



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE  
Committee Meeting

Tuesday - January 16, 2018, 6:00 PM  
Committee Room – 2nd Floor – City Hall

**AGENDA**

(Posted online: 1/11/18 at 1:40 PM) Original

(Posted online: 1/12/18 at 9:29 AM) Revised

1. **Approval of the November 28, 2017 Minutes**
2. **Approval of the December 5, 2017 Minutes**
3. **Approval of the December 11, 2017 Minutes**
4. **Approval of the December 13, 2017 Minutes**
  
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. **199297: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Administration implement a PILOT program to promote partnerships with major local non-profit institutions for fair-value voluntary PILOTs.
  
7. **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.
  
8. **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.
  
9. **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.
  
10. **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.

11. **200592: Discuss** (Rossetti) – That the Director of Personnel report to this Board June's employee vacancies and all hires since then.
12. **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.
13. **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.
14. **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.
15. **201664: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Administration provide a 3 year projection of bond requests, by project name, as of June 2016.
16. **201745: Recommend** Requesting the appropriation of \$200,000 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund for the Citywide Mobility Plan.
17. **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.
18. **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.
19. **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.
20. **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.
21. **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.

22. **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.
23. **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.
24. **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.
25. **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).
26. **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).
27. **202282: Recommend** Requesting approval of an appropriation of \$47,500 from the Capital Stabilization Fund to retain an economic planning/real estate consultant to assist in developing a District Improvement Financing application.
28. **202500: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Administration report to this Board on outreach efforts to seniors who are home owners, to help them take advantage of property tax exemptions and deferral opportunities.
29. **202618: Discuss** (McLaughlin, and the Entire Board) – That the Administration update this Board on the proposed Community Advisory Committee for Capital Improvement Projects and explain how it will interact with this Board.
30. **202884: Recommend** Requesting approval to appropriate \$360,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the Assembly Square Master Plan.
31. **202785: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Director of Traffic and Parking consider purchasing 70 temporary speed bumps to be deployed beginning in April, or as soon as possible, on residential streets that have requested traffic calming measures.
32. **202786: Discuss** (Niedergang, Heuston) – That the Director of Traffic and Parking consider purchasing 21 flashing speed monitoring sign boards to deploy on streets where residents are concerned about speeding.

33. **202875: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Water and Sewer Superintendent report to this Board whether homeowners could install a separate water meter for outdoor water lines, which would not incur sewer fees.
34. **202902: Discuss** (Heuston) – That the Chief Assessor inform this Board about whether a review is conducted each fiscal year to verify that residential exemptions are accurate, whether an audit is conducted before an exemption is granted, and whether there is data about the percentage of properties where residency cannot be verified.
35. **202927: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Director of SPCD report to this Board on the Administration’s intention to budget in FY18 for workforce development and job training programs.
36. **202971: Recommend** Green Cab requesting a waiver of Taxi Medallion fees.
37. **203250: Discuss** (White Jr., and the Entire Board) – That the Chief Assessor and SPCD Counsel appear before this Board to explain the transaction between Federal Realty Investment Trust and Partners Health Care for Partners' building at Assembly Square, and advise whether there are any legal avenues for the City to collect property tax payments from Federal Realty for that parcel.
38. **203288: Discuss** (White Jr.) – That the Director of Finance provide this Board with the total amount of meals tax received in each of the last five fiscal years and, to the extent possible, those receipts broken out by business district.
39. **203394: Discuss** (Sullivan) – That the Administration explore reducing residential street cleaning from four days a month to two.
40. **203395: Discuss** (Sullivan, and the Entire Board) – That the Administration consider a veterans' exemption on fees related to the Community Preservation Act.
41. **203448: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the City Assessor and Finance Director provide revenue comparisons for real estate and other taxes received, for a hotel vs. a commercial building of comparable size.
42. **203513: Discuss** (Davis, Niedergang, and the Entire Board) – Opposing the Keystone XL Pipeline, and restricting engagement with the financial institutions supporting the pipeline.
43. **203571: Recommend** Requesting the acceptance of a gift of \$10,000 from Wynn for the Memorial on the Mystic Fireworks celebration on May 29, 2017.

44. **203572: Recommend** Requesting the acceptance of a gift of \$5,000 from Federal Realty Investment Trust for the Memorial on the Mystic Fireworks celebration on May 29, 2017.
45. **203587: Discuss** (White Jr.) – 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.
46. **203733: Discuss** (White Jr., and the Entire Board) – That this Board deems it necessary to include in the FY18 budget an appropriation of \$18,000 from the General Fund to the Dilboy Field Enterprise Fund to provide the use of Dilboy Field to Somerville non-profit youth football and soccer organizations without charge, and so requests that the Mayor make that appropriation.
47. **203740: Discuss** (Rossetti) – That the Grant Manager report to this Board by October 15, 2017 on progress in supporting SomerPromise.
48. **203741: Discuss** (Rossetti) – That the Director of Personnel implement bi-weekly payroll for all employees.
49. **203742: Discuss** (Rossetti) – That the Fleet Manager provide a 2017 mid-year report of all services provided by the Fleet Management Department, and the expenses to date in each of its line items.
50. **203888: Recommend** Requesting approval to appropriate \$360,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the Assembly Square Master Plan.
51. **203923: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Chief Assessor inform this Board about state laws regarding housing trustees and residential tax exemptions.
52. **204280: Recommend** Requesting approval to create the 0 Elmwood Stabilization Fund Account and accept a payment to the Fund of \$25,000 from 27 Eaton Street LLC for streetscape improvements.
53. **204328: Discuss** Requesting to brief this Board on the Union Square District Improvement Financing strategy.
54. **204497: Recommend** Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$2,000,000 in a bond to repair and improve the Buena Vista Garage.
55. **204491: Discuss** (White Jr.) – That the Administration consider increasing permit fees to cover the cost of a new position to oversee street reconstruction and utility work.

