



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES**

March 20, 2018
REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

Others present: Michael Glavin - OSPCD, Jackie Rossetti - Communications, Ed Bean - Finance, Alan Inacio - OSPCD, Annie Connor - Legislative Liaison, Charles Sillari - Clerk of Committees.

The meeting took place in the Aldermen's Chamber and was called to order at 6:08 PM by Chairman White and adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Ald. Rossetti was recused from all items involving the Communications Department.

Approval of the March 6, 2018 Minutes

RESULT:	ACCEPTED
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205258: SMEA President submitting comments re: the Mayor's mid-year requests for new non-union positions.

Annie Connor discussed the methodology that the Administration used to determine that all of the new positions that are before the Board were non-union. In the event that any positions are approved and funded, the Union can challenge the determination that the positions are non-union. Such a challenge, however, can only be brought after the positions are filled.

Ald. Niedergang expressed concern about filling these positions in a timely manner. He would like to make sure the salaries are competitive.

Ald. Mbah queried what qualifies a position as a union position. He also asked if there are union positions in the Engineering Dept. Mr. Reich said there are 3 non-union and 2 union in his department. The positions being sought meet the characteristics of non-union.

Annie Connors spoke about why certain positions were characterized by the administration as being critical. Most of the proposed critical positions relate to the construction season which is about to begin. If the positions are approved now, anybody hired will most likely start working in mid-May. The administration would not be coming before the BOA before the budget hearings if it weren't absolutely necessary. If these positions wait until the fiscal 2019 budget in June, the positions would not be filled until July or August, which would be too late to cover much of the construction season.

The committee discussed staffing needed for construction oversight and how some of the costs would be offset by contractor contributions.

Ald. Ballantyne stated that the city has known that these needs were coming and should have been brought to the BOA earlier.

Mr. Bean spoke about the city's long range financial plan. The city is projecting large revenue in FY 2019 and the city will be able to afford these positions.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
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203587: That the Director of Purchasing provide a written review for this Board on the implementation of the Living Wage Ordinance, including the current hourly rate and its use in city agreements.

RESULT:	KEPT IN COMMITTEE
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203810: Director of Purchasing responding to #203587 re: the Living Wage Ordinance.

RESULT:	KEPT IN COMMITTEE
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205301: Requesting approval of a Time Only extension of the Weston & Sampson Lincoln Park construction contract, to December 31, 2018.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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205014: Requesting approval of a mid-year staffing request to fund construction oversight, management and associated issues.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
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205156: Requesting a transfer of \$16,250 from the Salary Contingency Account to the Health & Human Services Personal Services Salaries Account to fund an Environmental Health Liaison.

The committee discussed the need to hire someone more specifically dedicated rodent control.

RESULT:	NOT APPROVED
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205157: Requesting the appropriation of \$16,250 from Unreserved Fund Balance ('Free Cash') to the Engineering Division Salaries Account to fund a Construction Liaison and Compliance Manager.

The amount of the appropriation will be reduced to \$11,250.00 in a new request to be submitted by the Administration to take into account the time that has passed from the initial submission to when the position will likely be filled .

RESULT:	APPROVED. [UNANIMOUS]
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AYES: White Jr., Rossetti, Ewen-Campen, McLaughlin, Ballantyne, Scott, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Mbah, Hirsch
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205158: Requesting the appropriation of \$20,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance ('Free Cash') to the Engineering Division Salaries Account to fund a Construction Project Manager.

The amount of the appropriation will be reduced to \$13,846.15 in a new request to be submitted by the Administration to take into account the time that has passed from the initial submission to when the position will likely be filled.

RESULT:	APPROVED. [10 TO 1]
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AYES: White Jr., Rossetti, Ewen-Campen, McLaughlin, Scott, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Mbah, Hirsch
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NAYS:	Ballantyne
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205159: Requesting the appropriation of \$16,250 from Unreserved Fund Balance ('Free Cash') to the Communications Department Salaries Account to fund a Construction Information Officer.

Ald. Rossetti recused herself.

Denise Taylor discussed the role of the communications department with respect to various projects in the city. She explained that her department is responsible for multi-pronged communication plans. She gave examples of how the city communicates with constituents. She discussed the increase in community projects which resulted in the need for more communications.

The Construction Information Officer will inform and engage with the constituents which will reduce the number of complaints

Ald. Ewen-Campen feels this position will make his job easier and make the constituents happier.

Ald. Hirsch also supports this position.

RESULT:	NOT APPROVED. [5 TO 5]
AYES:	Ewen-Campen, Niedergang, Davis, Mbah, Hirsch
NAYS:	White Jr., McLaughlin, Ballantyne, Scott, Clingan
RECUSED:	Rossetti

205161: Requesting the appropriation of \$21,250 from Unreserved Fund Balance to the Capital Projects Department Salaries Account to fund a Project Manager.

RESULT:	NOT APPROVED
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205162: Requesting the appropriation of \$18,750 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to SPCD's Transportation & Infrastructure Division Salaries Account to fund a Streetscape and Public Space Planner.

