

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

MAY 5, 2021

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via teleconference. Mayor Jim Donchess, Chairman, presided.

Mayor Donchess

As Chair of the Finance Committee, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 and subsequent extensions, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

To access Zoom, please refer to the agenda or the City's website for the meeting link.

To join by phone dial: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 882 8540 8513

Passcode: 974493

The public may also view the meeting via Channel 16.

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, through public postings. Instructions have also been provided on the City of Nashua's website at www.nashuanh.gov and publicly noticed at City Hall and Nashua Public Library. If anyone has a problem accessing the meeting via phone or Channel 16, please call 603-821-2049 and they will help you connect.

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting via the methods mentioned above, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law. The roll call was taken with 7 members of the Finance Committee present: Alderman Patricia Klee, Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu, Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright, Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly, Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws, Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr., and Mayor Jim Donchess

Also in Attendance:

Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
John Griffin, CFO/Comptroller
David Fredette, Treasurer/Tax Collector
Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director
Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager
Sarah Marchant, Community Development Director
Captain Mederos, Nashua Police Department
Doria Brown, Energy Manager
Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

ROLL CALL

Alderman Klee

I am here, I can hear the proceedings and I am alone in this room.

Alderwoman Lu

I am alone here and I can hear you.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

The Clerk is present, I am alone and I can hear you.

Alderwoman Kelly

I am here, I am alone and I can hear everyone.

Alderman Laws

I am here, I am alone and I can hear everyone.

Alderman O'Brien

I am present, I can hear the proceedings and I am alone.

Mayor Donchess

Yes I am distancing as a result of the pandemic and I am alone in the room. Thank you Madam Clerk. We, of course, have a quorum. Public Comment. Is there anybody who would like to address the Committee?

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

I would like to acknowledge that President Lori Wilshire is on board as well.

Mayor Donchess

Oh, OK. Thank you for doing that. Is there any other members? David Fredette, Kim Kleiner.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Yes John Griffin and Tim Cummings.

Mayor Donchess

Welcome Alderwoman Wilshire.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

It's quite a few.

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: DMV Staffing/Online Appointment Management in the amount not to exceed \$40,000 funded from accounts 53452 Staffing Services

MOTION BY ALDERMAN HARRIOTT-GATHRIGHT TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND APPROVE THE CONTINUED CONTRACT WITH THE LEDDY GROUP IN ASSISTING WITH THE ONLINE APPOINTMENT SYSTEM FOR MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION CUSTOMERS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 126 FINANCIAL SERVICES; FUND: 53452 STAFFING SERVICES, BY ROLL CALL.

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

I believe Mr. Fredette is here on this, City Treasurer. David are you here on this one or is it Ms. Kleiner?

John Griffin, CFO

Mr. Mayor, this is John Griffin.

Mayor Donchess

Alright we've got Mr. Fredette and CFO Griffin. Go ahead, explain the item please?

David Fredette, City Treasurer

Well briefly, I could talk about it for half an hour, but briefly since March of 2020, not March of 2021 but 2020 through today I have had at least 2 to 4 employees out on medical or COVID-19 issues and I still have employees out. I've needed some extra help to deal with emails, telephone calls and the appointment system. We are seeing about 120 people a day and I need that extra help with the short-handedness with the people that have some health issues, basically is the answer.

Mayor Donchess

OK. Questions or comments from the Committee or any members of the Board?

Alderwoman Lu

I have a question.

Mayor Donchess

Alderwoman Lu.

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So in the past, you know, I don't have my notes taken very well on my sheet of paper here but over the last year, we have spent I think it was \$24,000.00. But the end date on this staffing I thought was June 30th, 2021. So I am asking about why the addition that's the end date is in two months is close to what the original year was?

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Fredette.

Mr. Fredette

I am not sure I know the exact answer to that. I just know at one time we had two temp employees and right now we just have one.

Mayor Donchess

But the question is \$40,000.00 between now and the end of the year, that's the question.

