

IN CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
July 26, 1999

INTRODUCED BY CITY MANAGER ROBERT W. HEALY

AN ORDER CONCERNING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1998

ORDERED: That in addition to sums previously appropriated by the City Council for the fiscal period 1998-99 the following sum is hereby appropriated in the General Fund of the City of Cambridge:

OTHER		SALARY & WAGES	ORDINARY MAINTENANCE	TRAVEL & TRAINING	EXTRAORDINARY EXPENDITURES	APPROPRIATIONS
FUNCTION	DEPARTMENT OR PROGRAM					
General Government	Public Celebration		\$200,000			\$200,000.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the above acceptance and appropriation in the General Fund to be financed by estimated revenues drawn from the following sources:

FINANCING PLAN	REVENUE
Property taxes	\$200,000.00

In City Council July 26, 1999.
Adopted by a ye and nay vote:-
Yeas 7; Nays 2; Absent 0.
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council 7/26, 199

Com Rept #6 Appropriating \$200,000

YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT	
✓				Ms. Kathleen L. Born
✓				Ms. Henrietta Davis
	✓			V. Mayor Anthony Galluccio
✓				Mr. Kenneth E. Reeves
✓				Ms. Sheila T. Russell
✓				Mr. Michael A. Sullivan
✓				Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
	✓			Ms. Katherine Triantafillou
✓				Mayor Francis H. Duehay

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Mr. Belge presented a slide show containing pictures of lighting events at First Night in Boston and lighting displays in Austria, Castle, Germany and at the DeCordova Museum. He outlined to the Committee the ideal scenario:

In the Millennium – Cambridge will be known as the City of Lights
A light festival will be created that will last the whole year.

Cambridge, he said, has a history of developing devices that use lights. A man at MIT invented the laser light, he said. He further stated that his idea would be to use lighting similar to searchlights, not lasers along Massachusetts Avenue because they create beams in the air. Massachusetts Avenue could be used as a spine for the light festival. Searchlights will be installed along Massachusetts Avenue, attached to streetlights or buildings. They will be coordinated using a computer so that the lights can be synchronized. The lights on top of buildings can be placed so that they are pointing down on the streets, he said. Councillor Russell asked if the lights are distracting to motorists. Mr. Belge responded that the lights have been used in public for years and he was not aware of any accidents caused from the lights. Ms. Holly Getting, Quality Concert Lighting and Event Production Manager, informed the Committee that the lights could be mashed. Mr. Belge stated that the lights can be any color.

Councillor Russell inquired about the expense of the lights. Mr. Belge stated that he would give a price range. He suggested to the Committee that lights could be placed at the perimeters of the City and have the light directed toward a center point (known as an umbrella affect) rather than lighting Massachusetts Avenue. The Massachusetts Avenue lighting plan will require 20 lights and the umbrella plan will require 6-8 lights he said. If the lights were rented for a whole year the price will be 30 to 50% less than if they are purchased, he stated. The Massachusetts Avenue lighting plan will cost around \$200,000 which includes a one year installation and coordination fee. The umbrella plan will cost \$100,000 he said. The power cost will not be dramatic and will cost between \$500 to \$1,000. Ms. Carvello asked if the lights are turned on once a month for twelve months for the umbrella plan, would the cost remain \$100,000. Mr. Belge responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Belge made other suggestions. He suggested that churches with stained glass windows could be lit from the inside to have a stained glass festival. A Map Light was suggested to outline areas where spotlights will be illuminated and these areas can be attached to performance events and music events that can be synchronized with the events.

Councillor Davis suggested that a block party could be held for New Years Eve or an event to come to Massachusetts Avenue to view the lighting. Mr. Belge suggested that Massachusetts Avenue be used as the major piece of the festival. Councillor Russell stated that neighborhood festivals are held in the City during the summer. Mr. Belge suggested that Rindge Towers could be used for

illumination. Councillor Davis stated that she favored the theme of the light festival to be related to enlightenment and understanding. She suggested that the year of enlightenment could be tied in with Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University. Mr. Belge again stated that the laser light and the strobe light were invented in Cambridge.

Councillor Russell asked if the amount included the installation of the lights. Mr. Belge stated that assistance would be needed from the Public Works Department with the installation. He informed the Committee that if the City of Cambridge wants to pursue this idea he would get figures for the design and the program. For the lights installed on buildings a crane will be needed, he stated. Owners of buildings are interested to have lights put on their buildings because it brings attention to the building.

Ms. Robin Bell, Interim Director of the Cambridge Office of Tourism, asked about the timetable. Mr. Belge stated that if the money could be appropriated by August there will not be a problem. If the appropriation is delayed there may be a problem, he said. Mr. John Clifford, Green Street Productions, stated that if the funds are too high why pursue this avenue.

Councillor Russell asked how much funding is the City Manager willing to give to this project. Ms. Carvello stated that \$200,000 will be allocated. This amount will include a coordinator, graphic design fees, lighting plan, and Calendar of Events. She stated that there are a lot of events in the City that will need to be tied into this project. The City needs to figure out how to accomplish this.

Councillor Born suggested that a human corridor around the city with the umbrella spotlights on the ground be incorporated. She asked is there anything that the City could do to make Cambridge unique. Mr. Belge stated that other communities are emphasizing New Years Eve. Cambridge will have a year long festival of lights. Councillor Born asked how far could the lights be seen. Mr. Belge responded one to two miles. It will show up on the satellite. Councillor Born stated that maybe the City could combine the lights with messages from Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology to the space capsule.

