



City of Concord

Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, December 17, 2018

4:30 PM

City Hall
41 Green Street, 2nd Floor Conference
Room

1. Call to Order

Chairman Nyhan called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present: City Councilors - Keith Nyhan (Chairman), Candace White Bouchard, Mark Coen, and Mayor Jim Bouley. City Staff - Tom Aspell, City Manager; Brian LeBrun, Deputy City Manager - Finance; Carlos Baia, Deputy City Manager - Development; Katie Graff, Assistant Finance Director; Chip Chesley, General Services Director; Jay Burgess, Public Properties Superintendent; Jeff Bardwell, Arena Manager; Bob McManus, Management & Budget Director; Rebekah Dougherty, Management & Budget Analyst; and Sue Stevens, Executive Assistant.

Excused: City Councilors Amanda Grady Sexton and Fred Keach.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2018 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

4. Arena Operations

Public Properties Superintendent Jay Burgess presented to the Committee the Arena Advisory Committee's recommendation to serve beer and wine at the Everett Arena for dry floor shows and Concord Youth Hockey games. Alcohol is not permitted at NHIAA events, therefore this would not apply to high school games. Superintendent Burgess indicated that offering beer and wine would allow us to be financially viable in a competitive market. He also indicated that many dry floor shows regularly inquire if we offer this service. Superintendent Burgess noted that the service would be managed by City staff, who would be properly trained. Superintendent Burgess indicated that, based on peer data, he believes we could sell approximately 400 cases of beer annually, and we could see net profits in the \$10,000 - \$15,000 range in the second year.

Committee members expressed concerns with alcohol being served at youth sporting events, although the Concord Youth Hockey League has requested it; the fact that City employees would be managing it; and that the estimated profit margin is very low and dry floor utilization doesn't seem to be decreasing. After much discussion, the Committee agreed to support the proposal and refer it to the full City Council for action.

5. Fiscal Goals

Deputy City Manager Brian LeBrun handed out a copy of the adopted FY 2019 Fiscal Goals. He indicated that City Administration would like to revise two of the goals.

The first goal is Goal C4, relative to increasing the General Fund transfer support of the neighborhood paving program by a certain percentage each year until the full 2% of the tax rate for neighborhood paving is achieved. In FY 2017 and FY 2018, 1/2% was approved in each of those years, and 1/4% was approved in FY 2019. This goal revision would change the FY 2020 amount to 1/4% and adds one additional year, FY 2021 at 1/2%, to achieve the full 2% in FY 2021 instead of 2020.

The second goal is Goal E1, relative to the limit of General Fund debt service to 10% of appropriations. The proposed change is to have the limit be a range between 10% and 14%. The reason for this change is due to the projected debt service expenses as a percent of appropriations through 2024. The current limit of 10% is exceeded in FY 2019 and projected to be exceeded in the next five years, resulting in the recommendation to change the goal to a range between 10% and 14%. Deputy Manager LeBrun indicated that we are at 11.1% this year, and over the next 4-5 years we fall around 13%. Deputy Manager LeBrun also brought attention to Goal E2, relative to the paying off of debt, and noted that the City pays off its debt very quickly.

Councilor Nyhan expressed concern with expanding our debt limits, and suggested that perhaps we should be curtailing our spending. Mayor Bouley responded that he did not feel the City Council has been irresponsible in its spending and that every proposed project is reviewed very carefully by City Council in respect to debt and value to the community.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend the revisions of these goals to the full City Council for action. The motion was unanimously approved on a voice

vote.

6. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:22 PM.