



**City of Bristol
Special Board of Finance Meeting
April 15, 2019**

A special meeting of the Board of Finance was held on Monday, April 1, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, Connecticut. The following were in attendance: Chairperson John Smith, Vice Chairman Orlando Calfe, Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Commissioners Ron Burns, Jake Carrier, Nicolas Jones, Mike LaMothe, Marie O'Brien and Cheryl Thibeault. Also present from the Comptroller's Office: Diane Waldron and Skip Gillis.

April 8, 2019

Ladies and Gentleman:

The Board of Finance will hold a Special Meeting on Monday, April 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, Connecticut.

Agenda

- 1. Call to order.**
- 2. To discuss the 2019-2020 budget and to take any action as necessary**
- 3. Adjournment**

**PER ORDER OF THE CHAIRPERSON
John Smith**

- 1. Call to order**

Chairperson Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

- 2. To discuss the 2019-2020 budget and to take any action as necessary**

Diane reviewed where the Board left off last week after the Budget Workshop. The proposed 2019-2020 City budget is \$201,706,570, an increase of \$7,297,385 or 3.75%; of this increase 1.07% is for the General City, .49% for Debt Service and 2.19% for Education. The mill rate increase is 1.34 mills or a 3.63% tax increase. The topics to discuss tonight for decisions includes revenues, ECS, Expenditures, Bristol/Burlington Health District, Health Insurance, Teachers' Retirement Contribution and the Capital Budget.

Diane reviewed proposed revenue increase including eliminating state funding for the Enterprise Zone, \$100,000 for the Housing PILOT the City receives, and increase Building Permits by \$50,000 and Interest General Fund by \$75,000.

Chairman Smith questioned if the City uses remote deposit capture. Diane stated the sooner the money is in the bank, it will earn interest. She will request an update from the Treasurer's Office on the status of implementing remote deposit capture.

Diane reviewed ECS for the current year and for fiscal year 2020. The Alliance grant for Fiscal Year 2019 is \$3,607,195, an increase of \$410,831 over the prior year. At the time the budget was adopted this amount was included in the ECS amounts provided by the State. Subsequent to budget adoption clarification was provided that this increase was applied to Alliance funding, which went directly to the Board of Education. For fiscal years ending June 30, 2020 and 2021, the Commissioner of Education shall pay fifty percent of the amount of any aid increase to the town designated as an alliance district and such town shall pay all such funds to the local board of education. Diane stated it is a matter of interpretation for ECS for next year, if the funds come to the City or are turned over to the Board of Education. If the ECS grant is reduced, the Board of Education budget would also be reduced, if it is used for alliance versus operating.

There was a meeting last week regarding the ED001 filing and SPED audit performed by the State Department of Education. The auditors did not find any substantial changes and did not recommend changes to the ECS amount for the City. Chris Wilson stated the Board of Education can ask for special legislation as six students were omitted from the report, resulting in a loss of approximately \$221,000. Dr. Moreau stated this was from the 2016/17 school year where six student were left off the report, and statute is that you cannot add to the report. The BOE cannot figure out whose error the omission was as there was a SPEC Accountant at the time who had left, along with the Business Manager and the consultant handled the filing of the report. The spreadsheet he receive may not have been accurate.

Diane reviewed proposed expenditure revisions. Operating Transfers Out - Internal Service is reduced by \$150,000 for \$100,000 to Health Benefits and \$50,000 Workers' Compensation. An additional \$100,000 will be reduced in the Board of Education's budget for Health Benefits using \$200,000 of Health Benefits' Fund Balance. Operating Transfers Out - Capital Projects was reduced by \$150,000 moving the Parks Master Plan project from cash to bonding. The Teachers' Retirement contribution has been removed at \$69,040 and Contractual Obligations reduced by \$100,000.

Commissioner Calfe stated he liked the whole budget process this year, there was clarity, the Comptroller's Office did their due diligence and explained the mill rate. Commissioner LaMothe stated Departments have had to put on hold the last few years. Commission Jones stated there are necessary increases and cut backs where needed. Commissioner O'Brien stated the requests were at 6.75% for the City and now at 2.41%, Debt Service and Capital was at 12.56% and is now at 8.41% and Education was at 7.71% and now was 3.73%. Commissioner Thibeault stated she is not comfortable with the Wifi Capital Project and doesn't feel it is an area the City should venture into.

Chairperson Smith stated the City is trying to do things to entice economic growth and increase revenue, it is a balancing act. Again, there is no use of Fund Balance in this budget. Mayor Zoppo-Sassu stated the City is balancing the short term and the long term, there were seven contracts open to clean up, seven full time positions were eliminated as the City is using its resources to be smarter. The abatement of the ESPN digital center is now hitting the Grand List. Most surrounding Towns/Cities are experiencing an increase in their budget this year.

Diane stated we still need to determine what to do with ECS and the City should receive updated Health Insurance numbers in the next few days.

3. Adjournment

Commissioner Calfe made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Thibeault

"To adjourn at 7:05 p.m."

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Attest:


Diane M. Waldron
Board of Finance Clerk