

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

AUGUST 28, 2023

A meeting of the Budget Review Committee was held Monday, August 28, 2023, at 7:37 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

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, Chair
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr., Clerk
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly (via Zoom)
Alderman John Sullivan

Members not in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Ernest Jette

Also in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Derek Thibeault
John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector
Tim Cummings, Administrative Services Director

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS

Without objection, Chairman Dowd suspended the rules to allow for a communication that was received after the agenda was prepared.

From: Alderman Alex Comeau
Re: R-23-149

There being no objection, Chairman Dowd accepted the communication and placed it on file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-23-136

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF \$95,000 FROM DEPARTMENT 122 "INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY" TO DEPARTMENT 120 "TECHNOLOGY MAINTENANCE"

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

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

Treasurer Griffin can you come up. Several of these will require questions and answers I'm assuming. Do you want to just give a brief overview of what we're doing here for the public and then if there are any questions, I'll open it up for questions.

John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector

Sure Mr. Chairman. There are a few what I call housekeeping matters with a budget the size of the City and the number of departments we have where we can't simply transfer monies from one department to another. This is an example of department 120 formerly known as "Telecommunications" now known as "Technology Maintenance". That particular department needed \$95,000 to balance, and the Information Technology budget had such funds available, and they were willing to transfer the monies from Department 122 Information Technology to Department 120.

Chairman Dowd

Okay, any questions? Yes, Alderman Sullivan.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you very much. Mr. Griffin - I'm sorry I have a frog in my throat. This is going to be the question for all these legislations so I won't ask it five times or however many you have. But just using this fund as an example, I'm looking at the financial statements for period ending July 31 of 2023. If we take \$95,000 out of Department 122, I see there's \$179,000 remaining. So is that - and then I read the analysis of this that this money is actually - so it's not going to be taken out of that department. It's going to be taken out of surplus funds that we collected in Fiscal Year 2023, correct, and then it's going to be applied to that. I'm just having a hard time getting my arms around that one.

John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector

Good question and hopefully I can answer. Mr. Chairman, if I may? This is definitely Fiscal '23. This is clean-up at the end. June 30 all the bills came in. All the entries came in. There was a \$95,000 short fall in Department 120 and during Fiscal '23, the Information Technology budget had enough funds to transfer into this particular department so they're both positive closing the books in Fiscal '23.

Alderman Sullivan

Okay.

John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector

It has no - just for you folks, no impact on Fiscal '24.

Chairman Dowd

You're basically balancing your books I think. Alderman Sullivan.

Alderman Sullivan

Okay. I think you just answered it. I'm not going to see the budget in Department 122 for Fiscal Year '24 go up by \$95,000.

John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector

No, no impact. This is Fiscal '23 I would say closing transfers.

Alderman Sullivan

Okay. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions? Seeing none.

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

Yea: Alderman Sullivan, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Caron,
Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Dowd

By the way just for information purposes, I have all the legislation up here if a question comes up.

R-23-137

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF \$6,000 FROM DEPARTMENT 171 "COMMUNITY SERVICES" TO DEPARTMENT 173 "ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH"

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

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

Yea: Alderman Sullivan, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Caron,
Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman Clemons

I think your math might be off.

Alderman O'Brien

Yeah, I'm trying to count at the same time.

Alderman Clemons

Five.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Alderman Clemons. Are you going to fire me after tonight?

Chairman Dowd

Can't get anybody to replace you.

Alderman O'Brien

That makes me feel good Sir.

R-23-138

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF \$220,000 FROM DEPARTMENT 194 "CONTINGENCY", ACCOUNT 70100 "GENERAL CONTINGENCY" TO DEPARTMENT 198 "INTERFUND TRANSFERS", ACCOUNT 89725 "TRANSFER TO CITY RETIREMENT TRUST FUND"

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

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you. So I'm just looking at that 194 from the June statement. I've gone back a month and that has \$329,000 and change in it. So then we're going to take \$220,000 so the remaining \$100,000 if my math is right, that just goes back into that's basically surplus, correct?

John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector

Mr. Chairman if I may?

Chairman Dowd

Mr. Griffin.

