

# 31<sup>ST</sup> BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES CITY OF STAMFORD

President  
**JEFF CURTIS**  
Clerk of the Board  
**MEGAN COTTRELL**

Majority Leader  
**NINA SHERWOOD**  
Minority Leader  
**MARY L. FEDELI**

## MINUTES

President Curtis called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

President Curtis read the call of the meeting: "I, Jeff Curtis, President of the 31<sup>st</sup> Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford, Connecticut, and pursuant to Section C2-10-4 of the Stamford Charter, hereby call a Special Meeting of said Board of Representatives at the following time and place:

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

8:00 p.m.

By Webinar at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86198831538>

or [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) – Webinar ID - 861 9883 1538

or Telephone at: 1-646-558-8656 - Webinar ID: 861 9883 1538

to consider and act upon the following:

1. General Fund Operating (including Board of Education budget), Capital, Debt Service Fund, Anti-Blight Fund, Grant Fund, Stamford Harbor Management Fund, Marina Fund, Parking Fund, Police Extra Duty Fund, E.G. Brennan Golf Course Fund, Terry Conners Ice Rink Fund, Active Medical Fund, Risk Management Fund, and WPCA Fund Budgets for the fiscal year 2022/2023, as transmitted by the Board of Finance on April 20, 2022, pursuant to provisions of Section C8-30-7 of the Stamford Charter and RESOLUTIONS associated therewith.

INVOCATION: Led by Sandra Eagle.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: Led by President Jeff Curtis.

ROLL CALL: Conducted by Clerk of the Board Megan Cottrell. There were 36 members present and 4 members absent or excused. (Reps. Adams, Baxter, Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Figueroa, Florio, Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Jean-Louis, Ley, Matheny, Mays, Miller, Morson, Nabel, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Roqueta, Saffic Sandford, Shaw, Sherwood, Tomas, Walston, and Watkins were present; Rep. Fedeli was excused to join the meeting late; Reps. Moore, Stella, and Summerville were absent at roll call). Reps. Moore and Summerville joined the meeting immediately after roll call; Rep. Fedeli joined the meeting at 8:29 p.m.; Rep. Stella

joined the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Rep. Moore left the meeting at 12:45 a.m.; Reps. Pavia, Roqueta and Watkins left the meeting at 1:05 a.m.; Reps. Baxter, Figueroa and Stella left the meeting at 1:30 a.m.

<sup>1</sup>COMMUNICATIONS: Clerk Cottrell announced:

1. If you need assistance with Zoom during the meeting, please call: [REDACTED] to speak with IT. Please do not call other members of the Board or the Board office. If you are having problems speaking or hearing with your computer, you can always access the meeting through a telephone by dialing the phone number on the Agenda - 1-646-558-8656, and using the Webinar ID on the agenda: 861 9883 1538. Please call or text IT at [REDACTED] or text the Clerk at 475-489-5435 to let us know you are coming on, with the phone number you are using, and we will make sure you are able to speak during the meeting.
2. If you do not respond during a roll call vote, your name will be called 2 more times after the conclusion of the vote. If you do not respond, you will be assumed to have left the meeting and your name will not be called on the next roll call vote.
3. If you decide to leave the meeting, you must text the Clerk when you leave. If you need to leave the meeting for a short period, text the Clerk when you leave and return. Members who do not text the Clerk when they leave the meeting will be presumed to be present for all consent items.

<sup>2</sup>COMMITTEE/BUDGET PRESENTATION: Monica Di Costanzo and Lindsey Miller, Co-Chairs, Fiscal Committee

Co-Chair Di Costanzo reported on the Fiscal Committee Budget deliberations as follows:

There were no cuts recommended by the Committee to the Capital or Special Funds budgets.

Chair Di Costanzo then reviewed the Fiscal Committee's [recommended cuts](#) to the City's Budget (including proposed cuts which the Committee did not recommend) below::

<u>Operating Budget Book Page</u>	<u>Proposed Cut</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
Page 46 – Administration / Office of Policy & Management / Office of Policy & Management	\$65,000 – OPM Director	<b>FAILED 4-6-0</b>
Page 48 – Administration / Office of Policy & Management / Office of Policy & Management	\$20,000 – Total Expenditures	<b>FAILED 4-6-0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:09:30

