

Appropriations Committee

Chairman Medeiros, Tramontozzi, Infurna, Boisselle, Wright, Seaboyer, Forbes, Mortimer, McAteer-Margolis, Bird, Conn
In attendance: Mayor Robert J. Dolan, Cemetery Supervisor Mike Hughes, Bob Beshara, City Engineer and Superintendent of Public Works; Frank Giso, Melrose Housing Authority

The Appropriations Committee is called to order by Chairman Medeiros at 7:33 p.m. Alderman Mortimer motions to open Public Participation, 2nd by Alderman Infurna. All in favor. No one comes forward. Alderman Mortimer motions to close Public Participation, 2nd by Alderman Infurna. All in favor.

Order No. 12-02, BOND Authorizing City Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor to issue bonds or notes of the City to the aggregate principal amount of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$350,000.00) to fund the Cemetery Expansion and Maintenance Building Renovations Program.

Alderman Tramontozzi motions to suspend the rules to hear from Mayor Dolan, 2nd by Alderman McAteer-Margolis. All in favor.

Mayor Dolan says most areas of the cemetery have been utilized. Funding for this proposed expansion/beatification project of 26,000 sq. ft. will provide 246 double graves at the southeast corner with no impact on the tax rate. It will also rehabilitate the existing garages. The project will be paid through a pre-sale lottery of 20-25 double plots each year for 5 years. If a person enters the lottery and isn't selected, their application will automatically be included in the next lottery.

Mr. Hughes says this is the first step in planning for Baby Boomers and Generation X. Cremation sites were created five years ago; 150 sites hold four urns per site. There is opportunity to add cremations sites within the expansion, assuring the availability of graves for 25 years. The term of the borrowing request before the Board of Aldermen is five years. The cemetery is self-sufficient in terms of revenue. Twenty-two presales per year at \$3600 will service \$350,000 debt over the five year term. It will also provide the renovation and reconfiguration of the maintenance buildings, allowing for needed storage.

Mr. Beshara says only about 15% of the funds will be used to renovate the maintenance building. Most of the bond funding will be dedicated to building and landscaping the new burial area. The slope facing the existing cemetery can be used for cremation vaults in the future.

Mayor Dolan says the project is slated to begin on August 22 and be completed by mid-September. He also stated that the Cemetery Commission has the authority to change the price of the plots if necessary.

Alderman Mortimer moves to recommend, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle. All in favor.

Order No. 12-03, Special Act of the General Court
Petition to the Great and General Court to enact a Special Act authorizing the Melrose Housing Authority to transfer properties at 165 Trenton Street and 499-501 Lebanon Street, Melrose, MA to the Melrose Affordable Housing Corporation as set forth herein.

Alderman Mortimer motions to suspend the rules, 2nd by alderman Bird.

Mayor Dolan says this legislation will authorize the transfer of property from the Melrose Housing Authority to the Melrose Affordable Housing Corporation. It will terminate any previous restrictions of use. Funds will be used to by the Melrose Housing Authority for the repair of its low-income family units and assist the MAHC to increase the number of low and moderate housing units owned by the MAHC within the City. He supports it whole heartedly.

Mr. Giso says the properties purchased will be two- family homes and will be rental units; Melrose residents will be given preference. The two properties to be sold will be handled by an agent. This will likely be discussed in September when the House of Representatives convenes.

Alderman Forbes moves to recommend, 2nd by Alderman McAteer-Margolis. All in favor.

Order No. 12-04, Amending Melrose Revised Ordinances, Chapter 152-24, Wine and malt beverage licensing, Part A (2) as set forth herein. (A-3)

Alderman Wright says he is the maker of the order. The amendment will require the Liquor License Commission to notify the Board of Aldermen of any request in change of manager or management, or notice of an alleged violation.

Alderman Wright moves to recommend, 2nd by Alderman Infurna.

On discussion Alderman Infurna says she met with Liquor Commissioner Leo Colborne and he fully supports the amendment.

On the motion to recommend, All in favor.

Alderman Mortimer motions to adjourn, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle. All in favor.

Appropriations adjourns at 9:02 p.m.

Maribeth Harrington
Clerk of Committees