Mr. Griffin

Maybe I could answer it, Mr. Chairman. John Griffin, CFO.

Mayor Donchess

Yes, Mr. Griffin?

Mr. Griffin

As we all know, when we started the partial opening, we had a lot of our colleagues out front or out back I guess handing out tickets to folks that wanted to register vehicles. It became obvious that we needed an electronic means of signing up for appointments. So the first staffing person that worked with me created or configured, whatever the right word is, the appointment system that we have today and that's going very well. That individual left for another opportunity and we subsequently got an individual to help us, most particular, Deb Martel, who is the supervisor Motor Vehicles. And as David is indicating, coming off of a closed shop with a partial opening, it took us awhile to catch up. So this particular expenditure began, I believe it was August/September of 2020. It continues today and because of certain illnesses in the team and certain COVID absences, we would respectfully request that we continue the relationship with the Leddy Group through June 30th of fiscal '21. So we haven't spent all the money yet; we've spent a fair amount of it. We would like to continue to do that staff augmentation. Hopefully that answers the question.

Mayor Donchess

Alderman Lu do you have any follow-up?

Alderman Lu

No, I don't. Thank you for that answer.

Mayor Donchess

OK. Any other questions or comments?

Alderman Lu

I have another question if no one else does, sorry I just found it. So it is \$40,000.00 that will be spent within 2 months is that correct?

Mr. Griffin

Maybe I misspoke. The \$40,000.00 would be the total amount we've spent from last August until this June 30th. We have spent pretty close to \$25,000.00 that's why we felt it important to come in and ask for Finance Committee approval.

Alderwoman Lu

OK. I see and is it weekly.

Mr. Griffin

Yes, Mr. Chairman. It is weekly this person (audio cuts out) for approximately 40 hours a week, no benefits.

Mayor Donchess

You were breaking up there for a moment, could you try to repeat that.

Mr. Griffin

Sure. This is an hourly person, this is a staffing augmentation person. They get paid for hours worked, no benefits. But these two people who have worked with us proved to be very helpful. Sorry if I am breaking up, my internet is unstable at this point.

Mayor Donchess

Any follow up, any other questions.

Alderwoman Lu

Just a comment.

Mayor Donchess

OK go ahead.

Alderwoman Lu

I just remember that we had been talking about not doing any hiring and I wonder if this was actually sticking to that. But thank you for your answers.

Mr. Griffin

You're welcome.

Mayor Donchess

Well you know, we've made exceptions where we have necessary people and this Automobile Registration brings in what for the City? \$16 million dollars a year; \$17 million and so we got to make sure that all of this gets done and the citizens have got to get their cars registered as well. So this is what it has taken. Alright, well anyone else? If there isn't, Madam Clerk, could you please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Harriott-Gathright,
Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Laws, Alderman O'Brien, Mayor Donchess 7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: City Hall Temporary Staffing in the amount not to exceed \$33,000 funded from accounts 53452
Staffing Services

MOTION BY ALDERMAN HARRIOTT-GATHRIGHT TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND APPROVE THE CONTINUED TEMPORARY STAFFING SERVICES TO ASSIST RESIDENTS WITH VERIFYING APPOINTMENTS AND NAVIGATION OF THE CITY HALL DURING CONSTRUCTION WITH HW STAFFING SOLUTIONS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$33,000 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 111 HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION; FUND: 53452 STAFFING SERVICES, BY ROLL CALL.

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Alright. Mr. Griffin?

Kim Kleiner, Director of Administrative Services

Good evening Mayor.

Mayor Donchess

Oh is it Ms. Kleiner on this one.

Director Kleiner

It is following suit right after CFO Griffin and Mr. Fredette. Last fall around the same time period as CFO Griffin was working on the appointment system, the Administrative Services Division and Risk Management decided that we needed to have someone who could assist our residents that were coming into the building. As you know, we were under construction and that certainly brings some liability when you are having residents navigate the space. We also wanted to verify the appointments and assist Motor Vehicles. As we have continued on, this position has done a number of other things such as give out information for the City Clerk's Office, assist individuals in how to navigate the City Web Site should they need to get additional information and also schedule some appointments for Motor Vehicles if it was off in the future.

