

MINUTES

City of Concord Finance Committee Meeting
June 4, 2020 @ 5:30 PM
City Council Chambers

Present: Mayor James Bouley, City Councilors Brent Todd, Jennifer Kretovic, Erle Pierce, Rob Werner, Byron Champlin, Fred Keach, Meredith Hatfield, Nathan Fennessy, Gail Matson, Amanda Grady Sexton, Keith Nyhan, Linda Kenison, Candace White Bouchard, and Zandra Rice Hawkins.

The Mayor opened the meeting at 5:33 PM and indicated the committee was meeting electronically due to the Covid-19 pandemic, in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04.

The Mayor noted that, in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order, the City had provided public notice of the necessary information for accessing this meeting, and indicated where this information could be found.

Mayor Bouley also noted that all votes taken during this meeting would be done by roll call vote.

Deputy City Manager LeBrun took the roll and asked committee members when stating their presence to please also state whether there was anyone else in the room with them, which is required under the Right to Know Law. In accordance with the Right to Know Law, all committee members indicated they were alone.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the May 28, 2020 Finance Committee meeting. The motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

The Mayor stated that the purpose of this meeting was to hold a work session to discuss potential changes to the FY 2021 proposed budget, followed by a public hearing on the proposed budget.

Mayor Bouley indicated that there are a few things he feels need to be addressed in the proposed budget; however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the fact that City Council will probably be making adjustments to the budget throughout the year, he feels now is not the time to address them. For instance, Mayor Bouley indicated that he would've liked to add a Police Officer position, as well as an Economic Development Project Manager position, which will be important to help expand the tax base after we come out of the pandemic. The Mayor also noted that the City Council should be considering the addition of another ambulance at some time in the near future.

Mayor Bouley suggested making one change to the proposed budget concerning the funding for Concord TV. As more and more people move away from cable TV, franchise fees are going down, which results in decreased funding to Concord TV. Mayor Bouley suggested increasing funding for Concord TV by \$57,110 and increasing franchise fee revenue by \$57,110. The adjustments will cancel each other out, thereby not affecting the tax rate. The Mayor noted that he would ask City Manager Aspell to come up with a more permanent solution next year. Discussion ensued and the consensus of the committee was to support the Mayor's suggested change.

Councilor Champlin noted that the Parking Committee had made a recommendation to reallocate parking fund bonds originally allocated for the Storrs Street parking garage project to purchase new meters and kiosks for downtown. Deputy City Manager Brian LeBrun indicated that he had spoken

with the City's Bond Council and there are two issues that prevent the City from using the parking bonds for other purposes. One reason is that the Capitol Commons garage project is not yet complete; and the other reason is that we can't repurpose a 20-year bond for something with a shorter useful life.

Councilor Kretovic commented that City Administration should keep a watchful eye on motor vehicle registration, tax collection, and rooms and meals tax revenue; as well as monitoring of expenses. She noted the funding for Intown Concord in the amount of \$30,000, and asked if the City would still provide the funding if Intown Concord's major downtown events end up being cancelled. City Manager Aspell responded that if the events don't happen, the City will not provide them with the funding.

Councilor Kretovic also suggested City Administration take a closer look at fall leaf collection and how to make it safer for City crews.

Councilor Hatfield stated her disappointment that we can't bring on a Sustainability Manager, but said she understands the reasoning. She also recognized the challenges our public safety staff are faced with every day during these difficult times.

Councilor Hatfield indicated that she would like to talk about transitioning back to the Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) Program and the use of the purple bags. Mayor Bouley indicated that the end of the Governor's Stay At Home order may be coming to an end soon and that it will be a good time to consider reinstating the PAYT Program at that time. Councilor Kenison commented that although she feels the City Council made the right decision in pausing the PAYT program, she is discouraged to see some residents taking advantage of the pause and putting larger quantities of garbage than usual at the curb.

With no other discussion, Mayor Bouley opened up a public hearing on the FY 2021 proposed budget.

The receipt of written testimony from resident Roy Schweiker was acknowledged.

Josh Hardy, Executive Director of Concord TV, thanked the City Council for their support and recognition of the important services Concord TV provides for the community.

Rick Jaques, Executive Director of the Penacook Community Center (PCC), thanked the City Council for its support and noted that PCC will be opening for childcare and camps on June 8th.

With no other public testimony, the public hearing was closed at 6:10 PM.

A motion was made and seconded to increase Concord TV funding by \$57,110 and increase franchise fee revenue by \$57,110. The motion was approved with a unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Bouley reminded everyone that a final public hearing on the proposed budget, followed by adoption of the budget, would be held on Monday, June 15th, at 7:00 PM. This will be the final opportunity for the public to speak.

With no other discussion, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote and the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Stevens, Executive Assistant