



# Lowell City Council

## *Finance SC Minutes*

Michael Q. Geary  
City Clerk

**Date:** April 11, 2023  
**Time:** 5:30 PM  
**Location:** Council Chamber, City Hall / Zoom(Hybrid)

### **PRESENT:**

Present on Roll Call were C. Scott, C. Gitschier and C. Robinson. Also present were Conor Baldwin (CFO), Austin Ball (Asst. CFO), C. Mercier, C. Yem, C. Jenness, C. Nuon, C. Rourke and Terry Ryan (Parking).

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

C. Scott called the meeting to order noting those in attendance and the items on the agenda.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

Mr. Baldwin provided presentation entitled “Office of the City Manager – Finance Department” which provided an update from the December meeting indicating that there is a need for rate raise based on a conservative five year forecast so that tax levy will not need to supplement the parking enterprise. Mr. Ryan provided a review of the revenues in conjunction with an update on the 70 new parking kiosks noting their delivery and installation as well as conversion to pay by plate software. Mr. Ryan outlined collection and enforcement element within the department. Mr. Baldwin noted the commentary from residents especially those living in downtown. Mr. Baldwin noted that market rates must be increased with discounts still available at higher rates as well. Mr. Baldwin noted a switch to a dynamic pricing model with increase revenues and this will require ordinance changes. Mr. Ryan noted dynamic pricing will move vehicles into the garages and turns spaces over quicker for added revenue. Mr. Baldwin noted new kiosks will open up revenue sources as well. C. Robinson noted that rate increase was warranted and questioned dynamic pricing as it pertains to handicap parking. Mr. Ryan noted that there are no charges for handicap parking at any kiosks. C. Robinson noted that kiosks can be used for advertising. Mr. Ryan confirmed that and noted that screen was not particularly large but there is an advertising element. C. Scott requested the implementation plan for dynamic pricing. Mr. Ryan outlined that plan. C. Scott requested information be provided to residents regarding pay by plate process. C. Scott commented on placement of



new kiosks. Mr. Baldwin noted parking enterprise fund should be self-sufficient but it was not trending that way. C. Robinson noted need for revenue and increased enforcement should increase that. Mr. Baldwin noted staffing in the current budget. C. Gitschier commented on revenue in prior report and questioned how the deficit be covered. Mr. Baldwin noted the report was a report of whole operation and projections indicate a return to normal revenues. C. Gitschier commented on the new garage in the Hamilton Canal District. Mr. Baldwin indicated that this garage needs to be filled to meet revenue projections. **Motion** by C. Gitschier, seconded by C. Robinson request City Manager provide a report for year to date revenues for each garage in the City. So voted. C. Scott commented on paying fees via the app. Mr. Ryan outlined payment procedure through the app. C. Scott questioned allocation of towing fees. Mr. Baldwin noted those fees go into the general fund. **Motion** by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Gitschier to request City Manager provide a report regarding revenues produced by each enforcement officer. So voted.

Mr. Baldwin provided update regarding FY2024 Budget outlining pension assessments; health costs; charter school funds; personnel costs (2.5% COLA); and debt service. Mr. Baldwin provided some highlights of the budget, including, DPW reorganization; funding CO-OP for homeless; overtime for public safety (body cam program); implementation of 311 system; and increased funding for education, library and code enforcement. Mr. Baldwin noted it would be a balanced budget and that stabilization funds would be used to mitigate taxes. Mr. Baldwin noted Capital Budget is still evolving. C. Robinson commented on reorganizing DPW and implementing 311 system. Mr. Baldwin noted that the 311 system would be implemented with outside partners. Mr. Baldwin noted goal was to use ARPA funding and to ensure stability after such funding ends. C. Scott questioned Charter School reimbursements. Mr. Baldwin indicated that was always a moving number. Mr. Baldwin commented on net school spending noting it would be increased as done in the past and outlined that the City was well beyond other communities when it comes to funding schools.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion** to Adjourn by C. Gitschier, seconded by C. Robinson. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk

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