

**City of Somerville, Massachusetts**  
**Matters of Business of the City Council**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

June 5, 2019, 6:00 PM  
City Council Chamber, City Hall-93 Highland Avenue  
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*NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the City Council'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**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Ward Seven City Councilor Katjana Ballantyne.

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
Stephanie Hirsch	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Wilfred N. Mbah	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	City Councilor At Large	Present	
William A. White Jr.	City Councilor At Large	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One City Councilor	Present	
Jefferson Thomas ("J.T.") Scott	Ward Two City Councilor	Present	
Ben Ewen-Campen	Ward Three City Councilor	Present	
Jesse Clingan	Ward Four City Councilor	Present	
Mark Niedergang	Ward Five City Councilor	Present	
Lance L. Davis	Ward Six City Councilor	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven City Councilor	Present	

1. Roll Call            Call of the Roll.  
208335  
(ID:21169)

<b>RESULT:            PLACED ON FILE</b>
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**CITATIONS**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR**

2. Mayor's Request 208336 (ID:21163)

Requesting an appropriation of \$238,234,626 to fund the General Fund Operating Budget for FY2020.

Mayor Joseph Curtatone described the many new initiatives in the FY20 budget. He said that new revenue growth is enabling the city to invest in our core values and services, including equity for our most vulnerable residents. The Mayor pointed out many highlights in the budget, including investments in affordable housing and other housing initiatives; immigrant services; our youth; our infrastructure; our municipal workforce; improved customer service; and meeting the vision zero goal of safe streets for all users, and the net zero goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

The Mayor said the city will pay for all of these services and minimize the residential tax liability by utilizing \$7.3M in new growth. Councilor White asked for a breakdown of residential new growth vs commercial new growth, Councilor Ballantyne asked for a breakdown of the commercial new growth attributable to new construction, and Councilor Rossetti asked that the North Point/Cambridge Crossing growth be identified separately.

The Mayor said that there is new municipal revenue projected in this budget, including increased parking meter fees and parking violation fines, and increases in Inspectional Services, Public Works, and Engineering fees. He said the city's conservative financial approach, with stabilization fund balances increasing and the use of free cash decreasing, keeps the city's cost of borrowing low.

Councilor Scott asked why no staff names are listed in the proposed budget. Budget Manager Mike Mastrobuoni said that names are typically not included statewide, and some employees ask or need to have their names redacted. He said that budget decisions should be based on the position, not the individual. Councilor Scott pointed out that even vacancies aren't listed, and employees moving from department to department can't be identified. He requested a budget with names. The Mayor said that the vacancies would be provided. Councilor McLaughlin supported Councilor Scott's request for names, and Councilor White said that the vacancy information is important.

Councilor Hirsch commended the administration for doing so much and being so responsive, and expressed support for vision-zero and the Kennedy Pool. Councilor Mbah thanked the Mayor for his leadership in making Somerville a welcoming community, and expressed support for the proposed immigration services. Councilor Niedergang appreciated the focus on equity and support for our most vulnerable residents, but he urged the hiring of more planners to implement the plans for development in our neighborhood squares. Councilor Rossetti said that while she appreciates the work of the city's staff, budget review is an awesome responsibility and she's worried about the tax levy on residents. She said she wants to cut almost \$2M from the budget and knows this can be done, and she asked the staff to help find those cuts.

**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

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|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 3. Mayor's Request 208337 (ID:21151)  | Requesting to appropriate or reserve \$2,220,788 in estimated FY20 CPA revenue for CPA projects and expenses.  | <b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee |
| 4. Mayor's Request 208338 (ID:21164)  | Requesting an appropriation of \$1,100,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to reduce the FY2020 Tax Levy.   | <b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee |
| 5. Mayor's Request 208339 (ID:21167)  | Requesting acceptance of the provisions of MGL c44, s53F1/2 establishing an Enterprise Fund for the Kennedy School Pool.   | <b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee |
| 6. Mayor's Request 208340 (ID:21168)  | Requesting the appropriation of \$795,675 in order to fund the FY2020 Kennedy School Pool Enterprise Fund Budget.  | <b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee |
| 7. Mayor's Request 208341 (ID:21172)  | Requesting an appropriation of \$928,436 to fund the FY2020 Veterans Memorial & Founders Ice Rink Enterprise Fund Budget.  | <b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee |
| 8. Mayor's Request 208342 (ID:21173)  | Requesting an appropriation of \$35,115 from the Veterans Memorial Ice Rink Retained Earnings Account to subsidize the FY2020 Veterans Memorial Ice Rink Enterprise Fund Budget. | <b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee |
| 9. Mayor's Request 208343 (ID:21170)  | Requesting the appropriation of \$225,739 to fund the FY2020 Dilboy Enterprise Fund Budget.  | <b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee |
| 10. Mayor's Request 208344 (ID:21171) | Requesting the appropriation of \$55,739 from the Dilboy Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings Account to subsidize the FY2020 Dilboy Enterprise Fund Budget.                        | <b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee |

11. Mayor's Request 208345 (ID:21165) Requesting the appropriation of \$375,705 for the FY2020 Cable Television PEG Access Fund Budget.

**RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

12. Mayor's Request 208346 (ID:21166) Requesting the approval of FY2020 expenditure limitations for departmental Revolving Funds.

**RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

### COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

13. Officer's Communication 208347 (ID:21148) Community Preservation Act Manager submitting the FY19 CPA Annual Report.

**RESULT:** PLACED ON FILE  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

### NEW BUSINESS

### SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

### LATE ITEMS

14. Order 208348 (ID:21178) By City Councilor Scott That the City Council be provided with the employees' names for each position listed in the FY20 Municipal Budget book, prior to the start of the June 6 Finance Committee meeting.

After the Mayor's FY20 budget presentation and the discussion of the absence of the names of the city employees who hold the positions listed in the FY20 budget proposal (see #208336), Councilor Scott urged that those names be provided to the City Council.

**RESULT:** APPROVED  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 7:05 PM.