John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector

The \$220,000 is coming from general contingency. It's a good use of that money as opposed to lapsing the surplus putting it in this particular City retirement account. I'll get into that in a minute but the remaining amount is contingency for negotiations that haven't negotiated yet. So we're not going lose that. We're gonna carry that over to Fiscal '24.

Alderman Sullivan

Okay.

Chairman Dowd

As an example if the Firemen's contract passes, part of that expenditure is in '23 and that's in the contingency. It may not be the only contract.

Alderman Sullivan

Okay.

John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector

One point of clarification Mr. Chairman if I may?

Chairman Dowd

Yes.

John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector

The Fire Department has none of that. Fire Department's contract expired June 30, 2023 so they're in good shape in Fiscal '24. This if for the AFSME bargaining unit.

Chairman Dowd

Okay.

John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector

Thank you.

Alderman Sullivan

What is AFSME please?

Chairman Dowd

American Society of...

John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector

They generally work for the Department of Public Works and that labor force. Thank you.

Alderman Sullivan

Okay. Thanks.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions? Seeing none.

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

Yea: Alderman Sullivan, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Caron,
Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

R-23-142

- Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
- Alderman Patricia Klee
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
- Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
- Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
- Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
- Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

ESTABLISHING A CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING MAJOR REPAIRS, REPLACING FURNITURE, FIXTURES, AND EQUIPMENT, AND MAKING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE NASHUA CENTER FOR THE ARTS FACILITY

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

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you. I just want to - I have a few clarifying questions around the account. One of them was cleared up because I was under the impression I read through the agreement last night and did some screen grabs of the different items in the account. I was under the impression and then somebody brought it up I just saw "the account shall be capped at \$25,000 annually". I didn't keep reading from there and then it said from each individual revenue source. So when I see that, I'm looking at this could be \$100,000 annually brought in for upkeep. My question around this account, the Capital Reserve

Fund, is it - I do understand, I think I understand, that a trust fund is not interest bearing but as a capital reserve fund interest bearing? It is.

John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector

This particular one will be interest bearing.

Alderman Sullivan

Okay. Do we have an idea of what the going interest rate is? I mean if we put \$100,000 in this year, I mean if.

John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector

Five percent.

Alderman Sullivan

Five percent. So it could double in maybe 15 years?

John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector

It could. Hopefully it doesn't.

Alderman Sullivan

Huh?

John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector

Hopefully their interest rates come down. We've got a lot of capital we need to bond.

Alderman Sullivan

Okay. That was one of my questions.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah if we could predict interest rates, we could take Janet Yellen's position.

Alderman Sullivan

And then more on the reporting responsibility. I did read that here that it just says "Spectacle agrees to provide to the City or it's designee a quarterly managed prepared financial report". Will the Board be getting a copy of that perhaps at budget time or whatever so we know how much money is going into that?

Chairman Dowd

Do you want Alderwoman Klee to answer that or do you want to answer that?

Tim Cummings, Administrative Services Director

I defer to Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. Truthfully, the Board of Trustees did not state that it would come to the Board of Aldermen but I do feel that it should come as a regular reporting seeing that the Board of Aldermen is kind of overseeing. The Board of Trustees will get a quarterly report on the revenues that have come into it and that should go into that. Whether we have Mr. Griffin provide that, or Director Cummings, or coming from the City but it will come through the Board of Trustees. It will be part of their quarterly minutes. We only meet on a quarterly basis. I believe that we have to by the by-laws of the Board of

Trustees, we have to have an annual meeting that has a complete report and so on that gives all of that information. Every meeting Spectacle does give us an update as to what revenues have come in and so on. So I could be incorrect and maybe Director Cummings could do that but I think we could request that report come to us after it hits the Board of Trustees and so on or you could wait for the annual report because that is part of the agreement too. Its part of the by-laws of the Board of Trustees is they have to get a report from Spectacle on an annual basis – the full report on an annual basis which I think is the costing.

Chairman Dowd

I think there are two ways you can get that one. We can ask for it or we can have the representative of the Board of Aldermen that sits on that board just to bring it to us.

Alderman Klee

I'm happy to when that comes in. Right now, my mind is blanking. I think it's the first Friday of each quarter. We're having a special meeting so it won't be at that one. The last meeting we had, Spectacle did give us a revenue report which is the second Friday of the quarter and we just met in August so.

