

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

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

November 26, 2019, 6:00 PM
 City Council Chamber, City Hall-93 Highland Avenue

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.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
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	Absent	
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.
 209274
 (ID:22117)

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
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CITATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. Officer's Chief Assessor's Classification Hearing Report regarding the adoption of Tax
 Communication Levy Percentages for FY 2020, including a minimum residential factor and a
 209275 residential exemption.
 (ID:22116)

<p>City Assessor Frank Golden presented FY20 tax classification data and recommended the adoption of tax levy percentages. The recommendation of a residential factor of 87.9553 is the minimum allowable for the City for FY20. Since 2015, the 16,750 properties that make up the residential class are allowed a residential exemption of 35% of the average assessed value, pursuant to MGL c59 s5C. Responding to a question from Councilor Mbah, Mr. Golden noted that there is legislation at the State House for a 40% residential exemption, but 35% is the current maximum.</p>

Mr. Golden reviewed parcel counts in the City. There are an additional 463 residential condominium units (198 conversions and 224 new units), 56 fewer two-families, and 10 fewer three-families. The commercial tax rate dropped \$1 this year and the residential rate dropped \$0.60, which reflects a phenomenal increase in value and encouraging projects. Mr. Golden added that next year is a revaluation year, and neighborhood boundaries and home values will be updated as needed.

As the meeting approached the 1 hour mark with much of the Assessor's presentation still to go, President Ballantyne asked Mr. Golden to conclude his remarks. She then opened the Public Hearing. No one requested to speak on the FY20 Tax Classification, and the Public Hearing was closed. The President then referred all items on this Special Meeting's agenda to the Finance Committee. Finance Committee Chair William White said he would add the items to the agenda of the Committee's December 3 meeting.

The City Clerk noted that the City Assessor's presentation is on the City Council's web portal, and the President directed that it be posted to the Finance Department's webpage as well.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 3. Mayor's Request 209227 (ID:22091) Requesting the appropriation of \$2,300,000 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Parking Meter Receipts Account in order to reduce the FY2020 Tax Levy.

Discharged by the President from the Finance Committee, then referred back to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 4. Mayor's Request 209265 (ID:22054) Requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$75,000 to the Kennedy School Pool Enterprise Fund to replace the pool filter.

Discharged by the President from the Finance Committee, then referred back to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 5. Mayor's Request 209273 (ID:22098) Requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$500,000 to the Engineering Division Capital Outlay Street Repairs Account in order to perform mill and overlay paving of the travel way in prioritized streets.

Discharged by the President from the Finance Committee, then referred back to the Finance Committee.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

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| 6. | Mayor's Request
209276
(ID:22134) | Requesting to transfer CPA funds totaling \$468,808 from the CPA Undesignated Fund Balance to designated CPA reserves per the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee. | RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee |
| 7. | Mayor's Request
209277
(ID:22133) | Requesting to transfer CPA funds totaling \$10,781 from the CPA Fund Budgeted Reserve to designated CPA reserves. | RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee |
| 8. | Mayor's Request
209278
(ID:22132) | Requesting to appropriate \$12,683 from excess FY20 Community Preservation Act Fund revenue to the Community Preservation Act Fund Budgeted Reserve. | RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee |

COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

NEW BUSINESS

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

LATE ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 7:10 PM.