



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Committee Meeting

Wednesday - October 12, 2016, 6:00 PM
Committee Room – 2nd Floor – City Hall

AGENDA

(Posted online: 10/7/16 at 3:36 PM)

- 1. Approval of the September 21, 2016 Minutes**
- 2. 197339: Recommend** Requesting that the City-owned portion of 163 Glen Street be declared available for disposition.
- 3. 197852: Recommend** Requesting an Order of Taking of real estate property at 515 Somerville Avenue to provide for the relocation of the Fire Department from its current facility in Union Square.
- 4. 197902: Recommend** Requesting authorization to borrow \$4,875,000 in a bond, and appropriate the same amount for the acquisition of property to relocate the Fire Department from Union Square to 515 Somerville Avenue.
- 5. 199247: Discuss** (White Jr.) – That the Director of SPCD provide this Board with written responses to certain requests for residential and commercial data since 2010.
- 6. 199250: Recommend** Requesting an appropriation of \$445,000 and authorization to borrow that amount in a bond for a comprehensive planning effort for Assembly Square.
- 7. 199255: Discuss** Director of Housing conveying an outline of the "100 Homes" initiative and requesting the opportunity to present it to this Board at its earliest opportunity.
- 8. 199297: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Administration implement a PILOT program to promote partnerships with major local non-profit institutions for fair-value voluntary

PILOTs.

9. **199305: Discuss** (White Jr., Ballantyne) – That the Director of SPCD provide this Board with a comprehensive financial plan to develop Union Square, including expenditures to date and future costs, by early September.
10. **199642: Recommend** Requesting an appropriation of \$470,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund to fund a comprehensive citywide Mobility Plan.
11. **199545: Discuss** (White Jr., Lafuente) – That the Finance Committee examine the impact of the continued practice of balancing the city's budget by raising property taxes to the maximum permitted under Proposition 2 1/2, and explore ways for this Board to engage earlier in the budget process.
12. **199572: Discuss** (White Jr.) – That any department that deviates from the expenditures provided as part of the Professional and Technical Services FY16 budget presentation notify this Board of that deviation.
13. **199598: Discuss** (Connolly) – That the Director of SPCD provide the Finance Committee with the indirect and acquisition costs related to the proposed taking of 515 Somerville Avenue.
14. **199863: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Administration consider the development of a Tree and Bench donation program to supplement the City's investments in these areas.
15. **200107: Discuss** (White Jr.) – That the Director of SPCD explain to this Board, in writing, the comments discussed in the State SIP Report on the Green Line Extension.
16. **200064: Discuss** (White Jr.) – That the Director of SPCD consult with the new management team at North Point and report back to this Board on their plans.
17. **200065: Discuss** (White Jr.) – That the City Engineer provide this Board with the storm water policy and a discussion of the 4 to 1 plan.
18. **200066: Discuss** (White Jr.) – That the City Treasurer provide this Board with Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund balance sheets and a report of water and sewer rates in the 15 largest MA communities.
19. **200196: Discuss** (White Jr.) – That the Chief Assessor provide this Board with a breakdown

of the residential exemption for 1, 2, 3 and 4 family homes, and the number owned by residents, and that this be provided annually going forward.

20. **200413: Recommend** Requesting acceptance of the fee interest in Parcel 34B, including portions of Great River Road, Assembly Row, Canal Street, and Foley Street, and all of Artisan Way.
21. **200481: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of SPCD and the Director of Finance report all expenditures for Union Square since the passage of the Union Square Redevelopment Plan, identifying those excluded and included in the Memorandum of Understanding with the Master Developer.
22. **200592: Discuss** (Rossetti) – That the Director of Personnel report to this Board June's employee vacancies and all hires since then.
23. **200593: Discuss** (Rossetti) – That this Board discuss the two reports received from the Fire and Police Departments of tax exempt facilities and services rendered over a two year span.
24. **200614: Recommend** Submitting the FY2016-FY2025 Capital Investment Plan.
25. **200751: Discuss** (White Jr.) – That the Chief Assessor provide this Board with the final breakdown of residential exemptions for the current fiscal year, by property type, with comparisons to prior fiscal years.
26. **200752: Discuss** (White Jr., Rossetti, Lafuente) – That the Administration provide assistance, including financial where appropriate, to resident homeowners whose property is damaged from the roots of trees planted by the City.
27. **200796: Recommend** Requesting authorization to borrow \$130,000 in a bond, and appropriate the same amount, to fund an Owners Project Manager for City Hall renovation work.
28. **200873: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Personnel provide a salary and benefit projection for a full time arborist.
29. **200982: Discuss** (White Jr., Davis) – That the Superintendent of the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds appear before the Finance Committee to discuss the policy of charging homeowners who request that their meter be checked when water bills are questioned.

