

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes of the Meeting

September 17, 2018

1. Vice-President Logan called the meeting to Order at 8:10pm.
2. Vice-President Logan requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – Councillors Brasco, Darcy, Fowler, Harris, D. Leblanc, R. LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, McMenimen, Romard, Stanley, Vidal and Logan were present. Councillor LaCava was absent.
3. Councillor Brasco rose to speak on the recent passing of former City Clerk Russ Malone. Councillor Brasco requested a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Malone.
4. A motion by President LeBlanc to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on August 6, 2018 was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of August 6, 2018 were approved.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of John Speidel, 32 Sweetwater Avenue, Bedford as an Assessor. A motion to hear from Mr. Speidel was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Vidal questioned Mr. Speidel about his work experience in the Town of Arlington. Mr. Speidel stated that he believed his work was good and that Arlington was a very political community. Councillor Brasco moved to confirm the appointment of Mr. Speidel as an Assessor. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
6. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the re-appointment of Robert McGovern, 74 Bruce Road, Waltham as an Assessor. A motion by President LeBlanc to hear from Mr. McGovern was adopted on a voice vote. President LeBlanc spoke favorably of Mr. McGovern and moved to confirm the re-appointment of Mr. McGovern as an Assessor. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
7. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Michael Golden, 12 Hampshire Road, Reading as an Assessor. A motion to hear from Mr. Golden was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Romard questioned Mr. Golden about his work experience, noting a great deal of movement from community to community in a short time. Mr. Golden stated that he was continually seeking to upgrade his professional experience and knowledge. Councillor Vidal moved to confirm the appointment of Mr. Golden as an Assessor. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

8. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Paul G. Centofanti, 17 Wilton Street, Waltham as the City Auditor for a five year term ending on February 28, 2021 and that the Mayor is authorized to enter into an employment agreement with Mr. Centofanti and the City of Waltham. President LeBlanc, Councillor McMenimen, Councillor Mackin and Councillor McLaughlin all spoke in favor of Mr. Centofanti. President LeBlanc moved to confirm the appointment of Paul G. Centofanti, 17 Wilton Street, Waltham as the City Auditor for a five year term ending on February 28, 2021 and that the Mayor is authorized to enter into an employment agreement with Mr. Centofanti and the City of Waltham. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
9. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the acceptance of a gift of traffic engineering services from 1265 Main Street LLC for the Route 128 corridor plan valued at approximately \$10,000. Councillor Romard moved to hear from the Mayor and the Traffic Engineer, Michael Garvin. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Romard asked several questions concerning the design, the traffic improvements and the alignment of the roadways. Mr. Garvin described and explained the diagram of the proposed traffic plan. Mr. Garvin also stated the State has been involved and has approved the concept. Councillor Romard asked if the Mayor agreed with the concept. The Mayor explained the impact with Totten Pond Road, spoke about the overall improvements and the potential for development in the area. President LeBlanc stated her questions had been answered and moved to approve the acceptance of the gift. Councillor Randy LeBlanc asked questions about the impact on the Second Avenue traffic. Councillor Mackin asked questions about installing noise barriers, creating a bike path and the impact to the #70 bus service. Councillor Darcy asked to consider sidewalks on Smith Street and Wyman Street. The motion of President LeBlanc to approve the acceptance of the gift was adopted on a voice vote.
10. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the RFP for a portion of the Arrigo Farm property to be used as a tree farm for the CPW Department and the remainder of the property to be used as a farm. Councillor McLaughlin move to hear from the Mayor. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. The Mayor explained the scope and content of the RFP. Councillor McLaughlin moved to approve the RFP. On the motion, Councillor Darcy asked questions about the location and type of trees that would be planted on the CPW portion and its impact on the farm plantings. The Mayor explained the City's tree warden had been involved in determining the location and the farm was situated easterly. Councillor Darcy asked that the motion be amended to include that 25% of the farm produce be given to not-for-profit or educational institutions. Councillor McLaughlin accepted it as a friendly amendment and the motion, as amended, was adopted on a voice vote.
11. A request was received from the Mayor to approve the concept of a caretaker for the Arrigo Farm property and buildings. Councillor McLaughlin move to hear from the

