

City of Fall River Massachusetts

Office of the City Clerk

ALISON M. BOUCHARD
CITY CLERK

INÊS LEITE
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MEETING: Monday, August 31, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, One Government Center

PRESENT: President Cliff Ponte, presiding;
Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Michelle M. Dionne,
Bradford L. Kilby, Pam Laliberte-Lebeau, Trott Lee,
Christopher M. Peckham, Leo O. Pelletier and Linda M. Pereira

ABSENT: None

IN ATTENDANCE: Mary Sahady, Director of Financial Services

President Cliff Ponte called the meeting to order at 10:01 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by a salute to the flag and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium. Due to the COVID-19 Essential Services Advisory, this meeting was closed to the public. The meeting was available for viewing at <http://frgtv.fredtv.us> and Channel 18 and citizen input was to be submitted by email to city_council@fallriverma.org by August 31, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. to be read at the meeting.

1. Citizen Input None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Finance:

2. Order – Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Municipal Budget
A motion was made by Councilor Bradford L. Kilby and seconded by Councilor Christopher M. Peckham to approve the Fiscal Year 2021 Municipal Budget.

Councilor Linda M. Pereira stated she still has questions given the uncertainty of the budget but feels that her back is against the wall to vote on the budget given the timeframe. She stated that she is concerned that there will need to be layoffs in the next fiscal year and she would hate to see cuts made to public safety. She said she will support the budget but has reservations. Councilor Linda M. Pereira asked Council President Cliff Ponte what would happen if the budget did not pass. Council President Cliff Ponte stated the City would need to go into another one twelfth budget.

Councilor Shawn E. Cadime stated he is not in support of the budget due to the structural deficit, which will result in the need for significant cuts in Fiscal Year 2022. He stated that there is too much uncertainty, difficult decisions need to be made, and what is best for the City of Fall River needs to be done.

Councilor Michelle M. Dionne stated she shares the same sentiment as Councilor Shawn E. Cadime. She does not feel comfortable approving a budget with a structural deficit and feels that more time is needed for it to be vetted properly. A motion was made by Councilor Michelle M. Dionne and seconded by Councilor Shawn E. Cadime for the Administration to prepare a September Continuing Appropriation Budget for Fiscal Year 2021.

Councilor Pam Laliberte-Lebeau asked Council President Cliff Ponte if he had asked the Administration to prepare a September Appropriation Budget. Council President Cliff Ponte stated that the Mayor would like to see the Municipal Budget that is before the Council passed but that he had indicated to the Director of Financial Services to begin preparations for an appropriation order if the Municipal Budget did not pass. The Director of Financial Services stated that she would need about an hour to complete the order. Councilor Pam Laliberte-Lebeau said that she originally planned on supporting the budget, but could not at this time knowing one third of her colleagues needed more time to review it.

Councilor Trott Lee stated that he feels the budget is unstable. He said that he wants to see public safety funded, but he does not feel confident moving into Fiscal Year 2022 with the deficits in the current proposed budget. Therefore, he will not be supporting the budget.

Councilor Bradford L. Kilby stated that the Council is sending mixed messages to the Administration. The Administration wanted to prepare another one month continuing appropriation, but the Council requested a level funded budget. The Administration fulfilled the Council's request and the Council is now requesting a one month appropriation. He said the pandemic is playing a huge role in the budget creating many unknowns, and he requested a roll call to act on his earlier motion that was seconded to approve the budget.

Councilor Linda M. Pereira stated that all departments need more staffing but there are no funds to support the positions. She stated whether you vote on a one month appropriation or on the budget that is before them, there is still no money.

Councilor Shawn E. Cadime said that is his exact point. He stated that by approving a budget to allow for positions in public safety, it creates a structural deficit that cannot be supported in the next budget and layoffs will need to be made and should be made now. Councilor Shawn E. Cadime further stated that he has never sent mixed messages to the Administration because he has stated on numerous occasions that he is not in support of the budget and cannot support a budget the City cannot afford.

Council President Cliff Ponte stated that the City Council took a bold stance to prioritize to fund and support public safety. He stated that he is not comfortable hearing his colleagues feel rushed into making a decision and he cannot support the budget with that premise. He stated that further work will need to be done by the Administration and the Finance Team.

Councilor Bradford L. Kilby stated that the Council had sufficient time to review and deliberate the budget. He understands Councilor Shawn E. Cadime's concerns, but given the circumstances the City is facing with the effects of pandemic he still feels that the budget should be approved.

Councilor Leo O. Pelletier stated that this is the most difficult budget he has been faced with in the many years he has served as a City Councilor. He understands it is not ideal, but feels that the numbers are not going to change by delaying the vote another month, and he will be supporting the budget.

On a motion made by Councilor Pam Laliberte-Lebeau and seconded by Councilor Michelle M. Dionne, it was unanimously voted to waive the rules to allow the Director of Financial Services to speak.

