

CITY OF NORTH ADAMS  
City Clerk's Office  
December 6, 2012

I hereby notify you that at twelve o'clock noon today the following items of business have been filed with this office and will be acted upon at the meeting in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, Tuesday evening December 11, 2012 at seven-thirty o'clock according to Section 8, Rules and Orders of the City Council.

Marilyn Gomeau  
City Clerk

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
December 11, 2012

Roll Call  
Moment of silent prayer  
The Pledge

Hearing of Visitors

Approval of the minutes of regular meeting held on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

- 11,277            Communication submitted by Councilor Barrett requesting the Mayor to report on the Heritage Park at the meeting of November 27<sup>th</sup>, which was postponed at the meeting of November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- 11,277-1        Mayor's communication #51 with an update on Heritage Park, which was postponed at the meeting of November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- 11,237-b        Mayor's communication #20-b recommending a reduction to the FY'13 Budget which was passed on June 12, 2012.
- 11,237-b        An Order amending the FY'13 budget by reducing it to \$35,677,853.
- 11,237-1        An Order appropriating the sum of \$30,000 from Municipal Tech Fund to General Government MIS, Expenses-Data Processing.
- 11,237-2        An Order appropriating the sum of \$15,000 from the Sale of Cemetery Lots to Department of Public Services, Cemetery-Salaries.
- 11,237-3        An Order appropriating the sum of \$100,000 from the Parking Meter Reserve Account to Department t of Public Safety-Police Salaries.
- 11,237-4        An Order appropriating the sum of \$98,662 from the Stabilization Account to Department of Public Safety-Fire Salaries.
- 11,237-5        An Order appropriating the sum \$15,000 from the Landfill Reserve Account to Department of Public Safety-Health Inspection Services Trash Removal Services.
- 11,280            Communication submitted by Council President on behalf of Vincent Melito regarding Office of Tourism.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**COUNCILLOR'S & MAYOR'S CONCERNS**

**OPEN FORUM**



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor  
Richard J. Alcombright

December 11, 2012  
#20-b

The Honorable City Council  
Re: FY2013 Budget reductions

Dear Honorable Members:

As you know, the City budget was passed last June 12, Council Paper #11,237-a, with a deficit of some \$650,000. As I explained at that time, the budget would be balanced through the continued utilization of reserves and possibly some mid-year cuts.

The paper before you is representative of \$172,309 in cuts as well as \$428,662 to be used from reserves to bring the budget into balance prior to setting our tax rate for FY2013. As you can see in the Orders, the reserves are being pulled from Parking Meter Reserve, Transfer Station Reserve, Municipal Access & Technology Fund, Sale of Cemetery Lots and Stabilization. Our total pooled cash reserves are \$1,389,360, of this, \$253,316 are in restricted accounts. Transfers from reserves to balance the budget will leave us with a balance in reserves of \$960,698. This year, Free Cash was \$0 as our FY2012 budget was completely spent and as you may recall, we utilized reserves to cover some overruns.

Effective November 30<sup>th</sup>, we have instituted a freeze on all spending and we have re-visited every line item for accuracy and need. The cuts that are being made should not have an adverse impact on services however as we look to FY2014, I am afraid that major cuts will once again have to be made to stay within our revenue limits. Additionally, Governor Patrick has announced 9C cuts as State revenues continue to underperform. He has warned of further adjustments should revenues continue to decline into the upcoming calendar year. Our current budget revenue projections are conservative however I do not feel comfortable with projecting increases in any specific revenue line items at this time.

Our Country, State and City continue to face significant fiscal challenges. The repercussions of going over the "fiscal cliff" are frightening. Chaos at the Federal level and lower than forecasted State revenues will continue to put pressure on local budgets and the resulting ability to provide services.

I, along with Administrative Officer and Auditor, will be at the meeting to answer any questions.

I respectfully request the adoption of the following Orders as presented

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard J. Alcombright", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Richard J. Alcombright  
Mayor

RJA:ll



# City of North Adams

In City Council

December 11, 2012

Ordered:

That the following changes be and are hereby made in the FY2013 Municipal Budget as passed by the City Council on June 12, 2012, for the purpose of reducing the budget as follows:

1. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Treasurer & Collector

Expenses

Foreclosures

reduced to \$0

Advertising

\$0

MIS

Expenses

Data Processing

reduced to \$ 85,051.00

Office of Tourism & Cultural Dev.

Program/Department Supplies

reduced to \$0

2. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Public Safety

Salaries

Commissioner

reduced to \$ 27,500.00

Building Inspector

Expenses

Car Allowance

reduced to \$0

Fire

Salaries

Fire Fighters

reduced to \$594,165.00

Health Inspection Services

Transfer Station

Trash Removal Services

reduced to \$700,000.00

Police

Salaries

Patrolmen

reduced to \$615,297.00

Expenses

Police Academy Expenses

reduced to \$ 15,000.00

Wire and Alarm  
Salaries  
Helper reduced to \$0

3. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

Cemetery  
Salaries  
Laborer reduced to \$ 57,114.00

Library  
Expenses  
Library Supplies - Books reduced to \$ 20,000.00

Parks & Recreation  
Expenses  
Parks Maintenance reduced to \$ 2,000.00

6. UNCLASSIFIED

Office of Community Development  
Miscellaneous reduced to \$ 20,000.00

Recapitulation Sheet

1. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

reduced to \$1,155,633.00

2. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

reduced to \$4,218,620.00

3. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

reduced to \$3,020,795.00

6. UNCLASSIFIED

reduced to \$6,913,811.00

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the sum of THIRTY-SIX MILLION TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$36,278,824.00) as it appears in Council Paper # 11,237-a be amended to read as follows: THIRTY-FIVE MILLION SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY THREE DOLLARS (\$35,677,853.00)



# City of North Adams

In City Council

.....December 11, 2012.....

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**Ordered:**

That the sum of THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$30,000) be and is hereby appropriated from the Municipal Tech Fund to:

1. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

MIS

Expenses

Data Processing

\$30,000.00



# City of North Adams

In City Council

December 11, 2012

Ordered:

That the sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000) be and is hereby appropriated from the Parking Meter Reserve Account to:

2. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

Salaries

Patrolmen

\$100,000.00



# City of North Adams

In City Council

.....December 11, 2012.....

Ordered:

That the sum of ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000) be and is hereby appropriated from the Landfill Reserve Account to:

2. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICES

Transfer Station

Trash removal Services

\$150,000.00



# City of North Adams

In City Council

December 11, 2012

Ordered:

That the sum of NINETY EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTY TWO DOLLARS (\$98,662) be and is hereby appropriated from the Stabilization Account to:

2. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAEFTY

FIRE

Salaries

Fire Fighters

\$98,662.00



# City of North Adams

In City Council

.....December 11, 2012.....

— Ordered: —

That the sum of FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$15,000) be and is hereby appropriated from the Sale of Cemetery Lots to:

3. PUBLIC SERVICES

CEMETERY

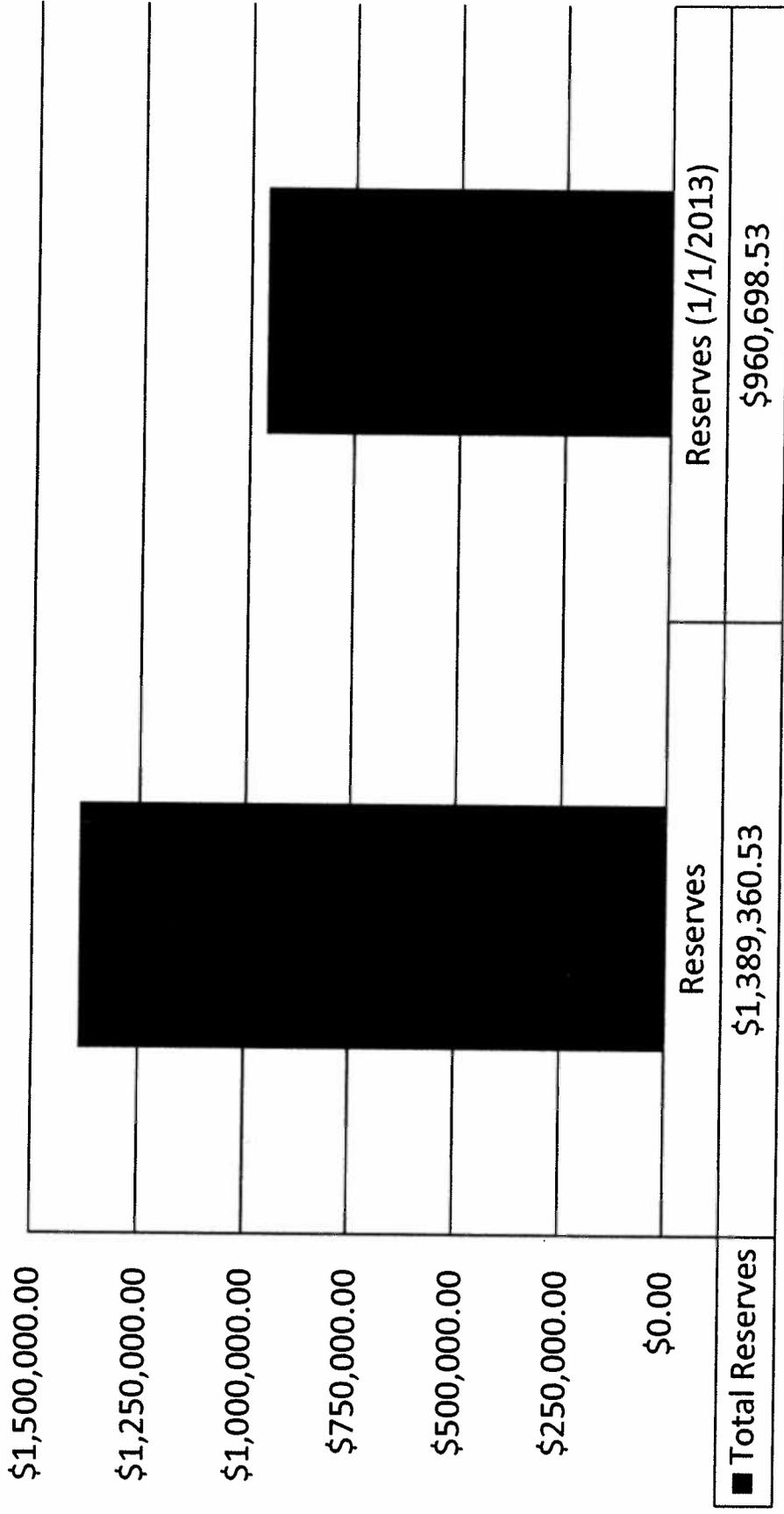
Salaries

Laborer

\$15,000.00

Account Number	Account Name	Budgeted	Cuts	Reduce To	Replacement	Amount
00114705314	Foreclosure	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	none	
00114705346	Advertising	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	none	
00119005781	Misc. Comm. Dev.	\$40,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	none	
00120005003	Commissioner	\$83,769.00	\$56,269.00	\$27,500.00	none	
00124105715	Building car Allowance	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	none	
00124505038	Wire and Alarms - helper	\$15,240.00	\$15,240.00	\$0.00	none	
00151065292	Trash removal	\$900,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$700,000.00	Transfer Station Reserve	\$150,000.00
00161005587	Library Supplies	\$45,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$20,000.00	Gift Accounts	\$25,000.00
00169405589	Program Supplies - Tourism	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	Gift Accounts	\$7,000.00
00149105105	Cemetery Laborer	\$72,114.00	\$15,000.00	\$57,114.00	Sale of Cemetery Lots	\$15,000.00
00121005204	Academy	\$30,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	none	
00122005084	Firefighters	\$692,827.00	\$98,662.00	\$594,165.00	Stabilization	\$98,662.00
00163005249	Parks Maintenance	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00	Gift Accounts	\$3,000.00
00121005087	Police Officer Salaries	\$715,297.00	\$100,000.00	\$615,297.00	Parking Meter Account	\$100,000.00
00115505306	MIS Data	\$115,051.00	\$30,000.00	\$85,051.00	Municipal Tech Fund	\$30,000.00
<b>Total</b>			\$600,971.00		<b>Total Reserves Used</b>	\$428,662.00

