



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

CLERK OF COMMITTEES

October 7, 2015
REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tony Lafuente	Chair	Present	
Maryann M. Heuston	Vice Chair	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven Alderman	Present	
John M. Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One Alderman	Present	
Robert J. McWatters	Ward Three Alderman	Absent	
Mark Niedergang	Ward Five Alderman	Present	
Rebekah L. Gewirtz	Ward Six Alderman	Absent	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Alderman At Large	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	Alderman at Large	Present	

Others present: Michael Glavin - OSPCD, George Proakis - OSPCD, Brad Rosen - OSPCD, Rob King - Capital Projects, William Roche - Personnel, Deputy Chief Paul Trant - SPD, Peter Forcellese, Jr. - Treasurer, Ed Bean - Finance, Omar Boukili - Mayor's Office, Charles Sillari - Clerk of Committees

The meeting took place in the Committee Room and was called to order at 6:00 PM by Alderman Lafuente and adjourned at 8:00 PM

Document List:

- Development Projects by year
- Cedar Street sewer repairs
- Debt service info (199729)
- Comprehensive Facilities assessment

1. Approval of the September 21, 2015 Minutes

RESULT:	ACCEPTED
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195734: That the Administration provide this Board with a breakdown of special events (festivals, concerts, road races, etc.), indicating if they are/were city sponsored and/or

privately sponsored, and including city expenditures for each.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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196588: That the Recreation Superintendent appear before this Board to provide an update of all expenditures for the current fiscal year.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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197339: Requesting that the City-owned portion of 163 Glen Street be declared available for disposition.

RESULT:	KEPT IN COMMITTEE
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197880: That the Director of Finance and the Chief Assessor provide a 5-year projection of new commercial office and new commercial retail revenues.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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197976: That the Director of Capital Projects present to this Board, no later than January 22, 2015, a 5- and 10-year plan for the use, development and sale of City buildings.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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198023: Finance Director responding to #197850 re: grants and donations that require this Board's approval.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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198091: That the Director of the SPCD (ISD) and the Director of Personnel appear before this Board to explain why health inspectors earn the same amount, or more than, building inspectors when they do not need to be licensed and building inspectors do.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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198093: That the Director of SPCD (ISD) and the Director of Personnel appear before this Board to explain how gained sick time is dealt with and how employees can take that time off.

Mr. Roche discussed the issue of employee sick time and stated that he cannot act for the school side of the city.

Alderman Niedergang's motion, that the City Solicitor draft an ordinance to allow city employees working less than 20 hours per week to earn sick time; AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED That the Director of Personnel provide information relative to the cost of said proposal, was approved.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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198126: Requesting an appropriation of \$225,000 and authorization to borrow \$225,000 in a bond for Phase One services for a Citywide Wayfinding Program.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
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198423: Senator Jehlen responding to #198182 re: the senior property tax deferral.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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198643: That the Director of Recreation and the Finance Director update this Board and its Committee on Youth Services about any outstanding invoices for the Veterans Rink in FY14 and FY15.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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199134: That the Administration include a full time arborist position in the upcoming FY16 budget.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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199247: That the Director of SPCD provide this Board with written responses to certain requests for residential and commercial data since 2010.

Mr. Proakis distributed information regarding development projects completed by year. Alderman Rossetti requested that years 2014 and 2015 be split. Alderman White inquired about the status of the North Point project.

Alderman White's motion, that the Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development consult with the new management team at North Point and report back to the Board of Aldermen regarding their plans, was approved.

