

Committee of the Whole  
Minutes of the Meeting  
October 18, 2021

1. Vice-President McMenimen called the meeting to Order at 8:00pm in the City Council Chamber.
2. Vice-President McMenimen requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The COW Clerk called the roll – Councillors Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, McLaughlin, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal and Vice-President McMenimen were all present in-person. President Brasco and Councillor Mackin were absent.
3. Councillor McLaughlin moved to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on October 4, 2021. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the October 4, 2021 meeting were approved.
4. Councillor LeBlanc moved to take an agenda matter out of order – resolution on dyslexia. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor LeBlanc moved to hear the from the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Brian Reagan. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Dr. Reagan handed out a multi-page overview titled, "Dyslexia Guidelines and the WPS". Dr. Reagan gave a brief presentation discussing the items contained in the handout. Councillors LeBlanc, McLaughlin and Vice-President McMenimen asked several follow up questions of Dr. Reagan pertaining to the screening process, public awareness, services offered, availability of outside resources from consultants or local universities and statistics that are kept on the percentage of the school population that is affected. Councillor LeBlanc moved to approve the resolution. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the re-appointment of Robert McGovern as an Assessor for a three-year term ending on January 31, 2024. Councillor McLaughlin moved to hear from Mr. McGovern. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Mr. McGovern was asked to give a brief summary of his background and experience for the position. Councillor McLaughlin moved to confirm the re-appointment of Robert McGovern as an Assessor for a three-year term ending on January 31, 2024. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 13 in favor (Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, McLaughlin, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal and Vice-President McMenimen) none opposed and two absent (Brasco and Mackin).
6. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the re-appointment of Donald J. Aucoin as the IT Director for a three-year term ending on February 29, 2024. Councillor LaFauci moved to hear from Mr. Aucoin. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Mr. Aucoin was asked to give a brief summary of his background and experience for the position. Councillor LaFauci moved to confirm the re-appointment of Donald J. Aucoin as the IT Director for a three-year term ending on February 29, 2024. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 13 in favor (Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, McLaughlin, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal and Vice-President McMenimen) none opposed and two absent (Brasco and Mackin).

7. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the re-appointment of Thomas J. Magno as the City Treasurer and Collector for a three-year term ending on February 29, 2024. Councillor LaFauci moved to hear from Mr. Magno. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Mr. Magno was asked to give a brief summary of his background and experience for the position. Councillor LaFauci moved to confirm the re-appointment of Thomas J. Magno as the City Treasurer and Collector a three-year term ending on February 29, 2024. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 13 in favor (Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, McLaughlin, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal and Vice-President McMenimen) none opposed and two absent (Brasco and Mackin).
8. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the re-appointment of Paul G. Centofanti as the City Auditor for a five-year term ending on February 28, 2026. Councillor McLaughlin moved to hear from Mr. Centofanti. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Mr. Centofanti was asked to give a brief summary of his background and experience for the position. Councillor McLaughlin moved to confirm the re-appointment of Paul G. Centofanti as the City Auditor for a five-year term ending on February 28, 2026. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 13 in favor (Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, McLaughlin, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal and Vice-President McMenimen) none opposed and two absent (Brasco and Mackin).
9. A request was received from the Conservation Commission for the potential purchase of conservation parcels. The Clerk of the COW informed the Committee that the Chairman of the ConCom was away and not available this evening. Councillor Darcy moved to request Mr. Moser attend the next COW meeting and to table the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
10. A motion to take the matter of the resolution concerning "Revisions to the Zoning Act" (9/3/2021) off the table was adopted on a voice vote. The COW Clerk read the resolution. A motion to hear from Assistant City Solicitor Patricia Azadi was adopted on a voice vote. Attorney Azadi stated that her opinion on the matter had been provided to the Councillors. Attorney Azadi explained the changes to the zoning amendment and its impact on municipalities. Attorney Azadi explained there is a list of FAQs on the DHCD website. A motion to have Attorney Azadi provide that information to Councillors was adopted on a voice vote. Attorney Azadi explained the conditions where a majority vote versus a 2/3 vote might be allowed, but stressed the matter needs to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Councillor McLaughlin moved to request Attorney Azadi to provide a sheet that break it down and show the required votes. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillors LeBlanc, McLaughlin, Darcy, Paz and Vice-President McMenimen asked several follow up questions concerning the veto ability of the Mayor, requirements from the State, notice requirements to abutters, other communities that have experienced the approval changes, impact of the Board of Survey & Planning, spot zoning concerns, and under-utilization of utility infrastructure. Councillor Darcy moved to table the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
11. A motion to take the matter of the resolution concerning the "Overlay District" (9/3/2021) off the table was adopted on a voice vote. A motion to hear from Assistant City Solicitor Patricia

Azadi was adopted on a voice vote. Attorney Azadi explained the 3 types – Riverfront Overlay, Limited Commercial/Residential Area Overlay and Limited Commercial Overlay. Councillor Darcy gave an example of a specific issue. Attorney Azadi stated the Planning Department should be involved, that a master plan is needed. Vice-President McMenimen asked if all three overlay districts were proposed by City Councillors. Attorney Azadi stated she was unsure and it would need to be researched. It was asked if an Overlay could be proposed as an “as of right” or “approval not required” with a majority vote or a 2/3 vote. Attorney Azadi stated it was a policy decision of the City Council. Councillor Darcy moved to table the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

12. A motion by Councillor Darcy to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote, and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 8:35pm.

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