



City of Malden

Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Meeting Minutes - Final Rules & Ordinance Committee

Councillor Linehan, Chair
Councillor Crowe, Vice-Chair
Councillor O'Malley
Councillor Sica
Councillor Simonelli

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

5:30 PM

215 Pleasant Street
Room 105
Malden, MA 02148

Joint meeting with Finance Committee

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

[https://cityofmalden.zoom.us/j/97557792359?](https://cityofmalden.zoom.us/j/97557792359?pwd=OXBsQ1ZTaFZjcEEyaFBLNIM1cHZoQT09)

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Roll Call

Rules and Ordinance Chair Linehan and Finance Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

Members of the Finance Committee in attendance were Chair McDonald, Councillors Colón Hayes, Spadafora, Taylor, and Winslow.

Also in attendance representing the City were Maria Luise, Dan Grover, and Zaheer Samee as well as various members of the Fire Union.

Councillor O'Malley left the meeting at 6:07 PM and Council President Winslow sat in to make quorum.

Councillor Condon arrived at 6:11 PM.

Present: 8 - Councillor Amanda Linehan, Ryan O'Malley, Jadeane Sica, Carey McDonald, Karen Colon Hayes, Craig Spadafora, Ari Taylor and Stephen Winslow

Absent: 3 - Councillor Peg Crowe, Chris Simonelli and Paul Condon

Minutes to be Approved

[242-24](#)

Minutes for the meeting of April 23, 2024

On behalf of the Rules & Ordinance Committee, a motion was made by Councillor Sica, seconded by Councillor O'Malley, that the Committee Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, a motion was made by Councillor Colon Hayes, seconded by Councillor Taylor, that the Committee Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Business

[235-24](#)

Be it ordained by the Malden City Council that the Code of the City of Malden (MCC) 2.24.080 FIRE FIGHTERS SALARY SCHEDULE be hereby amended to reflect the following compensation levels to be effective July 1, 2023.

Sponsors: Amanda Linehan

Attachments: [Current Fire Salary Schedule Ordinance](#)
[Proposed Ordinance Amendment Fire Salary Schedule](#)
[Final Paper: 235-24](#)

Special Assistant to the Mayor Maria Luise introduced this paper to the committee, indicating updates to the Fire contract such as changes to longevity, pay scale, sick leave policy, education pay, increased family members covered by the bereavement policy, an in depth drug policy, and the addition of Juneteenth as a holiday. The new pay scale, as will be amended with this Ordinance paper, narrows the steps by four to get from a new firefighter to maximum pay.

This is a newly negotiated contract as the previous one had expired July 1, 2023.

A motion was made by Councillor Sica, seconded by Councillor O'Malley, that the Ordinance be recommended favorably to the City Council. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[236-24](#)

Order: That the sum of Eight Hundred and Sixty-Three Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$863,650) be and the same is hereby transferred to Fire Salaries (0010-220-5120) from the following accounts:

Salary Reserve (0010-996-5110) = \$813,650

Salary Reserve for Reclassification (0010-996-5120) = \$50,000

Sponsors: Carey McDonald

Attachments: [Final Paper: 236-24](#)

A motion was made by Colon Hayes, seconded by Taylor, that the Order be recommended favorably to the City Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 5 - McDonald, Colon Hayes, Spadafora, Taylor and Winslow

Tabled Papers

Committees will continue the brainstorming session on ways to generate revenue for the city in collaboration with Treasurer Grover, Controller Ranaghan, and Assessor Cramer. All Councillors are invited to participate.

178-24

Order: That the City Council explore a range of options, and consider making recommendations, for increasing revenue to support the long-term sustainability of city finances.

Sponsors: Amanda Linehan, Carey McDonald and Karen Colon Hayes

This paper was taken from the table to continue discussion on possible ways to address long term revenue needs of the city.

Treasurer Grover presented on how he has been working with various Department Heads to evaluate the many fees collected by the city and that a number of them have not been increased for inflation in a decade or more. Of the items that were reviewed, thirty-four were identified as fees that could be increased to not only cover related costs to the city but would also put Malden more in line with the prevailing rates for services among surrounding cities. Some of the items included in Treasurer Grover's audit are the cost of vital records, BOH permits, certified abutters lists from the Assessors' Office. Councillor Linehan inquired about her previous request to evaluate parking fees. Treasurer Grover spoke with Ron Hogan who stated parking meter and garage costs are well in line among our surrounding communities.

Councillor Winslow brought up the subject of trash fees; when the trash barrel tags were approved the intention was they would be revenue net neutral. At their current levels, the cost of blue bags and trash barrel tags do not cover the cost of trash removal in the city. It costs the majority of Malden residents less money utilizing tags than it does to purchase the blue bags. Currently, the trash program is running a deficit of over \$1.5m. As tipping fees are increasing and recycling is more difficult to process, when Malden's current vendor contract expires, any new contract may be expected to increase significantly. Bulk items, yard waste, extra trash days during the holiday season only add to the cost to the city of providing this service.

Treasurer Grover expressed his opinion that if the trash fees were to be increased, both tags and bags should be done in tandem.

Councillor Sica is completely against raising tags and bags fees against the residents.

Councillor McDonald is concerned, is the problem getting worse where the city is increasingly subsidizing the cost of trash removal in the city every year? Educating people on recycling and composting may help bring down the cost of tipping fees.

Councillor Colon Hayes asked if there had been any movement since the last meeting on her idea for a debt exclusion to pay for the cost of repairs to the garages. She asked if this is something the Committee would continue to talk about.

It is the sense of the joint Rules & Ordinance and Finance Committees that they would welcome a proposal for a recommended set of changes of fees from the Treasurer and CFO. Treasurer Grover will work on that as well as provide more information on the history of trash incumbent costs and the potential impact of proposed changes.

On behalf of the Rules & Ordinance Committee, a motion was made by Councillor Sica, seconded by Councillor O'Malley, that the Order be taken from the table. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, a motion was made by Councillor Winslow, seconded by Councillor Colon Hayes, that the Order be taken from the table. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

On behalf of the Rules & Ordinance Committee a motion was made by Winslow, seconded by Councillor Sica, that the Order be tabled. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

On behalf of the Finance Committee a motion was made by Winslow, seconded by Councillor Taylor, that the Order be tabled. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Adjournment

On behalf of the Rules and Ordinance Committee a motion was made by Winslow, seconded by Councillor Sica, That this meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

On behalf of the Finance Committee a motion was made by Taylor, seconded by Councillor Winslow, That this meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM.

As of December 2024, there has been no follow up joint session of Rules & Ordinance with Finance during which to approve these minutes. In lieu of a scheduled meeting, both Chairs exercised their authority to approve these minutes on behalf of their respective committees. - December 31, 2024