Now as we are looking to have other Departments join the appointment system and we are looking to have more activity at City Hall, we would like to continue this temporary staffing service to what we call the "City Greeter". This is our second City Greeter who is actually in this role. The first City Greeter worked for quite a few months for the City and eventually applied and was hired by the City in one of our Departments. So that worked out quite well. We are asking for through June 30th with a total amount not to exceed \$33,000.00.

Mayor Donchess

OK thank you. Questions/comments? Anyone? Alright Madam Clerk, could you please call the roll?

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Mayor, Alderwoman Lu has her hand up.

Mayor Donchess

Alderwoman Lu.

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. I apologize I was having trouble finding the screen. Thank you for catching that. Again, I think it is the way the Memo is written up. It says \$33,000.00 weekly and I am just, I am sorry to have to ask, but we are talking about \$33,000.00 max between now and the end of June 30, 2021. Is that correct.

Director Kleiner

Yes, that is correct.

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. I am all set.

Mayor Donchess

Alright, anyone else? Madam Clerk, then?

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

Yea: Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Harriott-Gathright,
Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Laws, Alderman O'Brien, Mayor Donchess 7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Donchess

The next item is a Communication from me, Mayor Jim Donchess, it's an informational item to advise you that the lighting contract for the River has been amended to reduce the price by \$9,500.00 roughly. Unless you have questions I will go on to the next item.

From: Mayor Jim Donchess

Re: Change Order for Riverfront Lighting Change Order #1

There being no objection, Mayor Donchess accepted the communication and placed it on file.

Mayor Donchess

Next is also another informational item because we are just advising you of an amendment to the contract, the scope of the contract regarding software because the net amount of the contract does not go up. They have agreed to waive any additional amount. So they are going to be doing additional hours but not charging any additional fees. So that, again, is an informational items and we could answer, I'm sure Ms. Kleiner could answer any questions if you have any. But if not we will move to the next item.

From: Mayor Jim Donchess

Re: Change Order for Budgeting/Planning Software Implementation Change Order #1

There being no objection, Mayor Donchess accepted the communication and placed it on file.

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Nashua Police Department HVAC Repair Project in the amount of \$3,601,767 funded from accounts 81200 Buildings & Improvements

MOTION BY ALDERMAN HARRIOTT-GATHRIGHT TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND AWARD CONTRACTING SERVICES FOR THE NASHUA POLICE DEPARTMENT HVAC REPAIRS AND SYSTEM UPGRADES TO TURNSTONE CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,601,767. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 150 POLICE DEPARTMENT; FUND: 81200 BUILDINGS & IMPROVEMENTS, BY ROLL CALL.

ON THE QUESTIONMayor Donchess

There may be someone on from the PD here, if not I can handle it. Are you here on this?

Daniel Mederos, Captain Nashua Police Department.

Mr. Mayor, it is Captain Mederos with the Nashua PD.

Mayor Donchess

Alright, please Captain, go ahead.

Captain Mederos

Thank you Mayor and members of the committee. Just speaking on this, the contract before us stems from our heating ventilation and air conditioning project that we started back in 2019 when we had an overall assessment in inventory of our system, due to the failures and inefficiency. Obviously, we were recommended to mostly a total upgrade which we went forth with, secured initial funding, was able to, based on the original estimate, we were able to secure a design through (inaudible) & Associates. And moving forward from there, the pandemic struck and held off on the design. By the time we were able to go to bid, which was this February, where we became aware of 4 bids which one kind of ended up dropping out. We ended up after the vetting process and going through Purchasing, Reference and Interviews with Turnstone Corporation for this price of a \$3,601,767. Unfortunately it was much higher than what was expected. We were able to go back to budget and secure the additional funding and moving forward for our upgrade. Most of it is the overhaul of the vintage 1971 original part of the building and then upgrading the secondary 2000 HVAC systems that we have here at the Department.

