

**City of Somerville, Massachusetts**  
**Matters of Business of the Board of Aldermen**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

June 7, 2016, 7:00 PM  
Aldermanic Chambers  
\*\*\*\*\*

*NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the Board of Aldermen'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 7:10 PM by Alderman At Large William A. White Jr.

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
John M. Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	Alderman At Large	Present	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Alderman At Large	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One Alderman	Present	
Maryann M. Heuston	Ward Two Alderman	Present	
Robert J. McWatters	Ward Three Alderman	Present	
Tony Lafuente	Ward Four Alderman	Present	
Mark Niedergang	Ward Five Alderman	Present	
Lance L. Davis	Ward Six Alderman	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven Alderman	Present	

1. Roll Call                      Call of the Roll.

201588  
(ID:14267)

Alderman Connolly sponsored a moment of silence for Asa Beebe.  
**RESULT:                      PLACED ON FILE**

**CITATIONS**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR**

2. Mayor's Request 201589 (ID:14247)

Requesting an appropriation of \$207,314,582 to fund the Somerville Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2017.

Mayor Curtatone addressed the Board of Aldermen with a PowerPoint presentation on the Proposed FY2017 Municipal Budget.

The Operating Budget proposed is \$223 million.

The appropriation request is \$207 million.

Proposed municipal appropriations are up 5.6% over FY2016.

The Mayor said the School Department has the largest part of the budget, followed by Public Safety. Service increases have been modest. Items that drive up budget increases are Fire and Police overtime, Health and Human Services, School investments, Pensions, Parks and building maintenance. He reported the city is currently \$650,000 below the levy limit in the proposed budget. Debt service, health and life insurance all remain in check. The city is committed to fully fund pensions by FY2034. Revenue sources include State Aid, property taxes, fees, fines and investments. There was a 43% loss in State Aid from 2000-2016, which equates to approximately \$24 million less per year. There is a reduction this year in reliance on free cash. School investments include expanding technology, special education, pre-K and after school programs. Other priorities are affordable housing, expanding services for the most vulnerable, infrastructure upgrades, and project management. The city has community driven growth, with the highest bond rating ever, a growing commercial tax base and growing stabilization funds.

President White expressed concerns with using Powder House School sale proceeds to fund the budget. He said selling a capital asset to get around Proposition 2½ limits may affect our bond rating. The Mayor does not expect any issue with the MA Department of Revenue or with our rating. President White also thought revenues collected from parking permit fees should be higher. Alderman Heuston questioned whether there was a plan in place for the disposal of assets, and requested a timeline on construction in Union Square. Capital Projects Director Rob King said he expects the design to be completed within a year and construction to start shortly thereafter. Alderman Rossetti asked for a report of each department's unspent funds for the last two years to make up Free Cash. Finance Director Ed Bean stated that such a list does not exist; free cash is a more complex formula. Alderman Ballantyne requested clarification on the commercial tax rate. Alderman Lafuente wanted to know the forecast of revenue from building permits. Mr. Bean said there could be \$30-\$40 million over the long term. Alderman Niedergang said a major investment needs to be made in job training for sustainable neighborhoods. Mayor Curtatone agreed. Alderman Connolly commented on the Homeless Task Force and the new High School construction.

**RESULT:** REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>3. Mayor's Request 201590 (ID:14249)</p> | <p>Requesting an appropriation of \$19,816,328 to fund the FY2017 Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget.</p>   |
|   | <p>Alderman Lafuente requested to waive the readings of items 3 through 19 and refer them to the Finance Committee. There being no opposition, the motion was approved.<br/> <b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br/> <b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee</p> |
| <p>4. Mayor's Request 201591 (ID:14248)</p> | <p>Requesting an appropriation of \$12,824,947 to fund the FY2017 Water Enterprise Fund Budget.</p>   |
|   | <p><b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br/> <b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee</p>   |
| <p>5. Mayor's Request 201592 (ID:14259)</p> | <p>Requesting an appropriation of \$2,500,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to reduce the FY2017 Tax Levy.</p>   |
|   | <p><b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br/> <b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee</p>   |
| <p>6. Mayor's Request 201593 (ID:14262)</p> | <p>Requesting an appropriation of \$2,250,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Salary and Wage Stabilization Fund.</p>   |
|   | <p><b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br/> <b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee</p>   |
| <p>7. Mayor's Request 201594 (ID:14261)</p> | <p>Requesting an appropriation of \$2,000,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Rainy Day Stabilization Fund.</p>   |
|   | <p><b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br/> <b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee</p>   |
| <p>8. Mayor's Request 201595 (ID:14255)</p> | <p>Requesting to appropriate or reserve \$1,924,661 in estimated FY2017 CPA revenue for CPA projects and expenses per the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee.</p>   |
|   | <p><b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br/> <b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee</p>   |
| <p>9. Mayor's Request 201596 (ID:14264)</p> | <p>Requesting an appropriation of \$1,400,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund.</p>  |
|   | <p><b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br/> <b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee</p>   |

- |                                       |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 10. Mayor's Request 201597 (ID:14266) | Requesting a transfer of \$1,091,163 from the Salary Contingency Account to the Salary and Wage Stabilization Fund.  | <b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee |
| 11. Mayor's Request 201598 (ID:14257) | Requesting an appropriation of \$872,200 to fund the FY17 Veterans Memorial & Founders Ice Rink Enterprise Fund Budget.  | <b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee |
| 12. Mayor's Request 201599 (ID:14260) | Requesting an appropriation of \$510,844 from Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Community Preservation Act Fund to fund community preservation projects.                | <b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee |
| 13. Mayor's Request 201600 (ID:14239) | Requesting to appropriate \$250,000 from the Undesignated CPA Fund Balance to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund per the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee.    | <b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee |
| 14. Mayor's Request 201601 (ID:14256) | Requesting an appropriation of \$210,000 to fund the FY2017 Dilboy Field Enterprise Fund Budget.   | <b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee |
| 15. Mayor's Request 201602 (ID:14237) | Requesting the transfer of \$20,000 within the Workers Compensation Budget from the Training Account to the Workers Compensation Salaries Account, to fund a Workers Comp payment. | <b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee |
| 16. Mayor's Request 201603 (ID:14238) | Requesting the transfer of \$9,200 from the Health Insurance GIC Health Opt Out Account to the Life Insurance Account to remediate a year end deficit.                             | <b>RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</b><br><b>FOLLOWUP:</b> Finance Committee |

17. Mayor's Request 201604 (ID:14258) Requesting the transfer of \$8,300 from the Solid Waste Printing and Stationary Account to the Snow Removal Account.

**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

18. Mayor's Request 201605 (ID:14250) Requesting the reauthorization of Departmental Revolving Funds for FY2017.

**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

**COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS**

19. Officer's Communication 201606 (ID:14263) Assistant City Solicitor submitting proposed amendments to Ordinances 2-322 and 2-323 re: non-union salary ranges.

**RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

**NEW BUSINESS**

**SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**

**LATE ITEMS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was Adjourned at 8:50 PM.