



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Committee Meeting

Tuesday - September 8, 2020, 6:00 PM
Virtual

AGENDA

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A, s. 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this meeting of a City Council Committee will be conducted via remote participation.

We will post an audio recording, audio-video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels.

Copy & paste the following link into your internet browser to view this meeting live:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2559155504446086155>

- 1. Approval of the June 29, 2020 Minutes**
- 2. Approval of the July 1, 2020 Minutes**
- 3. Approval of the July 2, 2020 Minutes**
- 4. Approval of the July 6, 2020 Minutes**
- 5. Approval of the July 7, 2020 Minutes**
- 6. Approval of the July 8, 2020 Minutes**
- 7. Approval of the July 9, 2020 Minutes**

Information Requests

8. **209753: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Communications and the Director of Finance discuss all telecom contracts, their renewal, and how they affect the city budget, PEG, and the Somerville Media Center.
9. **209805: Discuss** (Niedergang, Scott, Ballantyne) – That the Administration present to this Council a more-detailed estimate of the cost of remediating Conway Field down to 36” rather than 18”, with a timeline for the additional digging and any other relevant information.
10. **209814: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Finance and the Director of Parks and Recreation advise this Council on the disposition of funds for the boat house.
11. **210302: Discuss** (Niedergang, Ballantyne) – That the Chief of Police report to this Council, no later than June 18, 2020 a description of any military equipment purchased or received as a federal grant, currently in the possession of the Police Department.
12. **210332: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen, Ballantyne, Clingan, Rossetti, Scott, Strezo, Davis, Niedergang, McLaughlin, Mbah, White Jr.) – That the City Solicitor explain in writing prior to July 1, how Chapter 589 of the Acts of 1987, "An Act Relative to Dispute Resolution" may provide this Council with the ability to modify or reject components of collective bargaining agreements that reached an impasse and entered arbitration.
13. **210438: Discuss** (Rossetti) – That the Director of Finance report to this Council, all actual state aid appropriations versus budgeted (anticipated) state aid.
14. **210455: Discuss** (Scott) – That the Chief of Police provide to this Council an itemized statement of all materials, tools, and property owned or leased by the City for use of the Police Department.
15. **210456: Discuss** (Scott) – That the Chief of Police provide to this Council an itemized statement of any equipment purchased on behalf of employees of the Police Department which became the individual employee's property.

Policy Items

16. **209490: Recommend** Requesting approval of an annual Vacant Property Registration Fee of \$500.
17. **209562: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Davis, Rossetti, Hirsch, Mbah, White Jr.) – That the Director of Finance, or the appropriate department,

consider raising the limit on assets seniors may claim to qualify for senior tax exemptions.

18. **209567: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen) – That the City Treasurer, the Chief Assessor and the Director of Finance discuss with this Council the possibility of switching to bi-annual tax bills, and including a simple "explainer" with each bill.
19. **210004: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Scott, Ballantyne, Davis, Niedergang, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Hirsch, Mbah, White Jr.) – That the Administration update this Council on opportunities to provide universal broadband internet access in Somerville.
20. **210221: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Finance discuss providing small businesses the option to pay the Licensing Commission's annual license renewal fees in installments instead of all at once.
21. **210483: Discuss** (Rossetti) – That the Administration consider relief for local small businesses as it relates to their annual renewal of licenses and associated fees.
22. **210358: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Strezo, Davis, Niedergang, Rossetti, Mbah, White Jr.) – That the Mayor move the Rodent Home Assistance Program from the Department of Inspectional Services to the Department of Health and Human Services to streamline rodent assistance for neighbors.
23. **210229: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Ballantyne, Davis, Scott, Mbah, White Jr., Rossetti, Strezo, Niedergang) – That the Chief of Police prohibit the purchase and use of military technology and eliminate any military stockpiles the department currently has.
24. **210458: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Strezo, Niedergang) – That the Director of Finance and the Director of the Arts Council discuss with this Council's Finance Committee several suggestions for assistance proposed by a group of Somerville arts and cultural organizations.

COVID Finance Updates

25. **210035: Discuss** (Rossetti) – That the Director of Finance update this Council on all money received to date related to the COVID-19 situation.
26. **210036: Discuss** (Rossetti) – That the Director of Finance update this Council on all expenditures, encumbrances and anticipated expenses to date related to the COVID-19 situation.
27. **210117: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Finance provide a written rolling cash flow analysis every 2 weeks during this COVID-19 emergency and include forecasts to ensure sufficient operating liquidity by estimating the available cash deposits, expected

inflows, and required disbursements.

Housekeeping Items

- 28. 210220: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Strezo) – That the Director of Finance and the Budget Director provide funding equity for girls in the FY21 budget with respect to Parks and Recreation Department sports and activities as well as High School varsity sports and activities.
- 29. 210252: Discuss** (Ballantyne, McLaughlin) – That the Director of Finance submit to this Council by June 17, 2020, an updated FY21 Capital Projects Plan, taking into account the Administration’s freeze on all capital projects during the COVID-19 health emergency.
- 30. 210253: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Scott, McLaughlin) – That the Director of Finance submit to this Council, a list of all anticipated new and renewal contracts to be signed in July 2020.
- 31. 210292: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Chief of Police or the Director of Personnel report to this Council, no later than June 18, the number and rank of all sworn officers and civilian employees (including job titles) in the Police Department, yearly from 1987 to 2020.
- 32. 210293: Discuss** (Niedergang, Ballantyne) – That the Chief of Police verify whether the Marshall Project website's report that the Police Department received 26 5.56 millimeter rifles worth \$4,257 from the federal government is accurate, whether those rifles are currently in the Department's possession, and what their purpose and potential use is.
- 33. 209815: Discuss** (Scott) – That the Director of SPCD provide a comprehensive description of DIF funds and uses on projects in Assembly Square and independently by FRIT.
- 34. 209816: Discuss** (White Jr.) – That the Director of SPCD provide this Council with the terms of the recent approval of the State's I-Cubed bonds at Assembly Square to FRIT, including any changes from what the Board of Aldermen approved.
- 35. 210305: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Finance and Director of Budgeting update and submit the 10-year budget forecast in preparation for the FY21 budget review.
- 36. 210342: Discuss** (White Jr.) – That the Director of Finance address the Finance Committee on the status of the Central Hill bond appropriation, and whether it should be reduced by \$206,000 as a result of applying CPA funds to the project.
- 37. 210441: Discuss** Requesting approval to appropriate \$170,000 from the Union Sq Community Benefits Stabilization Fund to fund a Main Streets Small Business Liaison and job placement and career navigation services for residents.

