

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

----- X

February 27, 2020

Start: 10:16 AM

Recess: 10:37 AM

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: DANIEL DROMM  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Adrienne E. Adams  
Alicka Ampry-Samuel  
Diana Ayala  
Robert E Cornegy, Jr.  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
Vanessa L. Gibson  
Mark Gjonaj  
Barry S. Grodenchik  
Karen Koslowitz  
Rory I. Lancman  
Farah N. Louis  
Steven Matteo  
Francisco P. Moya  
Keith Powers  
Helen K Rosenthal  
James G. Van Bramer

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

2 (sound check) (pause) (gavel)

3 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, good morning,  
4 and welcome to today's Finance Committee meeting.

5 I'm Council Member Daniel Dromm, and I'm Chair of the  
6 Committee. We have been joined by Council Member  
7 Francisco Moya, Council Member Karen Koslowitz,  
8 Council Member Adrienne Adams, Council Member Alicka  
9 Ampry-Samuel, Council Member Farah Louis, Council  
10 Member Mark Gjonaj, Council Member Helen Rosenthal,  
11 Council Member and Minority Leader Steve Matteo and  
12 Council Member Barry Grodenchik. Before I begin,  
13 I'd like to give a warm welcome to Council Members  
14 Ayala and Ampry-Samuel (cheers/applause) as the  
15 newest members join the Finance Committee. Thank  
16 you, and we've now been joined by Council Member  
17 Ayala. Today the Committee will be voting on six  
18 items, which are Proposed Intro 245-B, an expense  
19 budget modification, a revenue budget modification,  
20 two resolutions to approve the Council's Fiscal 2021  
21 Operating Budget and a transparency resolution, and  
22 let's begin with the Proposed Intro 245-B. This bill  
23 sponsored by Council Member Reynoso would require the  
24 Department of Finance to: (1) Create a not-for-profit  
25 ombudsperson position. (2) Exempt certain property

2 that received a not-for-profit tax exemption within  
3 the prior two years from a tax lien sale. (3) Exempt  
4 property from the tax lien sale where the owner has  
5 in good faith submitted an application for the Not-  
6 for-Profit Property Tax Exemption with DOF. (4)  
7 Provide notice to Class 4 property owners about  
8 exemptions and other actions to remove a property  
9 from the tax lien sale, and (5) Include information  
10 on how to remove a property from the tax lien sale  
11 when denying applications for certain exemptions. New  
12 York City is home to thousands of not-for-profit  
13 organizations that deliver critical programs and  
14 services to communities throughout the five boroughs,  
15 provide for our residents' spiritual and religious  
16 needs, and do countless hours of charitable work.  
17 This bill is an important step towards ensuring that  
18 they don't unintentionally end up in the lien sale to  
19 provide them with necessary information and  
20 assistance to help navigate some of the city's  
21 bureaucratic processes. Next are two budget  
22 modifications. The first modification is the Expense  
23 Budget modification that represents movements of  
24 approximately \$749.2 million of funding between and  
25 within the city agencies to implement Expense Budget

2 changes, which were included in the Fiscal 2020  
3 Adopted Budget, and reflected in the city's January  
4 Financial Plan. The second is a Revenue Budget  
5 modification that recognizes \$677.6 million of new  
6 revenues in the Fiscal 2019, and authorizes the  
7 appropriation of that new revenue combined with \$400  
8 million of prior year payables and \$850 million from  
9 the General Reserve to increase the Budget  
10 Stabilization Account by \$2.2 billion to pre-pay  
11 Fiscal 2021 debt service. The fourth and fifth items  
12 is the Council's Fiscal 2021 Operating Budget, which  
13 totals \$90.4 million. This is divided into \$70.5  
14 million for personnel services and \$19.9 million for  
15 other than personnel services. Next is the  
16 Transparency Resolution, which sets forth the new  
17 designation and changes in the designation of certain  
18 organizations receiving local and youth discretionary  
19 funding and funding pursuant to certain initiatives  
20 in the Budget. Organizations appearing in the  
21 Resolution that have not yet completed their pre-  
22 qualification process conducted by the Mayor's Office  
23 of Contract Services, the Council or another entity  
24 are identified in the attached charts with an  
25 asterisk. As with all transparency resolutions,

1 COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

6

2 Council Members will have to sign a disclosure form  
3 indicating whether or not a conflict exists with any  
4 of the groups on the attached list. If any council  
5 member has a potential conflict of interest with any  
6 of the organizations listed, he or she has the  
7 opportunity to disclose the conflict at the time of  
8 their vote. As a reminder, please disclose any  
9 conflicts you may have with proposed subcontractors  
10 used by organizations sponsored by discretionary  
11 funding. These disclosures must be made before the  
12 subcontractor can be approved. Benjamin Smith from  
13 the General Counsel's Office is here, and can assist  
14 you with any questions or concerns regarding  
15 disclosures. So, those are all of today's items. Are  
16 there any questions? Seeing none, I'm going to ask  
17 the Billy Martin the Clerk--Committee Clerk to call  
18 the roll.

19 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,  
20 roll call vote Committee on Finance. All items are  
21 coupled. Chair Dromm.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I vote aye.

23 CLERK: Koslowitz.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

25 CLERK: Rosenthal.

1 COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

7

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye. Thank  
3 you.

4 CLERK: Grodenchik.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Yes.

6 CLERK: Adams.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: (inaudible)

8 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY SAMUEL: Aye.

10 CLERK: Ayala.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

12 CLERK: Gjonaj.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye.

14 CLERK: Moya.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye.

16 CLERK: Powers.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

18 CLERK: Louis.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

20 CLERK: Matteo.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye

22 CLERK: Cornegy.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

24

25

1 COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

8

2 CLERK: By a vote of 12 in the  
3 affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions  
4 all items have been adopted by the committee.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, we're going to  
6 hold the vote open for about 15 minutes or so more.  
7 Thank you. (background comments/pause)

8 CLERK: Continuation roll call.

9 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet please

10 CLERK: Continuation roll call committee  
11 on Finance. Council Member Adams.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I vote aye.

13 CLERK: THE VOTE IS NOW AT 13.

14 (background comments/pause)

15 CLERK: Council Member Van Bramer.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye (pause)

17 (background comments)

18 CLERK: Continuation roll call, Committee  
19 on Finance, Council Member Gibson.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye.

21 CLERK: The vote is now 13 in the  
22 affirmative. (background comment/pause)

23 CLERK: Continuation roll call Committee  
24 on Finance, Council Member Lancman.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.



1 COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

9

2 CLERK: Final vote Committee on Finance,  
3 all items have been adopted by the committee 16 in  
4 the affirmative, zero in the negative and no  
5 abstentions.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you very  
7 much, and this meeting is adjourned at 10:36 in the  
8 morning. (gavel)

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date March 28, 2020