



City of Malden

Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Meeting Minutes - Final Finance Committee

Councillor Murphy, Chair
Councillor Condon, Vice-Chair
Councillor-at-Large Karen Colon-Hayes
Councillor Jadeane Sica
Councillor Christopher Simonelli
Councillor Stephen Winslow

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

6:00 PM

City Hall, Room 105

215 Pleasant Street

Roll Call

Vice Chair Condon chaired the meeting,

Chair Condon called the meeting to order at 6:16 P.M.

Also present was Council President Craig Spadafora, Councillor Carey McDonald, Chief Financial Officer Chuck Ranaghan, Facilities Director Eric Rubin, Treasurer Dan Grover, Engineer Yem Lip.

These minutes were clerked by City Clerk Greg Lucey.

Present: 4 - Councillor Paul Condon, Jadeane Sica, Chris Simonelli and Steven Winslow

Absent: 2 - Councillor Barbara Murphy and Karen Colon Hayes

Minutes to be Approved

Business

[150-22](#)

Order: That Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) is appropriated to pay costs of making roadway improvements throughout the City, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1) or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefore.

Sponsors: Barbara Murphy

Vice Chair Condon turned the meeting over to CFO Chuck Ranaghan to give background on paper 150-22. Mr. Ranaghan told the committee the council last year approved six million dollars to repave streets, paper 150-22 is a continuation of that work and will repave more streets. There is no list of streets yet but the mayor's office, financial team and Engineer Lip will be putting a list together of streets needing repair. these will be streets that need to be repaved not streets that need water mains replaced.

Vice Chair Condon asked so these will be streets that we won't be digging up in two years and replacing water mains. CFO Ranaghan stated that is not the plan.

Engineer Lip told the committee that they work closely with National Grid so they are in sync with the work they will be looking to do so that does not happen. There are

sometimes unavoidable emergencies but the City plans with National Grid. CFO Ranaghan said that in anticipation the work will be getting down, the Mayor has Engineer Lip and DPW Director Knox having weekly meetings with National Grid/Gas Company.

Councillor McDonald stated he was excited about this and would like the process to be transparent and residents notified. CFO Ranaghan said this is ion the works and once the streets are determined they will be on the website.

CFO Ranaghan the \$5 million being bonded is for 20 years and with the debt that will be falling off, the city's financial obligation will be less that what it is paying now,

A motion was made by Councillor Sica, seconded by Councillor Simonelli, that the Order be recommended favorably to the City Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

[144-22](#)

Order: That pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 164, section 134, the City of Malden initiate a process to authorize appropriate department(s) to research, develop and participate in a contract, or contracts, to aggregate the electricity load in the City of Malden and for other related services, in consultation with the Department of Energy Resources, and to develop a plan for review by its citizens, detailing the process and consequences of aggregation.

Electrical Aggregation Program

Sponsors: Carey McDonald

Attachments: [Municipal electrical aggregation](#)

Chair Condon turned the meeting over the Councillor McDonald who represents the Council on the Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Committee. Councillor McDonald presented a slide presentation on Municipal Electrical Aggregation and handed out a document on the presentation. Councillor McDonald thanked the Energy Efficiency for their work on the Green Energy Program. Councillor McDonald continued that by adopting the program it doesn't guarantee lower electric rates but will give Malden residents the opportunity for additional renewable energy. The contract is for 3 years but the City can opt out depending on the rates. The Council's approval would be the first step in the process continuing with the consulting with the Dept. of Energy Resources and holding a public hearing, Dept. of Public Utilities approving the Plan, getting bids from electrical suppliers and the communicating with ratepayers.

Councillor Winslow stated he was very supportive of the program and we can opt out if the electric rates are less that what the program offers. We have someone negotiating for our residents.

A motion was made by Councillor Winslow, seconded by Councillor Simonelli, that the Order be recommended favorably to the City Council. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[124-22](#)

Greg Lucey, City Clerk will come before the Finance Committee to give an update on the City Clerk's office.

Clerk Lucey appeared before the committee to give an update on the Clerk's Office. The Finance Committee is hearing from all Department Heads that are appointed by the Council. Clerk Lucey said there have been personnel changes in the office and with 5 employees, there has been an 80% turnover in the past 6 months. Councillor Winslow asked is their were reasons for the turnover, Clerk Lucey answered there was a

retirement and three other occasions where the person was able to move to a better employment position. Clerk Lucey talked about the future challenges with 11 new polling locations, the cost of outfitting the polling places and the need to hire an additional 66 poll workers will certainly be difficult adding to the need of bilingual poll workers makes the task more challenging. Clerk Lucey said that he had requested to increase the poll workers pay to \$250 for a Warden, \$225 Clerk and \$180 Inspector. Clerk Lucey said he researched 12 surrounding cities in this would bring the pay scale more to what those cities are paying poll workers. Clerk Lucey talked about the substantial city investment of almost \$250,000 for all new voting equipment which was badly needed replacing the current equipment that is 30 years old. Clerk Lucey also told the committee that the Council may want to revisit the fees charged for vital records and other licenses. The fees have not been updated since 2003 and with the new online ordering of vital records the city is absorbing additional costs like postage and labor.

Other Business

Tabled Papers

[462-21](#)

Commission on Energy Efficiency and Sustainability on "Electric Aggregation".

Sponsors: David Camell

Councillor Sica made a motion to untable paper 462-21 because it was no longer needed because of the passing of paper 144-22, seconded by Councillor Winslow. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Councillor Sice made a motion to place paper 462-21 on file, the motion was seconded by Councillor Winslow. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[77-22](#)

Minutes of February 15, 2022 to be approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Winslow, seconded by Councillor Sica, that the Committee Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councillor Winslow, seconded by Councillor Simonelli, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 P.M.