

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes of the Meeting

December 23, 2019

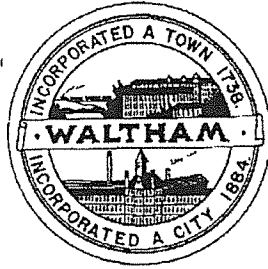
1. Vice-President Logan called the meeting to Order at 8:40 pm.
2. Vice-President Logan requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – President Brasco, Councillors Darcy, Fowler, Harris, LaCava, D. LeBlanc, R. LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, McMenimen, Nabulime, Romard, Stanley, Vidal and Vice-President Logan were present.
3. A motion by Councillor D. LeBlanc to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on December 16, 2019 was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of December 16, 2019 were approved.
4. A CPC application and order in the amount of \$583,194 in CPA funding for the purpose of acquiring the property located at 67 Crescent Street for open space/recreation purposes and to construct a public park on the property was referred to the COW from the LTD Committee. Councillor Darcy moved to approve the application and order. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
5. Councillor Mackin moved to take the matter of the resolution concerning the 2020 inauguration from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. At the request of Councillor Mackin the Clerk of the Committee read the two “be it resolved” statements from the resolution (attached for reference). Upon a clarification question from Councillor Stanley, Councillor Mackin stated she was looking for agreement with the resolution. Councillor D. LeBlanc asked questions about the ability of the City Council to have control over other departments regarding other City events. Councillor Vidal expressed his approval of the resolution. Councillor Romard stated while he supports inclusion, he could not support the resolution, since the matter has been addressed by the City Clerk’s Office. Councillor Fowler spoke in favor of the resolution in that it makes common sense. Councillor Harris asked what was going to happen on the upcoming inauguration day and moved to hear from the City Clerk. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. City Clerk Waddick stated that about 80 letters were sent out to various Waltham faith groups and about 8–10 stated they would attend the inauguration. Mr. Waddick explained Rabbi Finklestein would give the invocation with the other faith group representatives joining him on the stage. The benediction would be performed by Father Adrian of St. Jude’s Church. Councillor Harris asked if this procedure would be repeated in the future, to which Mr. Waddick indicated it would be done one year at a time. Councillor Harris asked if the Mayor was okay with the format. President Brasco stated the proper disposition for the resolution was to file it since the

intent of the resolution has been fulfilled. Councillor Darcy moved the motion for approval of the resolution. The motion to move the question did not pass on a roll call vote of 7 in favor (Councillors Darcy, Fowler, LaCava, D. LeBlanc, R. LeBlanc, Mackin & Nabulime), 7 against (President Brasco, Councillors Harris, McLaughlin, McMenimen, Romard, Stanley & Vidal) and Vice-President Logan presiding. Councillor Stanley spoke about his being offended to the comments made about Waltham not being a welcoming City. He cited the current Mayor's attendance and support of the many diverse events in the City and his father's (former Mayor Stanley) recurring support of the annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. Councillor McLaughlin cited the importance of diversity and he would support the first "be it resolved" statement in the resolution, but not the second one. Councillor Mackin reiterated her reasons for the resolution and her support of both "be it resolved" statements. Councillor D. LeBlanc asked if the question could be split to which Vice-President Logan answered in the affirmative. On the first "be it resolved" statement the motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 15 in favor (President Brasco, Councillors Darcy, Fowler, Harris, LaCava, D. LeBlanc, R. LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, McMenimen, Nabulime, Romard, Stanley, Vidal & Vice-President Logan) and none against. In the second "be it resolved" statement the motion did not pass on a roll call vote of 4 in favor (Councillors Darcy, Fowler, Mackin & Nabulime), 10 against (President Brasco, Councillors Harris, LaCava, D. LeBlanc, R. LeBlanc, McLaughlin, McMenimen, Romard, Stanley & Vidal) and Vice-President Logan presiding.

6. Councillor Vidal moved to carry all items on the COW docket forward into 2020. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
7. A motion by Councillor Vidal to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote, and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 9:15pm.

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

City of Waltham, Massachusetts



Resolution

Equal Representation for the City of Waltham 2020 Municipal Inauguration

November 25, 2019

WHEREAS... Congress shall make no laws respecting an establishment of religion, nor prohibiting the free exercise thereof, and

WHEREAS... This clause has been repeatedly held to apply equally to all branches and levels of the United States government, and

WHEREAS... This clause has also been held to prohibit government actions that unduly favor one religion over another, and from unduly preferring religion over non-religion, or non-religion over religion, and

WHEREAS... the City of Waltham holds numerous municipal ceremonies across the year where faith leaders and congregants are invited to participate, and among the most solemn of these is the Inauguration of a new City Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED... That the Waltham City Council instructs the Clerk's office to ensure that representatives of our community's numerous and diverse faith groups be invited to participate equally in the 2020 City Council Inauguration ceremony, representing the true diversity and inclusiveness of our city, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED . . . That the City Council will exercise oversight to ensure that any public ceremony taking place throughout the year, where city monies are being expended also includes representatives of our community's diverse faith groups, and in such cases as individual religions are being celebrated, equal time and expense is available for any other group wishing to be represented in a city-sponsored or recognized celebration.

Read and adopted _____ **Attest: Robert J. Waddick, City Clerk**

Respectfully submitted: