



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

CLERK OF COMMITTEES

September 24, 2019
REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
William A. White Jr.	Chair	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	Vice Chair	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One City Councilor	Present	
Ben Ewen-Campen	Ward Three City Councilor	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven City Councilor	Absent	

The meeting was held in the Committee Room and was called to order by Chairman White at 6:06pm and adjourned at 7:13pm.

Others present: Steve MacEachern - DPW; Christime Morin - DPW; Hannah Pappenheim - Law; Oliver Sellers-Garcia - OSE; Rich Raiche - I&AM; Frank Wright - Law; Kristen Stelljes - SomerStat; Chief Fallon - Police; Alan Inacio - OSPCD; Gregory Jenkins - Arts Council; Annie Connors - Mayor's Office; Ed Bean - Finance; George Proakis - OSPCD; Brad Rawson - OSPCD; Tom Galligani - OSPCD; Kimberly Wells - Assistant Clerk of Committees; Gareth Orsmond - Pierce Atwood LLP

Approval of the September 10, 2019 Minutes

RESULT:	ACCEPTED
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208707: Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$817,000 in a bond for demolition, legal fees, and site preparation work at 90 Washington St.

Mr. Galligani noted this is also for some real estate and financial services consulting fees, in addition to the demolition, legal fees, and site preparation work. This is related to the case; and the legal fees are estimated at \$200,000. The contract for the demolition and preparation work is not yet out to bid, though the City has done research and sought some estimates. A hazardous materials survey was conducted and provided some critical information. Councilor McLaughlin expressed concern that with the senior homes next door, there should be a sound barrier wall considered before construction begins. Mr. Galligani noted this could be included as part of the bid package. Councilor Rossetti asked if any other funds from the \$6.1M capital request have been used and this is the first request. Councilor Ewen-Campen asked about the next steps in the process. The demolition should begin in the winter. The public safety complex is one side of the project, and the project committee is currently being formed. On the private development side, we should soon have a sense of how much land is available to determine the appropriate subdivision. This is likely to take place early in 2020.

RESULT:

APPROVED

208708: Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$537,000 in a bond for environmental remediation and design services at Conway Park.

Chairman White confirmed that the negotiations referenced are with the EPA. The Committee entered into executive session to discuss these negotiations, which remain active and ongoing. No votes were taken in executive session.

Mr. Rawson clarified that this would cover the costs of a licensed site professional (LSP). The public involvement process does involve public meetings at a regular interval.

RESULT:

APPROVED

208710: Requesting approval to pay a prior year invoice totaling \$63,503.53 using available funds in the Redevelopment Authority Ordinary Maintenance Account for Legal services for the 90 Washington Demonstration Project.

Mr. Inacio noted that preparation for this defense began in June, and the invoices exceeded the budget for the prior fiscal year. Chairman White asked for confirmation that the plaintiffs are alleging that this is not an appropriate demonstration project. Ms. McGettigan is the staff counsel on this matter and could provide more detail. Councilor Ewen-Campen asked if the site was being closed off and Mr. Proakis confirmed it is being done as quickly as possible.

RESULT:

APPROVED

208854: Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$2,745,543.06 in a bond to fund Union Square Revitalization Plan eminent domain settlements.

Mr. Inacio confirmed that these are the remaining five judgments, and the funds will be paid to the City by US2 as part of their acquisition. Mr. Bean noted that this is bonded because payment needs to be made by September 30th and free cash has not been certified. The City may not even need to actually borrow the funds, if they are received in time to pay itself back.

RESULT:

APPROVED

208855: Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$900,000 for participation in the MWRA Lead Line Replacement Program.

Mr. Raiche shared that this program is ready to be rolled out, with a 0% interest, 10-year term loan from MWRA. Approximately 450 water services in the City are known to be lead; 75% are known to be copper, which is safe; and approximately 3,000 are unknown. This remediation requires the approval of the homeowners, but is at no cost to them. This would be the City's first instance using this program. Councilor Ewen-Campen asked if homeowners typically do not know if their service is lead. They do not, and this information will go out to everyone, with the ability to check by address on the website to verify if the service is lead. Chairman White asked what would happen if it is unknown. It may be eligible for future abatement, but not as part of this program. Unknown is not presumed to be lead. There are lead testing kits that can be utilized. The City currently has no plans to distribute these, but Chairman White suggested that they should. Councilor Rossetti asked what would happen to damaged lawns, and there would be replacements in kind. She asked as well what would happen if one of the Councilors wanted to take part in the program and Mr. Wright will confirm the rules around that.

RESULT:

APPROVED

208857: Requesting the supplemental appropriation of \$30,719 to the Communications and Community Engagement Salary and Wages Temporary Account to hire a temporary US Census 2020 Complete Count Coordinator.

Ms. Connors noted that the Director is out sick and this is not pressing, so can be addressed upon her return.

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

208858: Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$58,056.94 using available funds in various DPW General Fund Accounts.

Ms. Morin and Mr. MacEachern presented a number of different items from a variety of vendors. The bills were not received until after the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Morin noted that every effort was made to pay in a timely manner, and these are all routine items.

RESULT:

APPROVED

208859: Requesting acceptance of a \$191,075 grant with no new match required, from the MA Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Division to the Office of Sustainability & Environment for energy efficiency projects in school and administrative buildings.

Mr. Sellers-Garcia noted that this is for energy efficiency at several schools and additional buildings, and is an annual grant (this is the City's fifth annual award). This will include lighting upgrades at the Kennedy School and heating projects in several other buildings.

RESULT:

APPROVED

208860: Requesting acceptance of a \$43,600 grant with no new match required, from the Mass Cultural Council to the Arts Council to support the LCC re-grant program.

Mr. Jenkins shared that this is a local cultural council grant, which is re-granted to local schools and artists.

RESULT:

APPROVED

208861: Requesting acceptance of a \$11,500 grant with no new match required, from the Mass Cultural Council to the Arts Council for supporting operational costs.

Mr. Jenkins noted that this grant funding is allocated to arts agencies throughout the Commonwealth, based primarily on the size of the organization.

RESULT:

APPROVED

208894: Requesting acceptance of a \$298,280 grant with no new match required, from the MA Department of Mental Health to the Police Department, for Crisis Intervention Team

training.

Councilor McLaughlin recused himself from this matter. Chief Fallon shared that these funds will support positions related to community outreach and recovery (existing positions). The funds will also be used for training purposes.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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208895: Requesting acceptance of a \$105,555.55 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for maritime equipment.

Councilor McLaughlin recused himself from this matter. Chief Fallon shared that this is for a marine incident response unit and will cover maintenance and upgrades to equipment. The boat is currently in use, and has also been used to introduce young people to the water.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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208896: Requesting acceptance of a \$100,000 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for expenditures and backfill/overtime for the Special Response Team.

Councilor McLaughlin recused himself from this matter. Chief Fallon noted that this is ongoing funding, as the City works to develop its own Special Response Team, to focus on de-escalation. The types of responses that this team is trained for are low-frequency, high-impact, such as the Davis Square bank robbery and home invasions. Half of the funds are earmarked for overtime, and half for personal protective gear; no weapons or ammunition are included in the funding.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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208897: Requesting acceptance of a \$50,459.46 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for expenditures for the purchase of a Prime Mover.

Councilor McLaughlin recused himself from this matter. Chief Fallon shared that a Prime Mover is a pickup truck that will be used to transfer the boat, as well as to move traffic signs around the City.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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Handout:

- Lead Replacement Flyer (with 208855)