Chairman Dowd

Follow up Alderman Sullivan?

Alderman Sullivan

Is it okay if I ask just a couple of clarifying questions on the agreement that was made in December of 2020 just because. Okay.

Chairman Dowd

Just as long as there's no motions to change it.

Alderman Sullivan

Well I'm not going to do that but I did notice that we signed it in December of 2020. So I was curious as to why it took almost three years for us to - because it said in the agreement that was signed that we would set this account up and we're now doing it in August/September of '23. So it's almost three years since we signed the agreement. I just had the why now question.

Alderman Klee

I think I might be able to answer that and just trying to give you a break a little bit. The truth is maybe they should have set the account up but there was nothing to come into that account. So to have an account just sitting there with zeros and so on more or less didn't make sense. I do think they should have kind of happened sooner rather than later but we are here now doing it and making sure that the monies transparent, having the public hearing, having it go through the budget, and then having it go through the Board of Aldermen.

Chairman Dowd

I think the bottom line question is we didn't loose any money in that interim.

Alderman Klee

No. To be honest with you, there is money sitting there at Spectacle that we're waiting to come over for this account.

Chairman Dowd

The monies that we've received now says it's open for business.

Alderman Sullivan

Follow up question on the agreement made with Spectacle please.

Chairman Dowd

Director Cummings?

Alderman Sullivan

Did the clock on that start in 2020? Somebody mentioned upon - I forget what the word was - "occupancy". Is that when the clock started on this? So this basically goes until 2030.

Chairman Dowd

Director Cummings do you want to get the microphone so Sue doesn't go deaf trying to record the minutes.

Tim Cummings, Administrative Services Director

Thank you. I would have to check the exact date but it would be we either counted the construction period in the operator agreement or it starts right at the beginning of the opening but it's for a seven-year period with a compliance period. I will double check to see how it correlates. I want to say I believe the contract is up in something like '28 but I would need to double check that.

Alderman Sullivan

Okay. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Follow up question?

Alderman Sullivan

If I'm not here in 2028, I just want the record to reflect that I would hope that we would be a little more aggressive on the amount of money that the ten percent maybe that ticks up a few percentage points because sitting on the Joint Special meeting, I've come to understand and appreciate what a capital reserve fund is and if an air-conditioning unit decides to go, that account could be depleted like that. So I would just ask I looked at that and said okay so that's \$100,000 a year, good start, not taxpayer money. However just down the road as this building starts to age, put on mileage, construction costs are going to get more expensive. So I just want to be on the record as saying that.

Chairman Dowd

Director Cummings.

Tim Cummings, Administrative Services Director

Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman. I couldn't agree with you more. I absolutely agree. It's one of the reasons why I did not want that contract to be too long. I also was very cognizant of the fact that we had no real data to prove out this market yet and so, you know, I was also very sensitive to the fact that we were lucky that we actually attracted an operator to actually operate the facility. So we had only one response to the RFP we put out to the marketplace and we solicited all operators within New England to see if they had an interest. Spectacle Live was the only one that actually responded.

So with that being said, it's a negotiated amount. I would love to see it be more. I am very cognizant of the capital costs. It's something that I'm hoping the Trustees will keep in the forefront of their mind because I think that that will be a conversation point when the appropriate time comes to make sure that we're doing the best that we can for the City.

Chairman Dowd

Follow up, Alderman Sullivan?

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you. As you talk, I just get more questions. Somebody mentioned a donation. There was a substantial donation made by a bank. I don't want to give them free plugs but let's say another corporation steps up and they want to write a check for \$250,000. Do they have to specify that that goes toward capital improvement or since they gave it to the City, we can put it wherever we want and thus, we could put it into this fund to help us pay or offset just until that account gets built up.

Tim Cummings, Administrative Services Director

That's a great question. I'm trying to think through the mechanics of what you're asking. So you're saying a fictitious bank more recently, because we've had banks make donations, so we're talking about future monies. So you're talking about - and it doesn't even need to be a bank per se but a future large donation and it's not coming through Spectacle. That's a very important point because Spectacle also sells sponsorships.

Alderman Sullivan

Right, I did see that in there.

