

Waltham City Council
Minutes of the Special Meeting of
November 28, 2022

President McMenimen called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present: Councillors Bradley-MacArthur, Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, Katz, LaCava, LaFauci LeBlanc, McLaughlin, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal and President McMenimen.

Absent: None.

City Clerk Vizard recited the Council Prayer followed by President McMenimen leading all present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Councillor Durkee asked for a moment of silence for all military that have served past and present.

James Krikeles, 19 Gorham Street, Waltham was recognized as recording the meeting.

President McMenimen explained that the special meeting of the City Council would be held in accordance with City Council Rule 87 as well as MGL CH.40.S56 and explained the agenda.

Assessor, Frank Craig, Chair of the Board of Assessors spoke on the tax levy. Mr. Craig made reference to charts and graphs in a presentation that had been sent to the Councillors. Councillor LeBlanc asked about the reduction of taxes for 2023. Mr. Craig replied stating that 2013 and 2018 also showed reductions. Mr. Craig stated that commercial growth helps to reduce taxes. Councillor LeBlanc asked for more information. Mr. Craig gave a more in depth description of the tax reduction in the City and the residential exemption rules. Councillor McLaughlin spoke about the presentation and graphs, thanking Mr. Craig for his detailed presentation. Councillor Vidal asked about a break-even point. Mr. Craig explained that the break-even point goes up with single family home values. Councillor Vidal asked about Boston Properties percentage of taxes. Mr. Craig explained that the two top commercial properties, one being Boston Properties, have added several buildings over the last few years. Councillor LaCava asked about tax rate jumps, small businesses and abatements. Mr. Craig explained municipality rates and local options and the difference between multi-family and single family residences. Councillor LaFauci asked about commercial rates and yearly increases. Mr. Craig answered explaining about the 2023 reduction. Councillor Katz questions about tax rates. Mr. Craig provided answers. Councillor Darcy read the definition of tax rates from Google and asked for Mr. Craig's info to be broken down by Ward and sent to the Council. Mr. Craig responded in great detail explaining that the Ward information had been provided in the previous year and he can provide that information. Councillor Darcy asked about property values. President McMenimen thanked Mr. Craig for his presentation. Councillor LaCava asked if there was anyone present from the Community Preservation Committee to answer questions. No one from the CPC was in the Chamber.

Councillor LaCava moved approval of the Community Preservation Act – FY2023 surcharge allocation for \$3,650,000.00. Roll call required.

In favor: Bradley-MacArthur, Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, Katz, LeBlanc, McLaughlin, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley and Vidal.

Opposed: LaCava and LaFauci.

Absent: None.

Presiding: McMenimen.
The motion was approved 12-2-0.

Councillor LaCava moved approval of the Community Preservation Act – FY2022 surcharge allocation for \$1,056,434.00. Roll call required.
In favor: Bradley-MacArthur, Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, Katz, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, McLaughlin, O'Brien. Paz, Stanley and Vidal.
Opposed: None.
Absent: None.
Presiding: McMenimen.
The motion was approved 14-0-0.

Councillor LaCava moved approval of the Community Preservation Act – FY2022 surcharge allocation for \$876,999.42. Roll call required.
In favor: Bradley-MacArthur, Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, Katz, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, McLaughlin, O'Brien. Paz, Stanley and Vidal.
Opposed: None.
Absent: None.
Presiding: McMenimen.
The motion was approved 14-0-0.

Councillor LaCava moved approval of appropriation from Water Retained Earnings for \$2,000,000.00. Roll call required.
In favor: Bradley-MacArthur, Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, Katz, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, McLaughlin, O'Brien. Paz, Stanley and Vidal.
Opposed: None.
Absent: None.
Presiding: McMenimen.
The motion was approved 14-0-0.

Councillor LaCava moved approval of the FY2023 Residential Exemption Percentage of 35%. Roll call required.
In favor: Bradley-MacArthur, Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, Katz, LeBlanc, McLaughlin, O'Brien. Paz, Stanley and Vidal.
Opposed: LaCava and LaFauci.
Absent: None
Presiding: McMenimen.
The motion was approved 12-2-0.

Councillor LaCava moved approval of the FY2023 Residential Factor 60.1413. Roll call required.
In favor: Bradley-MacArthur, Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, Katz, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, McLaughlin, O'Brien. Paz, Stanley and Vidal.
Opposed: None.
Absent: None.
Presiding: McMenimen.

The motion was approved 14-0-0.

With no further matters Councillor McLaughlin moved to adjourn. The motion was approved by a voice vote. President McMenimen declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cathy Magliarditi

Executive Assistant to the City Clerk

December 6, 2022