

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes of the Meeting

November 20, 2017

1. Vice-President Logan called the meeting to Order at 8:00pm.
2. Vice-President Logan requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – Councillors Darcy, Fowler, Giordano, D. LeBlanc, R. LeBlanc, Marchese, McLaughlin, McMenimen, O'Brien, Romard, Rourke, Vidal, Waddick and Logan were present. Councillor Brasco was absent.
3. A motion by President LeBlanc to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on November 6, 2017 was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of November 6, 2017 were approved.
4. A complaint concerning the Open Meeting Law was received from a petitioner, Donald & Lidia Desrochers. Councillor Fowler moved to hear from Assistant City Solicitor Patricia Azadi. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Waddick inquired if the City Council had violated the open meeting law. Ms. Azadi responded, "No". Ms. Azadi explained the situations when a member of the public is allowed to address the City Council. Councillor Waddick moved to approve the amended letter received from the Law Department to respond to the complaint received on the open meeting law. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
5. Councillor Fowler moved to take the resolution concerning the Waltham High School project and joint meeting (10/26/2017) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Fowler stated that the Committee should hear from the School Superintendent Echelson about how the School Committee and School Building Committee selected a particular site for the new Waltham High School. Councillor Fowler suggested amending the three (3) "be it resolved" portions of the resolution. Councillor Darcy stated he could not support the proposed revisions to the resolution and asked that his name be removed as a co-sponsor. Councillor McMenimen asked about who has the authority to discuss all the site options. Councillor Randy LeBlanc asked about the City Council's intentions after hearing from Superintendent Echelson. Councillor Fowler stated that the Superintendent would be asked to provide the pros/cons of each site that is/was considered. President LeBlanc stated she supports the proposed change to the resolution. President LeBlanc also stated we need to work together, but it is not the City Council's authority to choose the site. Councillor Giordano stated the City Council should not take the blame for any of the delay as it has been repeatedly stated that the Stigmatine property is not for sale. Councillor Waddick stated if the school is built on the existing WHS site, the City Council involvement is only

to approve funding for the project. The City Council is involved in the other sites because the School Department does not have control of the site or the site is not owned by the City. Councillor Randy LeBlanc again asked about the next steps for the City Council to undertake. If the Superintendent attends the next Committee meeting on December 4 to give the pros/cons of each site, would he then need to come back to a subsequent meeting to ask for a particular site. Councillor McMenimen stated the City Council needs to stop doing business in the same fashion. Councillor McMenimen stated if we amend the resolution, we will have basically killed it. Councillor McMenimen stated we should keep the original resolution. Councillor Romard stated his support for the revisions to the resolution as we need answers to all the sites. Councillor Fowler moved to put the question. The motion to put the question was adopted on a roll call vote of 8 in favor (Fowler, Giordano, D. LeBlanc, Marchese, McLaughlin, Romard, Vidal and Waddick), 5 against (Darcy, R. LeBlanc, McMenimen, O'Brien and Rourke), Brasco absent and Logan presiding. Councillor Fowler moved to amend the three (3) "be it resolved" portion of the resolution as follows:

1. Change the current "Be it resolved" statement to read "Be it resolved that the Superintendent of Schools appear before the Committee of the Whole."
2. No change to the "Be it further resolved" statement of the resolution.
3. Eliminate the "Be it further resolved" statement from the resolution.

The motion to amend the resolution was adopted on a roll call vote of 8 in favor (Fowler, Giordano, D. LeBlanc, Marchese, McLaughlin, Romard, Vidal and Waddick), 5 against (Darcy, R. LeBlanc, McMenimen, O'Brien and Rourke), Brasco absent and Logan presiding. Councillor Fowler moved to request School Superintendent Echelson attends the COW meeting scheduled for December 4. The motion was adopted on voice vote. Councillor Fowler moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter was tabled.

6. A motion by President LeBlanc to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote, and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 8:45pm.

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