

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes of the Meeting

April 1, 2019

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, Harris, LaCava (arrived at 8:10), D. LeBlanc, R. LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, McMenimen, Nabulime, Romard, Stanley, Vidal and Vice-President Logan were present. President Brasco was absent.
3. Councillor McMenimen moved to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on March 18, 2019. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the March 18, 2019 meeting were approved.
4. Councillor Darcy moved to take a docket matter out of order. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Carol Patten as a member of the Council on Aging. Councillor Darcy moved to hear from Ms. Patten. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Ms. Patten gave a brief summary of her qualifications and experience. Councillor Darcy moved to confirm the appointment. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the appointment of Carol Patten as a member of the Council on Aging was confirmed.
5. The Citizen Input Public Hearing for the energy aggregation plan was the next matter on the agenda. A motion to hear from the Purchasing Agent, Joe Pedulla, Good Energy representative, Stefano Loretto and Green Energy representative Eugenia Gibbons was adopted on a voice vote. Mr. Pedulla gave a brief summary of the process used to select Good Energy and stated the action that would be sought tonight from the COW. Mr. Loretto stated the goal of the program was to save money for the residents and to utilize more renewable energy. Mr. Loretto gave a Power-Point presentation outlining the specifics of the program and the expected cost to residents. Vice-President Logan opened the public hearing. Two members of the public addressed the COW and spoke of the reasons they were in favor of the program. Vice-President Logan closed the public hearing. Councillor Stanley moved to set the default rate for the energy aggregation plan at ten percent (10%). The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Stanley moved to authorize Good Energy to submit the energy aggregation plan to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) on behalf of the City of Waltham. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
6. A request was received from the Mayor to accept the donation of land known as "Before 15 Keach Street". Councillor Mackin questioned the intent of the use of the property. Councillor Mackin moved to request the Mayor and a representative of the Law

Department attend the next COW meeting to discuss the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Mackin moved to place the matter on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter was tabled.

7. A request was received from the Mayor to appropriate \$1,000,000 to fund the accelerated early site package for the Waltham High School building project at 554 Lexington Street. Councillor McMenimen moved to hear from the Mayor, School Superintendent Drew Echelson and SMMA architect Lorraine Finnegan. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor McMenimen asked several questions about the purpose of the funding request, if the proposal had been vetted and the benefits to the project timetable and overall cost. Councillor McMenimen moved to approve the appropriation of \$1,000,000. On the motion, Councillor LaCava stated his support and said it was best to have as much knowledge about the site to obtain a favorable construction bid. Councillor Fowler also stated his support and explained how it would help get a better and more accurate cost. Councillor Romard asked questions about the status of the ownership of the property, the temporary access roads, duration of daily work hours, the height of the retaining walls, excavation for the test pits and the health/safety for those individuals who were on site during the work. Councillor Diane LeBlanc stated that she supported the request but there is a need to know the cost of the project. Councillor Diane LeBlanc asked several questions about the incurred costs to date, traffic impacts/signals, the ability to accomplish the master plan, expansion potential and the estimated MSBA reimbursement percentage. The Mayor explained it was never intended to build the master plan all at once. The initial intent is to build the school, provide parking and one field, which was the submission under the PSR to the State. The Mayor explained how the process with the MSBA is completely different then when the City's original 2 middle/6 elementary school program was done several years ago. Councillor McLaughlin stated he supported the appropriation, knowing that it could have a favorable impact on potential change orders during the construction phase. Councillor Stanley stated he was in favor, but asked several questions about the project cost, a two level garage, ledge on the site, the project budget and why there could be a year delay if the funds for the early site were not approved tonight. Councillor Stanley asked the Mayor if there is a price that is too high. The Mayor stated that she would not put forth a recommendation without the best information available. Councillor Stanley drafted a request and asked the COW Clerk read into the record (attached). Councillor Stanley moved to approve the request. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Nabulime expressed her support for the funding request, explaining that it would help refine the overall project cost. Councillor Vidal asked a question about the source of the \$1,000,000 funding request, which was explained by both the Mayor and the Auditor. Councillor Harris spoke about the need for the early site work, indicating that it was a best practice. It would also provide a more detailed analysis of the site to gain information for blasting and overall site development. Councillor Harris asked if the \$1,000,000 was a reasonable cost and what impact it would have on the project

