

City of Salem, Massachusetts



"Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 39 §23B, and City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033."

The City Council Committee on _____ Ordinances, Licenses & Legal Affairs co-posted
_____ with Committee of the Whole _____

met in the Council Chamber on _____ Thursday, June 16, 2011 _____ at 6:30 _____ P.M.

for the purpose of discussing the matter(s) listed below. Notice of this meeting was posted on
_____ June 9, 2011 _____ at 5:30 PM _____

(This meeting is being recorded.)

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT WERE: _____ *C O'Keefe* _____

SUBJECT(S)

_____ #319 - Ordinance Amending Ch. 2 Sec. 502 regarding separate vote by Council for any
_____ tax increase up to 2½% _____

_____ Motion C. Sosnowski for approval
_____ w/ additional language as follows _____

_____ (a) The City Council shall approve, on or before
_____ the first Council meeting in February annually,
_____ by a separate majority vote... _____

_____ And that the matter be sent to city solicitor
_____ for language review and have final version for
_____ Council meeting 6/23/11 _____

_____ All in Favor - None Opposed - One Absent - Voted _____

APPENDIX A

**To be attached to Committee on Ordinances, Licenses and
Legal Affairs Committee Report dated 6/16/11
*Co-posted with Committee of the Whole***

Committee Members Present: Lovely, Sosnowski, Pelletier, Sargent

Committee Member Absent: O'Keefe

Committee of the Whole Members Present: McCarthy, Prevey, Furey, Ronan

The committee discussed the following posted agenda items:

RE: Ordinance Amending Ch. 2 Sec. 502 regarding separate vote by Council for any tax increase up to 2 ½ %

Order #319 **Ordinance Amending Ch. 2 Sec. 502 regarding separate vote by Council for any tax increase up to 2 ½ %**

C. Ronan Opened the discussion
City Council vote before budget each year for what amount of increase under prop 2 ½

C. Prevey This will create partnership with administration in shaping budget and share in responsibility and accountability
In favor

C. Sargent Discussed classification and valuation
Commercial tax bills have gone down
Residential tax bills have never gone down
CIP should balance this

C. Pelletier Past 8 years have put it on business side
Big business can handle it
Smaller business can't
Concerned about union contracts that come in after budget set

C. Sosnowski Questions
Peabody is larger but budget is almost equal to Salem
No raises in Peabody or Beverly why Salem
In favor

C. McCarthy Prop 2 ½ put in so to avoid tax spikes
Reasons behind trends

No free spending spree here last 8 years
City spending up to 2 1/2% as allowed by law

C. Sosnowski Peabody still larger and budgets are similar

MOTION C. Sosnowski move to full council with following additional language:
(a) The City Council approve, on or before the first council meeting in February annually, by a separate majority vote of the city's annual budget, any tax increase... (remainder of paragraph remains the same)

SECOND C. Sargent

C. Pelletier Friendly amendment to send to City Solicitor for language review and have final version for council meeting 6/23/11

C. Furey Spoke against the proposal

C. Prevey Taxpayers money
TEA Party born out of this
We are in good fiscal condition
So good we are giving out raises
Valid complaints from our constituents
As public officials we need to be accountable to the taxpayer
Need to put restrictions and additional accountability in place

C. McCarthy Does the vote need a simple majority or 2/3 vote? Ask City Clerk

Teasie Riley Goggin See's the economy going down
See's TIF's going to businesses
Residents not getting breaks

ALL THOSE IN FAVOR NONE OPPOSED APPROVED

Meeting date(s) and subject matter(s) and invitees may change due to unforeseen circumstances. Please refer to the City's meeting calendar for official meeting postings.

Motion C. Sosnowski to adjourn.

All in favor None opposed Approved

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30PM

CITY OF SALEM

In the year two thousand and eleven

An Ordinance to amend an Ordinance relative to Administration

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Salem, as follows

*Ordinance
change
simple majority
or
2/3 vote?*

Section 1. Chapter 2 Section 2-502 Budget Preparation, is hereby amended by adding the following new section:

on or before 1st meeting in February annually

(a) The City Council shall approve, by a separate majority roll call vote taken independently and before any vote of the city's annual budget, any tax increase of any amount up to 2 1/2 per cent (exclusive of new growth) over the prior fiscal year. This ordinance shall provide the tax payers with an additional level of accountability for tax increases and shall be additional to the requirements set forth in M.G.L. c.59 §21C (so called "Proposition 2 1/2"). Tax increases of 2 1/2 % or more remain subject to the requirement of voter approval as set forth in the statute. This ordinance shall affect tax increases (exclusive of new growth) up to the 2 1/2 % statutory thresholds.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect as provided by City Charter.

In City Council May 12, 2011

Referred to the Committee on Ordinances, Licenses and Legal Affairs co-posted with the Committee of the Whole

ATTEST:

CHERYL A. LAPOINTE
CITY CLERK

*Send to Beth for
language review
for 6/23/11
meeting*

On the motion of C. Sosnowski

the meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

John Long
(Chairperson)