Tim Cummings, Administrative Services Director

So not talking about that but it's actually something that an organization wants to give to the City of Nashua for the Performing Arts Center, the Nashua Center for the Arts. So with that being said, I do not believe you'd be bound to using it for capital or operating. You could decide, you could work that out in a separate donation agreement.

Chairman Dowd

Just for clarification because I've around and so has Alderman Clemons for numerous donations to the City, first of all any donation has to be approved by the Board of Aldermen to come into the City of Nashua. Second, the people giving the money can specify what they want it spent for and if we accept it under those terms, we have to spend it in that area. We don't have to accept the money but if the people giving the money let's say they want to buy a fire truck, we can't go out and buy an ice cream truck. So there are constraints. That would be my explanation.

Tim Cummings, Administrative Services Director

That's my understanding. The only clarification I wanted to ask actually CFO Griffin was can that money once accepted be deposited into this account. That I don't know and I would defer to CFO Griffin.

John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector

Thank you, Director Cummings. There's some uniqueness to our contribution folks and you set up a trust fund funded by contributions. You can't co-mingle contributions with appropriations. So we'd have to - if somebody wants to give us some money, you folks may want to direct it or the donor directs it to the building. We'd probably have to set up a trust fund funded by contributions.

Tim Cummings, Administrative Services Director

That's what I thought so I just want to be - I thought that was the case so that would be a separate account.

Alderman Sullivan

Donations. Donation account. Okay.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Yes, I apologize. I misspoke when I used the word donation. So I apologize for muddying the waters on that. If it's okay, I wanted to add to what Director Cummings said about our negotiation of the 10% and so on. When we originally negotiated, the intent always was that this number would grow. As I sat in many a meeting where we kept saying

oh let's ask for \$2.00 per ticket, let's ask for this, and the truth was every time someone would come that was an expert or something would say yeah if you were here for 20 years or 15 years and you were well established, you could probably ask for that but you can't ask for it right now. Director Cummings was quite on top of everything by not allowing a 15 – 20 year contract. The people in the City would have lost their minds if we did it in perpetuity or just kept letting them renegotiate it at the same rate.

I want to add a kind of editorial to this. I've been to a number of shows there and I can tell you without fail every single person that has come there has talked about how incredible and how wonderful this place is. I keep talking about when David Sedaris came in and first thing he said to the audience was they got laundry here. They were just very excited about the things that we have that other places don't have. At a Board of Trustees talking to Pete Lally and his conversation about, he's getting contacted for people who want to do shows here. That's how successful. So I really do feel in 2028 or whatever this is up, we will be able to push that number. I know we're still kind of new.

As far as the capital reserve fund is concerned, I do believe we have some warranties and guarantees on some of the stuff that's there so if something which did happen, not that we really had a failure with the HVAC system, but there was a couple of issues with it, that was still under warranty. So as we're building this up, you're right when it comes time to need it, we're going to need a lot more than \$100,000 but each year this is going to be built up and after those x number of years, I do believe we'll be able to negotiation and maybe even double that fund if not triple it. That's just my heart. I don't know whether or not we'll be here but I wanted to put that out.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions on R-23-142? Alderman O'Brien.

Alderman O'Brien

Yeah, thank you Mr. Chairman if you may indulge me just with a brief comment. As Chairman of Infrastructure, I wish we had something similar to this for other type of structures within the City. I mean similar type of venue - 14 Court Street. Look at the mess because it came down to funding. After years of spending caps, this, that type budgets, and everything else, a lot of things don't get done. We couldn't pave the roads and yet we're in a very aggressive type of paving type of program right now. Right now we have two parking garages that need some TLC. The thing is if we don't get on top of it, then we're going to see something catastrophic in the future. But the thing is I wish we had something like this more general across. We're great at building. Let's be great at maintaining and I support this whole heartedly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Dowd

Any other comments? Alderman Sullivan.

Alderman Sullivan

Just real quick. I echo that 100%.

The other thing that I think would have been good when we published this and I don't even know if we said it in the meeting, we had to do this. It was in the agreement. I mean I didn't know that. When I read the Resolution, I thought well why are we doing this? That was initial question and then I read the agreement. I said well there it is. We have to do this. So we're basically just fulfilling our agreement with Spectacle. I just wanted to put that in there too.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else? Clerk, please call the roll.