<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:11:35

<b><u>Operating Budget Book Page</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed Cut</u></b>	<b><u>Committee Action</u></b>
Page 46 – Administration / Office of Policy & Management / Office of Policy & Management	\$9,840 – OPM Director	<b>APPROVED 10-0-0</b>
Page 127 – Operations / Facilities & Parks Maintenance / Old Town Hall	\$52,000 – Contracted Services – Property Management	<b>APPROVED 10-0-0</b>
Page 221 – Public Safety, Health & Welfare / Police Department	\$266,419 – Total Expenditures	<b>APPROVED 2-1-7</b>
Page 295 – Legal Affairs / Legal Affairs / Legal Department	\$156,924 – Professional Consultant	<b>APPROVED 9-1-0</b>
Page 309 – Government Services / Mayor’s Office / Economic Development	\$132,540 – Salaries	<b>APPROVED 8-2-0</b>
Page 330 – Government Services / Government Services / Town & City Clerk	\$8,000 – Contracted Services	<b>APPROVED 10-0-0</b>
Page 330 – Government Services / Government Services / Town & City Clerk	\$10,000 – Postage	<b>APPROVED 10-0-0</b>
Page 331 – Government Services / Government Services / Town & City Clerk	\$7,100 – Special Election	<b>APPROVED 10-0-0</b>
Page 331 – Government Services / Government Services / Town & City Clerk	\$6,650 – Election Expenses	<b>APPROVED 10-0-0</b>
Page 336 – Government Services / Government Services / Registrar of Voters	\$52,700 – Special Election	<b>APPROVED 10-0-0</b>
Page 350 – Community Grants / Non City Agencies / Cultural & Environmental	\$65,000 – Stamford Museum & Nature Center	<b>APPROVED 5-4-1</b>
Page 350 – Community Grants / Non City Agencies / Cultural & Environmental	\$25,000 – DSSD	<b>FAILED 4-6-0</b>

<u>Operating Budget Book Page</u>	<u>Proposed Cut</u>	<u>Committee Action</u>
Page 350 – Community Grants / Non City Agencies / Cultural & Environmental	\$65,000 – Stamford Partnership	<b>FAILED 4-6-0</b>
Page 350 – Community Grants / Non City Agencies / Cultural & Environmental	\$40,000 – Sound Waters	<b>FAILED 4-6-0</b>
Page 350 – Community Grants / Non City Agencies / Cultural & Environmental	\$675,200 – Mill River Collaborative	<b>FAILED 4-6-0</b>
Page 350 – Community Grants / Non City Agencies / Cultural & Environmental	\$175,200 – Mill River Collaborative	<b>APPROVED 8-2-0</b>

### **3CAPITAL BUDGET**

Co-Chair Di Costanzo moved to approve the City’s Capital Budget in the amount of \$55,508,272 and the issuance of General Obligation Bonds in the amount of \$34,420,000, which motion was seconded by Rep. Boeger.

President Curtis called for any motions to amend the report, beginning with the Capital Budget.

<sup>4</sup>Rep. Mays made a motion to cut \$1,000,000 from Page 46 in the Capital Budget book – 000122 – Observatory – Astronomy & Physical Science Center; Non City Agencies: Stamford Museum, which motion was seconded by Rep. Roqueta and failed by a vote of 1-33-3 (Rep. Mays in favor; Reps. Adams, Baxter, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Figueroa, Florio, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Jean-Louis, Ley, Matheny, Miller, Moore, Morson, Nabel, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Saftic, Sandford, Shaw, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, and Watkins opposed; Reps. Fedeli, Gilbride, and Roqueta abstaining). Rep. Sherwood recused herself during the discussion and vote on this item.

The original motion to approve the City’s Capital Budget in the amount of \$55,508,272 and the issuance of General Obligation Bonds in the amount of \$34,420,000, was approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **5SPECIAL FUNDS BUDGETS**

Co- Chair made a motion to approve the following Funds Budgets:

\$55,611,841 – Debt Service Fund  
 \$371,214 – Anti-Blight Fund  
 \$8,173,595 – Grant Fund  
 \$58,841 – Stamford Harbor Management Fund

<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:17:40

<sup>4</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:19:30

<sup>5</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:35:40

\$499,135 – Marina Fund  
\$6,560,000 – Parking Fund  
\$13,923,000 – Police Extra Duty Fund  
\$1,897,124 – E. G. Brennan Golf Course Fund  
\$1,398,028 – Terry Conner’s Ice Rink Fund  
\$36,085,282 – Active Medical Fund  
\$17,463,569 - Risk Management Fund  
\$27,634,116 – WPCA Fund

Which motion was seconded by Rep. Nabel.

President Curtis called for any motions to amend the report as to the Funds Budgets.

There being no further motions, the original motion to approve the Funds Budgets was approved by unanimous voice vote.

## **6OPERATING BUDGET**

Co-Chair Di Costanzo moved to approve the City’s Operating Budget as cut by the Committee, which motion was seconded by Rep. Goldberg.

President Curtis called for any motions to amend the report as to the Operating Budget.