The Director of Financial Services stated that without additional revenue in the current proposed budget, cuts will need to be made to public safety. She said she is aware that they are funding public safety with a structural deficit, but they are working on a number of ways to fix that deficit for the next fiscal year. She further stated that the Council has had the budget since August 6, 2020 and on September 8, 2020 the figures are not going to change. Councilor Shawn E. Cadime said that it does not make sense to support a budget that the Director of Financial Services acknowledges as having a structural deficit. The Director of Financial Services requested that the Council reduce the budget rather than reject it. Councilor Shawn E. Cadime stated that the Administration should come back to the Council with potential cuts that can be made.

On the previous motion made by Councilor Bradford L. Kilby and seconded by Councilor Christopher M. Peckham, to approve the Fiscal Year 2021 Municipal Budget, it was voted 4 yeas, 5 nays to adopt the budget order, with Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Michelle M. Dionne, Pam Laliberte-Lebeau, Trott Lee, and Cliff Ponte voting in the negative, and the motion failed to carry.

On motion made by Councilor Shawn E. Cadime and seconded by Councilor Michelle M. Dionne, it was voted 5 yeas, 4 nays, to reject the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Municipal Budget and for the Administration to prepare a September Continuing Appropriation Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 with level services for the Police and Fire Departments, with Councilors Bradford L. Kilby, Christopher M. Peckham, Leo O. Pelletier, and Linda M. Pereira voting in the negative.

Council President Cliff Ponte called for a two minute recess at 10:42 p.m. and convened at 10:49 p.m.

After speaking with the Director of Financial Services, Council President Cliff Ponte said it was determined that the amount of the July Appropriation Order could be carried over to fund the City in the month of September in the amount of \$24,750,167.00. The Director of Financial Services then realized that the School Department is going to need an additional \$13,000,000.00 for the month of September and informed the Council that the appropriation amount would need to be increased. Councilor Bradford L. Kilby said that matters like this cannot be done at the last moment. Councilor Shawn E. Cadime stated that he informed the Administration to be prepared to present a one twelfth budget and they did not follow through. Councilor Shawn E. Cadime then stated that the Administration needs to start respecting the City Council and said that the Jasiel F. Correia II Administration did a better job at managing the City than the current Administration is doing.

Council President called for a five minute recess at 11:01 p.m. to allow the Director of Financial Service to prepare a continuing appropriation order for the month of September and reconvened at 11:27 p.m.

Council President Cliff Ponte stated that the Director of Financial Services prepared an appropriation order for the month of September for Fiscal Year 2021 in the amount of \$40,441,360.00. He further stated that this appropriation will cover the month of September while the Council works with the Administration on the revised proposed operating budget. On a motion made by Councilor Shawn E. Cadime and seconded by Councilor Trott Lee, it was voted 6 yeas, 3 nays, to adopt the September Continuing Appropriation Budget for Fiscal Year 2021, with Councilors Bradford L. Kilby, Christopher M. Peckham, and Linda M. Pereira voting in the negative.

3. Order – Establishing Spending Limits for Fiscal Year 2021 Revolving Funds
On a motion made by Councilor Shawn E. Cadime and seconded by Councilor Michelle M. Dionne, it was unanimously voted to adopt the order.

PRIORITY COMMUNICATION

4. Mayor and order rescinding July and August Continuing Appropriation Budgets for Fiscal Year 2021

On a motion made by Councilor Michelle M. Dionne and seconded by Councilor Shawn E. Cadime, it was unanimously voted to table the matter.

On a motion made by Councilor Christopher M. Peckham and seconded by Councilor Michelle M. Dionne, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 11:30 p.m.

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:

Agenda packet (attached)

DVD of meeting

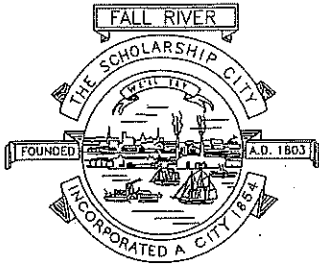
September Continuing Appropriation Budget for Fiscal Year 2021

A true copy. Attest:



City Clerk

In City Council, October 13, 2020
Approved



City of Fall River Massachusetts
Office of the City Clerk

RECEIVED

2020 AUG 27 P 3:06

CITY CLERK _____
FALL RIVER, MA

ALISON M. BOUCHARD
CITY CLERK

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020

INÊS LEITE
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER

7:00 P.M. SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL (OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE MEETING IF THAT MEETING RUNS PAST 7:00 P.M.)
*Due to the COVID-19 Essential Services Advisory, this meeting is closed to the public.
The meeting will be available for viewing at <http://frgtv.fredtv.us> and Channel 18.*

AGENDA

1. Citizen Input
Citizen input must be submitted by email to city_council@fallriverma.org by August 31, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. to be read at the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Finance:

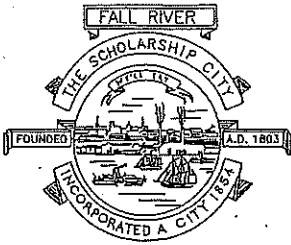
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PRIORITY COMMUNICATION

4. Mayor and order rescinding July and August Continuing Appropriation Budgets for Fiscal Year 2021

Alison M. Bouchard
City Clerk

ADA Coordinator: Gary P. Howayeck, Esq. 508-324-2650



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City of Fall River
Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

