

City of Beverly
Special Meeting of the City Council
Public Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 23, 2021, 7:00pm
City Council Chambers, City Hall, 191 Cabot St.

CITY OF BEVERLY
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2021 JUL 29 P 2: 52

This meeting was live streamed by BevCam.

Paul Guanci, City Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Members Present: Stacy Ames, Dominic Copeland, Timothy Flaherty, Kathleen Feldman, Julie Flowers, Scott Houseman, Todd Rotondo, Estelle Rand, Paul Guanci

Members Absent: None

Rand led the pledge of allegiance.

Resolution

#130 - Ms. Judith Cronin

Feldman and Rotondo read the resolution.

The motion to approve was made and seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion carried (9-0).

A motion for a recess was made and seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion carried (9-0).

The meeting recessed at 7:20pm.

The meeting was called back to order at 7:27pm.

Communications from other City Officers and Boards

#110-Proposed Amendment to the City Zoning Ordinance-IR Zoning District.

Ms. Wynne clarified that the vote was 8-1 at the Planning Board meeting.

Copeland and Ames asked about the one vote against.

Wynne stated that member had indicated some level of discomfort with the fact that it was related to a single parcel and a particular business. Wynne read a letter to the City Council from the Planning Board Chair, Ellen Hutchinson.

The motion to approve was made and seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion carried (9-0).

#134-Councilor Houseman-Rodent Management Discussion.

Referred to Committee on Public Services and to Committee on Legal Affairs.

Communications from His Honor the Mayor

Order #117-Mayor's FY22 Budget

The motion was made and seconded to approve General Fund Transfers of \$2,000,000.00. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the City Council budget of \$648,856.16. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Executive budget of \$837,696.00. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Reserve for Appropriation at \$1,295,000.00. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Municipal Finance budget of \$3,244,221.66. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Solicitor budget of \$602,468.79. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Human Resources budget of \$224,816.18. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Planning budget of \$695,529.20. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Municipal Inspections budget of \$628,341.19. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Public Safety budget of \$16,848,568.01. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Engineering budget of \$2,963,557.00. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Public Services budget of \$6,236,148.20.

Ames stated she supports this but is a little frustrated with the lack of detail and hopes in the next year there can be more transparency in it just to increase public trust. Ames stated she trusts that these monies are allocated professionally but it would help government to be just a hair more transparent.

A vote was taken on the previous motion and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Community Services budget of \$4,320,763.68. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Schools budget of \$67,274,926.00. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Debt Service at \$10,923,584.93. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Annuities and Pensions at \$12,004,594.00. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Other budget items totaling \$11,648,263.00. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve Assessments at \$1,783,062.00. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Total General Fund Expenditures and Revenues at \$144,180,396.00.

Flowers stated she is going to vote in favor of this but wanted to mention a conversation about the stabilization fund that started at a previous meeting and when this money would be used. Flowers suggested the possibility of working collaboratively together with the mayor and administration to see how to reach the most residents and people who were struggling this past year and seeing, when the free cash is certified, what can be done creatively to provide help and support.

Ames suggested applying some of the stabilization fund money to the water and sewer funds to help people with their water bills moving forward across the board. She also recommended taking a look at funding for the Council on Aging because it is a hub of services.

A vote was taken on the previous motion and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Water Fund Expenditures and Revenues at \$5,839,000.00. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve a \$900,000.00 Transfer of Retained Earnings into FY22. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the water rate of \$3.17 per 100 cubic feet. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Sewer Fund Expenditures and Revenues at \$8,953,145.73. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the \$805,145.73 Transfer of Retained Earnings into FY22. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the sewer rate of \$6.24 per 100 cubic feet. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Sanitation/Recycling Fund Expenditures and Revenues at \$3,335,500.00. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Recreation Enterprise Fund Expenditures and Revenues at \$443,575.00. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve an \$80,000.00 Transfer of Retained Earnings into FY22.

Ayles clarified that the recreation and other transfers should be into FY22 not FY21, as the handout says.

A vote was taken on the previous motion and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Golf and Tennis Enterprise Fund Expenditures and Revenues at \$380,000.00. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Senior Citizen Enterprise Fund Expenditures and Revenues at \$35,196.00. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the \$12,476.00 Transfer of Retained Earnings into FY22. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Airport Enterprise Fund Expenditures and Revenues at \$515,513.64. A vote was taken and the motion carried (9-0).

Guanci thanked Mr. Ayles, Mayor Cahill, and Mr. Perry for their work together.

Flaherty stated that overall this is a pretty good budget. It is not perfect and could look better, but the mayor, finance director and others are always open to asking questions and getting those answers. It behooves this council, the next finance and property chair and the next council president throughout the year to go over the capital improvements budget and to bring Mr. Ayles in and ask questions on a regular basis. It helps us to educate. Cities, towns and school departments get squeezed and there is not a lot of wiggle room to make a lot of changes. We could do a few things in the stabilization fund, but a few years ago we didn't even have a stabilization fund. It was Powers & Sullivan that said we needed to get our stabilization fund up and that's why we are able to build police stations and schools because the City is in good financial shape and that helps the whole City in general. Flaherty stated there is always room for improvement and changes but he is proud of the work that has been done together.

Mayor Cahill thanked Councilors Guanci and Flaherty at the end of their last budget, stating that they have been great partners and leaders in the City. Cahill thanked all the partners on the City Council and School Committee for fantastic work. He also thanked the employees in this community, department heads, and the team in the finance department and Mr. Perry for their work, as well as BevCam and the Clerk's Office. Cahill thanked Mr. Ayles for doing a fantastic job and being so professional and for everything he does day in and day out throughout the year.

Copeland thanked everyone and stated that moving forward, one of the things he is excited about is the ability to reimagine how to engage with some of these things when looking at different funds, like looking at rainy day funds and how those can maybe be distributed a little bit differently. Those are conversations that we will be looking forward to having and that will begin to shape the scope of the City and the things that we are able to accomplish. We don't have to wait until the budget season to have those conversations. If we start those conversations now, then come next budget, we will be able to do some great things that we might not have thought about before or be able to reimagine how we distribute funds but still keep the City strong and grow it from there. Copeland thanked Guanci and Flaherty and said they will be missed.

Houseman agreed on the professionalism and great work of Mr. Ayles.

Guanci stated that Mr. Ayles goes above and beyond to make sure that the councilors know and understand what is going on. In Beverly, the executive and legislative branches here have always worked well together.

The motion to adjourn was made and seconded. A vote was taken, and the motion carried (9-0). The meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.