

# Board of Estimate and Taxation Minutes

Regular Meeting

May 22, 2024 - 4:00 pm

Room 350, Public Service Center

The regular meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m.

Present: Steve Brandt (President), Samantha Pree-Stinson (Vice-President), Aisha Chughtai, Cathy Abene, Jacob Frey, and Elliott Payne (Quorum: 4)

Brandt offered a land acknowledgement after calling the meeting to order.

Abene moved to adopt the agenda.

On a voice vote, the motion passed. [Frey absent]

Abene moved to accept the minutes from the April 24, 2024, meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion passed. [Frey absent]

4. Receiving and filing public comments related to current Board business.

There were no persons wishing to make public comment.

5. Receiving a presentation on the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board 20-Year Neighborhood Park Plan.

Presentation by Superintendent Al Bangoura, Assistant Superintendent Michael Schroeder, and Finance Director Juli Wiseman.

The presentation was received and filed.

Frey joined the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

6. Receiving a debt presentation from the Director of Banking, Investments, and Debt.

Staff presentation by Allen Hoppe, Finance Department.

The presentation was received and filed.

7. Receiving a presentation on the current service level budget for 2025/2026.

Staff presentation by Jayne Discenza and Justin Kohls, Finance Department.

The presentation was received and filed.



Nay: (0)  
Abstain: (0)  
Absent: (0)

9. Passage of Resolution requesting consideration of a Charter amendment referendum proposal related to the Board of Estimate and Taxation.

Brandt moved to approve a resolution requesting consideration of a Charter amendment referendum proposal related to the Board of Estimate and Taxation.

**RESOLUTION**  
**By Brandt**

**Requesting consideration of a Charter amendment referendum proposal related to the Board of Estimate and Taxation.**

Whereas, the Minneapolis Board of Estimate and Taxation (the "Board") was authorized by the Minnesota Legislature in 1919 as a body of seven members with powers involving budget estimates, the setting of the maximum city levies, and the approval of bonding by the city; and

Whereas, the Board lost its seventh and tiebreaking member in 2009 with the demise of the Library Board; and

Whereas, Minneapolis voters nevertheless voted by a 65 percent plurality to retain the Board in a 2009 Charter referendum; and

Whereas, the Board is the only local body of government elected by Minneapolis voters that does not contain an odd number of members to permit the breaking of tie votes; and

Whereas, adding as a seventh member a third representative elected directly to the Board by voters would enhance the Board's intended mission of providing public input on city finances; and

Whereas, the Minnesota Senate in 1919 initially approved legislation establishing the Board with four public members on a nine-member Board; and

Whereas, the duties of the Board have shifted over its history to emphasize setting the maximum levy and authorizing bonding; and

Whereas, many Minneapolis residents have trouble remembering the Board's proper name;

**Resolved by the Minneapolis Board of Estimate and Taxation:**

That the Board requests that the Minneapolis Charter Commission should study and recommend a referendum on a Charter amendment or amendments to (i) restore the size of the Board to seven members, (ii) add a third member of the public elected by Minneapolis voters, and (iii) rename the Board as the Board of Debt and Taxes.

Be It Further Resolved that the Board requests that the City Council initiate a Charter amendment referendum proposal to the Charter Commission to accomplish the above three purposes.

Be It Further Resolved that the Board clerk be directed to transmit this resolution to the Charter Commission and to the City Council.

Frey moved to amend the resolution to read as follows:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The Board of Estimate and Taxation:

That the Board requests that the Minneapolis Charter Commission should study and recommend a referendum on a Charter amendment or amendments to (i) consider whether to restore the size of the Board to seven members, (ii) ~~add a third member of the~~ consider whether the additional member should be publicly elected by Minneapolis voters, and (iii) consider renaming the Board as the Board of Debt and Taxes.

~~Be It Further Resolved that the Board requests that the City Council initiate a Charter amendment referendum proposal to the Charter Commission to accomplish the above three purposes.~~

Be It Further Resolved that the Board clerk be directed to transmit this resolution to the Charter Commission and to the City Council.

On roll call, the motion failed.

Aye: Payne, Chughtai, Brandt, Pree-Stinson (4)

Nay: Frey, Abene (2)

Abstain: (0)

Absent: (0)

On roll call, the main motion passed.

Aye: Frey, Abene, Payne, Chughtai, Brandt, Pree-Stinson (6)

Nay: (0)

Abstain: (0)

Absent: (0)

## **New Business**

10. Receiving the following assessable projects from the City Council for which the Board of Estimate and Taxation will consider approving the issuance of tax-exempt general obligation assessment bonds at a future meeting:

The bond transmittal memo was received and filed.

## **Announcements**

Pree-Stinson asked that presenters identify with their pronouns, encouraged commissioners to engage in outreach to the public regarding the Board of Estimate and Taxation, volunteered to track questions asked of staff and presenters, and offered a reflection on George Floyd.

There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Reported by Lisa Brock, Clerk.