Councillor Russell asked if other events will be funded from other budgets. Ms. Carvello responded that the events will be maintained by other departmental budgets. She informed the Committee that a decision needed to be made on a design logo so that it can be put on the Calendar. Mr. Belge stated that the other artist in his group could meet with the Committee in July. Councillor Davis wanted to know the cost of moving the lights around the City.

Councillor Born asked would the City get complaints on violations to the environment related to light pollution. Mr. Belge stated that the lights are focused. This is the opposite of light pollution, he said.

Ms. Bell stated that the cost of the Calendar could be incorporated into the Chamber budget to promote the City of Lights and the events will be added. Ms. Carvello stated that the Calendar should be issued at the beginning of the year and then could be printed quarterly. Ms. Lombardi stated that she will contract the various groups to get a list of the events by September be added to the Calendar.

Councillor Russell asked about air traffic. Mr. Belge stated that if Cambridge is part of the Logan flight pattern the City will need to work with the official from Logan

Councillor Russell stated that the Committee needed to decide on lighting Massachusetts Avenue or the umbrella. Councillor Born stated that she wanted publicity on the City of Lights. She also asked if things could be reflected from the City Hall tower. Ms. Getting stated that she would like to center an exhibition on the people and faces of Cambridge. The faces will speak from the clock tower, she said. For example what has the last 100 years been in Cambridge and what will the next 100 years bring to Cambridge.

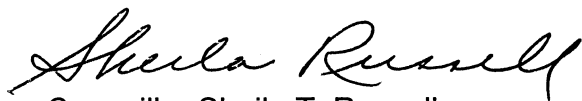
Councillor Russell stated that the City is on a tight schedule. The Committee favored the umbrella plan. Ms. Carvello stated that she needs to get the decisions from the Committee so that the process to hire a coordinator could begin. She further stated that hotels are key. This project will be a good tourist attraction. Councillor Born suggested that restaurant or hotels could fund events that will take place at hotels and restaurants.

Mr. Clifford asked what is the process from this point.

Councillor Russell stated that the Committee will make their recommendations to the City Manager. The City Manager will then appropriate the necessary funds. The City Council will act on the appropriation.

The meeting adjourned at three o'clock and fifteen minutes p. m.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sheila Russell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sheila" and last name "Russell" clearly distinguishable.

Councillor Sheila T. Russell,
Chair

City of Cambridge

In City Council July 26, 1999

The Government Operations Committee conducted a public meeting on Tuesday, June 29, 1999 at two o'clock and two minutes p. m. in the Ackermann Room.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussions on how Cambridge can celebrate the Millennium.

Present at the hearing were Councillor Sheila Russell, Chair of the Committee, Councillors Henrietta Davis and Kathleen Born, Pallas Lombardi, Director of the Arts Council, Charles Sullivan, Director, Historical Commission, Sandra Albano, Assistant to the City Council, Maryellen Carvello, Administrative Assistant to the City Manager, Robin Bell, Interim Director of the Cambridge Office of Tourism, Holly Gettings, Quality Concert Lighting and Event Production Manager, John Clifford, Green Street Productions, Matt Belge, lighting artist representing Spector and Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk.

Councillor Russell opened the meeting by stating that at the last meeting the Committee asked the City Manager for funding.

Ms. Maryellen Carvello, Administrative Assistant to the City Manager, informed the Committee that she spoke to the City Manager and the City Manager stated that he will give the Committee a budget. She stated that this amount will include funding for a coordinator or consultant who will work with the City to pull the activities together.

Councillor Russell stated that the scope of the program will decide the amount of funding that is needed.

Ms. Carvello stated that fireworks for the Danehy Park were not recommended. A laser light show could take place at Danehy Park, she said, but setting up the event needs to be taken into consideration.

Ms. Pallas Lombardi, Director of the Arts Council, stated that if Massachusetts Avenue was lit up questions arose about the cost so she asked Mr. Matt Belge, a light artist representing a company called Spector, to come to the meeting to help answer some of the questions.

Committee Report #6

A report from Councillor
Russell, Chair of the Government
Operations Committee for a
meeting held on June 29, 1999,
for the purpose of discussing
how Cambridge can celebrate
the Millennium.

In City Council July 16, 1999

REPORT ACCEPTED
APPROPRIATION ~~ADOPTED~~
BY A ROLL CALL VOTE
7-2-0

IN CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council July 26, 1999

Mrs's Consent Agenda

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		✓		V. Mayor Anthony Galluccio
✓				Mr. Kenneth E. Reeves
✓				Ms. Sheila T. Russell
✓				Mr. Michael A. Sullivan
✓				Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
✓				Ms. Katherine Triantafillou
✓				Mayor Francis H. Duehay

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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

July 26, 1999

To The Honorable, The City Council:

I am hereby requesting the appropriation of \$200,000 to the Public Celebration Other Ordinary Maintenance Account from property taxes to provide funds for a Millennium Celebration. This appropriation is at the request of the Government Operations Committee and will cover the costs associated with the hiring a coordinator, an umbrella lighting design for the City, graphic design fees, a year-long calendar of events and printing costs.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec

Consent Agenda #13



Relative to an order requesting
the appropriation of \$200,000 to
provide for a Millennium Celebration.

In City Council July 26, 1999

Referred to Committee Rpt. #6

ORDER ADOPTED

7-2-0.