

City of Somerville, Massachusetts
Matters of Business of the Board of Aldermen

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 2014, 6:00 PM
Aldermanic Chambers

NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the Board of Aldermen's minutes. While reasonable efforts have been made to assure the accuracy of the data provided, do not rely on this information without first checking with the City Clerk.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John M. Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	Alderman At Large	Present	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Alderman At Large	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One Alderman	Present	
Maryann M. Heuston	Ward Two Alderman	Present	
Robert J. McWatters	Ward Three Alderman	Present	
Tony Lafuente	Ward Four Alderman	Present	
Mark Niedergang	Ward Five Alderman	Present	
Rebekah L. Gewirtz	Ward Six Alderman	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven Alderman	Present	

1. #197106 Call of the Roll.
Roll Call

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

CITATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

2. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A. #197107 Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on May 29, 2014.
Committee Report

RESULT: APPROVED

Alderman LaFuenta reported that the committee approved appropriations to mitigate the 2014 snow removal deficit and approved the city's portion of the appropriation for the Community Preservation Act funding.

- B. #196227 Order By Ald. Rossetti
That the Director of Finance and this Board's Committee on Finance review the attached article on Arlington's "visual budget".

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- C. #196889 Order By Ald. Lafuente
That the Commissioner of Public Works appear before this Board to present all purchase orders, payments and inventory for the \$26,000 appropriation approved during FY14 budget hearings.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- D. #196950 Mayor's Request Requesting an appropriation of \$1,212,158 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the DPW Snow Removal Account to mitigate the FY2014 Snow Removal deficit.

RESULT: APPROVED

- E. #196951 Mayor's Request Requesting Transfers Totaling \$300,000 from the DPW Sanitation Division to the Snow Removal Account to help mitigate the FY 2014 Snow Removal deficit.

RESULT: APPROVED

- F. #197043 Mayor's Request Requesting an appropriation of \$1,355,671 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Community Preservation Act Fund, for community preservation projects.

RESULT: APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

3. #197108 Mayor's Request Submitting an appropriation of \$188,027,166 to fund the FY2015 Operating Budget.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

Mayor Joseph Curtatone spoke about working together to make cost-effective, positive changes for the city. He emphasized making strategic investments, discussed upcoming legislation and challenges, reviewed

changes to the budget, and expressed optimism for the future of Somerville. President White questioned the rise of property taxes in relation to the rise in municipal appropriations, and asked for the breakdown of the budget increases by next week. Mayor Curtatone stated he will address these questions next week. Alderman Heuston asked if the budget factors in potential finalization of negotiations over the next fiscal year. Mayor Curtatone responded in the affirmative. President White asked if the budget allows for anticipated revenue from construction projects. Mayor Curtatone spoke about permit fees included in the budget. Alderman Gewirtz questioned changes to the building permit fees. Mayor Curtatone discussed the impact of changing building permit fees. Alderman Gewirtz questioned fire prevention dumpster permits. Chief Fire Engineer Kevin Kelleher spoke about which kinds of dumpsters are associated with which department. Other members of staff address the distribution of fees. Alderman Gewirtz asked that staff members avoid using phrases like "tax relief" and "tax burden," which imply that citizens aren't getting a lot back for their taxes. Mayor Curtatone commented that the reliance on property taxes may make them burdensome for some. Alderman Heuston remarked she feels taxes are not burdensome and the taxpayers receive a lot for their taxes. She commented on expected revenue from building permits. Mayor Curtatone confirmed the potential revenue is significant. Alderman Heuston commented she is pleased to hear that the Mayor has considered the two categories where the revenue might go. Mayor Curtatone spoke about equitable distribution. Alderman Connolly asked if raises were included for non-union personnel. Mayor Curtatone responded in the affirmative and spoke about merit-based adjustments. Alderman Lafuente questioned the possibility of a fund for detail money for patrolmen. Mayor Curtatone spoke about the negative experience with a previous detail fund and discussed considering better collection methods instead.

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

4. #197109 Submitting an appropriation of \$19,388,508 to fund the FY2015 Sewer
Mayor's Request Enterprise Fund Budget.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

Alderman Lafuente moved to waive the readings of items 4 through 22 and refer to the Finance Committee. There being no opposition, the motion carried.

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

5. #197110 Submitting an appropriation of \$12,992,038 to fund the FY2015 Water
Mayor's Request Enterprise Fund Budget.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

6. #197111 Submitting an appropriation of \$861,096.56 to fund the FY2015 Veterans
Mayor's Request Memorial & Founders Ice Rink Enterprise Fund Budget.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

7. #197112 Mayor's Request Submitting an appropriation of \$199,000 to fund the FY2015 Dilboy Field Enterprise Fund.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

8. #197113 Mayor's Request Requesting an appropriation of \$3,500,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to reduce the FY2015 Tax Levy.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

9. #197114 Mayor's Request Requesting an appropriation of \$1,400,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Salary and Wage Stabilization Fund.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

10. #197115 Mayor's Request Requesting an appropriation of \$200,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Fund.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

11. #197116 Mayor's Request Requesting to appropriate or reserve \$1,978,808 in estimated FY 2015 CPA revenues for CPA projects and expenses per the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

12. #197117 Mayor's Request Requesting reauthorization of the Cable Telecommunications Revolving Fund for FY2015.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

13. #197118 Mayor's Request Requesting reauthorization of the SomerStreets Revolving Fund for FY2015.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

14. #197119 Requesting reauthorization of the Conservation Revolving Fund for Mayor's Request FY2015.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

15. #197120 Requesting Reauthorization of the Planning and Zoning Revolving Fund for Mayor's Request FY2015.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

16. #197121 Requesting the reauthorization of the Council on Aging Revolving Fund for Mayor's Request FY2015.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

17. #197122 Requesting reauthorization of the Environmental-Compost Bins Revolving Mayor's Request Fund for FY 2015.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

18. #197123 Requesting reauthorization of the Parks Revolving Fund for FY2015. Mayor's Request

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

19. #197124 Requesting the reauthorization of the Recycling Carts Revolving Fund for Mayor's Request FY2015.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

20. #197125 Requesting reauthorization of the Tuberculosis Testing Revolving Fund for Mayor's Request FY2015.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

21. #197126 Requesting Reauthorization of the Dedication Sign Revolving Fund for Mayor's Request FY2015.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

22. #197127 Requesting Reauthorization of the Special Events Revolving Fund for Mayor's Request FY2015.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

23. #197128 Requesting a transfer of \$30,000 from the Capital Projects Personal Services Mayor's Request Account to the Law Professional & Technical Services Account to fund arbitration services for the Wynn casino.

RESULT: APPROVED

Mayor Curtatone provided an explanation of the costs associated with the arbitration process with Wynn Casino.

COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

NEW BUSINESS

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

LATE ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Submitted by John J. Long, City Clerk.