



City of Malden

Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Meeting Minutes - Final Finance Committee

Chairperson Barbara Murphy
Vice Chair David Camell
Councillor Peg Crowe
Councillor Amanda Linehan
Councillor Deborah DeMaria
Councillor Jadeane Sica

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

5:30 PM

City Hall, 215 Pleasant Street, Room #105

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Chairperson Barbara Murphy, Vice Chair David Camell, Peg Crowe, Amanda Linehan, Deborah DeMaria and Jadeane Sica

Also Present: Councillors Condon, O'Malley, Spadafora, Winslow
Charles Ranaghan-CFO/Controller
Dan Grover-Treasurer
Maria Luise-Special Assistant to the Mayor
Kate Fallon-City Solicitor
Ron Hogan-Parking Director

Councillor Murphy called the meeting to order at 5:35 P.M. Jon Miara, Brian DeLacey and the City were filming the meeting.

Minutes to be Approved

Minutes of the June 8, 2021 meeting to be approved.

Tabled

A motion was made by Councillor Amanda Linehan, seconded by Vice Chair David Camell, that the minutes of June 8, 2021 be tabled. The motion carried by the following vote: Camell-yes Crowe-yes Linehan-yes Murphy-yes

Business

[234-21](#)

Order: Annual Appropriation Order for the FY2022 Budget.

Sponsors: Barbara Murphy

A motion was made by Councillor Sica, seconded by Councillor Linehan, that the Order be recommended favorably as amended: add \$50,000 to Salary Reserve for reclassification, add \$15,000 for Language and Translation Services, add \$10,000 for Diversity and Equity Program Support and add \$25,000 for DPW Parks Beautification and reduce Revenue Reserve by \$100,000 The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 4 - Murphy, Councillor Linehan, Councillor DeMaria and Councillor Sica

The Finance committee will continue the review of the FY22 Budget.

Ron Hogan-Parking Director

Maria Luise-Special Assistant to the Mayor on behalf of the Senior Center
Areas to be discussed: Proposed cuts and requests for add to the Mayor.

Councillor Murphy explained that Councillor DeMaria had requested to bring in Maria Luise on behalf of the Senior Center and Ron Hogan-Parking Director to continue discussion of the FY22 Budget.

Maria Luise, Special Assistant to the Mayor speaking on behalf of the Senior Center said she has been working with Cheryl Spinella and Debbie Cammarata, they have been active keeping things connected while the Senior Center has been closed and moving forward heading towards opening up they are making sure they are abiding by all safety guidelines even most have been relaxed you still have to follow certain protocols and they are working with Chris Webb on that. They will have a soft opening starting next week and will have people signing in before opening fully. They will start with an Arts Class, Book Club, Chair exercise class and a regular exercise class. A lot of instructors will not return till September. She feels the doors will be fully opened sometime in July. She also explained that after searching many locations for the teen center the building was under utilized and this would be the best fit for the program and we wanted to make use of the space. The two programs can co-exist because they don't overlap if they do it is only for half an hour. In the summer the Teen Center is out and about in the summer they are not in a stable location, but when they open they will plan with Chris Webb to clean the center one hour before programs and a cleaning at night. Debbie Cammarata and Cathy Mac are planning intergenerational programs. They have gotten a new ping pong table and 10 new computers for the computer room.

Councillor Linehan asked about the building with the big space can that be rented and used by the community

Maria said now that the meetings are not in there anymore they will be asked that question but they have to look at the policy which is in place and they will have to revisit that moving forward. She said there is opportunities especially in the auditorium and will start to bring back movie nights which the seniors have asked for.

Councillor Murphy said she was at Forestdale Park in the afternoon and the feedback is positive having the Teen Center and the Senior Center they like the idea of the intergenerational activities and look forward to having the students mentor them and also mentoring the students in other ways. A question came up about transportation and she said it is wonderful to see that the transportation budget has increased and could she speak about that line item.

Maria said the transportation has not changed during Covid they still had seniors needing rides to Dr. appts. and shopping. Moving forward they used more grant money for transportation

Chuck said pre-Covid transportation was \$175k/year it is made up of four funding sources: City Budget of \$98K, \$35K-CDBG, \$20K MHA and remainder of \$24K funded through the Council on Aging Grant.

Councillor DeMaria asked how are we doing with the new director interviews and did you get a good response

Maria said it was posted two weeks ago and the interviews are beginning tomorrow and Thursday and they have 12 applicants and have narrowed it down to eight candidates with

solid backgrounds.

Councillor O'Malley feels one of the great things with the Senior Center is that it can be used for community events which was always booked and it calls for a lower cost for people to have community events and he hopes they bring that back is that something the new Director will be in charge of and do you have to change the current policy

Maria said yes the current policy is something that will have to be looked at they need to go back and reread it

Councillor Spadafora gave a brief explanation that the challenges they have had is the cost of the usage did not cover the cost of the maintenance. When you start serving food and liquor there is a certain liability that is associated with that and other things that come along with that.

