

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PEABODY CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 19, 2020

PRESENT COUNCILLORS: WELTON, SASLAW, MOUTSOULAS, GOULD, CHAREST, MANNING-MARTIN, TURCO, O'NEILL, MELVILLE, MCGINN, AND ROSSIGNOLL

ABSENT COUNCILLORS:

An in-person (City Council only) and remotely held meeting of the Peabody City Council opened with a moment of silent prayer after being called to order by City Council President Thomas J. Rossignoll.

Salute to the American Flag.

COUNCILLOR ROSSIGNOLL – OPEN MEETING LAW STATEMENT: THIS MEETING IS BEING TELEVISED LIVE ON CABLE CHANNEL 9 AND BEING TAPED BY PEABODY ACCESS TV, AND ALSO BEING RECORDED BY OUR CITY COUNCIL STENOGRAPHER.

HEARINGS

None.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Legal Affairs Committee
November 19, 2020

P501-20 COUNCILLOR MELVILLE – Reporting for the Legal Affairs Committee – We had one item on the agenda this evening – all members of the committee were present – and the item was Group 1 Automotive, Incorporated, 0 Andover Street/Richartson Road regarding Special Permit 8-2017 conveyance to the City of Peabody. This was a procedural matter following up on a condition that was part of a special permit from 2017. The item was unanimously approved by the subcommittee. (Report received)

P502-20 COUNCILLOR MELVILLE – Reporting for the Legal Affairs Committee – MOVE TO approve the conveyance to the City of Peabody from Group 1 Automotive, Incorporated, frontage at Richartson Road and 0 Andover Street regarding Special Permit 8-2017.
(Carried 11-0)

Public Services Committee
November 19, 2020

P503-20 COUNCILLOR TURCO – Reporting for the Public Services Committee – We conducted a Public Services Committee meeting this evening at the request of Councillor Saslaw for two subject matters: First and foremost was the water project that we've all been affected by throughout the City and hopefully has good results and, secondly, snow removal. All councillors were present for the meeting. Bob Labossiere, Director of Public Services, was here to answer questions with regard to the water project. The vast majority of the project is done with the exception of the Winona Treatment Plant, which will hopefully be done by the end of the winter/early spring. With the current sections of the project being worked on, the last segments will be the repaving of trench work done by utility contractors to hopefully smooth out some of the main routes, i.e., Summit Street, Lowell Street, and some areas near the South School. The planned repaving for all streets affected by this will be in the early spring and that money has already been funded. There were also some questions about water pressure throughout neighborhoods. There will be a slow process, as Mr. Labossiere said, in an effort not to burst current pipes by adding too much pressure to the system. So it is coming, it will just be a slower process, roughly 30 days. Then we moved over to snow removal. The more important thing that I would like to mention is that Mr. Labossiere said that there will be a portal/telephone number for residents to call into. I believe he will publish that on the City's website. We can try to get it out to you as soon as we have that number so that residents can call in if their street is missed; needs salt, sand; or other activity. Also, they are still looking for snowplow operators. That information is also available on the City website currently, but Mr.

Labossiere did mention that you could call the Public Services Department to inquire about openings for snow removal contracting. (Report received)

Finance Committee
November 19, 2020

P504-20 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – The Finance Committee met earlier this evening. Present for the Committee were Councillors: Gould, O’Neill, Manning-Martin, Turco, and myself as chairperson. Also present were Councillors: Welton, Moutsoulas, Charest, Saslaw, Melville, and Rossignoll. There were two items on the agenda. The first item was a Fiscal Year 2021 financial update. The following motion was made. (Report received)

P505-20 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – MOVE TO receive, under suspension of the rules, Item 7-B communication from His Honor the Mayor regarding Fiscal 2020/2021 Finance Update.
(Carried 11-0)

P506-20 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – So, again, this update was provided due to the unusual nature of the Fiscal ’21 budget. This was something the Mayor committed to during the budget sessions in June and this update was done to provide councillors with updates on certain elements of the budget. This was the second one and the last one that will happen before tax classification in December. Present at the meeting were the Mayor; the Director of Finance, Mr. Gingras; and City Auditor, Ms. Mary Martin. They provided some insight on the FY ’20 budget deficit and the FY ’21 budget. There were a number of committee member questions and other councillor questions that were addressed. It was noted that the Fiscal Year ’21 revenue through early November versus Fiscal Year ’20 is tracking slightly better than when we last reviewed it in October. Areas that we will continue to watch closely are real estate tax and hotel tax. Also, FY ’21 spending through early November appears to be happening at a lower rate than in that same period in Fiscal ’20, which is beneficial. The FY ’20 deficit is down a bit from when we last looked at the numbers in October. It’s now sized at \$3.55 million. As we discussed at both of these review sessions, a sizable portion of this deficit, approximately \$1.4 million, is related to the water and sewer enterprise. A majority of that amount is expected to be collected. It’s a timing issue relative to when bills went out and collections happened versus the end of the fiscal year. The current thinking is to use approximately \$2.4 million of reserves to close the Fiscal Year ’20 budget gap and reduce Fiscal Year ’21 budget rate. This is down from the \$3.4 million that was listed in the October discussion. This change relates primarily due to state aid coming in stronger than expected, specifically state aid up \$1.1 million from Fiscal ’20. The following motion was made by Councillor Manning-Martin. (Report received)