# Total Reserves



\$1,500,000.00

\$1,250,000.00

\$1,000,000.00

\$750,000.00

\$500,000.00

\$250,000.00

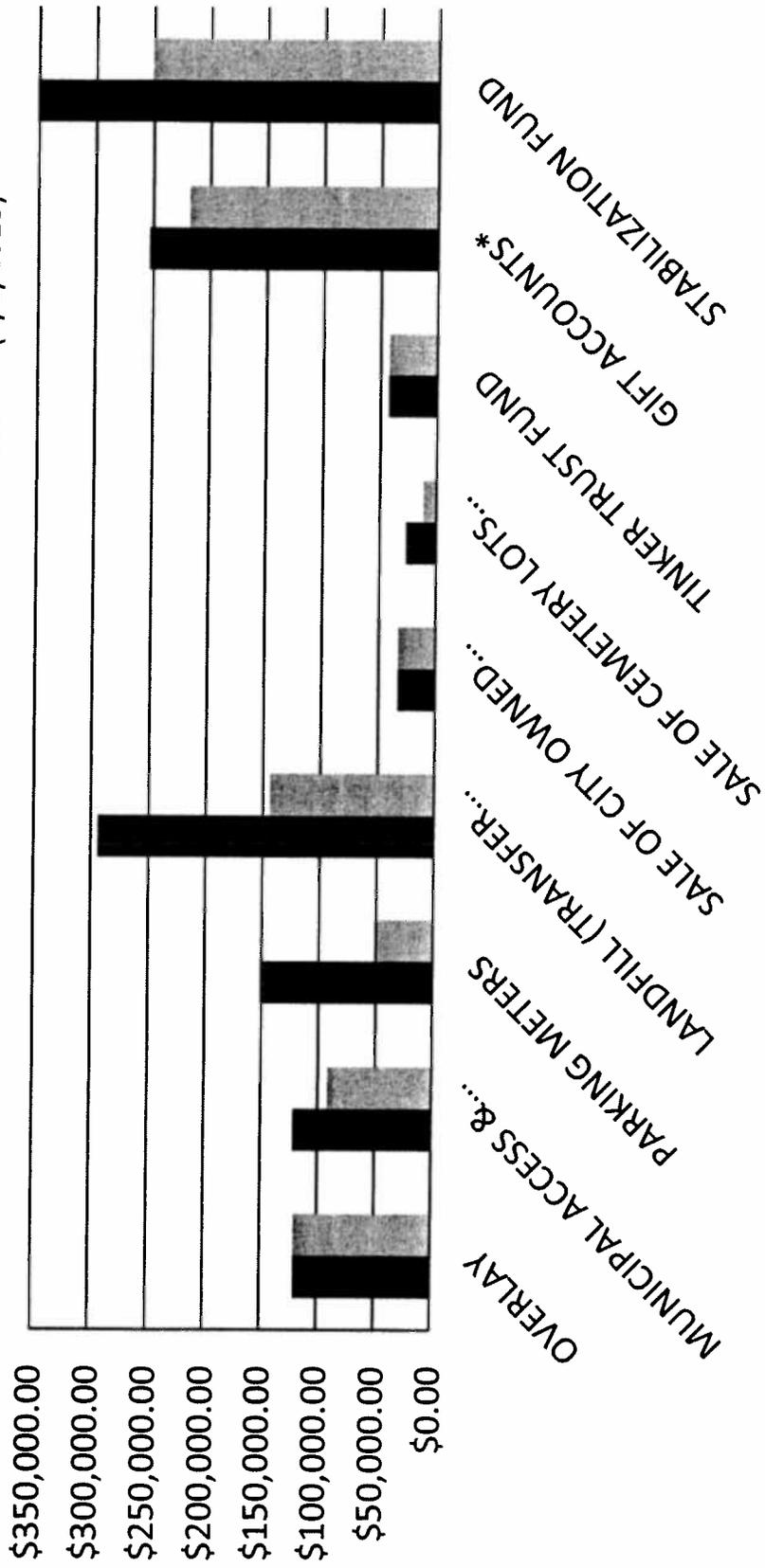
\$0.00

■ Total Reserves

# Reserves

■ Reserves

▒ Reserves (1/1/2013)



To: North Adams City Clerk- (Please place on Council agenda under communications.)  
From: Vincent Melito  
Re: Office of Tourism

Dear Council Members,

The enclosed Communication is submitted out of concern to further assist our city in promoting economic growth through tourism. As you know, the Council is financially involved with the Office of Tourism. With that in mind, your consideration and action is of the utmost importance in providing leadership in building a stronger and more effective Office. The fact that this office is crucial to the overall development of this area we should also ensure that the taxpayers get the biggest, "bang for their bucks."

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vin Melito

In Northern Berkshire, tourism has become one of the driving forces for economic development and growth. Although some may argue that it brings limited job opportunities for locals, it is clear that tourism has brought much needed dollars, along with the recognition that this area is a desirable tourist destination.

Also, keep in mind that this movement has brought in artists who, along with our educational institutions, business community, government and interested citizens, are weaving a new economic fabric that is transforming this community from a lost industrial base to an artistic, performing arts, and cultural venue.

One of the most important components for this transformation lies with the North Adams Office of Tourism and its role in creating growth and support for tourism.

Over the past year, I have met or spoken with the Mayor, Director of Tourism, artists, business people and members of the general public to discuss the role of the Office of Tourism and have concluded that there is a pressing need to expand, define the role of the Office as well as to make improvements in the delivery of services.

