



City of Malden

Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Meeting Minutes - Final Finance Committee

Councillor McDonald, Chair
Councillor Colon-Hayes, Vice-Chair
Councillor Condon
Councillor Crowe
Councillor Spadafora
Councillor Winslow

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

6:30 PM

City Hall, Room #105
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Watch the meeting with Teams: <https://tinyurl.com/4pr78hjh>

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Councillor Carey McDonald, Councillor Karen Colon Hayes, Paul Condon, Peg Crowe, Craig Spadafora and Stephen Winslow

Also Present: Councillors Simonelli and O'Malley via Teams
Christopher Mooney-Assistant Solicitor
Maria Luise-Special Assistant to the Mayor
Ron Hogan-Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer
Charles Ranaghan-Controller/CFO
Jenn Spadafora-Vice Chair School Committee

Councillor McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.
There will be audio and video of this meeting via Teams.

Minutes to be Approved

[380-25](#) Minutes of October 7, 2025 meeting to be approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Winslow, seconded by Councillor Colon Hayes, that the Committee Minutes of October 7, 2025 be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[381-25](#) Minutes of October 14, 2025 meeting to be approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Winslow, seconded by Councillor Colon Hayes, that the Committee Minutes of October 14, 2025 be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Business

[363-25](#) Order: That the City of Malden hold a Special Municipal Election on March 31, 2026 and to include the following ballot question:
Shall the City of Malden be allowed to assess an additional \$5,400,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of stabilizing the City's budget and to

support ongoing city services across all departments, including public schools, public safety, public library, public works and general government, for which the monies will be used for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026?

A yes vote would support an increase in real estate and personal property taxes beginning with fiscal year 2027 (7/1/26 to 6/30/27).

A no vote would make no change to the current tax structure.

Sponsors: Amanda Linehan and Stephen Winslow

Attachments: [Mayor's Memo to the City Council 9 25 2025](#)

[Public Comment September 30](#)

[Graph Printouts 22x 28 \(2\)](#)

[Graph Printouts 28x 22 \(3\)](#)

[FY2026 General Fund Summary Oct 2026](#)

[Steps Taken to Implement Budget Savings Oct 2025](#)

[363-25 New Growth & Ec Dev Presentation Oct 21 2025](#)

[FY2025 ACTUALS](#)

[FY2025 Grants](#)

[FY2025 OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS](#)

[2025 ACTUALS](#)

[P&E Report-Quarter 1 2025 \(January-March\)](#)

[P&E Report-Quarter 2 2025 \(April-June\)](#)

[P&E Report-Quarter 3 2025 \(July-September\)](#)

[Copy of AllApprovedRequestsTrackingCurrent](#)

[Council Override Concerns](#)

[Winslow Motion Related to Paper 363-25](#)

Councillor McDonald thanked everyone for coming and explained it is recap where we have been and schedule out the remaining meetings we need to have to finish the discussion of this measure. We have had three substantial meetings with discussion on this override, the city budget and last week we had a conversation on economic development which are the key things that have been raised by our colleagues. We also talked to the Mayor to see if he would be available to join us for a Public Forum and proposed holding the public forum on November 19th, likely at the Senior Center or a similar venue to accommodate more attendees. The mayor and city staff would be in attendance to provide information and facilitate community feedback on the override proposal, emphasizing a conversational format to encourage questions and input from residents. He shared input from Chuck and Ron, detailed reports on the city's ARPA fund spending, noting that approximately 35% was allocated to revenue replacement for capital and other expenses, and encouraged members to examine the breakdown for further understanding.

Councillor Condon said as a Finance Committee we have not done anything as far as cuts. We received ARPA money we all know that was a one time thing but people have been held on in City Hall. They do a good job but it isn't going to work. We either do it this year or next year with cuts where they belong or we will not have a chance a passing a 21/2 proposal. He also would like to call the state delegation before us separate from

the forum. We are the lowest spending community of the eight and something is wrong but they don't feel comfortable bringing it up.

Councillor McDonald said in the minutes that were just approved we did acknowledge that there will need to be cutbacks in positions and operating funds so even if we did pass an override we may not be able to fund everything. Councillor McDonald mentioned committee members, including Ron and others, reported on their participation in state hearings regarding Chapter 70 school funding, highlighting Malden's position as a low-spending community and the need for written follow-up to advocate for fairer funding formulas.

Ron agreed on the importance of submitting written comments to the legislature, as the hearing group is tasked with providing a report by the end of June, and ongoing advocacy is needed to keep Malden's concerns visible. He noted that Malden spends less per capita in key government areas than comparable gateway cities, and emphasized the need to use clear data in communications with state officials.

Councillor Spadafora attended the meeting and feels the only approach with the mention of a fix will not happen for a couple of years. We need to ask Senator Lewis for a quick fix we will need to advocate for it there is money there.

Councillor Winslow asks about the Forum and are we asking the Mayor's team to present what we have been talking about here or whether we should have on override?

Councillor McDonald said he feels it is important to give some information but doesn't think we need another presentation and doesn't feel that is helpful because there is a lot of information out there already, but feels we should have some grounding information about where we are in the process and what's on the table and the hope would be for people to comment on any range of things and ask questions that we can follow up with in the future.

Committee members discussed strategies for collecting and utilizing community feedback during the public forum, including written submissions, note-taking, and clarifying the council's intent to use public input to inform decisions, with an emphasis on non-judgmental, open dialogue.

Carol Ann Desiderio, City Clerk clarified for attendees and the public that the override question will not appear on the upcoming municipal election ballot, Tuesday, November 4, 2025, but rather on the special election in February, to avoid confusion among voters.

Councillor McDonald mentioned the Forum on November 19, 2025 and asked for the committee to continue to send him suggestions and we will meet at least the following week to circle back to some of these questions and circle back to the conversation with the administration.

Other Business

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councillor Spadafora, seconded by Councillor Condon, that this meeting be adjourned at 7:07 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

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www.cityofmaiden.org/captions