timeline. Councillor Randy LeBlanc emphasized it was a cost that would be incurred whether now or later. Councillor Randy LeBlanc moved the question. The motion to approve the \$1,000,000 appropriation was adopted on a roll call vote of 13 in favor (Darcy, Fowler, Harris, LaCava, D. LeBlanc, R. LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, McMenimen, Nabulime, Romard, Stanley and Vidal), Vice-President Logan presiding and President Brasco absent.

8. Vice-President Logan asked Councillor Diane LeBlanc to take the Chair so that he could speak on two resolutions.
9. Vice-President Logan submitted a resolution concerning the observance of Arbor Day on April 26, 2019. Vice-President Logan spoke about the event for Arbor Day and moved to approve the resolution. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the resolution on Arbor Day was approved.
10. Vice-President Logan submitted a resolution concerning the observance of Earth Day on April 22, 2019. Vice-President Logan spoke about the various clean up events that have been planned and how residents could participate. Vice-President Logan moved to approve the resolution. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the resolution on Earth Day was approved.
11. Vice-President Logan resumed the Chair.
12. Councillor Stanley announced a community event "Education Beyond to Assist Teachers" to be held on April 4 at the Paine Estate.
13. The FY2020 City Council budget was the next item on the agenda. Vice-President Logan gave a brief overview of the reasons for the individual line item requests. Councillor Romard expressed concern about the age of the computer in the City Council Room and moved to request the IT Director provide for its funding in the IT budget request for FY2020. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. A motion to recommend the City Council budget for FY2020 in the total amount of \$394,543 (Personnel – \$312,293, General Expenses – \$72,000 and Equipment & Usual – \$10,500) was adopted on a voice vote.
14. Councillor McLaughlin spoke about the "Light It Up Blue" event in support of autism.
15. A motion by Councillor Fowler to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote, and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 10:20pm.

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

City Council Request

Since the Waltham City Council has not been furnished with any information regarding the Waltham High School Project and its projected cost since December 12, 2016 and given the importance to the City of Waltham of the decision about the new Waltham High School and the magnitude of the cost that the Waltham City Council will soon be asked to approve relative to the most costly school building project in the history of the Mass School Building Authority (MSBA) and the City of Waltham, that the Waltham City Council **requests**, to be furnished with the following information as it becomes available so that the Council is fully informed about all aspects of the public project and its cost:

1. Timely copies of all the required monthly reports (past and future) of the Owners Project Manager, NV5 to the MSBA and/or the Waltham School Committee and School Building Committee regarding the Waltham High School project and its cost.
2. Copies of all sections and pages of the Feasibility Study recently completed and submitted to the MSBA related only to 554 Lexington Street, Waltham including all cost information.
3. Timely copies of all past or future consultant recommendations and reports and reports of SMMA to either the School Building Committee, School Committee, Superintendent, Mayor or MSBA including all cost information about the proposed Waltham High School at 554 Lexington Street.
4. Timely copies of all plans approved, graphics accepted, and votes taken by the School Building Committee and/or School Committee that will impact the design, layout, site configuration, and cost of the New Waltham High School.
5. Given the problems and complexities of the site at 554 Lexington Street and the issues expressed in the proposals of SMMA and the various consultants' proposals contained therein, and the time table indicated in WHS Early Site Package, SMMA Additional Service Request No. 5, the importance of fully informing the Waltham City Council becomes ever more important and thus the Waltham City Council requests that the School Building Committee, the School Committee and SMMA to keep the Council fully apprised as to all aspects of the project especially those that will impact the cost of the proposed new high school in a timely fashion.

Submitted: Thomas M. Stanley, Councillor-at-Large. April, 1, 2019

