

## BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

APRIL 8, 2021

A meeting of the Budget Review Committee was held Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 7:34 p.m. via teleconference.

### Chairman Dowd

As Chairman of the Budget Review Committee, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

To access Zoom, please refer to the agenda or the City's website for the meeting link.

*To join by phone dial: 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 893 8882 0492 and Passcode: 264334*

*The public may also view the meeting via Channel 16.*

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, through public postings. Instructions have also been provided on the City of Nashua's website at [www.nashuanh.gov](http://www.nashuanh.gov) and publicly noticed at City Hall and Nashua Public Library.

If anyone has a problem accessing the meeting via phone or Channel 16, please call 603-821-2049 and they will help you connect.

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting via the methods mentioned above, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.

Alderman O'Brien called the roll and asked them to state the reason he or she could not attend, confirmed that they could hear the proceedings, and stated who was present with him or her.

The roll call was taken with 7 members of the Budget Review Committee present:

Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Chairman  
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons, Vice Chair  
Alderman Jan Schmidt  
Alderman Ernest Jette  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly

Also in Attendance:

Sarah Marchant, Community Development Director  
Mayor James Donchess  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman Skip Cleaver

ROLL CALL

Alderwoman Kelly

I'm here, I am alone and I can hear everyone.

Alderman O'Brien

Alderman-at-Large Michael O'Brien, Sr. is present, I can hear the proceedings and I am alone.

Alderman Wilshire

I am here, I can hear everyone and I am alone.

Alderman Jette

I am here alone and I can hear the proceedings.

Alderman Schmidt

I am present, I can hear everyone and I am alone.

Alderman Clemons

I am here, I am by myself and I can hear everyone.

Chairman Dowd

I am present, I can hear the proceedings and I am alone.

Alderman O'Brien

Mr. Chairman you have 7 of your magnificent 7 present. Also in attendance is Alderman Klee, Alderman Cleaver, the Honorable Mayor James Donchess and Sarah Marchant, Community Development Director. Is there anybody else I did not record? Seeing none, that's it Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alright, first item on the Agenda is Public Comment. Is there anyone that wishes to make a comment relative to the Legislation that the Budget Committee will be hearing this evening? Seeing none, Communications?

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

**R-21-118**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman June M. Caron  
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright  
Alderman Jan Schmidt  
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons  
Alderman Skip Cleaver  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws  
Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**ESTABLISHING A HOUSING EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND FUNDED BY APPROPRIATIONS AND  
MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$30,000 INTO THE EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE BY ROLL CALL**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

Ok the motion is for final passage of R-21-118. Is there any Aldermen that have any questions? Yes, Alderman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. I just wanted to actually just make a statement and thank everyone for their support. I was really proud to co-sponsor this and have been a strong advocate for this. Director Marchant and I have had multiple conversations around how we expand affordable housing here in Nashua. This is just the first step; I loved the analogy of the baby shower. Now we are going to start saving for that baby's future. So thank you for everyone's support and I really look forward to seeing what happens in our City as we continue to bring some real thought and planning to how we better approach affordable housing.

Chairman Dowd

Hopefully, like real babies, they grow fast. Alderman Wilshire?

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. I just wanted to weigh in on how wonderful I think this is. It is a good idea, it is something we should do, it is something we should have been doing year-over-year with the money we got from Clock Tower but we didn't and now we are. So I am pretty excited about that. As you know, I sit in on the Housing Authority Meetings, the Commissioner's Meetings and it is tough when they talk about all the people on the waiting list. I mean there are years and years, there are 2,500 on one list and 3,500 people on another. How do you ever expect to anywhere on that waiting list? I mean it is years and years out. So I think this is a great idea, I am going to support. And I hope in the future to find more money to grow the baby here. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I echo my colleague's words as to the need and how important this is. I also want to share that myself, Alderman Schmidt and Alderman Cleaver had attended a community meeting with some from the religious groups and just other agencies like the Front Door Agency and so on that were looking for something like this to happen. And they were asking us, just coincidentally as this was being planned, what we could do to help. And I think this is the first step; while it doesn't necessarily meet their full needs, I think it is a good step forward. I think it is an important step forward. Like every child, I am excited to watch it grow and to be funded and so on. I just want to thank everybody that's worked so hard, especially Director Marchant and other members from the Board that have worked to make this happen. So thank you so much.

