

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes of the Meeting

April 17, 2018

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, D. Leblanc, R. LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, McMenimen, Romard, Vidal, Waddick and Logan were present. Councillors Brasco and Stanley were absent.
3. A motion by President LeBlanc to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on April 2, 2018 was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of April 2, 2018 were approved.
4. A request was received from the Mayor to present a citywide electric aggregation program to benefit Waltham consumers. President LeBlanc moved to hear from the Purchasing Agent Joe Pedulla, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) representative Cammy Petersen and Good Energy representatives Stephano Loretto and Philip Carr. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Mr. Loretto provided a PowerPoint presentation to explain the pros and cons of the program and the steps to be followed to initiate it. Mr. Loretto explained that Good Energy would initially seek a lower energy supply cost than Eversource and lock in the rate for a 2–3 year period. Mr. Loretto explained the consumer would not see any change in service. Eversource would still provide the distribution and delivery. Mr. Carr gave an overview of the Good Energy Company, explaining what they do and what they have accomplished. Ms. Petersen spoke about the involvement of MAPC and the procurement process to select Good Energy. Councillor Darcy inquired about the other two consultants who were reviewed during the selection process. Councillor Fowler asked additional questions about the process to select Good Energy. Mr. Pedulla explained that MAPC had vetted the three consultants and the City was satisfied with their recommendation. Councillor Mackin asked if residents who are solar users would be impacted. Councillor McMenimen asked the Good Energy to give a more detailed explanation, asked several questions about how energy aggregation benefits consumers and how Good Energy is compensated for their services. President LeBlanc asked questions about participation and how residents would opt in or opt out of the program. Councillor Harris questions about “disaster recovery” and how the ability to provide the supply impact the residents. Councillor Harris asked additional questions about the manner in which Good Energy is compensated. Councillor McLaughlin asked if the Mayor is in favor of the program. Councillor McLaughlin spoke about the Attorney General’s report and if Good Energy wished to provide a response. Councillor Waddick asked Mr. Pedulla additional questions about the procurement process in selecting Good Energy. Councillor Romard

asked if small business owners would be eligible to participate and would there be any subsidy for seniors. President LeBlanc stated that the Committee has satisfied the request of the Mayor and what should be the next step. After discussion, it was stated that Mayor was looking for a vote of the City Council to move the program forward. President LeBlanc moved to authorize the Mayor to work with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and Good Energy to begin an energy aggregation program for the City of Waltham. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 11 in favor (Darcy, Fowler, Harris, LaCava, D. Leblanc, R. LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, McMenimen, Vidal, & Waddick), 1 against (Romard), 2 absent (Brasco & Stanley) and 1 presiding (Logan). President LeBlanc moved to place the matter on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter of the energy aggregation program was tabled.

5. President LeBlanc moved to take the resolution of the City Clerk vacancy (1/8/2018) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President LeBlanc moved to hear from the HR Director Kristen Murphy. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President LeBlanc asked several questions of Ms. Murphy including where the posting will be placed, how long will it be posted and the cost associated with the posting. President LeBlanc asked about the reference to the Mayor in the job description and moved to exclude the reference. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. There was some discussion about the need for letters of reference. Ms. Murphy explained that can sometimes deter potential candidates from applying and there is always the opportunity for the City to do extensive background checks later in the process. President LeBlanc moved to request the HR Director to post and advertise the announcement for the City Clerk vacancy for two weeks to all internal/external candidates. On the motion, Councillor Darcy asked the period be extended to four weeks. The motion, as amended, was adopted on a voice vote. President LeBlanc moved to have the HR Director serve as the point of contact for receiving applications. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President LeBlanc moved to have the HR Director screen all candidates and forward those applications to the City Council. The motion was adopted on voice vote. President LeBlanc moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
6. President LeBlanc moved to take the matter of the Police Station renovation loan order (3/27/2017) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President LeBlanc moved to request Assistant City Solicitor Luke Stanton provide the City Council with an update regarding the litigation related to the renovation of the Waltham Police Station. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President LeBlanc moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
7. President LeBlanc moved to take the matter of the eight potential land acquisitions (4/24/2017) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President LeBlanc moved to request the Mayor provide the City Council with information received

from the Assessors' Office related to the 8 potential land acquisitions needed for traffic, bridge, road and sidewalk improvements. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President LeBlanc moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

8. A motion by Councillor McLaughlin to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote, and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 10:25pm.

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