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

Yea:	Alderman Sullivan, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Caron, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd	5
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Nay:		0
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MOTION CARRIED

Tim Cummings, Administrative Services Director

Mr. Chairman before I leave, I just wanted to leave you with a little fun fact if I could? Just curious, does anyone want to take a guess as to many tickets have been sold to-date?

Alderman O'Brien

What's the prize if we guess right?

Alderman Sullivan

How many shows?

Tim Cummings, Administrative Services Director

Two to three a week.

Alderman Sullivan

Do I get the free ticket if I guess it right?

Chairman Dowd

15,000.

Alderman Sullivan

11,200.

Tim Cummings, Administrative Services Director

So we sold 30,000 tickets to-date. So it's doing very well and the operator is very pleased to-date with how things are trending and so I just though you all would be curious to hear that we drove that much foot traffic to the downtown. So thank you.

Alderman Klee

Just to add to that. Even Spectacle Management is blown away by how successful it is and it's because of the build. That's what everybody keeps saying. They're contacting us to want to do our venue so.

Chairman Dowd

Okay, let's move on to R-23-149.

R-23-148

- Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
- Alderman Patricia Klee
- Alderman Richard A. Dowd

RELATIVE TO THE FY2023 TRANSFER OF \$150,000 FROM DEPARTMENT 132 "ASSESSING" TO DEPARTMENT 198 "INTERFUND TRANSFERS"

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

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

Yea:	Alderman Sullivan, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Caron, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd	5
Nay:		0

MOTION CARRIED

R-23-149

Endorsers: Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Tyler Gouveia

AMENDING THE SCOPE OF THE PARK REHABILITATION EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND AND TRANSFERRING FUNDS INTO THE PARK REHABILITATION EXPANDABLE TRUST FUND FROM THE EAST SIDE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS TO THE SARGENT AVENUE PARK AREA

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

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

Motion is to recommend to the full Board final passage of R-23-149. I will say that this had legal review so it meets all the legal requirements. The only thing I'd like is at some point can we get a list of the names of all the parks that we have in the City?

Alderman Caron

You don't know them?

Alderman Klee

They're on the website.

Alderman O'Brien

I know where St. Andrews is.

Chairman Dowd

Okay, any questions? Alderman Sullivan.

Alderman Sullivan

More of a comment. I want to first of all say thank you to Alderman Klee and Alderman Caron for co-sponsoring this. Just a little story. Alderman Comeau called me right around budget season and said can you make a motion to add money to the budget and I fell over in my chair. I said I don't do that. I don't know where you've been the last two years but I don't do that. Anyway, he said well this is what I want to do, explain, explain, and I said let's look at these trust funds. So I looked into the trust funds and I said look there's this trust fund that's sitting there. I opened up my Apple map and it like carved out a section of the City - let's just say like a piece of pie. The park that he wanted to fix was right outside the piece of pie. I went oh there's a lot of money sitting there and this park needs help but this trust fund just takes care of the parks in here. So maybe there is a way that we can open up at piece of pie or do something with it so we can use that money and do that. So I really appreciate it. I think this is creative thinking. I really appreciate looking at these trust funds. I know that they capture a moment in time of why and all the intentions are good for creating them and how they're funded and whatnot but I think it's good that we re-look at them and say look let's fix a problem that we have with money that we already have. So I was happy to endorse this and I'm thrilled that we're doing it.

Chairman Dowd

Any other? Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was in a similar situation when Alderman Comeau said that we needed to find the \$250,000. My first reaction was this is in my Ward. Sargent Ave. Park is in my Ward and of course I would want to do everything I possibly could for this but I also had a little bit of anxiety that the year before that we had three quarters of a million dollar we added to the budget for St. Andrews which really needed it but I kept saying shouldn't this have been budgeted as far as the Public Works budget and so on. Shouldn't they have been looking at this? So while I told them I probably would sponsor it, I did have some anxiety about it. So when we had discussed it a little further and this was mentioned, I was definitely for it and so on.

