



City of Malden

Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

*Council President Neal Anderson,
Councillor David Camell,
Councillor Paul Condon,
Councillor Peg Crowe,
Councillor Deborah DeMaria,
Councillor Amanda Linehan,
Councillor Barbara Murphy,
Councillor Ryan O'Malley,
Councillor Jadeane Sica,
Councillor Craig Spadafora,
Councillor Stephen Winslow*

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF SERVICEMEN & WOMEN

3. ROLL CALL

Councillor O'Malley came into the meeting at 7:11 P.M.

Also in attendance Special Assistant to the Mayor Maria Luise, Ron Hogan, Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer, Assistant City Solicitor Alicia McNeil, City Planner Michelle Romero.

Present - Councillors: 10 - Neal Anderson, David Camell, Paul Condon, Peg Crowe, Deborah DeMaria, Amanda Linehan, Barbara Murphy, Ryan O'Malley, Jadeane Sica and Stephen Winslow

Absent - Councillors: 1 - Craig Spadafora

4. GUESTS, CITIZEN ACHIEVEMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

[464-21](#)

Ron Hogan will appear before the council to speak on the "School Funding Formulas and the Impact on Local Service Delivery".

Attachments: [Fix The Funding Formula City Council](#)

Chief Strategy and innovation Officer Ron Hogan gave a slide presentation on the education funding mechanism, required local contribution and the affects that the state education funding and requirements have on funding other city services. Mr. Hogan explained the formula used by the state in determining how much Malden is expected to pay for its share towards their education budget and how Chapter 70 monies are allocated by the state. Mr. Hogan compared Malden to similar surrounding cities (Revere and Everett) and the other gateway cities in the state. Mr. Hogan determined that comparing

Malden's funding to other similar cities, the state formula does not work for Malden. Mr. Hogan acknowledged that changing the foundation formula would be difficult because not all districts are adversely affected as Malden so there would not be a willingness for change from those state representatives. Mr. Hogan continued that he would advocate to not change the formula but have a circuit breaker kick in for cities like Malden that would appear to not receiving adequate funding from the state through the education formula. Mr. Hogan also stated the presentation was not about pitting city vs. city or city vs. the schools but felt the topic was important enough that a conversation needs to be started and people need to be aware of the flaws for Malden in the current funding system.

Councillor Camell asked how about the tax ceiling with prop 2 1/2, Mr. Hogan answered that we max out the tax levy every year. Councillor Linehan asked with \$1.5m new growth coming in every year, why not advocate for more unrestricted funding. Mr. Hogan answered that leaving the formula as is but having a circuit breaker kick in would be his recommendation. Councillor Murphy talked about the negative affects that some of the high rise apartments with residents well above the medium income has on Malden's aid from the state given how the formula is set up. Councillor Crowe talked about the negative affect that tax exempt properties has on Malden's funding because of the piece of the formula that relies on total value of properties in the city, those properties are counted but there is no revenue coming in for taxes for the City. Councillor Winslow asked about the Student Opportunity Act and any affects. Mr. Hogan answered that they did acknowledge the Student Opportunity Act and a report was generated to the Department of Education but nothing of significance has come from it at this time. Councillor DeMaria asked what we do to solve this problem. Mr. Hogan ended with we need to get everyone of the same page with what we are looking at and get the state to look at the possibility of a circuit breaker outside of the formula because changing the formula would be too difficult.

5. BUSINESS

462-21

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

Sponsors: David Camell

Councillor Camell requested the paper go to Finance and the Commission on Energy Efficiency and Sustainability would have a presentation for the committee.

A motion was made by Councillor Camell, seconded by Councillor Linehan, that the Communication be referred to the Finance Committee. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

463-21

Order: That the appropriation enumerated below, being in the amount of \$50,000 (Fifty Thousand Dollars), be appropriated from the Community Preservation Act Fund for the following project:

Wallace Park Wall Restoration: \$50,000 from Historic Preservation Reserve
Total Appropriation = \$50,000

**APPROPRIATION ORDER
 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT FUNDS
 October 26, 2021**

Sponsors: Barbara Murphy

Attachments: [Letter of Support Wallace Memorial Park\(3\)](#)
[Wallace Park Wall 2 recommendation letter](#)

Councillor Murphy requested Council Rules be suspended because of the emergency need of the funding,

The following vote to suspend Council Rules was taken by a voice vote:

Camell (y), Condon (y), Crowe (y), DeMaria (y), Linehan (y), Murphy (y), O'Malley (y), Sica (y), Wnslow (y), Anderson (y) Spadafora (absent). The motion carried 10-0.

Councillor Murphy requested City Planner Romero to come forward and speak to the need of passing the funding tonight instead of sending the paper to the Finance Committee.

Ms. Romero stated that there was \$150,000 initially approved for the project last June but all the bids came back higher with an additional \$50,000 needed to complete the project. They have until November 4th to accept the lowest bidder or run the risk of going out to a new bidding process and getting higher bids and more delay to the project. Ms. Romero stated the current bids run from \$189,000 to \$285,000 and construction costs and materials are increasing. Councillor O'Malley asked if there is precautions being taken with the cap stones being installed because previous ones were stolen. Ms. Romero stated precautions would be taken. Councillor Condon urged the council to support the funding tonight for the project to move forward and not risk losing out on the construction season and having higher costs for the project.

Councillor Murphy stated that any funds not used would stays with the CPC.

A motion was made by Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Condon, that the Order be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 10 - Anderson, Camell, Condon, Crowe, DeMaria, Linehan, Murphy, O'Malley, Sica and Winslow

6. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

7. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councillor Peg Crowe, seconded by Councillor Paul Condon, that this meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

GREGORY LUCEY, CITY CLERK