

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**October 7, 2019**  
**East Conference Room**

**Present:** Chairman O'Malley and Councilmembers George and Bullock

**Also Present:** Councilmembers Anderson, Litten, O'Leary, and Rader, Mayor Summers, Chief Malley, Director Sylvester, Director Pae, Director Yousefi, Director Gelsomino, Director Beno, Director Meyers, Katelyn Milius of the Planning Department, Clerk Bach, several members of the public, and Deputy Clerk Lascu taking minutes.

**Call to Order:** 6:34 p.m.

**AGENDA**

**2020 Council Budget Priority Process**

Chairman O'Malley opened up the meeting with discussion prioritizing budget items that need additional attention. Mayor Summers and his administration sought to engage on the proposal to add a block club community organizer and asked questions related to the logistics of the person's employment. They sought to understand more about how the person would be managed, what office he/she would work out of, and more information about the proposed salary range of \$30,000-\$50,000 for the position. Councilman Bullock indicated that the employee could be housed in the Council office. Councilman Rader outlined the benefits of the proposal, adding his desire for the person to have a community organizing background and to work close to full time hours. The mayor indicated some of the administration's difficulties and past experience in filling the position. The position carried a salary of \$10,000 in the past. Some block clubs start organically due to the DNA of the neighborhood and others start because of a crime or an event occurs that galvanizes folks. In the case of the latter, those block clubs will not move forward. Other blocks that are occupied by a number of transient doubles will almost never form a club that consistently meets. Mayor Summers suggested the ward council people could take up starting block clubs in their respective wards. Chairman O'Malley expressed his desire for the position to be housed in Community Relations, as opposed to the Council office. He also proposed that the committee could ensure funding for the position this upcoming year and leave it to the next mayor to decide whether they want to fill it. Councilwoman George stated the position could be rolled into the vacant communications position in Community Relations and could be reexamined within a year. Past communications personnel helped put together the city newsletter, which was sent out to 70 block captains, however no one could confirm if the block captains passed it along to their groups. Councilman Litten proposed focusing on recruiting groups that encompassed many city blocks, as opposed to having individual clubs for each street. He pointed to the success of the SOLO Block Club in the Ohio City neighborhood of Cleveland that encompasses 40 or so blocks. Director Pae indicated that there is space in the budget that the

administration has left open since the last employee left the job. Mayor Summers stated the importance of content creation and the burden that the administration and Council shares to highlight stories.

Chairman O'Malley spoke his proposals for new playground equipment at the Clifton-Prado pocket park and new traffic signals at certain points in Ward 4. Director Beno indicated that both items are set to be addressed, and the timeline for improvements to the park could be moved up. Chairman O'Malley urged the administration to replace traffic signals at Cove and Ridgewood, among others.

Council President O'Leary stated that his proposal for Youth Council funding can serve as a placeholder until the group presents objectives for itself in a spring presentation to Council. The Youth Council initially asked for \$1,000 to \$5,000 in funding and his proposal calls for \$1,250. Mayor Summers suggested that the money be placed in the Community Relations department in the meantime. He suggested potentially sending Youth Council representatives to the US Conference of Mayors Youth Council Leadership Event in 2020.

In regard to his public art proposal, Councilman Bullock stated that he would like to get Council on the record to affirm that it supports public art. Ideally, the art would be driven by private property owners or non-profits. He stated he is seeking a \$50,000 project that includes design, installation, and compensating an artist. He would also like several business owners to get involved with murals on their buildings at the cost of \$5,000 each.

In regard to his bike project, Councilman Bullock referenced past success in getting sharrows and bike lanes installed in certain spots, and added the importance to continue to build bike infrastructure. The committee and administration discussed the bike lanes that are set to be installed on Lake Ave.

Councilman Bullock stated that the city should set a goal and reserve funds towards attaining clean vehicle goals, as outlined in a past Lakewood fleet analysis. He would like funding set aside for pilot programs, such as implementing anti-idling systems. The administration discussed the implementation of electric vehicle charging stations and the order of a hybrid police car that should be delivered in 2020.

Chairman O'Malley noted that the Council budget priority resolution is on the Council's agenda for the regular meeting. Brief discussion ensued regarding streetscape improvement in the Gold Coast area along with Public Works policy on tree lawn improvement along commercial corridors.

Chairman O'Malley made a motion to approve the minutes from the Finance Committee's previous meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup>, which was seconded by Councilman Bullock. All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned – 7:18 p.m.