

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**PROPOSED FY 22 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
DATE: MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021

PORTSMOUTH, NH  
TIME: 6:30 PM

Mayor Becksted recited that this is a Remote Meeting via Zoom Conference Call. Per NH RSA 91-A:2 III (b) the Chair has declared COVID-19 Outbreak an emergency and has waived the requirement that a quorum be physically present at the meeting pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8, as extended by Executive Order 2020-25 and Emergency Order #12, Section 3. Members location. All votes will be by roll call.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Becksted call the Special City Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Mayor Becksted, Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors McEachern, Whelan, Lazenby, Kennedy, Huda, Tabor and Trace

**III. PRESENTATION – Karen Conard, City Manager and Judie Belanger, Director of Finance and Administration**

City Manager Conard gave a brief opening statement explaining this is officially kicking off the FY22 Budget season and further stated that the City's response to COVID-19 has shown our operational and financial resilience. She stated she is working with Department Heads on how to come out of COVID carefully and thoughtfully to bring back programs, equipment needed, etc. and to build a budget around goals and objectives.

Finance Director Belanger gave a brief slide presentation regarding the FY22 budget proposal.

**IV. PUBLIC HEARING**

**A. PROPOSED FY JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022 BUDGET**

Mayor Becksted opened the public hearing:

Jackie Cali-Pitts – discussed recreation needs for the city stating that the Indoor Pool, Spinnaker Point and the fields program need to be funded and feels there is federal money that is available for these purposes that should be pursued.

Mary Lou McElwain – requested a separate line item be created under the Dept. of Public Works for pedestrian safety as this is a frequent concern and request from citizens. She explained that the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee deals with requests regarding crosswalks, sidewalks, signage, lights etc. monthly and feels that these need to be coordinated with the Safe Routes to School and have a way to fund the upgrades of our antiquated intersections. etc.

Kelly Cioe – spoke regarding the School budget asking the City Council to support the budget as presented or even a 3% increase as the school cannot reduce their budget any further without impacting staff and services. She stated that our schools make Portsmouth a desirable place to live and need to be prioritized.

Andrew Bagley – spoke in support of the School budget stating he picked Portsmouth to live due to the schools and they need to be funded.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak at the public hearing, Mayor Becksted ended the public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

**Councilor Kennedy moved to keep the public hearing open until June 7, 2021, seconded by Councilor Huda. Motion passed on a unanimous 9-0 roll call vote.**

Mayor Becksted stated that there will also be public comment opportunities at all of the upcoming budget work sessions.

Mayor Becksted asked if there are any guidelines yet on the COVID federal money usage as he is hoping that this can be used to fill the gaps of what was cut last year so that our citizens don't have to make it all up in one year.

City Manager Conard stated that the Treasury released guidelines today and she and staff are trying to get a handle on it at this point.

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

**At 7:24 p.m., Councilor Huda moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor McEachern.**

**Motion passed on a unanimous 9-0 roll call vote.**

Valerie A. French,  
Deputy City Clerk