



# Lowell City Council

## *Finance SC Minutes*

Michael Q. Geary  
City Clerk

**Date:** December 15, 2022  
**Time:** 5:30 PM  
**Location:** Mayor's Reception Room, City Hall / Zoom(Hybrid)

### **PRESENT:**

Present on Roll Call were C. Scott, C. Gitschier and C. Robinson. Also present Conor Baldwin (CFO); Austin Ball (Asst. CFO); C. Jenness; Terry Ryan (Parking); Steve Duchesne (Water); Manager Golden, Jr.; Lisa Golden (HHS); Phil Geoffroy (HHS); Paul St. Cyr (DPW); Kelly Oakes (Auditor); Aaron Fox (Water); John McKenna (Law); and C. Drinkwater (Zoom).

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

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

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

Mr. Baldwin provided presentation entitle "City Council – Finance Subcommittee Meeting". Mr. Baldwin outlined first item being emergency expenditures noting the background of Massachusetts law; suggestion of Department of Revenue; procedures and definitions; and current total of \$63,000. Mr. Baldwin indicated that if Council chose not to vote affirmative then funds would be taken from current appropriations. C. Scott opened this portion of agenda to public with no response. C. Gitschier noted that there is enough budgeted to cover costs; especially from surplus of permanent salaries so no need to vote on matter. C. Gitschier noted the issue with employees and overtime; they should report for work when called. Mr. Baldwin noted that adjustments would be made either way Council wished to proceed. C. Robinson noted the expenditure figures. Mr. Baldwin noted that expenses are not complete and that it does not include possible claims. C. Scott questioned if vote was necessary at this point. Mr. Baldwin noted vote could be revisited if needed. **Motion** by C. Gitschier, seconded by C. Robinson to not support emergency expenditure vote at this juncture. So voted, 3 yeas.

Mr. Baldwin continued with second item of the presentation regarding the Parking Fund. Mr. Baldwin outlined Parking Enterprise by noting statutory background; setting rates in accordance with costs of operation; noted reduction in revenue; fund forecast; debt



structure; current rate structure; comparison to other communities; new rate option; on street operations; and discounts. Mr. Baldwin noted last increase of fees was in 2017 and that many changes are proposed due to current parking study recommendation which included removal of discounts and performance based system. C. Scott noted the need for tier pricing. Mr. Ryan noted new kiosks can be adjusted to different programming. C. Robinson noted the need to have parking incentives for business. Mr. Ryan indicated that new software can accommodate that. Mr. Baldwin continued on with presentation outlining staffing needs and recommendations for the body which included dynamic pricing; extended hours; permit changes; and adjustment on fines. C. Scott opened this issue up to public with following addressing the subcommittee: Peter Richards; Craig Faulkner; Robert Casey; Karen Frederick (CTI); Lisa Wholey (CTI); Steve Stephenson; Sally Coulter; Ted Labash; Felece Buchanan; and Jack Moynihan. C. Robinson noted discussions will continue with added meetings. **Motion** by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Scott to request City Manager provide report regarding possible costs and procedures need to move Parking Enterprise into in house operations. So voted, 3 yeas. C. Scott noted discussion will continue and that all issues and solutions will be vetted. C. Gitschier noted government is no always efficient and that each garage should be looked at separately, stating the HCD garage is a losing endeavor. C. Gitschier noted all citizens should not pick up debt of a problem garage and that our parking agreements should be reviewed and revised.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk

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