Mayor. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. The Mayor spoke about the condition of the buildings and stated the center section of the house was the only historic portion. The Mayor stated the two wings of the house and the barn would be demolished. The Mayor also stated the site would be pre-baited for rats during the demolition phase. Councillor Randy LeBlanc asked about the potential for a farm stand. Councillor Darcy spoke of the need of facilities for farm use, such as tool storage, wash up area, etc. President LeBlanc asked questions about the responsibilities of the caretaker and the financial impact to the City. President LeBlanc moved to approve a caretaker concept for the Arrigo Farm including its historic structures and farmland. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President LeBlanc moved to file the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter was filed.

12. A resolution concerning the lack of appropriate air conditioning at Waltham High School was submitted by President LeBlanc, Vice-President Logan and Councillors Vidal, Stanley and Harris. A motion to request the Superintendent of Schools to attend and to invite the School Committee to the next COW meeting (10/1/2018) was adopted on a voice vote. President LeBlanc moved to table the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter was tabled.
13. Councillor Fowler moved to take the matter of the resolution concerning the property of One Balm Road (9/28/2015) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Fowler spoke briefly about the property and stated he would be making a request. Councillor Fowler moved to ask the Superintendent of Schools and the School Committee if the property at One Balm Road would be beneficial for the planned new high school, either for placement of the school or as a buffer to protect the neighborhood. The motion was adopted on a 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.
14. Councillor Romard moved to take the matter of the land acquisitions of 8 parcels for traffic, bridge, road and sidewalk improvements (4/24/2017) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Romard moved to hear from the Mayor. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. The Mayor gave a brief update and stated she had not received a response from all the property owners and needed to get all the information first. Once that was done the Mayor stated she would provide the entire package to the Council. The Mayor stated she was seeking approval of an appropriation to conduct an appraisal. Councillor Romard moved to divide the appropriation request from the remainder of the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. A motion to approve the transfer of funds in the amount of \$4,500 to conduct the appraisal 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 and the matter was tabled.

15. President LeBlanc moved to take the matter of the order transferring the City Council Room and the City Clerk's Office (6/25/2018) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President LeBlanc moved to hear from the City Clerk, Robert Waddick. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Mr. Waddick provide the information the Committee had requested concerning the square footage and proposed layout of each office and an inventory of the items kept in the City Clerk's Office. The proposed order was read and Vice-President Logan stated the order needed to include language about the declaration of surplus for each room. Councillor McMenimen strongly stated her reasons opposing the move. Councillor Mackin asked questions about the cost of the move and if provisions for a sound system have been finalized. Councillor Darcy raised concerns about the means and numbers of egress from the new space proposed for the City Council. Councillor Fowler moved to approve the order to transfer the City Council Room and the City Clerk's Office. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 8 in favor (Fowler, Harris, D. LeBlanc, McLaughlin, Romard, Stanley, Vidal & Logan), 4 opposed (Darcy, R. LeBlanc, Mackin & McMenimen), and 2 absent (Brasco & LaCava).
16. President LeBlanc moved to take the matter of safety and security in the Council Chamber (5/14/2018) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President LeBlanc moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the matter, to invite Police Chief MacPherson, Fire Chief MacInnis, Building Superintendent Forte, Assistant Solicitor Azadi and City Clerk Waddick to the Executive Session, appoint COW Clerk Centofanti as Clerk of the Executive Session and to reconvene Open Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session. The motion was adopted at 10:25pm on a roll call vote of 11 in favor (Darcy, Fowler, Harris, D. Leblanc, R. LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, McMenimen, Romard, Stanley & Vidal), 2 absent (Brasco & Lacava) and Logan presiding.
17. Vice-President Logan declared Open Session reconvened at 11:35pm.
18. President LeBlanc moved to place the matter of safety and security in the Council Chamber back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter was tabled.
19. A motion by President LeBlanc to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote, and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 11:37pm.

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