



CITY OF DOVER

JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: McConnell Center, Room 305
Meeting Date: Thursday, January 26, 2017
Meeting Time: 7:00 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

City Council Present: Mayor Weston, Deputy Mayor Carrier, Councilor Gasses, Councilor O'Connor, Councilor Shanahan, and Councilor Thibodeaux.

School Board Present: Keith Holt, Matthew Lahr, Carolyn Mebert, Kathleen Morrison.

Amanda Russell arrived at 7:10 pm. Michelle Muffett-Lipinski arrived at 7:25 pm.

Absent: Councilor Ciotti, Councilor Gagnon, Councilor Greenshields, and School Board Vice-Chairperson Andrews Parker

Also Present: Assistant City Manager Parker, General Legal Counsel Blenkinsop, Finance Director Lynch, Business Administrator Simmons, City Clerk Lavertu, and Intern Bethany Smith.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 5, 2016

Deputy Mayor Carrier moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Councilor O'Connor.
Vote: Unanimous.

3. CITIZENS FORUM

Lynn Garcia, 240 Blackwater Road: She spoke against the proposed School Department budget. She spoke about the communication problems between the School District and the public.

Catherine Cheney, 9 Snow's Court: She spoke about the City's tax cap with the Committee. She felt the School Department's budget was supposed to fall within the tax cap.

William DeGrandpre, 21 Danielle Lane: He spoke against the proposed School Department budget. He said senior citizens haven't had a cost of living increase in eight years.

Mayor Weston, seeing no one else wishing to speak, closed the Citizen's Forum.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. TAX CAP CALCULATION

Finance Director Lynch gave an overview on the City's Tax Cap handout to the Committee.

B. SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET UPDATE

Ms. Russell gave an overview of the proposed budget that will keep the school compliant, which is \$1.6 million above the tax cap. She talked about the strategic plan.

Mayor Weston started a discussion about renegotiating contracts with Barrington and Nottingham.



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Mayor Weston said this meeting is to ask questions about the School Department's proposed budget. She talked about the City's budget concerns with the EPA and other federal mandates. She said this budget may be the worst the City and School have had to deal with.

Councilor Thibodeaux talked about following guidelines and the penalties involved. She asked the School Board to let the Council know what has to be done so the Council can understand what is happening.

Ms. Russell talked about the Police Officer that is no longer fully funded by the Police Department. She remembered being told it was sustainable and now they are starting \$93,000 in the hole.

Ms. Muffett-Lipinski talked about labor negotiations and how they're only able to offer 2% increase.

Councilor O'Connor asked for clarification on compliance.

Ms. Russell gave an overview of what compliant entails. She said they are available on the School's website, and is kept up-to-date by the Business Administrator.

C. SCHOOL LABOR CONTRACT UPDATE

Ms. Russell said they are working on contracts. She said the Dover Teachers Union (DTU) may not be completed this year.

Councilor Gasses asked for more clarification on the new positions to help explain why they are needed and how they impact and help students in the classroom.

Ms. Mebert said the School really needs a Data Analyst to gather this information for the Council.

D. SCHOOL CAPITAL RESERVES

Ms. Russell said they have allotments in the budgets, but she will reduce it if the students' needs are not met.

Business Administrator Simmons listed the balances in the reserves.

E. BUDGET COLLABORATION

Mayor Weston said the City is also facing a tough budget, and asked that both parties be careful.

F. OTHER

No discussion.

5. ADJOURN

Councilor Shanahan moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Gasses.

Vote: Unanimous.

Handouts have been archived with the Minutes.