

COMMITTEE OF THE HWOLE  
Minutes of the Meeting  
Monday – August 7, 2023

1. Vice-President McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 8:19pm in the City Council Chamber.
2. Vice-President 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, Harris, Katz, LaCava, LaFauci, President McMenimen, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal, and VP McLaughlin were present in-person. Councillors Durkee and LeBlanc were absent.
3. President McMenimen moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 26, 2023. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the meeting on June 26, 2023 were approved.
4. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the Purchase and Sale Agreement and authorization to sign all documents related to the sale of the property located at 102 Trimount Avenue to Paul Morreale. A motion by Councillor Harris to approve the matter was adopted on a voice vote.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the appointment of Election workers. President McMenimen requested that City Clerk Joseph Vizard join the discussion. Clerk Vizard stated that the appointment of Election workers should be approved by the Mayor and City Council. President McMenimen spoke about election day and early voting. Councillor Vidal mentioned that some of the Election workers lived outside of Waltham. Councillor LaFauci asked if the Election workers would be at both the Preliminary and General Elections. Clerk Vizard stated that it depended on their availability. Councillor Stanley suggested using an email distribution list to inform the public about the candidates and was interested in finding more ways to reach voters. Councillor Paz questioned why the number of early voting days was reduced. Clerk Vizard stated that he and the Registrar Board Members made the decision. Councillor Harris asked to list all the ways that are available for voting. Clerk Vizard stated that people can vote early by mail, early in person, on election day, at the Clerk's office as an absentee, and mail in absentee. A motion by VP McLaughlin to approve the appointment of Election workers was adopted on a voice vote.
6. A request was received from the Mayor for a vote by the City Council for authorization to sign the Leland House Affordable Housing Restriction. Councillor LaCava requested to speak with Attorney Learned or the Mayor, so a one minute recess was taken. Councillor LaCava confirmed with the Mayor that the agreement represented everything that was previously agreed upon. The Mayor stated that the City, Leland, and the State have to sign the agreement. Councillor LaCava moved to approve the matter. On the motion, Councillor Bradley-MacArthur asked about resident restrictions. The Mayor stated that there would be restrictions for Waltham residents and DHCD would work with the City. DHCD has to approve the marketing plan to ensure compliance. There will be two meetings held at the Senior Center to discuss the application process and requirements. Councillor LaCava stated that 70% of the units would be for local preference and the meetings at the Senior Center will be held in three different languages. VP McLaughlin initiated approval and the motion was adopted on a voice vote.

7. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the acceptance of the Police Regarding Use of City Land for Pedestrians, for Bicycles and Motor Vehicles. The Mayor explained that the topic came up in the Traffic Commission, so she is asking to formulate a written policy that will be safe for everyone. She is concentrating on the arterial streets and plans on providing additional information in September. The Mayor read the letter she wrote to the City Council. Councillor Bradley-MacArthur commented on other area programs and suggested obtaining more expertise. The Mayor stated that the input of John Allen, a well-known Waltham cyclist, would be used for the policy. Councillor Harris requested that a common set of definitions be determined to assist in the process of drafting the policy. Councillor Katz asked for clarification about the City and State recommendations that were identified on the bike trail map. Councillor Paz would like expertise and feedback used to establish a comprehensive vision. Councillor Katz made a request to table the matter in the committee on a voice vote.

8. Councillor LaCava spoke about the request to accept and adopt MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 54 and to establish the minimum value of personal property subject to taxation to be \$10,000.00. He stated that a majority of Massachusetts communities have adopted this tax change and it will positively impact small businesses in Waltham. Councillor LaCava explained that 847 accounts, out of 1,456 accounts, currently have personal property valued at under \$10,000.00 and the personal property tax for those accounts totals \$65,000.00. This change will also help take the burden off the Treasurer's collection process since it was costing more to collect the tax than the actual tax amount. Councillor Paz asked how the City was going to make up the \$65,000.00 in lost revenue. Councillor LaCava stated that the funds will be distributed to the other personal property tax payers. A motion to accept and adopt MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 54 was made by Councillor LaCava. Councillor Harris made a motion to request a roll call vote. The motion to accept MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 54 to provide that personal property, less than an amount established by the City, not in excess of \$10,000 in value, is tax exempt was adopted on a roll call vote of 13 in favor (Bradley-MacArthur, Darcy, Dunn, Harris, Katz, LaCava, LaFauci, President McMenimen, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal, and VP McLaughlin), none opposed, and 2 absent (Durkee and LeBlanc). The motion to establish the minimum value of personal property subject to taxation to be \$10,000.00 was adopted on a roll call vote of 13 in favor (Bradley-MacArthur, Darcy, Dunn, Harris, Katz, LaCava, LaFauci, President McMenimen, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal, and VP McLaughlin), none opposed, and 2 absent (Durkee and LeBlanc).

9. A motion by Councillor Harris for approval of the 2023 Preliminary Election Warrant for September 12, 2023 was adopted on a voice vote.

10. A motion by Councillor Harris for approval of the 2023 Preliminary and General Election Early Voting Schedule was adopted on a voice vote.

11. A motion by Councillor LaFauci for approval of the 2023 Elections – Police Security was adopted on a voice vote.

12. A motion by Councillor Harris to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote and VP McLaughlin declared the meeting adjourned at 9:27pm.