The amount of the appropriation will be reduced to \$14,711 in a new request to be submitted by the Administration to take into account the time that has passed from the initial submission to when the position will likely be filled.

Mr. Glavin explained that this position would report to Brad Rawson.

Ald. Niedergang stated he feels the city needs staff to address traffic calming. He also stated that Brad Rawson's office is overworked and is therefore unable to respond to requests in a timely manner.

Ald. White would like to be very careful during the budgetary process. He doesn't want to see major increases in property taxes.

Ald. Niedergang spoke about property tax increases over the next 6 years and how the GLX and high school construction will impact them.

Ald. Ballantyne reminded the BOA that the CPA and water/sewer surcharges are additional costs to constituents that have been enacted recently.

RESULT:	APPROVED. [9 TO 2]
AYES:	Ewen-Campen, McLaughlin, Ballantyne, Scott, Clingan, Niedergang, Davis, Mbah, Hirsch
NAYS:	White Jr., Rossetti

205163: Requesting the appropriation of \$21,250 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Engineering Department Salaries Account to fund a Project Manager.

The amount of the appropriation will be reduced to \$14,711 in a new request to be submitted by the Administration to take into account the time that has passed from the initial submission to when the position will likely be filled.

RESULT:	APPROVED. [6 TO 5]
AYES:	Ewen-Campen, Scott, Niedergang, Davis, Mbah, Hirsch
NAYS:	White Jr., Rossetti, McLaughlin, Ballantyne, Clingan

205164: Requesting the appropriation of \$20,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Engineering Department Salaries Account to fund a Junior Project Manager.

RESULT:	NOT APPROVED
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205165: Requesting the appropriation of \$21,250 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to SPCD's Transportation & Infrastructure Division Salaries Account to fund a Senior Urban Forestry & Landscape Planner.

RESULT:	NOT APPROVED
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205167: Requesting the appropriation of \$21,250 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Inspectional Services Department Salaries Account to fund a Senior Zoning Review Planner.

Mr. Glavin explained how this position could speed up permitting process and bring revenue to the city sooner.

Ald. Davis is in favor of this position because he has heard of several instances where developers do not do what they are supposed to do.

Ald. Niedergang would like a presentation from ISD how what the department needs for staffing in order to improve their work.

RESULT:	NOT APPROVED. [3 TO 7]
AYES:	Ewen-Campen, Davis, Hirsch
NAYS:	White Jr., Rossetti, McLaughlin, Ballantyne, Clingan, Niedergang, Mbah
ABSENT:	Scott

205168: Requesting the appropriation of \$27,500 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Capital Projects Department Salaries Account to fund a Capital Projects Assistant Director.

RESULT:	NOT APPROVED
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205169: Requesting the appropriation of \$7,200 from Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to the Water Enterprise Fund Salaries Account to fund a Director of Finance & Administration.

The appropriation will be reduced to \$4,895.00 in a new request to be submitted by the Administration to take into account the time that has passed from the initial submission to when the position will likely be filled..

Mr. Reich discussed water/sewer department's responsibilities and duties.

Ald. Rossetti initially thought that she would like to hear from the Director of Water/Sewer before she makes a decision on this item because he had said in committee that filling the position would not free up his time. In response, members of the administration stated that the Director was not performing these tasks and that they were being performed by other people in the administration and that it made sense to have one person handle this task.

Mr. Bean explained that the water/sewer enterprise was at one time under DPW and that is why there is currently no finance and administration position in place.

RESULT:	APPROVED. [7 TO 3]
AYES:	White Jr., Rossetti, Ewen-Campen, Ballantyne, Davis, Mbah, Hirsch
NAYS:	McLaughlin, Clingan, Niedergang
ABSENT:	Scott

205170: Requesting the appropriation of \$15,300 from Sewer Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to the Sewer Enterprise Fund Salaries Account to fund a Director of Finance & Administration.

The amount of the appropriation will be reduced to \$10,592 in a new request to be submitted by the Administration to take into account the time that has passed from the initial submission to when the position will likely be filled.

RESULT:	APPROVED. [7 TO 3]
AYES:	White Jr., Rossetti, Ewen-Campen, Ballantyne, Davis, Mbah, Hirsch
NAYS:	McLaughlin, Clingan, Niedergang
ABSENT:	Scott

205172: Requesting the appropriation of \$20,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the SPCD Office of Housing Stability Salaries Account to fund a Deputy Director of Housing Stability/Program Development.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
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205173: Requesting the appropriation of \$15,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the SPCD Office of Housing Stability Salaries Account to fund a Housing Counselor/Case Manager.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
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205174: Requesting the appropriation of \$15,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the SPCD Office of Housing Stability Salaries Account to fund a Housing Counselor/Case Manager.

RESULT:

PLACED ON FILE

205175: Requesting the appropriation of \$12,500 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the SPCD Office of Housing Stability Salaries Account to fund a Housing Intake Specialist.

RESULT:

PLACED ON FILE

Handout:

- Staffing Report (with 205014)