SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PEABODY CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 20, 2024

PRESENT COUNCILLORS: TURCO, ROSSIGNOLL, WELTON, MELVILLE, GAMACHE, MCGINN, GOULD, DAIGLE, HIGGINS, AND PEACH

ABSENT COUNCILLORS: MANNING-MARTIN.

COUNCILLOR PEACH – 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.

Special Meeting of the Peabody City Council was called to order by City Council President, Stephanie R. Peach, for the purpose of receiving the reports of committee from the Finance Committee, sitting as the Committee of the Whole, from meetings held on Tuesday, June 18th, and Thursday, June 20th, to adopt the Fiscal Year 2025 City of Peabody Operating Budget.

P291-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – The Finance Committee, sitting as the Committee of the Whole, met on June 18th, recessed, and met again earlier this evening on June 20th. All councillors were present for the first meeting; all councillors were present for the second meeting, with the exception of Councillor Manning-Martin. The City budget, including the School portion of the budget, was presented by His Honor the Mayor, the Director of Finance, and the School Superintendent. Department heads and two members of the School Committee were available to help address questions from the City Council, of which there were many. Each major section of the budget was voted individually. These were: General Government; Public Safety; Public Services; Council on Aging; Human Services, excluding Council on Aging; Culture & Recreation; Debt Service; Employee Benefits; Education; and Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School Assessment; and all such motions passed. The Council on Aging budget was voted separately from the Human Services budget because of Councillor Melville's recusal. The aggregation of those individual motions is the full Fiscal Year 2025 budget for the City of Peabody, which I now put to the Council for a final vote with the following motion. (Report received)

P292-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – BE IT ORDERED by the City Council of the City of Peabody to approve and adopt the Fiscal Year 2025 City of Peabody Operating Budget, as submitted by His Honor the Mayor, in the amount of $197,352,196.00 as follows:

Total Personnel Services:	$149,074,630.00
Total Operating Expenses:	$ 48,277,566.00
	$197,352,196.00

(Carried 10-0; Councillor Manning-Martin absent)

P293-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – Budgets for the Water & Sewer Enterprise and the Recreation Enterprise were presented by the City Auditor and reviewed by the Committee. Councillors' questions regarding the enterprises were addressed by the administration and the enterprise staff. A motion was made to reduce the skating rink personnel budget by $50,000 and that motion prevailed. Motions were made to approve each enterprise individually and both motions passed. I now bring those two motions forward for a final vote. (Report received)

P294-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – BE IT ORDERED by the City Council of the City of Peabody that in accordance with the provisions of Section 53F ½ of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the City Council of the City of Peabody approve and adopt the Fiscal Year 2025 Water & Sewer Enterprise Budget, as submitted by His Honor the Mayor, in the amount of $21,646,000.00 as follows:

Total Personnel Services:	$ 4,489,461.00
Total Operating Expenses:	$17,156,539.00
	$21,646,000.00

(Carried 10-0; Councillor Manning-Martin absent)

P295-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – BE IT ORDERED by the City Council of the City of Peabody that in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 53F ½ of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws the City Council of the City of Peabody approve and adopt the Fiscal Year 2025 Recreation Enterprise Budget, which includes the McVann O'Keefe Memorial Skating Rink and the Meadow Golf Course Budgets, as submitted by His Honor the Mayor, and further amended by the City Council, in the amount of $2,844,400.00 as follows:

Total Personnel Services:	$1,334,177.00
Total Operating Expenses:	$1,510,223.00
	$2,844,400.00

(Carried 10-0; Councillor Manning-Martin absent)

P296-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – I'd like to thank the mayor and his staff for the preparation that went into the budget and how it was presented. I'd specifically like to thank the Director of Finance and the Auditor, Mr. Gingras and Ms. Martin, for their command of the data, which enables them to provide thorough answers to all councillors' questions. There were three other items on the agenda. The first was a transfer request needed to adjust various Fiscal '24 budget payroll and expense accounts between departments, along with the revolving and free cash balance, to close Fiscal 2024 operating budget and the Endicott bridge repairs. This request was presented by the Director of Finance and resulted in the following motion. (Report received)