Mayor Donchess

Alright. And I would simply add that the Police Building uses a lot of energy in part because of its antiquated and about to break down HVAC System. So we think that once this can be replaced, certainly the system will be much more dependable. But also we anticipate being able to save on energy costs although we cannot quantify that. We will be able to report on that after the fact. But if you see this thing, it looks like it was built in another era or something because it is like held together by chicken wire almost. So any questions or comments on this from any members of the Committee. I don't see anything, but I don't see everyone either. Alderwoman Wilshire.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you Mayor, I just wanted to encourage the Finance Committee to support this. It is a long overdue project and I think it will serve the City well in the long run. So thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Anyone else?

Alderwoman Kelly

Alderman Kelly?

Mayor Donchess

Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

I called myself Alderman kind of trip you up there. I just wanted to say that I appreciate the potential savings with swapping this out for something more energy efficient. I know that that is on our list of things we are trying to do at the City so I appreciate this.

Mayor Donchess

Anyone else?

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

There is a hand up, Doria has her hand up.

Mayor Donchess

Who does?

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Doria Brown.

Mayor Donchess

Doria are you here?

Doria Brown, Energy Manager

Yes I am here. I wanted to speak as the Energy Manager in support of this project. It is going to be very important to get this done in a timely manner to compliment the window project that the Police Department just did. From doing the analysis for the windows for the Police Department, they don't have nearly as much savings as they should in energy because they still have that antiquated system. So as soon as we get this project done the better. Also we were able to get access to some Eversource Relief fund for this project which should help to pay back the bond or it will go back to this project or something.

Mayor Donchess

Alright and, of course, Doria will carefully document the savings which occur after the completion of the project. Anyone else, though, wish to speak on this. Alderwoman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you so much. I truly appreciate the comments from Doria. I think that does lead us to the fact that if we just do the windows we are only doing half the project and it is important to make sure that we get full advantage of monies that Eversource is offering or whatever other organization, whether it be grants or something to that nature. We need to take advantage of it because eventually this is going to have to be done anyway. So it's better to do it now, reap the cost benefits of the energy savings and just on a whole green issue, I think it is so important. So thank you so much.

Mayor Donchess

Alright. Anyone else? If not, Madam Clerk, could you please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Harriott-Gathright,
Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Laws, Alderman O'Brien, Mayor Donchess 7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Renovation Change Order #1 for the Public Health Building in the amount not to exceed
\$150,000 funded from accounts 81200 Buildings & Improvements

MOTION BY ALDERMAN HARRIOTT-GATHRIGHT TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND APPROVE RENOVATION CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH BUILDING FOR UNANTICIPATED EXPENSES TO MARTINI & NORTHERN IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 183 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; FUND: 81200 BUILDINGS & IMPROVEMENTS/COMMUNITY HEALTH BUILDING IMPROVEMENT BOND, BY ROLL CALL.

ON THE QUESTIONMayor Donchess

Now I believe Mr. Cummings is here on this?

Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development

Yes, good evening Mayor.

Mayor Donchess

Could you just cover it please?

Director Cummings

Yes absolutely. So for the record Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development. I am here before you this evening to ask for approval for an additional \$150,000.00 on the contract to Martini & Northern for the construction and renovation, rehabilitation of the Public Health building. I should note for the record that we have this money set aside; it is in the budget. We had planned for this originally, the bond authorization was for \$3.6 million dollars. The total contract pre this request was just under \$2.8 after this gets approved we would just be under \$3 million. And we have that money available. So this was available through our contingency our contingency budget that we have retained and we had set that at \$175,000.00.

Just to note what some of these items are that we will be looking to do. These are really, most of them are code-driven changes that we need to make to be compliant. We have a fire escape repair at \$55,000.00 that needs to be done; we have building exterior lighting at \$15,000.00, that's a Risk issue; landscaping that we need to do, not so much we need to do, but I think it's one that we should do if we have the money for it is pressure washing the exterior. That building hasn't been cleaned in I don't know how long so now is the time to do it. Security cameras we need to do: ADA signage we need to do; sprinkler heads we need to do all for Code-related reasons along with roof access for Code-related reasons. Maintenance reason – a relocation of the utility closet; maintenance improvement filter brills, and then corresponding site work for the fire escape that we need to do. And then lastly a maintenance-related driven change just a relocation of the water closet which will create some efficiencies.

So with that being said, Mr. Mayor, looking to get approval for \$150,000.00. We are on track to wrap this project up by the end of May and we are trying to get the Public Health personnel back into their building sometime this summer. When all is said and done, if we don't have any other surprises, we will bring this project in under budget. And I will have a better answer for you once we finalize all the numbers, but we will be well under the \$3.6 we set aside. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Questions or comments? Alderwoman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you Mr. Mayor. Through you to Director Cummings, are the security cameras both inside and outside of the building?

Director Cummings

Those security cameras would be exterior.

Alderwoman Lu

OK. Thank you. I am all set.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you. Anyone else? Alderwoman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

I just wanted to comment that I know that the Department of Public Health is looking forward to getting back in their building and this was a long overdue project. So I am happy to support this and get them back in a space that is healthy and clean and allows them to do their jobs which we know over the last year, it has been very hard.

Mayor Donchess

Anyone else? Alright could you, Madam Clerk, please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Harriott-Gathright,
Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Laws, Alderman O'Brien, Mayor Donchess 7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-21-133

- Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
- Alderman Patricia Klee
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
- Alderman Jan Schmidt
- Alderman Thomas Lopez
- Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
- Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NASHUA TO ENTER INTO A JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT OF COMMUNITY POWER COALITION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN HARRIOTT-GATHRIGHT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE, BY ROLL CALL.

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

I believe we have Doria Brown here to address the contract?

Ms. Brown

Yes I am here to address the contract. I also have a short presentation because I understand that it's been a little bit since we have come in contact with Community Power.

Mayor Donchess

OK why don't you go ahead?

Ms. Brown

So here we are, can you guys see this screen before I start?

Mayor Donchess

Yes.

Ms. Brown

Awesome. So I wanted to present about the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire which is an organization that I have been working to form with the City of Lebanon, the town of Hanover and Cheshire County for the last year and a half. So we are finally at the milestone to officially join this organization by signing a joint powers agreement which is the contract that we are looking at today. But first I wanted to go over what Community Power is.

Community Power is a way for towns, cities and counties to procure electric supply on behalf of their residents and businesses and provide related customer services. For example, net energy metering, supply rates and etc. So you are pooling purchase power. The utility company will still be in charge of delivering that energy to residents so that part of the bill will be unchanged. But what we are really changing is where that kilowatt hour side of the energy bill comes from. We will be able to purchase potentially lower cost energy on behalf of the community and also greener energy if we decide that is the way we want to go in Nashua. So this is a very new and innovative program; something that would help us get to our 100% renewable by 2050 goal.

So what is the Community Power Coalition which is what you would be joining when you sign the JPA? It is a peer network, technical service group. So we are coming together to share services. I quickly realized when I started researching what community power is after RSA 53E passed, that I could not implement a program alone as the Energy Manager. So this will allow us to share programs and services with other communities; for example customer service, going out to bid for power supply and also coming up with new and innovative renewal energy projects. So that brings us together with a bunch of other communities to share that cost which would make it extremely expensive for Nashua to do by itself.