Chairman Dowd

Thank you. Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Thank you very much for recognizing me, Mr. Chairman. So I fully support this, I don't think there's any question that there is a need for affordable housing in Nashua. But for clarification I was wondering if Director Marchant could explain to us. Hopefully as this fund expands and gets more money into it. How is the money in the fund going to be used? What is it going to pay for and how is this going to help solve the affordable housing problem?

Chairman Dowd

Director Marchant?

Director Marchant

Thank you. That's a great question Alderman Jette. The Legislation lays out the basic purposes for how the fund can be used from everything to gap financing for renter and owner properties with a priority on one and two bedrooms to preservation of existing affordable housing units, recapitalization and preservation of some of those units, towards accessory dwelling units which create affordable units without over-impacting the system and even some education.

As far as the actual mechanisms for how this fund is paid out, that is part of the next year or two, the assessment of how we actually want to structure this, where are these funds going to go and exactly how Urban Programs is going to administer it going forward. So right now it will be administered by Urban Programs. The idea is to be able to look at additional funding sources coming in, understanding the balance of what the priorities are, conversations with you and with this community. And then creating criteria and applications and a process to move forward with these funds.

Chairman Dowd

All set Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Yes, thank you very much. Anyone else? Seeing no one else we will now take the vote. Would the Clerk please call the roll?

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Wilshire  
Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd 7

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - NoneTABLED IN COMMITTEE**R-20-016**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderwoman Linda Harriott-Gathright  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

**AMENDING THE PURPOSE OF A FISCAL YEAR 2020 UNLIKE ESCROW FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

(tabled at 4-20-20 mtg)

GENERAL DISCUSSIONChairman Dowd

Just one thing, I did attend Director Marchant's meeting on Imagine Nashua. It was widely attended, I think there were 84 or 94 people on-line and I was amazed at how well it actually functioned on Zoom. But a lot of good comments. I think from a visionary standpoint I think it's an excellent first move. I know to get to the vision would be a lot of intermediary steps but we have to eat that elephant one bite at a time. Alright, any other General Comments? Seeing one, also we don't need a non-public. Oh I'm sorry Remarks by Aldermen?

PUBLIC COMMENT - NoneREMARKS BY THE ALDERMENAlderman Klee

Thank you Mr. Chair. I am going to repeat something it said yesterday and it doesn't have to do with your Committee. But myself and a group of people will be out on Saturday. We meet at Foster Square at 10:30 to walk up and down Lock Street to help pick up trash and clean up. Our Public Works people have been so incredible; they dropped off some work gloves at my home that I can share with at least the first 10 or 12 people and we will have those beautiful blue bags that we get to fill. And Public Works is going to pick them up so I look forward to having lots of people coming out and helping us. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Thank you. Anyone else? I just wanted to say that I was fortunate enough yesterday to attend the recognition of the Public Health Department at City Hall. I just happened to be in City Hall which I don't think I've been in for months which is a whole other story, the place is a construction zone to beat the band. It was an excellent ceremony and all of our health care workers in the Department of Public Health were recognized and awarded, as they should be, for doing a great job during the pandemic. Director Bagley and the Mayor recognized all of their staff. So good job to all of them. Alderman Kelly?

Alderman Kelly

You just reminded me of a couple of things that I wanted to just remark that has been going on Downtown. Downtown barriers are getting a beautiful layer of color. My office is right downtown so every time I go to get a cup of coffee I get to see what's going on. So I am really excited for the expanded dining. And then also a few days the Mayor and a good group of people watched the very first bite into taking the Performing Arts Center to realization. So the Alec's is gone, end of an era and start to a new, so really looking forward to that.

Chairman Dowd

It was very interesting, the former owner of Alec's was there to see it taken down. The only other thing I had, if anybody missed it at the beginning of the meeting, we were awarded the AOT for the Pennichuck Middle School which we have been waiting for. It is the Alteration of Terrain, which means you can't put a shovel in the ground until the State says it is OK. It is OK, so the School will be very busy for the next 18 months as it grows in size. Alderman Wilshire?

Alderman Wilshire

I don't want people to think that John Koutsos no longer owns Alec's.

Chairman Dowd

Well that building.

Alderman Wilshire

Ok.

Chairman Dowd

No he owns a place very much closer to my house and it is easier to get there to shop. OK, no one else?

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO ADJOURN BY ROLL CALL**

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Wilshire  
Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd 7

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 7:49 p.m.

Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Committee Clerk