P507-20 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – MOVE TO request that the Finance Director, Michael Gingras, periodically provide the City Council with a list of Fiscal Year ’21 transfers made from line items that are under budget used to cover other items.
(Carried 11-0)

P508-20 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – The second item on the agenda was a transfer of funds to Cable Fund Expense in two amounts of \$2,387.50 and \$10,744.05 and that was explained by Mr. Gingras. (Report received)

P509-20 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – MOVE TO approve the following transfer, as submitted by His Honor the Mayor, under date of November 4, 2020:

<u>FROM:</u>		<u>TO:</u>	
Receipts Reserved Cable Fund 270-0000-33017	\$2,387.57	Cable Fund Expense 270-0000-53007	\$2,387.57
270-0000-33017	\$10,744.05	270-0000-53007	\$10,744.05

(Carried 11-0)

MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS

P510-20 COUNCILLOR WELTON – MOVE TO receive, under suspension of the rules, Item 8-A communication from Scott Crocker, 145A Summit Street, Suite #208, regarding Special Permit application and set up a public hearing.
(Carried 11-0)

P511-20 COUNCILLOR MOUTSOULAS – MOVE TO receive, under suspension of the rules, Item 9-A Class 2 Motor Vehicle License (Transfer) Russ' Used Cars, Inc., 20 Wallis Street, and set up a public hearing.
(Carried 11-0)

**Joint Ad Hoc City Council/School Committee
November 16, 2020**

P512-20 COUNCILLOR CHAREST – Reporting for the Joint Ad Hoc City Council/School Committee – This past Monday the Joint Ad Hoc City Council/School Committee met at the Higgins library. In attendance were School Committee members: Amico, Arnotis, and Carpenter; and from the City Council were members: Welton, Turco and myself. Conversations included redistricting. With the possibility of that coming up they informed the City Council members that the Mayor was setting up a committee and appointing people to look into redistricting. The other topic was school buildings that was mentioned in the past and possibly being for sale or would be for sale, if they deemed them surplus. There was light conversation about that and more to come, but the members there felt that the Kiley in particular needed a lot of further conversation to just figure out if that was going to be deemed surplus. We did have conversations about numbers rising here in Peabody schools, children that were going to need more space and both of these would need more conversation. (Report received)

P513-20 COUNCILLOR MANNING-MARTIN – MOVE TO receive and approve, under suspension of the rules, the re-appointment of Allyson M. Danforth, 16 Wentworth Drive, Beverly, MA, as City Clerk for a three-year term to expire 12/31/2023.
(Carried 11-0)

P514-20 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL – MOVE TO receive, under suspension of the rules, Item 8-B communication from MEC Peabody Associates Limited Partnership, 635 Lowell Street, regarding Special Permit application and set up a public hearing.
(Carried 11-0)

P515-20 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL – MOVE TO request that the Public Services Department install a streetlight pole at Catherine Drive and Theresa Road and request that Peabody Municipal Light Plant install a streetlight on said pole.
(Carried 11-0)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM HIS HONOR THE MAYOR

P516-20 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – MOVE TO receive a communication from His Honor the Mayor regarding Transfer of Funds – Cable Fund Expense; \$214,352.83 and refer to the Finance Committee.
(Carried 11-0)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICERS AND OTHERS

Previously received.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND REMONSTRANCES

None.

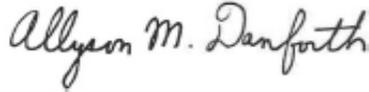
UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM THE PRECEDING MATTER

None.

MOVED: MOVE TO adjourn. Regular meeting of the Peabody City Council adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

SUBMITTED TO HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

RETURNED BY HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, NOVEMBER 25, 2020



ATTEST: _____
(Allyson M. Danforth, City Clerk)

COMMUNICATIONS:

His Honor the Mayor re: Transfer of Funds – Cable Fund Expense; \$214,352.83

His Honor the Mayor re: Fiscal 2020/2021 Finance Update

Scott Crooker, 145A Summit Street, Suite #208, re: Special Permit application

MEC Peabody Associates Limited Partnership, 635 Lowell Street, re: Special Permit application

Allyson M. Danforth, City Clerk, re: Re-appointment of Allyson M. Danforth as City Clerk

CLASS 2 MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE: (Transfer)

Russ' Used Cars, Inc., 20 Wallis Street