

A **SPECIAL JOINT BUDGET MEETING** of the City Council and the Board of Finance was held on Monday, May 23, 2022. Attendance was in-person and by Zoom. Present at the City Hall Auditorium were Mayor Carbone, City Clerk Carol Anderson, City Comptroller Robin Stanziale, Police Chief William Baldwin, Interim Fire Chief David Tripp, Treasurer Dan Farley, Councilors Drake Waldron, Keri Hoehne, David Oliver, Anne Ruwet, Paul Cavagnero, and Board of Finance Members Christopher Beyus, Christopher Anderson, James Wright, and Laurene Pesce. Attorney Jaime LaMere, Public Works Director Ray Drew, Board of Finance Member Mark Bushka, and Councilor Armand Maniccia joined via Zoom. Board of Finance member Lance Boynton was absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clifton Larson Allen, LLP

On a motion by Mr. Beyus, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board of Finance voted unanimously to appoint Clifton Larson Allen, LLP (CLA), of West Hartford, CT as the City Auditor for FY22.

On a motion by Councilor Waldron, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the City Council voted unanimously to appoint Clifton Larson Allen, LLP (CLA), of West Hartford, CT as the City Auditor for FY22.

BUDGET AMENDMENT APPROVALS:

Building Department Budget:

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously to advance the amended Building Department's budget, at a total of \$397,957, to the Board of Finance for approval.

Councilor Maniccia arrived at 6:33 p.m.

Planning & Zoning

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to advance the amended Planning and Zoning budget, at a total of \$298,381, to the Board of Finance for approval.

Fire Department

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to advance the amended Fire Department's budget, at a total of \$6,281,953, to the Board of Finance for approval.

Police Department

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously to advance the amended Police Department's budget, at a total of \$10,026,163, to the Board of Finance for approval.

Councilor Cavagnero arrived at 6:36 p.m.

Animal Control

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Waldron, the Council voted unanimously to advance the amended Animal Control budget, at a total of \$363,743, to the Board of Finance for approval.

Traffic Maintenance

On a motion by Councilor Hoehne, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to advance the amended Traffic Maintenance budget, at a total of \$556,656, to the Board of Finance for approval.

Public Works Admin

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Hoehne, the Council voted unanimously to advance the amended Public Works Admin budget, at a total of \$178,628, to the Board of Finance for approval.

Engineering Department

On a motion by Councilor Ruwet, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to advance the amended Engineering Department's budget, at a total of \$761,160, to the Board of Finance for approval.

Public Works

On a motion by Councilor Hoehne, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to advance the amended Public Works budget, at a total of \$6,538,226, to the Board of Finance for approval.

Recreation

On a motion by Councilor Maniccia, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Council voted unanimously to advance the amended Recreation budget, at a total of \$557,435, to the Board of Finance for approval.

Pension & Benefits Budget

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to advance the amended Pension & Benefits budget, at a total of \$14,860,725, to the Board of Finance for approval.

City Wide Services

On a motion by Councilor Hoehne, seconded by Councilor Oliver, the Council voted unanimously to advance the amended City Wide Services budget, at a total of \$24,064, to the Board of Finance for approval.

City Department Budgets

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Maniccia, the Council voted unanimously to approve the total proposed City Budget of \$62,077,508, and forward it to the Board of Finance for approval.

Mr. Beyus asked clarification questions on the proposed City Budget, to ensure that the Police Department still had the Deputy Chief position in the budget for a half year, along with how many recruit positions for Police and Fire are included in the budget. Mayor Carbone let him know that the Deputy Chief is in the budget for a half-year position and that there are 4 half-year Police recruits, and 2 Fire recruits.

Mrs. Pesce asked what the mill rate increase would be as of today, Mayor Carbone said as of right now, with the budget requests as is for the City and Board of Education, the mill increase would be over 3 mills.

Councilor Ruwet expressed her concerns regarding the possible mill rate increase.

Mr. Bushka asked how many tax dollars 1 mill provides, City Comptroller Robin Stanziale said 1.8 million per mill. Mr. Bushka also asked how this year's revenue budget compared to last year. Mayor Carbone let him know that the net revenue is down, and that is partly due to the state capping the motor vehicle tax rate at 32.46, and only reimbursing for the prior year's grand list.

Mayor Carbone let the Boards know that to have a 0-mill rate increase they would have to eliminate all of the Board of Education's budget requests, all of the City's budget requests, and an additional \$1.7 million to achieve that.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilor Oliver, seconded by Councilor Ruwet, the Boards voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Heather Abraham, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST:


CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK