



City Council

Special Meeting

~ Draft ~

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103
<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

Tasheena Davis
4:37876589

Monday, December 7, 2020

5:30 PM

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

I. Call to Order

5:30 PM Meeting called to order on December 7, 2020 at Virtual Meeting (Zoom) , Virtual Meeting, N/A, NA.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Adam Gomez	Ward 1 Councilor	Remote	
Tracye Whitfield	Councilwoman	Remote	
Victor Davila	Councilman	Remote	
Michael A. Fenton	Ward 2 Councilor	Remote	
Sean Curran	Councilman	Remote	
Orlando Ramos	Vice President - Ward 8 Councilor	Remote	
Kateri B. Walsh	At-Large Councilor	Remote	
Marcus J Williams	Vice-President	Remote	
Timothy C. Allen	Ward 7 Councilor	Remote	
Jesse Lederman		Remote	
Melvin A. Edwards	Ward 3 Councilor	Remote	
Malo Brown	Councilman	Remote	
Justin Hurst	President	Remote	

II. Public Portion

A. *The Council will consider an Order setting a residential factor for Fiscal Year 2021.*

III. Orders

1. Order (ID # 5960)

Supplemental Budget - Decrease in State Aid - \$15,787,024.00

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

TJ Plante, CAFO, addressed the Council. He stated that SPS is asking to amend their budget by a decrease in the amount of the order. He explained they anticipated this reduction. In order to set the tax rate, this order needs to be approved first.

Councilor Allen asked if there will be any other votes required for the SPS budget.

Mr. Plante stated that SPS had a contingency plan in place already so this does not impact their projected expenditures. They were hoping for the student opportunity act would be approved. Once this is passed, a revised budget will be presented to the School Committee.

Councilor Davila asked if this is 15 million dollars less from the state.

Mr. Plante stated it was but the budget passed by the School Committee anticipated this.

The Council voted unanimously to approve the order.

The Council voted unanimously to suspend Rule 19 and take the matter up in one vote.

ATTACHMENTS:

- CAFO Cert - Supplemental Budget (DOCX)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
AYES:	Gomez, Whitfield, Davila, Fenton, Curran, Ramos, Walsh, Williams, Allen, Lederman, Edwards, Brown, Hurst

2. Order (ID # 5965)

Transfer - FY20 Certified Free Cash to FY21 Estimated Revenues - \$1,000,000.00

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Transfer - FY20 Certified Free Cash to FY21 Estimated Revenues - \$1,000,000.00

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

TJ Plante, Chief Administrative and Finance Officer, addressed the Council. He stated this transfer is being used to reduce the tax rate.

The Council voted unanimously to approve the order.

The Council voted unanimously to suspend Rule 19 and take the matter up in one vote.

ATTACHMENTS:

- CAFO Cert - Free Cash to FY21 General Fund Revenues (DOCX)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
AYES:	Gomez, Whitfield, Davila, Fenton, Curran, Ramos, Walsh, Williams, Allen, Lederman, Edwards, Brown, Hurst

3. Order (ID # 5971)

Tax Factor-FY 21

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Richie Allen, Assessor, addressed the Council with a written presentation. He stated that the dates included in the presentation were set by the state and were set prior to the pandemic starting. He explained that June 30th is the physical status date, which means whatever was on the property on that date is taxed. He stated there has been a responsible balance struck between residential and commercial properties with residential being taxed at \$18.90 and the commercial rate staying at \$39.23.

Councilor Whitfield stated that some relief for taxpayers is better than none. She explained more creative ways are going to be required but that will take time and effort. She thanked Nancy Creed and Freddie Lopez, representatives of the business community, for aiding in the process and supporting the proposed rate.

Councilor Walsh congratulated the subcommittee for working so hard and for everyone coming together.

Councilor Lederman asked what the average tax bill would be for a residence.

Mr. Richie stated that there is no average as values range. He stated for a home valued around \$161,000 last year the tax bill would increase by around \$123.00.

Councilor Gomez thanked Councilor Whitfield for her hard work on this issue.

Councilor Ramos stated that residents need abatement info as this is important for homes being over valued.

Nancy Creed representing the business community stood in full support of the rate.

Freddie Lopez attempted to speak but was having technical issues.

Councilor Gomez made a motion to amend the order to include a rate of .78400 to the last sentence of the order, seconded by Councilor Whitfield. All being in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The Council voted unanimously to approve the amended order.

RESULT:	ADOPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
AYES:	Gomez, Whitfield, Davila, Fenton, Curran, Ramos, Walsh, Williams, Allen, Lederman, Edwards, Brown, Hurst