Councillor Murphy said this is a discussion for a later meeting it is not tied to the budget before us but we can take that up again at another time

Ron Hogan-Parking Department

Councillor DeMaria asked Ron to speak about the Parking Department how are we doing with funding and meters

Ron said Covid has made it an interesting year and we have appropriately adapted our policies for what it is that has gone on there has been a lot more revenue which is the right answer for our residents, we have continued to be soft handed and we have tried to give our businesses downtown what they needed to help get residents back to downtown and will continue into the next fiscal year till we get back to new normal. In the upcoming year we will be intergrating garages into our parking approach which is an awesome opportunity for us with the intergration of the MRA to the City it allows the ability to present one comprehensive parking solution. Revenues are down with parking pre-Covid they were generating over \$1mill in profit are projecting half of that for this year. ARCO allows us to recover that money through revenue replacement it is eligible for us to reimburse ourselves till things kick up again. We need to encourage people to utilize street parking for short term parking and tie that together with the garages so that it will be funded by commuters but be there to support our businesses on the off hours. We are going to continue to be fair and did less enforcement and cut the fines for street sweeping from \$50 to \$25 and also overnight parking it's not just about revenue generation but the right regulations and the right penalty for when someone knowingly violates those regulations and tie together in a way that balances enforcement with our resident needs. His staffing is great everyone has stayed, when city hall was closed they still were out there checking parking issues.

Councillor Linehan asked Ron to speak of the status of the SP Plus Contract and also about automation and trying to realize better revenue possibilities going forward

Ron said the SP Contract goes through December and he intends to renew it for at least another year it makes sense to have them in the middle the fee is small it is \$40K/year. Automation is something they have struggled with to able to procure it, if we get back to a more normal model we have to be able to get it so it can be made available 24/7 without someone at the gate. He will try to move that right out of the gate how to procure that. He also mentioned we should be going live with the electric charging stations in the garage also.

Councillor Camell asked referring to the \$40K/yr for SP Plus Contract do they just handle the in and out of taking the fees or do they handle cleaning and maintenance

Ron said they hire all the staff and handle the budgeting and the running of the garages and the lots

Councillor Spadafora said he feels that automation is key and for next years budget the MRA is looking for structural deficits not financial at CDB and he feels there will be upgrading for lighting and elevators will that be a capital improvement plan in the City's budget next year

Ron said they have done work on the needs but he is going to put a plan how fund it over a number of years

Councillor Murphy said we will be bringing Ron back in the future to talk about the electric charging stations to make the public aware. She said the goal tonight is to look at cuts and adds to the budget so that we hopefully with the financial team who could make calls to the Mayor so that we could vote on this out of committee tonight and bring it to the Full Council next week. She asks if anyone would like to make any cuts seeing none she will move on to any adds to the budget. She as the Chair would like to discuss the following items and would appreciate a motion from the committee as she cannot make a motion as Chair. The first item to be discussed is the salary line item of \$50,000 that is to be able to look at employees and job grades and need to be stepped up which was cut out of the budget this year it has been in the budget for the last two years and although they have tried they have not made much progress on coming up with a process to reward employees whose jobs have changed over the years but are stuck in a step they were in three years ago. She would like to see that money added back into the budget as she says it is something from a moral point of view for the staff to help us to recognize the fact their job has changed in some way and they need to be bumped up. The next item came out of the public hearing and is the Language and Translation Services for translation and will be accessible for all departments for translation in the amount of \$15,000. The next item also came out of the public hearing and we would like to be able to get out and integrate with our public is for Diversity and Equity for program support which would be a community type effort. Councillor Murphy said if we are in agreement we could recess for 5 minutes while the Financial Team gets in touch with the Mayor and come back with the decision and vote this out of committee tonight. The committee recessed at

Councillor Winslow asked about the line item for Health and Professional Services to be increased by \$16K to \$20K for more resources for mental health with Elliott Services. Ron mentioned with the arbor money we have allocated \$2mill for public health and this would be an eligible expense which is a worthwhile cause but it is for public health response. Councillor Crowe sits on that team and she will make sure they take that up. Councillor Winslow had another item he addressed which would be the line item of DPW Park & Beautification to be increased up to \$100K to have more resources in the fall. Councillor Camell made the motion to increase this line item by 32,100 seconded by Councillor DeMaria. All were in favor.

The committee recessed at 6:13 P.M. for 5 mins and came back from recess at 6:18 P.M. Chuck reported he spoke with the Mayor who approved the following motions, \$50K for Salary Reserve, \$15,000 for Language and Translation Services and \$10K for Diversity and Equity Program Support. The only change he proposed was \$25K for DPW Parks Beautification which the committee accepted.

The following motions are made:

Motion to add \$50,000 to Salary Reserve for reclassification was made by Councillor

Camell and seconded by Councillor DeMaria. Roll Call Vote: Camell-yes Crowe-yes DeMaria-yes Linehan-yes Sica-yes Murphy-yes.

Motion to add \$15,000 for Language and Translation Services was made by Councillor Crowe and seconded by Councillor DeMaria. All were in favor

Motion to add \$10,000 for Diversity and Equity Program Support was made by Councillor Camell and seconded by Councillor DeMaria. All were in favor

Motion to add \$25,000 for DPW Parks Beautification was made by Councillor Camell and seconded by Councillor DeMaria. All were in favor.

Motion to recommend out favorably to the Full Council the FY2022 Proposed Budget with the following amendments: add \$50,000 to Salary Reserve for reclassification, add \$15,000 for Language and Translation Services, add \$10,000 for Diversity and Equity Program Support and add \$25,000 for DPW Parks Beautification and reduce Revenue Reserve by \$100,000 was made by Councillor Sica and seconded by Councillor Linehan.

Other Business

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councillor Jadeane Sica, seconded by Councillor Deborah DeMaria, that meeting be adjourned at 6:18 P.M. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yea: 6 - Murphy, Vice Chair Camell, Councillor Crowe, Councillor Linehan, Councillor DeMaria and Councillor Sica