P297-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – MOVE TO approve the following transfer, as submitted by His Honor the Mayor, under date of June 3, 2024:

FROM: City Budget, Revolving Funds, Free Cash		**TO:**	
City Budget - Payroll Accounts (Various Funding Accounts)	$317,300.00	Departments Payroll Accounts	$317,300.00
Revolving Funds (Various Funding Accounts)	152,000.00	Revolving Payroll and Expense Accounts	152,000.00
City Budget - Expense Accounts (Various Funding Accounts)	400,150.00	Department Expenses	1,384,150.00
Unreserved Fund Balance (Free Cash)	984,000.00		
(See Attached List) Total From:	$1,853,450.00	(See Attached List) Total To:	$1,853,450.00

(Carried 10-0; Councillor Manning-Martin absent)

P298-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – The next item on the agenda was a CPC transfer request. This request was presented by the Director of Finance and resulted in the following motion. (Report received)

P299-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee - MOVE TO approve the following transfer, as submitted by His Honor the Mayor, under date of May 28, 2024:

FROM:		**TO:**	
270-0000-33022 CPC - Historic Preservation	$24,700.00	270-1811-58563-2024-00-0505 CPC - Cemetery Rest-Curtis-Very	$5,800.00
		270-1811-58563-2024-00-0394 CPC - Cemetery Rest- Old South	$2,200.00
		270-1811-58563-2024-00-0516 CPC - Cemetery Rest-Jacobs	$16,700.00

(Carried 10-0; Councillor Manning-Martin absent)

P300-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – The next item on the agenda was a request to adopt the provisions of Mass. General Law, Chapter 59, Section 5, Clauses 22G and 22H. Clause 22G permits veterans and their surviving spouses to be eligible for property tax exemption under certain circumstances. Clause 22H permits surviving parents of deceased veterans to be eligible for property tax exemption under certain circumstances. Late communication 3 was provided as supplemental information. (Report received)

P301-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – MOVE TO receive, under suspension of the rules, Late 3 communication from Susan Antonellis, Assessor, regarding MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, 22G & 22H.
(Unanimous)

P302-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – This request was presented to us by the Director of Finance and resulted in the following motion. (Report received.)

P303-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – BE IT ORDERED by the City Council of the City of Peabody to adopt the Clause 22G and Clause 22H under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5:

Twenty-second G. In any city or town that accepts this clause, real estate that is the domicile of a person but is owned by a trustee, conservator or other fiduciary for the person's benefit if the real estate would be eligible for exemption under clause Twenty-second, Twenty-second A, Twenty-second B, Twenty-second C, Twenty-second D, Twenty-second E or Twenty-second F if the person were the owner of the real estate.

Twenty-second H. Real estate to the full amount of the taxable valuation of real property of the surviving parents or guardians of soldiers and sailors, members of the National Guard and veterans who: (i) during active duty service, suffered an injury or illness documented by the United State Department of Veterans Affairs or a branch of the armed forces that was a proximate cause of their death; or (ii) are missing in action with a presumptive finding of death as a result of active duty service as members of the armed forces of the United States; provided, however, that the real estate shall be occupied by the surviving parents or guardians as the surviving parents' or guardians' domicile; and provided further, that the surviving parents or guardians shall have been domiciled in the commonwealth for the 5 consecutive years immediately before the date of filing for an exemption pursuant to this clause or the soldier or sailor, member of the National Guard or veteran was domiciled in the commonwealth for not less than 6 months before entering service.

