

City of Portland, Maine
Remote Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 9, 2021
5:00 PM, Remote via ZOOM

AGENDA

ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION

Due to the existence of an emergency or urgent issue the Finance Committee will conduct this meeting by remote methods/technology at the Zoom link provided below, in accordance with the requirements of 1 M.R.S. section 403-B and the City Council's Remote Participation Policy. Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live, a recording will be uploaded to portlandmaine.gov/livestream the next day.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81165767612?pwd=cmdtbWxFb1lhTTRpNXpXZ24zVE9aQT09>

Passcode: 475650

Or One tap mobile :

US: +13126266799,,81165767612#,,, *475650# or

+19292056099,,81165767612#,,, *475650#

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Webinar ID: 811 6576 7612

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1. Introductions

2. City of Portland - Revaluation and Tax Billing/Mill Rate Updates

The Committee will hear 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. It is expected that Portland's final FY22 mill rate will be one of the lowest in Southern Maine and the municipal portion of the mill rate will be the lowest in the entire State. This is a discussion item only.

3. FY22 and FY23 Tax Relief Programs Update

The Committee will hear 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 will discuss 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. Public comment will be taken on the proposed changes to the P-STEP program and the committee may take action to recommend the changes to the full City Council. See attachments for complete details.

4. American Rescue Plan Act Funding Updates and Next Steps

The Committee will hear 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. Discuss Postponed City Council Agenda Order 259-20/21 - Downtown TIF Amendment / Creative Portland Additional Funding Request

At tonight's meeting City staff will address 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, discuss issues with the request and available funding, and review whether it could be eligible for ARPA support. This discussion will continue on 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. Adjournment