

Waltham City Council
Minutes of the Special Meeting of
June 15, 2020

President Brasco called the meeting to order at 7:54 p.m.

Call of the Roll

Present: Councillors Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, McMenimen, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal and Brasco.

Absent: None.

The City Clerk recited the Council Prayer followed by President Brasco leading all present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Councillor LeBlanc asked for a moment of silence for all our military that have served past and present, especially those that have made the ultimate sacrifice, and for all first responders.

President Brasco recognized Councillor LaCava, Chair of the Finance Committee, who thanked the members of the Finance Committee, the off-committee Councillors who participated in budget deliberations and the Auditor's office for all the work done in preparing and reviewing the fiscal year 2021 budget.

President Brasco stated that the recommendations of the Finance Committee regarding the fiscal year 2021 budget require the approval of four orders and asked the Clerk to read them. The Clerk read the first order:

That the amount of \$185,378,007 be appropriated to the accounts designated in the attached budget schedule to fund the fiscal year 2021 Municipal budget and said amount be assessed in the Revenue of 2021. Councillor LaCava moved that the action of the Committee be the action of the Council. On the motion, Councillor Mackin moved to cut the Police Overtime budget, line item 001-210-5100-5131, in the amount of \$1,050,000. A vote was taken by a call of the roll.

In Favor: Mackin.

Opposed: Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, McLaughlin, McMenimen O'Brien, Stanley, Vidal and Brasco.

Abstained: Paz.

Absent: None.

Matter was defeated 1-13-1.

Councillor Mackin then moved to cut the Police Equipment and Unusual budget, line item 001-210-5400-5853 in the amount of \$55,000. On the motion, Councillor Mackin stated that the youth of Waltham organized a Black Lives Matter rally over the past weekend and one of the key demands of the movement is to demilitarize the police. She stated that this proposed cut is in line with what that youth-led movement is asking for. Councillor Durkee stated that this would be a horrible cut as training is needed for those who carry firearms. Councillor Harris asked Councillor Mackin for her reasoning to which Councillor Mackin responded by saying that the line item is not a training line item. She stated that the cut and the next one she would propose are on balance symbolic. She stated that the budget did not reflect the values of the community and that she was attempting to make a small change. Councillor Harris thanked Councillor Mackin for her response but indicated that she could not support the cut. Councillor Paz stated that he was not anticipating budget cuts being made at this stage of the process. He stated that next year's budget will look a lot different and that revenues will be devastated by the incoming recession. He stated that the elephant in the room is that state government is not acting to save towns and cities. Councillor LaCava stated that all 29 city department took a 5% decrease in their budgets including the Police, Fire, Schools, etc. He stated that the issue of civil forfeiture needed to be discussed in advance of the budget process and that such a conversation was warranted but not under the present terms. He further stated that the Police Department shouldn't be punished for things

happening in other parts of the country. Councillor Stanley stated that the City Council doesn't have the authority to reallocate funds, that only the Mayor has that authority and asked if Councillor Mackin had talked to the Mayor. Councillor Mackin stated that she had not, and that she understood that the Council could not reallocate the money but that her proposed cut was a symbolic gesture. Councillor LeBlanc relayed a conversation that he had with a police officer on the importance that training plays in the restraint of the use of deadly force. Councillor McLaughlin stated that in all of the discussions Council has recently had including the discussions on the Black Lives Matter Resolution, the Council has heard what a great job the Waltham Police Department does – that they are a model. He asked why would the Council look to cut the budget of a department that is doing such a good job. Councillor O'Brien questioned why the only department of 29 city departments being singled out for cuts is the Police Department, pointing out that the police have been on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic. Vice President McMenimen asked why the Police Department is being singled out to which Councillor Mackin answered that the Police Department has a source of revenue that it can expend without additional Council oversight. Vice President McMenimen asked where Councillor Mackin would direct the \$55,000.00 cut to which Councillor Mackin stated the money could be used for rental support and food drives. Councillor LaFauci stated that everyone who is non-essential stayed at home during the COVID-19 shut down except the police and fire who stayed on the job. He stated that something happened in another community that he does not condone – a man was murdered, but it was not in this community. He stated, Waltham's police don't act like that, they are community-based officers. Councillor LaFauci further stated that our police should not be painted with the same broad brush of another community. On the motion to cut the \$55,000 line item, a vote was taken by a call of the roll.

In Favor: Mackin.

Opposed: Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, McLaughlin, McMenimen O'Brien, Stanley, Vidal and Brasco.

Abstained: Paz.

Absent: None.

Matter was defeated 1-13-1.

Councillor Mackin then moved to cut the Police NEMLEC Budget of \$14,500, line item 001-210-5400-5392-25. On the motion Councillor Mackin stated that NEMLEC is touted as a mutual aid organization and she has three problems with that. First, mutual aid should be freely given. Second, NEMLEC is secretive. Third, NEMLEC plays a role when a child goes missing but demanding money for this is extortion. A vote was taken by a call of the roll.

In Favor: Mackin.

Opposed: Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, McLaughlin, McMenimen O'Brien, Stanley, Vidal and Brasco.

Abstained: Paz.

Absent: None.

Matter was defeated 1-13-1.

On the motion by Councillor LaCava, for approval of the order for appropriation of \$185,378,007 to fund the fiscal year 2021 budget, a vote was taken by a call of the roll.

In Favor: Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, McMenimen O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal and Brasco.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Matter was approved 15-0.

The Clerk read the next order:

That the amount of \$92,098,631 be appropriated to fund the fiscal year 2021 School budget and said amount be assessed in the Revenue of 2021. Councillor LaCava moved that the action of the Committee be the action of the Council. A vote was taken by a call of the roll.

In Favor: Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, McMenimen
O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal and Brasco.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Matter was approved 15-0.

The Clerk read the next order:

That the amount of \$396,466 be appropriated to fund the fiscal year 2021 Parking Meter budget.

FROM:

Parking Meter Receipts Reserve	\$396,466
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TO:

Parking Meter-Salaries	#232-480-5100	\$182,878
Parking Meter-Expenses	#232-480-5200	\$148,700
Parking Meter-Equipment & Unusual	#232-480-5400	\$ 62,888
Parking Meter-Uniforms	#232-480-5500	\$ 2,000

Councillor LaCava moved that the action of the Committee be the action of the Council. A vote was taken by a call of the roll.

In Favor: Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, McMenimen
O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal and Brasco.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Matter was approved 15-0.

The Clerk read the final order:

That the City Council re-authorizes four department revolving accounts under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53e ½ for the City Clerk, Council on Aging, Planning and Recreation Departments. Councillor LaCava moved that the action of the Committee be the action of the Council. A vote was taken by a call of the roll.

In Favor: Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, McMenimen
O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal and Brasco.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Matter was approved 15-0.

The Clerk read the following matter reported out of the Finance Committee:

That the Finance Committee discharges to the City Council the Compensation Ordinance - ProPay Administrator Stipend - without a recommendation with a request to refer the matter to the Ordinances and Rules Committee. Councillor LaCava moved that the action of the Committee be the action of the Council. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and President Brasco referred the matter to the Ordinances and Rules Committee.

Vice President McMenimen moved to adjourn. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
President Brasco declared the Special Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert J. Waddick

City Clerk

June 18, 2020

Approved by the City Council: June 22, 2020