Surviving parents or guardians eligible for an exemption pursuant to this clause shall be eligible regardless of when the soldier, sailor, member of the National Guard or veteran died or became missing in action with a presumptive finding of death; provided, however, that the exemption shall only apply to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2019. Such exemption shall be available until such time as the surviving parents or guardians are deceased. No real estate shall be so exempt which has been conveyed to the surviving parents or guardians to evade taxation. This clause shall take effect upon its acceptance by any city or town.
(Carried 10-0; Councillor Manning-Martin absent)

P304-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – The next item was late communication 1, which was received by the committee on June 18th and considered by the committee on June 20th. (Report received)

P305-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – MOVE TO receive, under suspension of the rules, Late 1 communication from His Honor the Mayor regarding Transfer of Funds – CPC – Scanning Preservation Payroll Records $11,405.56.
(Unanimous)

P306-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – Late communication 1 was a CPC transfer request. This was a request presented by the Director of Finance and resulted in the following motion. (Report received)

P307-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – MOVE TO approve the following transfer, as submitted by His Honor the Mayor, under date of June 14, 2024:

FROM:	**TO:**
270-0000-33022 CPC-Historic Preservation $11,405.56	270-1811-58563-2023-00-00-00-0511 CPC-Scanning Preservation Payroll Records $11,405.56

(Carried 10-0; Councillor Manning-Martin absent)

P308-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – Late communication 2 was received by the committee on June 18th and considered by the committee on June 20th. (Report received)

P309-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – MOVE TO receive, under suspension of the rules, Late 2 communication from His Honor the Mayor regarding Transfer of Funds – Community Preservation Act Open Space $219,675.
(Unanimous)

P310-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – Late communication 2 was another CPC transfer request. This request was presented by the Director of Finance, Mr. Gingras, and resulted in the following motion. (Report received)

P311-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – MOVE TO approve the following transfer, as submitted by His Honor the Mayor, under date of June 14, 2024:

FROM:		**TO:**	
270-01811-58562-2023 -0392 Community Preservation Act CPC - Lake and Pond Restoration	$219,675.00	270-0000-33021 Community Preservation Act Open Space	$219,675.00

(Carried 10-0; Councillor Manning-Martin absent)

P312-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – Late communication 5 was received by the committee on June 20th and considered by the committee on June 20th. (Report received)

P313-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – MOVE TO receive, under suspension of the rules, Late 5 communication from His Honor the Mayor regarding Transfer of Funds – CPC – James Street Eco-Campus $372,095.43.
(Unanimous)

P314-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – Late communication 5 was another CPC transfer request -- an administrative matter -- to return some money to the Open Space account. This request was presented by the Director of Finance, Mr. Gingras, and resulted in the following motion. (Report received)

P315-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – MOVE TO approve the following transfer, as submitted by His Honor the Mayor, under date of June 20, 2024:

FROM:		**TO:**	
270-1811-58562-2022-00-0504 CPC – James Street Eco-Campus	$372,095.43	270-0000-33021 CPC – Open Space	$372,095.43

(Carried 10-0; Councillor Manning-Martin absent)

P316-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – Late communication 4 was received by the committee on June 20th and considered by the committee on June 20th. (Report received)

P317-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – MOVE TO receive, under suspension of the rules, Late 4 communication from His Honor the Mayor regarding Section 23-16 Article II Police Department entitled Establishment and Composition.
(Unanimous)

P318-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – Late 4 was a Police Department matter brought up during the budget sessions related to the number of sergeants and that matter was determined to be time sensitive. The request was presented by the Mayor and resulted in the following motion. (Report received)

P319-24 COUNCILLOR MCGINN – Reporting for the Finance Committee – MOVE TO amend, draft, and advertise Section 23-16, Article 2 Police Department entitled Establishment and Composition by deleting (c) and inserting a new section (c) The number of sergeants authorized in Subsection (a) of this section shall revert to 15, unless the City Council votes to maintain 16 positions on or before July 1, 2025.
(Carried 10-0; Councillor Manning-Martin absent)

MOVED: MOVE TO adjourn. Special Meeting of the Peabody City Council adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

SUBMITTED TO HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, JUNE 24, 2023
RETURNED BY HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, JUNE 24, 2023

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