I also when this first came through when we talked about it, I said do we really want to do all parks or did we want to take two of those really very large parks out of it. One that sits in my Ward and one that sits in multiple Wards because they have advisory boards. But the truth is, sometimes you just do need to have something small done to it. I think those larger parks that I'm not naming do get a lot of attention but I think we should really keep this for future information. We should keep this for those smaller parks whether it be Sargent Ave., or whether it be St. Andrews, or the Rotary Pool and so on. I've sat here many a times when we talked about splash pads and we talked about this and so on and I think this is really a good use for where we can find that extra money.

My only concern is, and I'm going to make a tack kind of on our spending cap so to say, a lot of these have fallen into disrepair because of the spending caps and so on. I think Alderman O'Brien kind of mentioned that. When we get monies in whether we have the money sitting there or not, we can't spend it even though it's not going to come anything extra out of the taxpayer's money. So we do need to keep that in mind as we're even using the money from this trust fund. It's sitting there. It's not being used. It will not affect the tax rate but we may not be able to always use it. Just because the money is sitting there doesn't mean we can do it because we do have a spending cap. So I just want to make sure that that's loud and clear and really heard. So thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Clemons.

Alderman Clemons

Well that's the beauty of these accounts is that you can spend from them outside of the spending cap. So the purpose of having them here is so that you can build up a fund for maintenance and things like that - capital improvements. When the time comes and something happens, you can utilize those funds for that project.

The other reason being as that the funds don't lapse. They carry over year to year. So these funds are a very good tool to use and I think this was a great - I think the story that Alderman Sullivan mentioned was basically how government in Nashua should work. You know it's a story of the best of us getting together and doing the right thing for the citizens of the City and it really should be commended. So I will support this when it comes to the full Board.

Chairman Dowd

Any other comments? I think this is a good use of this money as well and we haven't because of limited funds taking care of our parks the way they should be taken care of. When you think about who uses those parks, it's for young kids and so I think this is an excellent legislation. When I first read it I was concerned as to the legality of it but I had that verified and we're good to go. Any other questions? Seeing none.

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

Yea:	Alderman Sullivan, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Caron, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd	5
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Nay:		0
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MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

Chairman Dowd

I don't think anyone wants to take anything off the Table. I know that Alderman Jette asked for he wanted to come back for one of them, so.

R-23-118 Amended

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

INCREASING THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE AMOUNT IN THE SNOW REMOVAL EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND AND EXPANDING ITS USE

O-23-056

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

PERMITTING CERTAIN FUNDING TRANSFERS WITHIN THE PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION

- Amended and tabled at 7/24/23 meeting

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderman Sullivan

I just want to say hello. I'm back from the Nashua Performing Arts rabbit hole that I spent the entire weekend in so I just want to say hello. Good to see you all.

Chairman Dowd

By the way just for an update, school starts tomorrow. Anybody that drives cars please be careful. The kids are back in school except for Franklin Street which starts the 5th. Main Dunstable and Birch Hill, which we're doing in phases over a couple of years, is all set for the students to go in and the construction is isolated from the students. Franklin Street is complete. Winter Street behind the school is being paved as we speak and the sidewalks are being redone and also Locust Street from the continuation of Winter Street to Franklin Street was repaved. That school has been on a very tight schedule and it's being completed on time and under budget.

Alderman Klee

Thank you so much for indulging me. There was something that I did want to state. I believe it was Saturday I was driving home and I was on one of the streets within my Ward and I saw fire trucks and police vehicles there so I stopped. I know the constituent's whose home that was and so I stopped and I went and I checked. I want to thank our Nashua Fire Rescue and our Police. She was up in the very top floor of her home, did not know the fire was going on. They didn't even know she was home. They were so kind. They took care of her, got her out of there, kept reassuring her that everything was going to be okay. Thank goodness it was a small fire. Once the Fire Marshal got in, she was able to go back in. Smoke within the house but they were so kind. They had to board up of course that window. They took care of everything from cleaning up everything to reassuring her that she was going to be okay. It's the first time that I've had the chance to actually witness them with a working fire and so on. I can't say enough wonderful things about our fire and police. They were right there and thank you very much to all of them that were there.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else? Okay.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO ADJOURN BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Sullivan, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Caron,
Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared closed at 8:19 p.m.

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