

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Minutes of the Meeting
Monday, April 3, 2023

1. Vice-President McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 8:00pm in the City Council Chamber.
2. VP McLaughlin asked the Clerk to call the roll to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – Councillors Bradley–MacArthur, Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, Katz, LaFauci, LeBlanc, President McMenimen, O’Brien, Paz, Vidal, and VP McLaughlin were present in-person. Councillors LaCava and Stanley were absent.
3. President McMenimen moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 20, 2023. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the March 20, 2023 meeting were approved.
4. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Stephen Taranto as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). Councillor Dunn spoke in favor of Mr. Taranto citing his impressive resume and extensive experience in the law enforcement profession. Councillor Dunn moved to approve the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. Taranto. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to transfer the care, custody and control of the Fitch School property to the Recreation Department. A motion by Councillor Harris to hear from the Mayor was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Harris methodically asked questions of the Mayor to elicit the current condition of the building, its proposed uses and the expectation of the neighbors for the property. The Mayor explained the building would be torn down while the gym would remain. The Mayor read several council orders affecting the property that had been approved over several years. Councillor Harris moved to transfer the care, custody and control of the Fitch School property to the Recreation Department. On the motion, Councillor Bradley–MacArthur asked questions about the environmental impact to the spray park and playground, and the condition of the gym, including capacity and egress concerns. Councillor Paz expressed concerns about the impact to Healthy Waltham. The Mayor stated emphatically of her support of Healthy Waltham, citing what her administration has done. The Mayor reiterated the council orders that affected Fitch School property; specifically, the order from 9/27/2021 that the Recreation Department would work with Healthy Waltham. Councillors Vidal and LaFauci asked questions and voiced support for the Mayor’s request. The motion of Councillor Harris was adopted on a roll vote of 13 in favor (Bradley–MacArthur, Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, Katz, LaFauci, LeBlanc, President McMenimen, O’Brien, Paz, Vidal, and VP McLaughlin), none opposed, and LaCava and Stanley absent.
6. Councillor Katz rose to extend a speedy recovery to former Ward 7 Councillor, Joe Giordano. Councillor Katz also acknowledged the success of the Music Unlimited program, citing its recent first place in two events.

7. Councillor O' Brien rose to give a remembrance of the recent passing of former School employee, Christine Tullo.
8. VP McLaughlin extended a Happy Passover and Happy Easter to the community.
9. A motion by Councillor Paz to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote and VP McLaughlin declared the meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Paul G. Centofanti – Clerk to the Committee of the Whole