

December 18, 2024



WeVoters Newsletter

Happy Holidays! And they bring some good news!

The issues:

Property Taxes. Yup, Quincy residential property taxes will increase, on average by about \$320. BUT that does not include any increased value of your house. It will go higher, depending how much the city thinks your house is worth. On December 2nd, there was a public hearing about property taxes. However, it had a narrow agenda-tax classification. A number of people spoke about property taxes and the REAL issue---uncontrolled spending on the part of the Koch administration. The President of the City Council was driven mad by people insisting on speaking about how our property taxes keep increasing, a lot. He gaveled the podium until we feared it would break and kept switching off the microphone used by the public. Councilor Cain barked that there was a budget hearing in May. What good does that do when our taxes are going up (again) now? Another sad example of how Quincy politicians do not want to hear from the public, in fact, many of them appear not to like the public. Here's the December 2nd City Council Meeting. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Xuo2jBmAN8>

Spending. And just to prove Quincy likes spending--they quietly approved \$1.1 MM to buy a church in Wollaston, \$245K to buy property in Houghs Neck, and about \$1MM for Alcapulco in Quincy Center, a property tax paying business. Alcapulco will be replaced with a pocket park and a statue. The estimate for demolishing the restaurant and building a park is about \$3.4MM. Oh well, a few more dollars out of our pockets. Although---we were told that all the statues are being paid for by the Hotel and Motel Tax. We could think of better uses of that money----but it appears that only the Mayor can do that. The public is not allowed to speak.

Quarry Hills. Then there is the Quarry Hills Associates lease for the Quarry Links Golf Course. OK---no surprise the City Council all said yes. It is said that a lease of such importance was approved within 29 days of its reintroduction on 11/18/24. There was no discussion about Quarry Hills Associates \$100MM tipping fee. But there are a few bright spots in a dark decision---Councilor Richard Ash actually introduced modified terms that the public brought to light. (At last, we have one City Councilor who actually listens to the public.) Dan Minton voiced appreciation to the public who worked to understand and research the lease. The other 6 City Councilors seemed irritated by any of the public who did not support the lease. In addition to modified lease terms, the sale of the 12 acres was removed from the lease. City Solicitor Timmins also spoke, because apparently the public not in favor of the lease offended him. He went through the history of the original lease to point out that Mayor Sheets and Phelan were involved in this lease-not just Koch. He brought up some specifics that he said the public not in favor of the lease said. Unfortunately, he got some things wrong, for example, he didn't understand the issue of expenses being subtracted from the revenue going to Quincy. Here is the December 16th Ordinance Committee meeting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzLh-L3Eqxl> .

Very Pretty. As much as Quincy makes us a little crazy—the Quincy Adams Commons is beautiful.



Happy Holidays! It is a joyous time, regardless of politics.

Kathy and Susan