56. **204558: Recommend** Requesting approval to create the 290 Highland Ave Stabilization Fund, and accept a payment to the Fund of \$10,000 from 290 Highland Ave LLC for Ward 5 Improvements.
57. **204518: Recommend** Requesting a transfer of \$32,500 from the Salary Contingency Account to the Health & Human Services Personal Services Salaries Account to fund an Environmental Health Liaison.
58. **204625: Discuss** (Rossetti) – That the Director of Finance provide this Board with quarterly reports for all stabilization funds.
59. **204626: Discuss** (Rossetti) – That representatives from US2 appear before the Finance Committee to explain what they're committing to build in Union Square, when it will be built, and what it will be worth.
60. **204755: Recommend** Requesting the transfer of a City-owned parcel (82-D-1) in the North Prospect Block to the Redevelopment Authority.
61. **204640: Recommend** Requesting the appropriation of \$200,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund to implement the Winter Hill Neighborhood Plan.
62. **204758: Recommend** Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$7,747.68 using available funds in the Sewer Department.
63. **204759: Recommend** Requesting acceptance of a \$30,000 grant with no new match required, from the MA Department of Environmental Protection to the Office of Sustainability & Environment for school recycling equipment and implementation assistance.
64. **204756: Recommend** Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$1,500,000 in a bond for Sewer Rehabilitation and Replacement, as part of the Capital Improvement Program.
65. **204757: Recommend** Requesting approval of a transfer of \$9,500 in Planning and Zoning, from the Professional Services Account to the Personal Services Salaries Account, for a temporary hire due to a medical leave.
66. **204760: Recommend** Requesting acceptance of an \$8,700 grant with no new match required, from Somerville Cambridge Elder Services to the Council on Aging, for transportation.

67. **204762: Recommend** Requesting the acceptance of a 27-foot Boston Whaler and corresponding trailer, given to the Police Department by the Boston Police Department, with no match required.
68. **204761: Recommend** Requesting acceptance of a \$7,816 grant with no new match required, from Somerville Cambridge Elder Services to the Council on Aging, for health and wellness programs.
69. **201268: Discuss** Abutters to the West Branch Library submitting comments regarding its renovation.
70. **201539: Discuss** Purchasing Director responding to #201490 re: current Verizon contracts.
71. **202080: Discuss** Acting Water Superintendent submitting a Water & Sewer Enterprise Funds Financial Analysis and a Water & Sewer Rate Study.
72. **202156: Discuss** Acting Director of Personnel responding to #201896 re: status of City vacancies.
73. **202135: Discuss** Acting Water Superintendent responding to #202008 re: emergency water and sewer repairs in FY14-FY16.
74. **202224: Discuss** Assistant City Solicitor responding to #201856 re: possible regulation of AirBnB rentals through a local tax.
75. **202290: Discuss** City Assessor conveying the Green Line Extension Assessment Study completed by RKG Associates.
76. **202491: Discuss** Director of Capital Projects responding to #200065 and #202158 re: the city's Inflow and Infiltration policy.
77. **202553: Discuss** Conveying the FY2017-FY2026 Capital Projects List and accompanying documents.
78. **202711: Discuss** Director of SomerStat submitting a memorandum analyzing an increase in the residential exemption.
79. **202900: Discuss** Finance Director submitting a mid-year report of the City's budget performance for FY17.

80. **202962: Discuss** Traffic and Parking Director responding to items approved 2/14/17.
81. **203105: Discuss** Chief Assessor responding to #202902 re: residential exemption verifications.
82. **203293: Discuss** Presenting Somerville's water and sewer infrastructure needs and the strategies to meet those needs.
83. **203810: Discuss** Director of Purchasing responding to #203587 re: the Living Wage Ordinance.
84. **204185: Recommend** Conveying the GLX Memorandum of Agreement and the Drainage Facilities Interconnection Agreement.
85. **204582: Discuss** Director of Parks & Recreation and City Solicitor responding to #204160, #203889, and #203733 re: nonprofit soccer and football organizations' use of Dilboy Field.
86. **204857: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen) – That the Administration inform the Ward 3 Aldermen who will bear the financial costs of mitigating the recent flooding and related damage at 125 Lowell Street.
87. **204864: Discuss** (Hirsch) – That the Administration consider a mid-year appropriation for additional traffic coordination or engineering staff to manage the many complex projects underway, communicate with residents and businesses, and carry out any possible immediate traffic calming using real-time data.
88. **204867: Discuss** (Hirsch) – That the Chief Assessor and the Director of Communications provide an update on how this year's tax deferral program can be advertised to each eligible home owner, and how the application process can be streamlined.
89. **204881: Discuss** (Niedergang) – That the Mayor allocate \$25,000 for the remainder of FY18 for this Board to hire its own legal counsel to provide independent legal analysis and advice on legal matters.
90. **204888: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Director of Finance report to this Board how much money was spent per year on girls' programs and boys' programs during FY16, FY17 and FY18 to date.
91. **204894: Recommend** Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$1441.25 using available funds in the Capital Projects and Planning Professional and Technical Services Account for construction administration services at the former School



Administration Building.

92. **204895: Recommend** Requesting acceptance of a \$75,000 donation from Tufts University pursuant to its Partnership Agreement with the City.
93. **204896: Recommend** Requesting acceptance of a \$45,625 grant with no new match required, from the MA Office of Housing and Economic Development to SPCD's Economic Development Division for an Advanced Manufacturing Training program.
94. **204955: Discuss** Requesting acceptance of a \$400,000 grant that requires a match, from the MA Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs PARC Grant Program to SPCD for renovations to Prospect Hill Park.