RESULT:	KEPT IN COMMITTEE
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199279: That the Director of Finance report to this Board which engineering consultants have been retained for which projects from January through May, 2015, and provide copies of all such invoices to this Board by June 11.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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199414: That the Administration, with the Fire and Police Departments, compile a report, by July 31, 2015, of "needed assistance" calls made by each tax-exempt facility over the past 2 years. (2nd request)

RESULT:	KEPT IN COMMITTEE
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199425: That the City Auditor prepare a list of all no bid contracts for goods and services in excess of \$25,000 currently in force.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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199465: Finance Director responding to #199279 re: Engineering consultants and invoices, Jan-May, 2015.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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199562: City Auditor responding to #199425 re: a list of exempt, non-publicly bid contracts.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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199642: Requesting an appropriation of \$470,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund to fund a comprehensive citywide Mobility Plan.

Alderman Niedergang expressed his feeling that this study is needed, even if the GLX does not happen, and that it would make a huge difference in peoples' lives. Alderman Heuston wants the Board of Aldermen to have input.

RESULT:	KEPT IN COMMITTEE
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199717: That the Director of Personnel inform this Board whether the new sick-leave law approved by voters last November applies to all City employees, and if not, who is excluded, and whether there are plans to address this exclusion.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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199729: Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$5,197,500 in a bond for sewer repairs to Cedar St.

Mr. King discussed the need for making these repairs and requirements for developers. Mr. Forcellese distributed information on the city's debt service and Mr. Bean spoke about reserve funds for needed improvements.

Alderman White's motion, that the City Engineer provide the Board of Aldermen with a copy of the storm water policy and written discussion of the 4 to 1 plan, was approved.

Alderman White's motion, that the City Treasurer provide the Board of Aldermen with a water/sewer Enterprise Fund balance sheet and with water and sewer rates from the 15 largest communities, population wise, was approved.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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199730: Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$2,227,500 in a bond for water repairs to Cedar St.

See 199729 for discussion.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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199750: Chief Fire Engineer responding to #199414 re: needed-assistance calls to tax-exempt facilities.

RESULT:	KEPT IN COMMITTEE
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199888: Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$262,000 for Phase 1 of the Building Assessment/Preventive Maintenance Plan.

Mr. King discussed the Brown and Kennedy Schools and the Recreation building being assessed in the first phase. Alderman Rossetti inquired about the various phases and the master plan. This item was approved, conditioned on Alderman White's request that a copy of the bond to be provided to the Board of Aldermen before its regular meeting on October 8, 2015.

RESULT:	APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS
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199889: Requesting acceptance of an 18 month lease of the West Somerville Police Substation and office space at 1114 Broadway.

The rent is increased by \$300 per month. All other terms remain the same.

RESULT:	APPROVED
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199890: Requesting an appropriation of \$142,036 From the Capital Stabilization Fund to purchase 4 police vehicles.

RESULT:	PLACED ON FILE
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199891: Requesting approval for the Inspectional Services Weights & Measures Division to use FY16 funds to pay a FY15 invoice of \$434.77.

RESULT: APPROVED

199892: Requesting the acceptance of a grant of \$2,500 from Mass Creative for the Arts Council to support organization and advocacy.

RESULT: APPROVED

199893: Requesting acceptance of a grant of \$1,792.72 from the Mass DEP for recycling outreach and materials.

RESULT: APPROVED

199897: Director of Personnel responding to #199656 re: employee vacancies.

Alderman Rossetti requested that an update be provided.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

199898: Director of Personnel responding to #199717 re: employee sick leave.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

199922: Requesting approval to pay an FY12 invoice of \$45,000 in the DPW using FY16 appropriations.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

199995: Requesting a transfer of \$85,000 from SPCD's Economic Development Professional and Technical Services Account to its Planning and Zoning Professional and Technical Services Account for additional zoning impact analysis studies.

Alderman Rossetti was recused from all discussion and action on this item.

RESULT: APPROVED

199996: Requesting the acceptance of a grant of \$34,200 from the MA Cultural Council for the Arts Council's Local Cultural Council grant program.

RESULT: APPROVED

199997: Requesting the acceptance of a grant of \$12,500 from the MA Department of

Energy Resources for the Office of Sustainability and Environment's assessment of community shared solar.

RESULT:

APPROVED