So who pays? I know that specific side of Finance. So this agreement is free. To join in the JPA we are not obligated or putting up any sort of money to join Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. What we are doing is setting ourselves up to be able to create an aggregation plan with our Aggregation Committee with help from this organization which is something that would be very difficult to start up and do on our own. When it comes to cost of buying power supply, all of the cost of this program will be wrapped into the price of power like it is now with Eversource. They wrap up any sort of cost that they are incurring of buying our kilowatt hours into the price that we pay. So we would be doing the same for our residents, that part wouldn't change. We would potentially be able to leverage less expensive energy by negotiating for ourselves in the wholesale market or the New England market.

How do you join a coalition? This is the part where we are at right now which is the Joint Powers Agreement. This is an agreement that has not been officially executed so the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire is not an official entity until we have three communities who have adopted the JPA and are ready to start becoming a real entity. Right now the JPA has been approved by our Attorney General. Lebanon has passed the JPA, so has Hanover and so has Cheshire County. So Nashua is the last group to pass the JPA from the original organizers of this program. But we are expecting between 5 to 10 communities to have passed it by July 2021 so that's coming up very quickly. And once we have that initial group of 5 to 10 communities, the coalition will become a real entity and we will be able to, probably not go out for power supply yet, because we are still waiting for rules to be made by the PUC.

But we will be able to act as an organization to advocate for ourselves in PUC rulemaking as well as start talking to vendors about power supply and figuring out what the price for energy is really going to be which is something we can't do right now on our own.

What is a Joint Power Agency or where are they? They are everywhere. These are some places that have Joint Power Agencies in the United States. This will be the first one in New Hampshire, which is kind of a big deal for Nashua to be a part of that. So what about in the community power industry? There are only a few Community Power JPAs, again, Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire will be the first one in New Hampshire but there are some in Massachusetts, California, just very few. So there's not a lot to go off of and that's what I had for today just to go over this.

Here are some of our founding members, I'm up there, that's me along with Clifton Below from the City of Lebanon; Julia Griffin from the Town of Hanover; April Sakas from the town of Hanover; and Rod Bouchard from Cheshire County. We are the founding members of the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. I am just going to skip past this. And I wanted to get to this part of the presentation because I don't want to hold you guys up all day. These are the steps to starting a Community Power Aggregation for our community. And I know we are kind of mixed up in the steps here because we had to start up the organization in order for us to get to these other steps. We have done some already; we have started an Aggregation Committee but we haven't met yet and that's because we don't have anything to do with Aggregation Committee. But adopting the JPA will give us access to be able to create an aggregation plan and that's where this group will be very vital to us. They will be able to provide us with templates and help us hone that template with Nashua's goals to adopt an aggregation plan and start going out for bid for power with the other communities.

So right now we need to adopt the JPA, then write the aggregation plan with our Aggregation Committee, hopefully having our first meeting. And then that aggregation plan will go to our Board of Aldermen where there should be a public hearing or a public session for people to speak on it. And then hopefully with a few edits, probably the JPA will be approved and then we can officially start going out for power supply as long as the rulemaking is done with the PUC. So there's still a couple steps but we are finally to that point where it is time to start meeting as an Aggregation Committee once the JPA is passed. So that's my spiel for today. Do I have any questions?

Mayor Donchess

So let me just clarify a couple things that you went over. For Nashua to embark on Community Power, under State Law we would need to adopt an aggregation plan, correct?

Ms. Brown

100% correct.

Mayor Donchess

That would be first formulated by our own Nashua Aggregation Committee with the assistance of this Community Power Coalition.

Ms. Brown

Yes.

Mayor Donchess

And that would then come to the Board of Aldermen to be voted on.

Ms. Brown

Correct.

Mayor Donchess

And until there were an aggregation plan and until the Board of Aldermen approves it, we could not embark on Community Power until those steps were completed.

Ms. Brown

Yes and we both know according to RSA 53E we need to have a Public Hearing.

Mayor Donchess

And we would need to have a Public Hearing where we would take community input.

Ms. Brown

Yes.

