

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING  
AUGUST 15, 2017**

Mayor Casavant called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Michael Swanton, John McCurry, Jr., Stephen St. Cyr, Robert Quattrone, Jr., Victoria Foley, Norman Belanger, Michael Ready

Marc Lessard arrived at 5:37 p.m.

Laura Seaver arrived at 5:45 p.m.

The Committee, and all who were present, recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Discussion: City Government FY2018 Budget Amendments**

Mayor Casavant explained the different components of the budget that amendments have been proposed for. Each amendment will be considered individually and separately.

City Manager, James Bennett further explained the factors that have led to the budget amendments; specifically, the additional \$900,000 that the School Department received from the State; and the State change in the Homestead Exemption which has resulted in a loss of revenue to the City in the amount of \$170,083.

There is also a recommendation that \$175,000 be put back into the budget as that budget cut was unallocated during the budget process.

*A. Reduce the local share allocated to the School Department by \$450,000*

Motion by Committee member McCurry, seconded by Committee member Swanton to reduce the local share allocated to the School Department by \$450,000.

Vote: 8/1; Committee member St. Cyr opposed.

Committee members McCurry, Swanton, Quattrone, Foley, Belanger, Ready, Seaver and Lessard in favor.

Motion carries.

Motion by Committee member Belanger, seconded by Committee member to further reduce the local share allocated to the School Department by half of the loss in the Homestead Exemption (\$85,000), for a new total reduction of \$535,000.

Vote: 8/1; Committee member McCurry opposed.

Committee members Swanton, St. Cyr, Quattrone, Foley, Belanger, Ready, Seaver and Lessard in favor.

Motion carries.

*B. Reduce the Airport Fund expenditures by \$30,000 (which corrects a clerical error; and has no impact on the General Fund):*

Motion by Committee member McCurry, seconded by Committee member Quattrone to reduce the Airport Fund expenditures by \$30,000.

Vote: Unanimous.

C. *Increase the Municipal Service allocation by \$4,468 for a total allocation of \$787,360, which is broken down as follows:*

- *\$3,849 – overall shortfall*
- *\$250 - Eastern Trail membership fee*
- *\$369 – SMPDC membership fee*

Motion by Committee member Belanger, seconded by Committee member Lessard to recommend the above-stated budget amendment.

Vote: 8/1; Committee member McCurry opposed.

Committee members Swanton, St. Cyr, Quattrone, Foley, Belanger, Ready, Seaver and Lessard in favor.

Motion carries.

D. *Reverse the budget amendment that reduced the City General Government Budget by \$75,000, which translated to one(1) employee position.*

Motion by Committee member Belanger, seconded by Committee member Swanton to recommend the above-stated amendment.

Vote: 2/7; Committee members Belanger and Foley in favor.

Committee members Swanton, McCurry, St. Cyr, Quattrone, Ready, Seaver and Lessard opposed.

Motion fails.

E. *Revere the budget amendment that reduced the City General Government Budget by \$175,000, which was an unallocated bottom-line reduction.*

Motion by Committee member Belanger, seconded by Committee member Swanton to recommend the above-stated amendment.

Vote: 4/5; Committee members Foley, Belanger, Ready and Seaver in favor.

Committee members Swanton, McCurry, St. Cyr, Quattrone and Lessard opposed.

Motion fails.

As it stands, with the amendments that have been recommended, the mill rate is at \$20.07.

Motion by Committee member Lessard, seconded by Committee member McCurry that the amount of money that has been netted due to the recommended amendments be put into Contingency so that the Council can have control over where those funds are expended.

Vote: 1/8; Committee member Lessard in favor.

Committee member Swanton, McCurry, St. Cyr, Quattrone, Foley, Belanger, Ready and Seaver opposed.

Motion fails.

Motion by Committee member Lessard, seconded by Committee member McCurry that half of the amount of money that has been netted due to the recommended amendments be put into Contingency and the other half used to provide tax relief.

Vote: 1/8; Committee member Lessard in favor.

Committee member Swanton, McCurry, St. Cyr, Quattrone, Foley, Belanger, Ready and Seaver opposed.

Motion fails.

Motion by Committee member McCurry, seconded by Committee member Ready to adjourn.  
Vote: Unanimous. Time: 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carmen J. Morris, City Clerk