

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday – February 2, 2026

1. Councillor Katz called the meeting to order at 9:45pm in the City Council Chamber.
2. Chairman Katz requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – Committee members Durkee, King, LaFauci, LeBlanc, and Katz were all present in-person.
3. Councillor Durkee moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on January 20, 2026. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the meeting on January 20, 2026 were accepted.
4. A request was received from the Mayor to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$152,129.27 to purchase a new ice resurfacing machine for the Veterans Memorial Skating Rink. The current machine was purchased in 2025 and due to its continuous use, it requires increasing levels of maintenance and repair.

FROM:

Unreserved Fund Balance	#001-000-3590-3590	\$152,129.27
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TO:

Recreation Rink –

Ice Resurfacing Machine	#640-630-5800-6462	\$152,129.27
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A motion to hear from the Recreation Director, Kim Hebert, was adopted on voice vote. Ms. Hebert gave a brief explanation of the need, citing its age and ongoing maintenance/repairs. Councillor LaFauci asked if a charging station was needed and if new Zamboni includes a warranty. Councillors Durkee and LeBlanc stated their support for the new Zamboni. Councillor LaFauci moved to approve the appropriation request of \$152,129.27 for the new Zamboni. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

5. A request was received from the to approve funding transfers totaling \$143,000 to cover upcoming expenses in the DPW Water & Sewer Operations Department through the end of the 2026 fiscal year.

FROM:

DPW Water Admin – FT Salary	#610-455-5100-5111	\$ 86,000
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DPW Water Ops – FT Wages	#610-452-5100-5112	<u>\$ 21,000</u>
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DPW – MWRA Sewer Assessment	#600-440-5400-5690	\$ 36,000
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TO:

DPW Water Ops – General Expenses	#610-452-5200-5000	<u>\$107,000</u>
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DPW Sewer Ops – General Expenses	#600-440-5200-5000	<u>\$ 36,000</u>
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A motion to hear from the DPW Director, Michael Chiasson, was adopted on a voice vote. Upon questions from Councillors, Mr. Chiasson explained the Cross Connection Inspector resigned earlier this fiscal year, which has required us to contract out the mandatory testing and inspections of cross connection/backflow devices throughout the City. Also, the Trapelo Road Sewer Pump Station requires the replacement of one of the three main pumps. Furthermore, prevailing economic conditions, including the impact of tariffs, have resulted in increased costs for commodities and ongoing monthly expenses, necessitating additional funding to cover our operating costs through the end of the fiscal year. Councillor LeBlanc moved to approve the transfer of \$143,000. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

6. A request was received from the Mayor to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$106,872.50 to fund the street resurfacing of Pine Vale Road as part of the street resurfacing project for Seminole Avenue and Hardy Pond Road.

FROM:

F/B Transportation Network	#212-121-1020-3300	\$106,872.50
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TO:

DPW – Pine Vale Rd Resurfacing	#001-420-5800-6725	\$106,872.50
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A motion to hear from the DPW Director, Michael Chiasson, was adopted on a voice vote. Upon questions from Councillors LeBlanc and LaFauci, Mr. Chiasson explained the scope of the work and its inclusion with the Seminole Avenue and Hardy Pond Road project. Councillor LaFauci moved to approve the appropriation request of \$106,872.50 for the resurfacing project. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

7. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the acceptance of the Community One Stop for Growth State Grant in the amount of \$6,000,000 from the MassWorks Program. The grant funds will be used to support the Green Street Connector project. A motion to hear from the Mayor was adopted on voice vote. Upon questions from Councillor LaFauci, the Mayor explained the scope of the project that included roadway, traffic, and utility improvements. The Mayor stated the City will apply and expects to receive an additional \$6,000,000 grant. The Mayor also stated the State would handle the bridge project. Councillor LeBlanc asked several follow up questions about the grant program. Councillor King asked questions about who would manage the project. From the Chair, Councillor Katz added commentary about the project and the multiple facets it entailed. Councillor LaFauci moved to accept the grant of \$6,000,000. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
8. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the acceptance of the Community One Stop for Growth State Grant in the amount of \$1,500,000 from the HousingWorks Infrastructure Program. The funds will be used to support the Green Street Connector project. A motion to hear from the Mayor was adopted on voice vote. The Mayor stated the City will apply and expects to receive an additional \$1,500,000 grant. Councillor

LaFauci moved to accept the grant of \$1,500,000. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

9. A request was received from the Mayor to approve following position in the Auditor's Office to be reassigned as follows:

From:	To:
Accountant GR 11	Senior Accountant GR13

Since there is sufficient funding in the overall salary account, no additional funding is needed to affect the staffing change. Upon questions from Councillor LaFauci, Auditor Paul Centofanti explained the reasons for the staffing change citing the need for the incumbent employee to take on additional responsibilities. Councillor LaFauci moved to approve the staffing change. The motion was adopted on voice vote.

10. A motion by Councillor Durkee to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote and Chairman Katz declared the meeting adjourned at 10:15pm.

Paul G. Centofanti – Clerk to the Finance Committee