<sup>7</sup>Rep. de la Cruz made a motion to restore the \$65,000 cut from Page 350 – Program 6056 - Community Grants / Non City Agencies / Cultural & Environmental- Stamford Museum & Nature Center, which motion was seconded by Rep. Ley and approved by a vote of 28-7-4 (Reps. Adams, Baxter, Berns, Bewkes, Campbell, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Florio, Goldberg, Jacobson, Jean-Louis, Ley, Matheny, Mays, Miller, Morson, Nabel, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Saftic, Sandford, Shaw, Summerville, and Watkins in favor; Reps. Boeger, Coleman, Figueroa, Grunberger, Stella, Tomas, and Walston opposed; Reps. Fedeli, Gilbride, Moore, and Roqueta abstaining). Rep. Sherwood recused herself during the discussion and vote on this item.

<sup>8</sup>Rep. Cottrell made a motion to restore the \$132,540 cut from Page 309 – Program 1200 - Government Services / Mayor’s Office / Economic Development, Salaries, which motion was seconded by Rep. Ley and approved by a vote of 27-11-1 (Reps. Adams, Baxter, Berns, Campbell, Coleman, Cottrell, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Florio, Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Jean-Louis, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, Moore, Nabel, Patterson, Pavia, Roqueta, Sandford, Shaw, Summerville, and Watkins in favor; Reps. Bewkes, Boeger, Fedeli, Figueroa, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, Saftic, Sherwood, Stella, Tomas, and Walston opposed; Rep. Curtis abstaining).

<sup>9</sup>Rep. Ley made a motion to restore the \$175,000 cut from Page 350 – Program 6056 - Community Grants / Non City Agencies / Cultural & Environmental- Mill River Collaborative, which motion was seconded by Rep. Goldberg.

After extensive debate, a motion to move the question was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 27-12-1 (Reps. Adams, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Fedeli, Figueroa, Florio,

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<sup>6</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:37:55

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Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Jean-Louis, Ley, Mays, Nabel, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Roqueta, Saftic, Sandford, Shaw, Stella, Summerville, and Watkins in favor; Reps. Baxter, Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Di Costanzo, Matheny, Miller, Morson, Sherwood, Tomas, and Walston opposed; and Rep. Moore abstaining).

The original motion to restore the \$175,000 cut from Page 350 – Program 6056 - Community Grants / Non City Agencies / Cultural & Environmental- Mill River Collaborative failed by a vote of 16-20-3 (Reps. Fedeli, Florio, Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Morson, Nabel, Patterson, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Summerville, and Watkins in favor; Reps. Adams, Baxter, Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Campbell, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Figueroa, Matheny, Miller, Pierre-Louis, Roqueta, Sherwood, Stella, Tomas, and Walston opposed; Reps. Jean-Louis, Moore, Pavia, abstaining).

<sup>10</sup>Rep. Shaw made a motion to restore the \$266,419 cut from Page 221 – Program Public Safety, Health & Welfare / Police Department, which motion was seconded by Rep. Goldberg and failed by a vote of 17-18-3 (Reps. Curtis, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Florio, Gilbride, Goldberg, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, Nabel, Pavia, Sandford, Shaw, Summerville, and Watkins in favor; Reps. Adams, Baxter, Berns, Bewkes, Campbell, Coleman, Cottrell, de la Cruz, Matheny, Moore, Patterson, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Saftic, Sherwood, Stella, Tomas, and Walston opposed; Reps. Boeger, Figueroa, and Grunberger abstaining).

<sup>11</sup>Rep. Stella made a motion to cut \$50,000 from Page 350 – Program 6056 – Community Grants / Non City Agencies / Cultural & Environmental – DSSD, which motion was seconded by Rep. Matheny and approved by a vote of 18-17-3 (Reps. Adams, Baxter, Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, Roqueta, Saftic, Sherwood, Stella, Tomas, and Walston in favor; Reps. Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Florio, Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, Nabel, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Summerville, and Watkins opposed; Reps. Moore, Patterson, and Pavia abstaining),

<sup>12</sup>Rep. Sherwood made a motion to cut \$65,000 from Page 350 – Program 6056 – Community Grants / Non City Agencies / Cultural & Environmental – Stamford Partnership, which motion was seconded by Rep. Pierre-Louis and failed by a vote of 16-17-4 (Reps. Adams, Baxter, Bewkes, Boeger, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, Roqueta, Saftic, Sherwood, Tomas, and Walston in favor; Reps. Berns, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Florio, Gilbride, Goldberg, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, Nabel, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Summerville, and Watkins opposed; Reps. Grunberger, Patterson, Pavia, and Stella abstaining),

<sup>13</sup>Rep. Sherwood made a motion to cut \$25,000 from Page 350 – Program 6056 – Community Grants / Non City Agencies / Cultural & Environmental – Stamford Partnership, which motion was seconded by Rep. Berns and approved by a vote of 17-16-4 (Reps. Adams, Baxter, Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, Roqueta, Saftic, Sherwood, Tomas, and Walston in favor; Reps. Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Florio, Gilbride, Goldberg, Jacobson, Ley, Mays, Miller, Morson, Nabel, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Summerville, and Watkins opposed; Reps. Grunberger, Patterson, Pavia, and Stella abstaining).

