

**WESTBROOK CITY COUNCIL  
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY APRIL 11, 2019  
WESTBROOK HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM 114**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by Finance Committee Chair Michael Foley.

**City Councilors Present:** Victor Chau (Ward 2); Michael T. Foley (At-Large); Ann E. Peoples (At-Large); Brendan Rielly (Ward 1); Gary Rairdon (Ward 4, President)

**City Councilors Absent:** Anna A. Turcotte (Ward 3, Vice President)

**Other City Officials Present:** Steven Berry (School Committee Member, Ward 1); Jerre Bryant (City Administrator); Michael Corey (Fire Inspector); Stephen Fields (Assistant City Administrator/Director of Human Resources); Dean Flanagan (Westbrook School Department Director of Operations); Angela Holmes (City Clerk); Suzanne Joyce (School Committee Member, At-Large); Suzanne Knight (Finance Director); Dr. Peter Lancia (Westbrook School Department Superintendent); Jodi Mezzanotte (Westbrook School Department Assistant Superintendent); Noreen Poitras (School Committee Member, Ward 3); Michael Popovic (School Committee Member, Ward 4); Suzanne Salisbury (School Committee Member, At-Large); Michael Sanphy (Mayor); Beth Schultz (School Committee Member, Ward 5); Steven Sloan (Deputy Fire Chief)

**SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET**

At 6:34 PM, Committee Chair Foley invited Dr. Lancia to the podium to present the Westbrook School Department's budget.

The following individuals presented comments and/or questions: School Committee Member Joyce, Committee Chair Foley, Ms. Knight, Councilor Rielly, Councilor Chau, President Rairdon, Councilor Peoples, Christine Latini (170 Pierce Street); School Committee Member Popovic,

Motion to direct the School Committee to reduce the proposed school budget by \$500,000.

Moved by President Rairdon, seconded by Committee Chair Foley.

The following individuals presented comments and/or questions: Committee Chair Foley, Councilor Peoples

**Motion failed. (Vote 2-3-1)**

Ayes: Foley, Rairdon

Nays: Chau, Peoples, Rielly

Absent: Turcotte

**PUBLIC TRANSIT**

At 7:35 PM, Committee Chair Foley invited Greg Jordan (General Manager of Greater Portland Metro) to the podium to present an update on the Greater Portland Metro's operations. City Council previously adopted the Metro budget earlier in the year.

The following individuals presented comments and/or questions: Committee Chair Foley, Councilor Chau

## **REVENUE**

At 8:08 PM, Committee Chair Foley invited Ms. Knight and Mr. Bryant to present the revenue budget.

The following individuals presented comments and/or questions: Councilor Peoples, Councilor Chau, Committee Chair Foley, Councilor Rielly

## **REVISIT LIST**

At 8:43 PM, Committee Chair Foley invited Dr. Bruce Dyer to the podium to discuss the Social Services budget.

The following individuals presented comments and/or questions: Committee Chair Foley, President Rairdon, Councilor Rielly

Motion to reduce funding for Intercultural Community Center by \$10,000.

Moved by President Rairdon, seconded by Committee Chair Foley.

Committee Chair Foley opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke: Dr. Dyer, Committee Chair Foley

**Motion failed. (Vote 2-3-1)**

Ayes: Rairdon, Rielly

Nays: Chau, Foley, Peoples

Absent: Turcotte

Motion to restore previously cut funding to Community Dental and Morrison Center.

Moved by Councilor Rielly, seconded by Councilor Peoples.

As a point of order, Mr. Bryant noted that only someone from the prevailing side of the vote to eliminate the funding may make a motion to reconsider. Councilor Rielly agreed to restate his motion.

Motion to add \$4,000 to Community Dental and \$1,000 to Morrison Center.

Moved by Councilor Rielly, seconded by Councilor Peoples.

Committee Chair Foley opened the floor for comments on the motion. No one spoke.

**Motion failed (Vote 2-3-1)**

Ayes: Peoples, Rielly

Nays: Chau, Foley, Rairdon

Absent: Turcotte

The following individuals presented comments and/or questions: Councilor Foley, Dr. Dyer

Motion to reduce funding for all agencies by 10%, and to use those eliminated funds to fund Big Brothers Big Sister, Day One and SARS of Southern Maine at 90%.

Moved by Committee Chair Foley, seconded by President Rairdon.

Committee Chair Foley opened the floor for comments on the motion. No one spoke.

**Motion carried. (Vote 3-2-1)**

Ayes: Chau, Foley, Rairdon

Nays: Peoples, Rielly

Absent: Turcotte

### **BOARD, COMMISSION, COMMITTEE SALARIES**

At 9:07 PM, Committee Chair Foley invited Mr. Fields and Mr. Bryant to present additional information on board and committee pay rates.

The following individuals presented comments and/or questions: Committee Chair Foley, Councilor Peoples

Motion to look into creating an Appreciation Day for various volunteers, by adding \$2,000 to the budget in lieu of increased or additional stipends, funds to be added to the Employee Recognition budget line.

Moved by Councilor Peoples, seconded by Councilor Chau.

Committee Chair Foley opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke: Committee Chair Foley, Mr. Bryant

**Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.**

### **CALL COMPANY WAGES**

At 9:16 PM, Committee Chair Foley invited Deputy Chief Sloan to the podium to provide additional information on Call Company wages.

The following individuals presented comments and/or questions: Committee Chair Foley, Councilor Chau

Motion to increase the pay to the average rate.

Moved by Committee Chair Foley.

**Motion failed for lack of second.**

The following individuals presented comments and/or questions: Deputy Chief Sloan, Mayor Sanphy

### **FIRE INSPECTION FEES**

At 9:34 PM, Committee Chair Foley invited Deputy Chief Sloan to discuss fire inspection fees.

The following individuals presented comments and/or questions: Councilor Chau

Councilor Chau requested the administration to investigate the creation of a Fire Truck Fund, to set aside a portion of fire fee revenues to help offset the cost of Fire equipment and vehicles.

### **REFERRING THE BUDGET**

Motion to refer the FY 2019-2020 budget to City Council for adoption.

Moved by Councilor Rielly, seconded by Councilor Chau.

Committee Chair Foley opened the floor for comments on the motion. No one spoke.

**Motion carried (Vote 3-2-1)**

Ayes: Chau, Peoples, Rielly

Nays: Foley, Rairdon

Absent: Turcotte

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 9:47pm.

Moved by President Rairdon, seconded by Councilor Rielly.

**Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.**