nashua Cal Ripken when I was President, we had to keep the field - we put on new dugouts, roof dugouts, and we and then today keep the field looking nice but the little park that all the little kids would play on that couldn't play in the baseball games would be hanging out watching their siblings. Probably a million kids fell off that slide at some point. It's just it was dangerous. We always fought trying to get any tree work done over there because you know - a lot of work.

Now the next thing is can we get lights there? I just want to thank you guys and thank all the Aldermen that have been working on it to try to get that done. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other comments?

Alderman Caron

So it was in the early '90s that that park was closed when we used to have playground supervises. That slide probably Alderman Dowd has gone up and down it since he was a little boy. But we did try working on it. Nick Caggiano, the Superintendent of Parks, and I tried to get funding for that to be fixed because we thought it was important because it was near a ball field. So when I was reading about it, I thought this was great.

As far as lights, you know, but even if you put security lights there eventually, I think that would be a great help. There is a lot better playground equipment out there for us to put that's a lot safer and the kids like it even better. It's not a very big playground, but it's something that the neighborhood kids really, really enjoy. So I'm totally 100% in support of that.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. When I first ran for office, I don't want to say how long ago, the reason I ran is because I lived across the street from a park - Lions Field over on Marshall and Allds Street. It's one of those things that's in your neighborhood. That's where people live. You want to go out after dinner and take the kids to let him swing or whatever. So when I was the Ward 7 Alderman, I worked with then George Crombie to fix up every park in Ward 7 except the one at the end of Mass Ave. That's the only one we didn't do when I was the Ward 7 Aldermen because I think parks - they're in your neighborhood. They are your neighbors. I was unhappy with that Lions Field being my neighbor and the shape it was in. So that was my priority as a Ward 7 Alderman was to get the parks fixed up and we did a pretty good job so I will support

this for sure.

Chairman Dowd

I'll just say that two, three, maybe four year time flies. On Thornton Road, there's a tot park and Nick Caggiano we upgraded the park. They bought some equipment from overseas. It's not IKEA but something that will last a lifetime. That park is used ALL the time. Every day that it's nice weather, there are kids there playing and they're just having a blast. So this is very important for the young kids.

Anyone else? All right, would the Clerk please call roll.

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Caron, Alderman Wilshire, Alderman Sullivan, Alderwoman Kelly
Alderman Jette, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd 7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-22-019

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

CHANGING THE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS FUNDING PLAN

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

Okay. I think Alderman Clemons wants to speak to it.

Alderman Clemons

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity. So I know you know people probably have a lot of questions on this but what I'm going to ask the Committee is to table this if you will. There's some information that I would still like to get out to the Committee.

The other thing, and more importantly, is that the Downtown Improvement Committee has not yet met to discuss this. So in fairness to them, I think they should have the opportunity to discuss this. It was going to be in front of them in July, but that meeting got canceled as this was the only order of business, and people were on vacation, and it was going to be hard to get a quorum. So hopefully at the August meeting of the Downtown Improvement Committee, which will be the second Friday in August, which unfortunately is after our only August meeting - a full Board meeting, the Committee will meet, discuss this. I'll be able to get some information to bring back here and then hopefully at another date we can discuss this with their recommendation and some more information to answer people's questions.

Chairman Dowd

Would someone on the Committee make a motion to table?

Alderman O'Brien

Well first Mr. Chairman, I made the original motion to recommend final passage but Mr. Chairman, I would like to amend my motion. And my new motion would be is to recommend that this O-22-019 be tabled under the advice of Alderman Clemons.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO TABLE O-22-019, BY ROLL CALL

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Caron, Alderman Wilshire, Alderman Sullivan, Alderwoman Kelly
Alderman Jette, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd 7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

TABLED IN COMMITTEE - None

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome back June Caron.

Alderman Caron

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Okay. Any other remarks?

Alderman Klee

I'd like to echo that, welcome back.

Alderman Caron

Thank you.

Alderman Klee

Are you bringing candy?

Alderman Caron

I was just going to say the candy is already in the mailbox.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. I had meant to bring this up at the Special Board of Aldermen meeting so I will put out a memo about it tomorrow but effective August 1st, we are no longer going to be entertaining Zoom.

Alderman Clemons

On that, can you clarify? Is that for everyone or is that for the public?

Alderman Wilshire

Well the only reason we got Zoom in the first place is because of the pandemic. What I'd like to do is to be able to have presentations by city staff so they don't have to be here, you know, from 5 o'clock till 7 o'clock and then half the night. But I think also, you know, when someone's sick they could call in and do Zoom. Other than that, I mean I think it's gotten its use and I think we need to go back to in person, get her done kind of meeting so.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. I would I would fully support what you've just described.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else?

Alderman Jette

Thank you. So I would like us to discuss that and consider it. I think you may have good reasons for it. I'd like to hear you expound on what those reasons might be. I personally find that, you know, I know Zoom came to us because of our dealing with COVID and the Governor's Executive Order allowed it. I found it to be advantageous. For example, when Aldermen cannot attend a meeting, or they're traveling, or whatever. This gives them an opportunity to continue to participate but also it gives the public an opportunity to participate in the meetings, you know, to voice their comments. I know sometimes the public says things that we don't like hearing. But, you know, I think all in all I think it's - before we allowed Zoom, very few people came to our meetings and it was only on very controversial - items that that sparked the public interest. People for or against, you know, would come. Generally speaking, there was little participation. What Zoom has done is it allows people to be able to participate without having to travel to City Hall.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Jette I don't want to cut you off but we're debating something. She just wanted to make an announcement. We're going to talk about it when she brings it up with the full meeting. So it's not really on the agenda for this meeting. I don't want to cut you off but I don't think we ought to have a long discussion on the pros and cons until we have that action come before us.

Alderman Jette

Okay. I thought she was making the announcement that as of August 1st this would be it. I didn't know that it was going to be a subject - I was just making sure. I would like us to be able to discuss it and make a decision as a group.

Chairman Dowd

Of course I don't think this group - this small group can make a decision for the full Board.

Alderman Wilshire

So I would like to then - I agree that it should be the full Board and take it up at our next full Board meeting. I'll put out a memo and I'd like to have a discussion and have it voted on or whatever we want to do at our August meeting.

I think, you know, we've had trouble with a lot of things with Zoom. Makayla, the wonderful person who's been doing these meetings, is going back to school. So finding someone else to do it is it going to be a challenge? It's been good to have, but it's been not so good to have sometimes too. I think we get more participation from the public, but the public are always welcome to come to our meetings. So we can vet this a little bit more at our next full Board meeting.

Alderman Jette

Thank you.

Alderman Wilshire

Your point is well taken.

Chairman Dowd

If there's nothing else, Alderman O'Brien.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO ADJOURN, BY ROLL CALL

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Caron, Alderman Wilshire, Alderman Sullivan, Alderwoman Kelly
Alderman Jette, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd 7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared closed at 8:52 p.m.

Alderman Michael B. O'Brien, Sr., Committee Clerk