Mayor Donchess

The other things that, of course, needs to happen which you mentioned a few times, but it has certainly become an obstacle is the necessity for the PUC or some agency of State Government because now there might be a new energy department or whatever to issue detailed rules covering some undefined issues concerning Community Power in general. That needs to be done as well.

Ms. Brown

Correct.

Mayor Donchess

So we are waiting on them and there have been many discussions with the PUC and these towns and Eversource regarding what form these rules might take, correct?

Ms. Brown

Yes, but we are hoping with adopting the JPA with a bunch of communities that we can act as a group officially in that official capacity to be able to work through that rulemaking session with either the PUC or the Department of Energy if that is the entity that has the rulemaking session.

Mayor Donchess

And do you think that the creation of this organization will give us leverage with the PUC to help persuade them that certain rules need to be adopted that would assist in the implementation of Community Power.

Ms. Brown

It will give us leverage and organization as communities. Right now it is a mishmash like 148 people signing to speak on something but everybody saying the same thing. So it is not as productive as a conversation. If we are able to act as an official entity to the Community Power Coalition we will have a lot more leverage as communities and have a singular message.

Mayor Donchess

Alright. Well I would like to say before we get questions that Doria has done a really good job, has worked very hard on this whole issue and has become one of the leaders in the State on Community Power. It is very promising but has turned out to be more difficult and complicated than maybe we anticipated at the beginning. OK. Questions/comments from members of the Committee or the Board? Alderwoman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Mr. Mayor and thank you Alderwoman Gathright. I don't really have so much a question as I wanted to comment. I met Doria at an event, a training session before she was hired. I was so impressed with her that when I knew she was being hired I was so thrilled and so happy because I could just see her work ethic and so on. She just continues to prove it over and over again with this type of endeavor and her detail when she gives us reports and so on. So Doria, I just wanted to say thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you. Anyone else? I am trying to see if anyone has their hand raised which I don't see. Alright well if there are no other questions, could the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Harriott-Gathright, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Laws, Alderman O'Brien, Mayor Donchess	7
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIEDMayor Donchess

So the motion passes but I just wanted to have one more question for Doria before she leaves. So if the Board of Aldermen acts favorably on this Resolution, will then the Aggregation Committee be in a position to meet and begin discussing the aggregation plan?

Ms. Brown

Yes. This is what I have been waiting for, for months is to be able to work on this aggregation plan. I didn't see the point of having meetings with the Aggregation Committee if there was nothing for them to do. But this is that first piece and then after negotiating the aggregation plan and if that passes through the Board of Aldermen and Public Hearing, then it is time to talk about what kind of services we want from the Community Power Coalition; how much money we are willing to put out for kilowatt hour for our residents. And that will be the biggest endeavor that the Aggregation Committee has to recommend that to the Board of Aldermen. Also, the Committee will have to put up somebody to join the Coalition's Board. So that's also a big deal as well. It is finally time to start working and I am really excited about it.

Mayor Donchess

That's good. Alright, thank you very much. Motion passes so that is recommended for final passage and that will be taken up, I presume at next Tuesday's meeting of the Board of Aldermen. Thank you Doria.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Alderman Wilshire's hand is up.

Mayor Donchess

Whose?

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Alderman Wilshire.

Mayor Donchess

Alderman Wilshire?

Alderman Wilshire

Mayor, could we ask Ms. Brown to share the PowerPoint on the City's website or someplace.

Ms. Brown

Yes.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

No problem.

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

RECORD OF EXPENDITURES

MOTION BY ALDERMAN HARRIOTT-GATHRIGHT THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS COMPLIED WITH THE CITY CHARTER AND ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO THE RECORD OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 16, 2021 TO APRIL 29, 2021, BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Harriott-Gathright, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Laws, Alderman O'Brien, Mayor Donchess 7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN - None

NON-PUBLIC SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO ADJOURN BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Harriott-Gathright,
Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Laws, Alderman O'Brien, Mayor Donchess 7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The Finance Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Committee Clerk