



# City of Malden

Malden City Hall  
215 Pleasant Street  
Malden, MA 02148

## Meeting Minutes - Final Finance Committee

*Councillor-at-Large McDonald, Chair*  
*Councillor Condon, Vice-Chair*  
*Councillor O'Malley*  
*Councillor-at-Large Colon-Hayes*  
*Councillor Simonelli*  
*Councillor Linehan*

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Tuesday, June 13, 2023

6:30 PM

City Hall, Room #105

215 Pleasant Street

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Please click the link below to join the webinar:  
[https://cityofmalden.zoom.us/j/94880076225?](https://cityofmalden.zoom.us/j/94880076225?pwd=eHVHWTd1VGMrYTdRS25oL3NVckFOZz09)  
[pwd=eHVHWTd1VGMrYTdRS25oL3NVckFOZz09](https://cityofmalden.zoom.us/j/94880076225?pwd=eHVHWTd1VGMrYTdRS25oL3NVckFOZz09)  
Passcode: 231632

### Roll Call

**Present:** 5 - Councillor at Large Carey McDonald, Councillor Paul Condon, Ryan O'Malley, Karen Colon Hayes and Amanda Linehan  
**Absent:** 1 - Chris Simonelli

Also Present: Council President Murphy, Councillors Spadafora, Crowe, Winslow  
Ron Hogan-Chief Strategy Officer  
Dan Grover-Treasurer  
Maria Luise-Mayor's Office  
Carol Ann Desiderio-City Clerk  
Zaheer Samee-Assistant City Solicitor

Councillor McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

### Minutes to be Approved

#### [241-23](#)

Minutes of June 1, 2023 to be approved.

**A motion was made by Councillor at Large Colon Hayes, seconded by Councillor Condon, that the Committee Minutes OF June 1, 2023 be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

#### [242-23](#)

Minutes of June 6, 2023 to be approved.

**A motion was made by Councillor at Large Colon Hayes, seconded by Councillor O'Malley, that the Committee Minutes of JUNE 6, 2023 be tabled to the Finance Committee. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

### Business

[219-23](#)

Order: The Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Appropriation Order

**Sponsors:** Carey McDonald**Attachments:** [Mayor's Transmittal Letter on FY24 Proposed Budget](#)[FY2024 Proposed Budget](#)[Final Paper: 219-23](#)

The committee will continue any business that comes before them regarding the proposed FY/24 Budget and discuss any potential changes to the budget.

*Councillor McDonald has explained we have gone through the discussions of our FY24 Budget and also any concerns from our public hearing and the opportunity to discuss any more questions we have. This would be the time to discuss any potential changes to the budget. He opened the floor for any proposed changes or questions they may want to put forward about the Budget.*

*Ron wanted to reiterate that this year's budget is using \$3 million from free cash and one-time ARPA sources of \$2.6 million and as we think about requests we are in a different place we were last year and the year before. We are heading into a different place in terms of revenue and expenses.*

*Councillor O'Malley asked if Ron was requesting a reduce in free cash for this year to save it for a future year*

*Ron said he is suggesting in the past few years there has been a list of requests this budget doesn't have a single position but he is reminding folks that we are only adding to a deficit that is going to get larger next year*

*Councillor Winslow asked about traffic safety and have we used that money and also the Parks Maintenance*

*Ron said it has been used for as a source of money that has been asked for through the traffic commission. We haven't spent anywhere near that amount for safety issues that need to be done within the City. Parks Maintenance has been bumped up more this year from the request of Bob Knox, Director DPW for irrigation and maintenance in the parks.*

*Councillor McDonald mentioned Director Knox spoke of the new program for irrigation and maintenance for the parks and fields this year and they are excited about that.*

*Councillor Murphy asked about Chapter 70 funds and asked Ron's opinion of the chances of the formula changing in the next 1-5 years*

*Ron said very slim. Everyone will still continue to advocate for this however, from the states perspective they have put a tremendous amount of money towards the education piece.*

*Councillor McDonald is hoping to submit two resolves to the docket for next week to demonstrate that we are committed to working for a strategy for the Chapter 70 funds and also the need to develop a sustainable strategy for pensions and OPEC contributions. He welcomes the Full Council to join as co-sponsors of his resolves so that we are on the record to do our job as the Council.*

*Councillor Winslow mentioned looking at the trash bag revenue not for this budget but by the end of this calendar year coming up with a paper to be discussed in Finance on a calendar year basis for the future*

*Councillor O'Malley agreed with Councillor Winslow and feels we should look at the trash bag revenues.*

*He also addressed Chapter 70 and the idea of a Home Rule Petition which might be tailored to Malden's needs.*

*Councillor McDonald feels it is not a Home Rule issue it is a Chapter 70 issue. He has been at multiple meetings with Senator Lewis and his staff and finding the type argument and the logic that only applies to a few communities is a very difficult task.*

*Ron said everyone thinks they have a problem but the reality is to try to narrow down*

those that really do. He has a list of all the gateway communities and said he would send it to the Full Council

Councillor McDonald said it has been helpful for those of us on the Malden side to be on the same page with what we are talking about and what we are saying to the State Delegation and would love to talk to anybody who wants to do that. He would not like it if we all started having different conversations with our State Delegation. We can also look at tax effort with the State. They want to be able to see if we are raising enough tax revenue. There are so many pieces to this and it might be helpful to have a separate meeting for this.

Councillor O'Malley asked if we could include all of our State Delegation representatives to that meeting.

Councillor Colon-Hayes asked if he could clarify what kind of a meeting he is talking about is it with the Full Council or the Finance Committee. She wants to know who is the "we" he is referring to with conversations?

Councillor McDonald started these conversations and sought them out. He used to be a State Funding expert and he was interested in this. He has been trying to cultivate a relationship and it has been good and productive so to keep moving in the right direction. When referring to the "we" he would like the Malden City Council to be on the same page. It is time to end this committee and asked if anyone wanted to ask about any modifications to the budget to do so at this time. He said the hope is to vote this out next week in the Finance Committee Meeting and report it out to the Full Council. He also stated In the joint R/O and Finance meeting earlier this evening we approved funding to support the new Patrolmen's collective bargaining agreement. He said they asked in that meeting if the CFO could double check that the projected figures in the submitted budget will be enough to cover the figures based on the new agreement. If there is not enough in the Patrolman's salary line lets go ahead and move them now that so that we do not have to an appropriation change order through the year.

Ron said certainly there is enough money in the salaries line item that was negotiated and whether you do it now or after the budget is passed you have to pass the budget before you can do the transfer

Councillor McDonald said we are in the position now where we will have approved the agreement in the time between the budget being submitted and approved by the Council we have the opportunity to update that number in the budget to not have to do another update later in the year

Ron said you can do it either way. We can come up with a calculation and suggest in the next Finance meeting that be a modification that minus this plus that it is a wash.

Councillor McDonald said that sounds great.

## Other Business

### Tabled Papers

<a href="#">167-23</a>	Minutes of April 11, 2023 to be approved.
<a href="#">168-23</a>	Minutes of April 18, 2023 to be approved.
<a href="#">226-23</a>	Minutes of May 16, 2023 to be approved.
<a href="#">230-23</a>	Minutes of May 30, 2023 to be approved.

## Adjournment

Motion was made by Councillor at Large Colon Hayes, seconded by Councillor Condon, that this meeting be adjourned at 7:05 PM. The motion carried unanimously.