



# CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

## CLERK OF COMMITTEES

June 2, 2010

### REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Maryann M. Heuston	Chair	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Vice Chair	Present	
Bruce M. Desmond	Alderman At Large	Present	
John M Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Rebekah L. Gewirtz	Ward Six Alderman	Present	
Ed Bean	Director of Finance	Present	
Gerald Boyle	Project Manager	Present	
Stan Koty	DPW Commissioner	Present	
George Landers	Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds	Present	
Tony Pierantozzi	Superintendent of Schools	Present	
Joseph Curtatone	Mayor	Present	
Robert Bradley	Director of Traffic and Parking	Present	
Monica Lamboy	Executive Director - OSPCD	Present	
Steve MacEachern	Superintendent of Lines and Lights	Present	
Ann Thomas	OSPCD	Present	
Mark Niedergang	Ward Five School Committeeman	Present	

#### **189458 - Request to Appropriate and Authorization to Borrow \$336,000 to Renovate the Building at 42 Cross Street for the Purpose of Relocating the School Administrative Offices:**

The city would like to relocate the School Department's central administrative offices from the current location at the former Boys' and Girls' Club building to the former health center at 42 Cross Street. The city presently pays \$197,000 per year to rent the current site and it is expected that moving to the Cross Street location could save the city up to \$3 million, long-term. The new location provides better accessibility for the community, as well. OSPCD has evaluated various scenarios and the School Department looked at school and city buildings as alternative sites, but none met all of the specific codes for renovation to administrative office space. Twenty one employees will be shifted to the Cross Street facility. The city is owed rent from the tenant at the Edgerly School building and the Cummings School building will be vacant.

**RESULT: APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**189618 - Taking of Two East Somerville Parcels at 46 Pearl Street (105-B-1) and Zero Florence Street (105-B-31) for Parkland:**

The property is valued at \$300,000 and the city would like to acquire it and have an environmental survey performed to assess any damage that might be present. The city could then proceed with a taking, less assessed fees and unpaid taxes. Alderman White said that a message should be sent to homeowners who want to develop property and can't get proper permitting, allowing property to go into disrepair. Maximized fines should be levied under any and all ordinances of the municipal codes as a means of dealing with owners who refuse to comply.

Alderman Desmond's motion that the Director of Strategic Planning and Community Development provide the Committee on Finance with a list of any and all code violations issued against the owner of 46 Pearl Street; AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED That the City Solicitor provide the Committee with a report of any legal action taken by the city against same, was approved. (Item # 1893)

Alderman White's motion that the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety follow-up with and provide data on the ticketing process of the Inspectional Services Department relative to properties that are in violation of the city's Code of Ordinances, was approved. (Item # 1894)

**RESULT: APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**189619 - Minor Amendment to 2010-2011 HUD Action Plan:**

Due to the city's current fiscal situation, money for the acquisition and design associated with this item will come from CDBG funds.

**RESULT: APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**189622 - Requesting Approval to Transfer \$27,500 from the Traffic and Parking Meter Receipts Acct. to the Traffic and Parking Professional Services Line Acct., for Services Relating to Kiosks and Park Cards.:**

There was a discussion about why the RFP did not specify compatibility between the hand held computers and the parking meter kiosks, prompting Alderman White to request that the Purchasing Department provide the Committee with the specifics of the bid received from McKay. If the program proves to be successful, the city would need a substantial amount of kiosks on the streets. Having them in the five parking lots in the city makes sense, but having them on the streets might be a different issue.

Chairman Heuston's motion that the Director of Purchasing, the Director of Traffic and Parking and the City Solicitor appear at the next meeting of the Finance Committee to discuss the kiosk contracts, was approved. (Item 1892)

**RESULT: APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**189671 - Request to Appropriate and Authorization to Borrow \$227,500 for Improvements at Conway Park Relating to the Veterans Memorial Ice Rink:**

Mayor Curtatone told the members that the funds would be used for operational cost of the rink and to make outside repairs and improvements to the facility, especially with regard to parking and pedestrian safety. The city is negotiating with DCR to take over control of the rink but has not obtained the license to do so, as yet. The city expects to have control of the rink in October and have it up and running in November or December. The city is working with neighbors, such as the Greek Church, to provide additional overflow parking, when needed. Mr. Koty said that the work would include 37 parking spaces, replacement of all lighting in the rink and park, increased lighting in the parking, drop-off and basketball court areas, installation of LED bollards and the shortening of the sidewalk. Alderman White asked about the debt being incurred and requested that the Administration provide long term numbers of the interest the city would have to pay. Mayor Curtatone will provide all cost details of the initial work to purchase the rink. The members were told that an estimate of initial revenue could not be made at this time, but that by year five, the city will be making money to repay the bonds. Mr. Bean told the members that the city would initially use money from the Capital Stabilization Fund.

**RESULT: APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**189624 - Request to Create a Street Tree Stabilization Fund:**

No discussion.

**RESULT: APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**189625 - Request to Accept Mitigation in the Amount of \$1,900 from Herb Chambers of Somerville Corporation for Street Tree Planting:**

No discussion.

**RESULT: APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**189626 - Request to Appropriate \$1,900 from the Street Tree Stabilization Fund:**

No discussion.

**RESULT: APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**189627 - Request to Create Hoyt Sullivan Playground Consolidated Gift Account:**

No discussion.

**RESULT:      APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**