It should be made clear that currently the Office has a number of restrictions that hamper growth. These restrictions range from staffing to limited monetary resources but nonetheless, there are things that can be instituted with little to no cost in making the Office more effective and helpful to the area. It is also important at this point that our governmental leaders recognize these needs and respond.

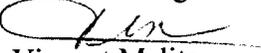
First of all, it is extremely important that the mission of the Office be clearly defined, including the establishment of short and long-range goals and objectives. Currently the mission seems vague and needs examination.

The Office appears to be little more than an event planning operation depending on other outside organizations to promote the area. In this respect, the Office of Tourism needs to become more aggressive in its efforts to communicate more effectively with the outside world. In this respect we need to see the establishment of personal networking with outside media outlets in the Albany, New York and Springfield, Massachusetts media markets with the goal of increasing the promotion of this area. I have done this and can report that it works.

Lastly, and probably most controversial is the suggestion that we need to consider the creation of a new Office called the Northern Berkshire Office of Tourism. This new structure would encompass the City of North Adams and all surrounding towns thus widening our ability to promote the total region. For years we have been talking about working more as one unit, such efforts certainly would fit into that concept.

Hopefully, the contents of this letter will not fall on deaf ears but rather, will stimulate discussion, suggestions and implementation of some much needed changes which would increase the economic stimulation of this beautiful area.

Your thoughts, suggestions and promotion of ideas are also instrumental in helping Northern Berkshire to grow for this and future generations.

  
Vincent Melito  
74 Marion Avenue  
North Adams, MA