30. **201098: Recommend** Requesting an appropriation of \$52,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund to conduct a Police Department Headquarters Feasibility Study.
31. **201124: Discuss** (Rossetti) – That the Director of Finance report the potential impact of the increase in Local Aid proposed by the Governor's FY2017 budget.
32. **201434: Recommend** Requesting to appropriate \$750,000 from the CPA Fund Open Space and Recreation Land Reserve and Undesignated CPA Fund Balance for the creation of an Open Space Land Acquisition Fund, per the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee.
33. **201490: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Director of Finance or the Director of Purchasing report to this Board on all contracts with Verizon and their value and length.
34. **201527: Recommend** Requesting the acceptance of certain Assembly Row streets as Public Ways, including Grand Union Boulevard and portions of Great River Road, Artisan Way, Canal Street, and Foley Street.
35. **201568: Recommend** Requesting the acceptance of the non-union phase-1 salary recommendations of the Municipal Compensation Advisory Board.
36. **201661: Discuss** (Connolly, Rossetti, Niedergang, Heuston, McWatters, Lafuente, White Jr., Davis, Ballantyne, Sullivan) – That the Administration endeavor to provide \$250,000 for Teen Empowerment Youth Services in the proposed FY17 budget.
37. **201664: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Administration provide a 3 year projection of bond requests, by project name, as of June 2016.
38. **201745: Recommend** Requesting the appropriation of \$200,000 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund for the Citywide Mobility Plan.
39. **201856: Discuss** (Heuston, McWatters, and the Entire Board) – That the City Solicitor advise this Board on regulating Air BnB rentals through a possible local tax.
40. **201868: Discuss** (White Jr., and the Entire Board) – That the Director of Water and Sewer appear before this Board at its September 13 regular meeting to discuss the new base water charge, the reasons for its adoption, and why the Board was not informed of it during the budget meetings.

41. **201896: Discuss** (Rossetti) – That the Director of Personnel provide an updated report of any and all positions filled and/or vacated since the FY17 budget discussions.
42. **202008: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Finance and the Superintendent of Water and Sewer provide this Board with the total costs associated with emergency water and sewer repairs for FY14, FY15 and FY16 by this Board's September 13 regular meeting.
43. **202026: Discuss** (Connolly, and the Entire Board) – That the Water Superintendent report to this Board on the imposition or suspension of water and sewer base charges for customers.
44. **202128: Recommend** Requesting the acceptance and appropriation of an additional \$80,000 from US2 Associates into the Union Square Stabilization and Revitalization Fund.
45. **202129: Recommend** Requesting an appropriation of \$80,000 from the Union Square Stabilization and Revitalization Fund for services in connection with the redevelopment of Union Square.
46. **202154: Recommend** Requesting approval of a transfer of \$140,000 in the Law Department, from the Judgments/Settlements Account to the Legal Services Account, for rendered and anticipated outside counsel services.
47. **202155: Recommend** Requesting a transfer of \$55,577 from the Salary Contingency Account to the SPCD Transportation and Infrastructure Personal Services Salaries Account to fund a Senior Urban Forestry and Landscape Planner.
48. **202153: Recommend** Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$94,000 in a bond for additional design services for the West Branch Library Renovation Project.
49. **202157: Discuss** (Rossetti) – That the Water Superintendent provide this Board with a report of the number of commercial customers that are being charged the residential rate, prior to this Board's next meeting on October 13, 2016.
50. **202158: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Water Superintendent inform this Board about the State Law regarding 4 to 1 infiltration in-flow for water and sewer charges for large developments, and that the water and sewer fees for Assembly Row, Maxwell Green, and other large scale developments be provided as well.
51. **202164: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Heuston) – That the Director of Finance review with this Board a residential and commercial real estate tax bill, clearly identifying all additional fees

that taxpayers are paying (e.g. CPA charge).

52. **202165: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Heuston) – That the Director of Finance discuss review with this Board a water/sewer bill for all rate payers (tiered), clearly identifying all additional fees that rate payers are paying (e.g. base monthly charge).
53. **202156: Discuss** Acting Director of Personnel responding to #201896 re: status of City vacancies.
54. **202135: Discuss** Acting Water Superintendent responding to #202008 re: emergency water and sewer repairs in FY14-FY16.
55. **202080: Discuss** Acting Water Superintendent submitting a Water & Sewer Enterprise Funds Financial Analysis and a Water & Sewer Rate Study.
56. **201747: Discuss** Conveying an update on the Green Line Extension project.
57. **201539: Discuss** Purchasing Director responding to #201490 re: current Verizon contracts.
58. **201444: Discuss** City Assessor responding to #200751 re: residential exemption statistics.
59. **201268: Discuss** Abutters to the West Branch Library submitting comments regarding its renovation.
60. **200353: Discuss** City Assessor responding to #200196 re: residential exemption data.
61. **197611: Discuss** Communicating information regarding the needed relocation of the Public Safety Building.