PAUL E. COOGAN
Mayor

August 17, 2020

The Honorable City Council
City of Fall River
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

RE: Rescinding July's and August's Continuing Appropriation Budget

Dear Honorable Council Members:

I respectfully request to rescind effective 8/31/2020 both July's and August's Continuing Appropriation Budget of \$24,750,167 approved on June 23, 2020 and of \$17,589,240 approved July 14, 2020, respectively. We submitted the FY21 Municipal Budget for your review on August 11, 2020.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

2020 AUG 17 A 11:49

RECEIVED

City of Fall River, *In City Council*

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ORDERED, that the continuing appropriation budgets for the months of July and August in Fiscal Year 2021 listed below are hereby rescinded effective August 31, 2020.

- \$24,750,167 for the month of July
- \$17,589,240 for the month of August

City of Fall River, In City Council

BE IT ORDERED, that the One Twelfth Budget for the month of September 2020 from various funds, is \$40,441,630 as follows:

A. for the purpose of GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
1.	from the General Fund, for MAYOR, Salaries	\$	24,501
2.	from the General Fund, for MAYOR, Expenses	\$	375
3.	from the General Fund, for CITY COUNCIL, Salaries	\$	21,283
4.	from the General Fund, for CITY COUNCIL, Expenses	\$	83
5.	from the General Fund, for CITY CLERK, Salaries	\$	28,462
6.	from the General Fund, for CITY CLERK, Expenses	\$	4,108
	from the General Fund, for CITY CLERK, Capital	\$	-
7.	from the General Fund, for ELECTIONS, Salaries	\$	56,445
8.	from the General Fund, for ELECTIONS, Expenses	\$	13,687
9.	from the General Fund, for VETERANS' BENEFITS, Salaries	\$	22,692
10.	from the General Fund, for VETERANS' BENEFITS, Expenses	\$	193,905
		\$	365,541
B. for the purpose of ADMINISTRATION			
1.	from the General Fund, for ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, Salaries	\$	95,858
2.	from the General Fund, for ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, Expenses	\$	160,923
	from the General Fund, for ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, Capital	\$	176,600
3.	from the General Fund, for CLAIMS AND DAMAGES	\$	-
		\$	433,381
C. for the purpose of FINANCIAL SERVICES			
1.	from the General Fund, for FINANCIAL SERVICES, Salaries	\$	110,027
2.	from the General Fund, for FINANCIAL SERVICES, Expense	\$	143,479
		\$	253,506
D. for the purpose of FACILITIES MAINTENANCE			
1.	from the General Fund, for FACILITIES, Salaries	\$	71,565
2.	from the General Fund, for FACILITIES, Expense	\$	169,195
3.	from the General Fund, for FACILITIES, Transfer to Revolving	\$	-
		\$	240,760
E. for the purpose of COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE			
1.	from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE, Salaries	\$	373,840
2.	from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE, Expense	\$	875,645
	from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE, Capital	\$	-
		\$	1,249,485
F. for the purpose of COMMUNITY SERVICE			
1.	from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY SERVICES, Salaries	\$	210,316
2.	from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY SERVICES, Expense	\$	62,653
3.	from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY SERVICES, Transfer to Demo Lien Revolving	\$	-
4.	from the General Fund, for COMMUNITY SERVICES, Transfer to Vacant Lot Revolving	\$	-
		\$	272,969
G. for the purpose of EDUCATION			
1.	from the General Fund, for SCHOOL APPROPRIATION	\$	13,330,000
2.	from the General Fund, for SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION	\$	1,227,500
3.	from the General Fund, for EDUCATION-ALL OTHER	\$	967,205
		\$	15,524,705
H. for the purpose of COMMUNITY PROTECTION			
1.	from the General Fund, for POLICE, Salaries	\$	1,649,059
2.	from the General Fund, for POLICE, Expenses	\$	380,784
3.	from the General Fund, for POLICE, Capital	\$	-
4.	from the General Fund, for HARBOR MASTER, Salaries	\$	2,500
5.	from the General Fund, for HARBOR MASTER, Expenses	\$	25,800
6.	from the General Fund, for FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES, Salaries	\$	1,221,792
7.	from the General Fund, for FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES, Expenses	\$	69,719
8.	from the General Fund, for FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES, Capital	\$	-
		\$	3,349,654
I. for the purpose of OTHER GOVERNMENTAL EXPENSES			
1.	from the General Fund, for DEBT - SERVICE	\$	-
2.	from the General Fund, for INSURANCE	\$	3,360,417
3.	from the General Fund, for PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS	\$	12,862,453
4.	from the General Fund, for RESERVE FUND	\$	-
		\$	16,222,870
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET	\$	37,912,870
		\$	37,912,870
	CHERRY SHEET ASSESSMENT	\$	2,524,584
		\$	2,524,584
	OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED	\$	4,176
		\$	4,176
	GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET	\$	40,441,630
		\$	40,441,630