

City of Portland, Maine
Finance Committee
Thursday, September 9th, 2021, 5:00PM via Zoom

PUBLIC RECORD OF MEETING

Complete Public Record of Meeting can be found at the link below:

https://townhallstreams.com/stream.php?location_id=42&id=39605

Attendees: Finance Committee Chair Mavodones, Committee Members: Fournier, Dion & Mayor Snyder, City Councilors: Chong & Ali, City Staff, and Public

5:02 PM – Meeting Called to Order/Introductions

5:04 PM - City of Portland - Revaluation and Tax Billing / Mill Rate Updates

The Committee heard an update from City staff including Tax Assessor Christopher Huff and Finance Director Brendan T. O'Connell on the revaluation process, the tax billing dates and final FY22 mill rate. This was a discussion item only.

5:14 PM - FY22 and FY23 Tax Relief Programs Update

The Committee heard an update from City staff including Tax Assessor Christopher Huff and Finance Director Brendan T. O'Connell on tax relief programs which will be available to Portland residents in FY22 and FY23. In previous Finance Committee meetings many Councilors expressed concern about post-revaluation property tax bills and encouraged staff to develop additional options for property tax relief. During this meeting City staff discussed an expanded Portland Senior Tax Equity Program (P-STEP) for FY22 as part of the bridge program and additional details on a bridge for low income seniors until the State of Maine property tax deferral program is in place in FY23. The Committee Chair opened public comment on the proposed changes to the P-STEP program, but there was none. The committee voted to recommend the changes to the full City Council.

Motion made by Fournier, seconded by Dion (Passed 3-0) Vote Time 5:31 p.m.

5:31 PM - American Rescue Plan Act Funding Updates and Next Steps

The Committee heard updates on public outreach efforts conducted by the City on the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. As a reminder the Monday 9/13 City Council Workshop is an American Rescue Plan Act Funding Community Meeting where the public can provide live testimony. Additionally City staff has released a public health survey, a [Portland business community survey](#), and released a general [American Rescue Plan Act Funding Survey](#). City staff has also met with the Working Waterfront Group, Cumberland County, the City of South Portland, and each City Councilor to discuss ARP priorities. Over 2500 individuals have interacted with the City via these public outreach efforts thus far. In addition to meetings already held, key upcoming ARPA dates are included below:

- 9/9/21 - 4PM - Working Waterfront Group - September 9, 2021 - American Rescue Plan Act Overview & Comment Forum
- 9/9/21 - 5PM - Finance Committee Meeting - American Rescue Plan Act Funding Updates and Next Steps
- 9/13/21 - 5PM - City Council Workshop - American Rescue Plan Act Funding Community Meeting / Public Forum
- 9/23/21 - 5PM - Finance Committee Meeting - American Rescue Plan Act Project Requests & Recommendations Review*

- 10/7/21 - 5PM - Finance Committee Meeting - American Rescue Plan Act Project Recommendations - Public Hearing & Vote
- 10/14/21 - 5PM - Finance Committee Meeting - American Rescue Plan Act Project Recommendations (If Necessary)
- 10/18/21 - 5PM - City Council Meeting - American Rescue Plan Act Funding Recommendations - First Read
- 10/25/21 - 5PM - City Council Workshop - American Rescue Plan Act Funding Recommendations
- 11/1/21 - 5PM - City Council Meeting - American Rescue Plan Act Funding Recommendations - 2nd Read and Vote (Public Hearing)

5:37 PM - Discuss Postponed City Council Agenda Order 25-20/21 - Downtown TIF Amendment / Creative Portland Additional Funding Request

At tonight's meeting City staff addressed postponed City Council agenda Order 259-20/21 Authorizing a 6th Amendment to the Downtown Transit Oriented Development and Omnibus Tax Increment Financing District to Increase Funding to Creative Portland (Sponsored by the Economic Development Committee) and the associated funding request, discussed issues with the request and available funding, and reviewed whether it could be eligible for ARPA support. This discussion will continue at the 9/23 when the Committee will have a more detailed discussion, a public hearing, and potentially take action in the form of a recommendation to the full City Council.

6:17 PM - Adjournment