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<sup>10</sup> Video Time Stamp 02:56:34

<sup>11</sup> Video Time Stamp 03:59:45

<sup>12</sup> Video Time Stamp 04:32:40

<sup>13</sup> Video Time Stamp 04:54:45

## **14BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET**

Co-Chair Di Costanzo moved to approve the Board of Education Budget in the amount of \$303,843,542, which motion was seconded by Rep. Goldberg. Rep. Pavia recused himself from the discussion of the Board of Education Budget.

<sup>15</sup>Rep. de la Cruz made a motion to cut \$2,000,000 from the Board of Education Budget, which motion was seconded by Rep. Bewkes and approved by a vote of 19-13-2 (Reps. Adams, Baxter, Berns, Bewkes, Coleman, Curtis, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Florio, Matheny, Mays, Miller, Patterson, Pierre-Louis, Saftic, Sherwood, Stella, Summerville, and Walston in favor; Reps. Cottrell, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Morson, Nabel, Pollack, Sandford, and Shaw opposed; Reps. Boeger, and Tomas, abstaining).

## **16RESOLUTIONS & FINAL VOTES**

<sup>17</sup>Co-Chair Di Costanzo made a motion to approve a [resolution](#) adopting the Capital Budget in the amount of \$55,508,272 and the issuance of General Obligation Bonds in the amount of \$34,420,000, which motion was seconded by Rep. Miller, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

<sup>18</sup>Co-Chair Di Costanzo made a motion to approve a [resolution](#) adopting the Special Funds Budgets, in the amounts of:

\$55,611,841 – Debt Service Fund  
\$371,214 – Anti-Blight Fund  
\$8,173,595 – Grant Fund  
\$58,841 – Stamford Harbor Management Fund  
\$499,135 – Marina Fund  
\$6,560,000 – Parking Fund  
\$13,923,000 – Police Extra Duty Fund  
\$1,897,124 – E. G. Brennan Golf Course Fund  
\$1,398,028 – Terry Conner’s Ice Rink Fund  
\$36,085,282 – Active Medical Fund  
\$17,463,569 - Risk Management Fund  
\$27,634,116 – WPCA Fund

which motion was seconded by Rep. Miller, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

<sup>19</sup>Co-Chair Di Costanzo made a motion to approve the Operating Budget, including General Fund Support to the Board of Education, as cut by the Board of Representatives, in the amount of \$626,059,590, which motion was seconded by Rep. Miller and approved by a vote of 30-1-0 (Reps. Adams, Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Florio, Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Matheny, Mays, Miller, Morson, Nabel, Patterson, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Saftic, Sandford, Shaw, Summerville, Tomas, and Walston in favor; Rep. Sherwood opposed)

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<sup>14</sup> Video Time Stamp 04:59:15

<sup>15</sup> Video Time Stamp 05:02:45

<sup>16</sup> Video Time Stamp 05:19:35

<sup>17</sup> Video Time Stamp 05:22:50

<sup>18</sup> Video Time Stamp 05:26:15

<sup>19</sup> Video Time Stamp 05:34:05

<sup>20</sup>Co-Chair Di Costanzo made a motion to approve a [resolution](#) adopting the Operating Budget, including General Fund Support to the Board of Education, in the amount of \$626,059,590, which motion was seconded by Rep. Miller and approved by a vote of 29-1-0 (Reps. Adams, Berns, Bewkes, Boeger, Coleman, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Fedeli, Florio, Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Jacobson, Ley, Matheny, Mays, Miller, Morson, Nabel, Patterson, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Summerville, Tomas, and Walston in favor; Rep. Sherwood opposed)

<sup>21</sup>Co-Chair Di Costanzo moved to approve the Board of Education Budget in the amount of \$301,843,542, as cut by the Board of Representatives, which motion was seconded by Rep. Miller and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Morson, Sherwood and Tomas abstaining)

<sup>22</sup>Co-Chair Di Costanzo moved to approve a [resolution](#) adopting the Board of Education Budget in the amount of \$301,843,542, which motion was seconded by Rep. Miller and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. Morson, Sherwood and Tomas abstaining)

ADJOURNMENT:

President Curtis adjourned the meeting at 1:49 a.m.

This meeting is on [video](#).

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<sup>20</sup> Video Time Stamp 05:37:27

<sup>21</sup> Video Time Stamp 05:41:05

<sup>22</sup> Video Time Stamp 05:43:15