



**COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
FINANCE, TAXATION AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

Ginnie Farrell, Chair

Meeting called by: Ginnie Farrell, Chair **Date:** 12-17-20 **Time:** 5:30PM

Invitees/Speakers Francis Cosgrove, Board of Assessment Review (BAR)
Randall Milano, Division of Engineer
David Galin, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Nick Blais, Budget Office
Nick Riley, Budget Office

Committee Members Present: Farrell, Chair O'Brien Doeschate Robinson Balarin

Council Members Present: Fahey, Conti, Hoey and Fahey

City Personnel Present: Michele Andre and Danielle Gillespie

Minutes

Agenda Item (s):

INTERVIEW CANDIDATES FOR THE CITY OF ALBANY BOARD OF ASSESSMENT (BAR)

RESOLUTION NUMBER 115.121.20R

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL CONSENTING TO THE TRANSFER OF UNASSIGNED FUNDS TO COVER WAGE INCREASES OWED UNDER THE ALBANY POLICE SUPERVISORS' ASSOCIATION COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

ORDINANCE NUMBER 42.112.20

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE SALE TO YILI SHKULLAKU OF CITY-OWNED LAND BORDERING 39 BEACH AVENUE, 51 BEACH AVENUE, 54 FOUNTAIN AVENUE, AND 48 FOUNTAIN AVENUE (HURON PAPER STREET)

ORDINANCE 37.102.20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN PURCHASES BY THE CITY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$3,750,000.00 AND AUTHORIZING THE LEASE FINANCING OR THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,750,000.00 SERIAL BONDS OF SAID CITY TO PAY THE COST THEREOF (ENGINEERING – STREET RECONSTRUCTION)

ORDINANCE 38.102.20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN PURCHASES BY THE CITY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$650,000.00 AND AUTHORIZING THE LEASE FINANCING OR THE ISSUANCE OF \$650,000.00 SERIAL BONDS OF SAID CITY TO PAY THE COST THEREOF (ENGINEERING – SIDEWALK RECONSTRUCTION)

ORDINANCE 39.102.20 *As Amended*

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CERTAIN PURCHASES BY THE CITY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$300,000.00 AND AUTHORIZING THE LEASE FINANCING OR THE ISSUANCE OF \$300,000.00 SERIAL BONDS OF SAID CITY TO PAY THE COST THEREOF (ENGINEERING – ADA COMPLIANCE)

Questions and Discussion:

- Council Member Farrell called the meeting to order.
- Council member Hoey provided justification for Ordinance 42.112.20R.
- Council Member Doesschate made a motion to move Ordinance 42.112.20R out of committee with a positive recommendation, which was seconded by Council Member O'Brien. The motion passed unanimously.
- Committee interviewed Francis Cosgrove for the Board of Assessment Review (BAR).
- Council Member Doesschate made a motion to move appoint Francis Cosgrove to the Board of Assessment Review out of committee with a positive recommendation, which was seconded by Council Member O'Brien. Council member Balarin, Fahey, Doesschate and O'Brien spoke on the motion prior to vote. Three yes and one abstain, the motion passed unanimously.
- Council member Farrell and Nick Blais provided justification for Resolution 115.122.20R.
- Council member Doesschate, Balarin and Hoey asked questions in which Nick Blais answered.
- Council Member Doesschate made a motion to move Resolution 115.122.20R out of committee with a positive recommendation, which was seconded by Council Member O'Brien. The motion passed unanimously.
- Committee discussed Resolution 121.122.20R:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 121.122.20R

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF \$5,300,000 FROM THE DEBT RESERVE FUND TO PAY FOR BONDED DEBT OBLIGATIONS

WHEREAS, the City of Albany has created a reserve fund for payment of bonded indebtedness, or "debt reserve fund," as it is authorized to do under section 6-h of the General Municipal Law; and

WHEREAS, per section 6-h of the General Municipal Law, "an expenditure from such a reserve fund may only be made by appropriation pursuant to a resolution of the governing board of the municipal corporation"; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council is, for purposes of section 6-h of the General Municipal Law, the governing of the municipal corporation; and

WHEREAS, the City must make a payment of \$5,300,000 toward its bonded debt obligations by the end of 2020; and

WHEREAS, the adopted 2020 budget budgeted \$1,800,000 for the debt reserve fund; and

WHEREAS, the Budget Office and the Treasurer's Office now jointly request authorization to use an additional \$3,500,000 beyond the \$1,800,000 budgeted in order to meet the \$5,300,000 in bonded debt obligations due by the end of 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Albany hereby approves the expenditure of \$5,300,000 from the City's reserve fund for payment of bonded indebtedness to pay such bonded debt obligations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council approves the use of \$3,500,000 beyond the \$1,800,000 budgeted for the debt reserve in the duly adopted 2020 budget in order to meet this \$5,300,000 bonded debt obligation.

- Nick Blais provided justification for Resolution 121.122.20R
- Council member Doesschate, Balarin and O'Brien asked questions in which Nick Blais, Nick Riley and Council member Farrell answered.
- Council member Doesschate, Farrell, O'Brien and Balarin spoke on Resolution.
- Committee members support passing Resolution 121.122.20R on Monday.
- Randy provided justification for Ordinance 37.102.20 to 39.102.20 As Amended.
- Council member Doesschate asked questions in which Randy Milano answered.
- Council member Doesschate, Balarin, Conti, O'Brien, and Fahey asked question in which Randy Milano answered.
- Council member Farrell and Hoey spoke on the need for sidewalk in their ward.
- Council Member Doesschate made a motion to move Ordinance 37.102.20R out of committee with a positive recommendation, which was seconded by Council Member O'Brien. The motion passed unanimously.
- Council Member Doesschate made a motion to move Ordinance 38.102.20R out of committee with a positive recommendation, which was seconded by Council Member O'Brien. The motion passed unanimously.
- Council Member Doesschate made a motion to move Ordinance 39.102.20R *As Amended* out of committee with a positive recommendation, which was seconded by Council Member Balarin. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Adjourn:

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn, which was duly made, seconded, and passed.

This meeting was held following Governor Cuomo's executive order 202.1. It live streamed on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/albany.commoncouncil/> using Zoom as the meeting platform.

Link to meeting recording: <https://fb.watch/2rKA0XU51O/>