

**Committee Name:** City Council - Finance Committee

**Location:** 50 Payson Ave., Conf. Rm. 1 and Remote by Google Meet

**Date:** January 28, 2026

**Members Present:** Tom Peake (Chair), Koni Denham, Jonathan Schmidt

**Members Absent:** None

**Also in Attendance:** Salem Derby, Mayor; Hetal Patel, Auditor; Brook Johnson, Treasurer; Eva Gerstle, CPA Coordinator; Elaine Wood, Dog Park Community Member

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm by Chair Peake

1. **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:** None

2. **Mayor's Communication:** None

3. **Public Speak:** None

4. **New Business:**

- **Supplemental Appropriation Request: Community Preservation Act Committee (CPA) for Dog Park Design \$23,500.00**
  - CPA voted unanimously to approve funding for the design, and now the request will be brought to the full Council for approval.
  - Amount requested is a portion of the \$26,000 required to complete the design; funds raised by Friends of Easthampton Dog Park will contribute toward remaining balance, as well as future building costs.
  - Request is for design only, which will produce 'construction-ready' documents; does not include any costs associated with building the Dog Park.
  - Anticipated future request for building costs is estimated around \$175,000.
  - Public Hearing scheduled for February 4, 2026.

MOTION by J Schmidt, seconded by K Denham, to recommend the appropriation to full Council. **APPROVED 3-0.**

5. **Continuing Business:**

- **Quarterly fiscal reports from the City Auditor**
  - No new information
- **Rescinding of borrowing authorizations for CitySpace restoration & Honeywell Energy Conservation Project**
  - New information anticipated at next meeting
- **City Council Action Request to Adopt Ch. 329 of the Acts of 1987 which would allow the City Council by a 2/3 vote and following a 2/3 vote of the School Committee to increase the total amount appropriated in support of the school district**
  - No new information

**Other Notes or Documentation:** E Gerstle announced the CPA Committee's Annual Meeting will be taking place on March 19, 2026 at 6:30pm; Preservation Planning Process is underway with opportunities for community input; results will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

**Next Meeting:** TBD

MOTION by K Denham, seconded by J Schmidt, to adjourn at 5:43pm; **APPROVED 3-0.**

Respectfully submitted by,

Jonathan M Schmidt