



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS CLERK OF COMMITTEES

May 20, 2015

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tony Lafuente	Chair	Absent	
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	

Others present: Alderman McLaughlin, George Proakis - OSPCD, Ginger Barrett - Water/Sewer, Frank Wright - Law, Jill Lathan - Recreation, Ed O'Donnell - OSPCD, Pat Sullivan - SFD, Michael Cabral - SPD, Bill Roche - Personnel, Peter Forcellese, Jr. - Treasury, Ed Bean - Finance, Doug Kress - HHS, representatives from Criterion

1. Approval of the April 30, 2015 Minutes

RESULT:	ACCEPTED
----------------	-----------------

2. **Public Hearing: Discontinuance of a portion of Cross Street East (#198905)** Chairman Heuston read a statement from Alderman Sullivan, in support of the item, into the record. Speaking in favor of the item, Mr. Englert, from Criterion, reviewed the general scope of the project planned for the area in question and said it has been in the works for several years. The current plan calls for 75 “for sale” units. During the course of the developer’s research of the parcel, it was discovered that there were no documents proving that the city owned it, therefore, the city only has an easement on the property. Under the proposal before the committee, part of the parcel would be deeded to the city, part to the abutting property owner (for use as a driveway), and the northern portion to the developer for stoops, stairs, landscaping and open space associated with the project.

Mr. Proakis said that the city agrees with the process as laid out by the developer in the presentation. The owner of the abutting parcel (at 129 Pennsylvania Avenue) also agrees with process as does the Ward Alderman. The city would maintain access to utilities and have emergency access to the street.

Residents inquired about access to the play ground, the size of the project, access points and

construction truck traffic/storage. The developer will put a plan together and answer those concerns in writing and Mr. Proakis assured everyone that an access plan would be worked out as part of the planning process and that all necessary documentation would be ready before a final vote on the item.

198674: Requesting approval to declare as surplus 3 vehicles in the Fire Department.

Chief Sullivan stated that the city will be receiving 3 new trucks to replace these vehicles.

RESULT:

APPROVED

198753: Requesting an appropriation of \$27,500 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purchase of an Olympian Ice Resurfacer to replace a non-functioning Zamboni.

Ms. Lathan told the members that the original Zamboni that came from DCR with the rink is unreliable. The city used a loaner over winter that wasn't much better. She explained that by using one Zamboni for both rinks damages the equipment as it travels between rinks. A new machine has a price tag of over \$100K and has a lead time of 10 months. The Boston Bruins offered to sell one of their machines (with 11,000 hours on it) to the city for \$27,500.

The committee discussed the goal of the rink being self sufficient and asked if there is a way to set things up so that excess revenue goes to the city's general fund. Mr. Bean said that retained earnings cannot revert to the city's general fund, but a reimbursement could be made from the stabilization fund.

RESULT:

APPROVED

198905: CPC-T Holdings LLC requesting that this Board discontinue Cross Street East from Pennsylvania Avenue to Mystic Avenue.

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

198929: Requesting an appropriation of \$67,188 from the Salary and Wage Stabilization Fund to the Fire Alarm Personal Services Account to fund a successor Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Mr. Roche explained that the requested funds are to cover the terms of a recently negotiated 6 year contract, covering the period from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2018, providing for a 2% increase each year.

RESULT:

APPROVED

198981: Requesting the transfer of \$2,017 within the Elections Department, from its Professional and Technical Services Account to its Salaries Account, to fund a retirement payout.

Mr. Salerno explained that there available funds were insufficient to cover the cost of the payout.

RESULT:

APPROVED

198982: Requesting the transfer of \$1,000 within the Grants Development Department, from its Professional and Technical Services Account to its Salaries Account, to fund increased hours for the grant writer.

RESULT:

APPROVED

198984: Requesting the acceptance of a \$12,500 grant from the Metro Mayors Community Safety Initiative, for the Police Department's Shannon Grant for youth violence prevention.

Captain Cabral said that this is an annual grant from state that is used to continue the department's work with the city's youth and for training and equipment.

RESULT:

APPROVED

199155: Requesting an appropriation of \$2,800,409 from Sewer Enterprise Retained Earnings to the Water and Sewer Stabilization Fund.

Ms. Barrett is requesting to move 75% of retained earnings before they are moved off the books on June 30th.

RESULT:

APPROVED

199156: Requesting an appropriation of \$1,850,780 from Water Enterprise Retained Earnings to the Water and Sewer Stabilization Fund.

Ms. Barrett is requesting to move 75% of retained earnings before they are moved off the books on June 30th.

RESULT:

APPROVED

199157: Requesting an appropriation of \$328,613 from the Parks Stabilization Fund to the General Debt Service Fund for Debt Service of Park Renovations.

Mr. Forcellese explained that this is an annual request to cover the city's debt service.

RESULT:

APPROVED

199158: Requesting an appropriation of \$50,000 from the Trash Transfer Stabilization Fund for additional environmental engineering services for the interim re-use of the former Waste Transfer facility.

Mr. O'Donnell explained that the funds will be used for additional testing of the hot spots at the site.

RESULT:

APPROVED

199159: Requesting an appropriation of \$35,000 from the Parks Stabilization fund for Engineering and Design work for Lincoln Park.

RESULT:

APPROVED

199160: Requesting acceptance of a grant of \$5,000 from Project Bread to the Health and Human Services Department for a mobile market model.

Mr. Kress explained that the funds would be used for a mobile farmers market, scheduled to begin in July. He expects to be submitting a request for a revolving fund in the future.

RESULT:

APPROVED

199251: Requesting approval of a transfer of \$75,000 in the Law Department from its Judgments/Settlements Account to its Legal Services Account, to cover ongoing services by outside counsel.

Mr. Wright explained that the funds will be used to pay outside counsel expenses related to Wynn Casino (Gaming Commission), the Everett Municipal Harbor Plan and the Police Collective Bargaining negotiations.

RESULT:

APPROVED
