

Public Works and Public Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2023

Chairman LeBlanc called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Councillors Durkee, Katz, LaFauci and LeBlanc.

Absent: Dunn.

Councillor LaFauci moved approval of the minutes from 5/1/2023. The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

First agenda item: Mass DEP Drinking Water Program Award

Councillor LaFauci spoke on the award and noted we are one of eight communities to have received the recognition. Councillor LaFauci moved to send to the full council and to create and approve a proclamation for the Water Department from the City Council. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Councillor LaFauci moved to take the Stretch Code Resolution. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Councillor LaFauci moved to hear from all off committee members. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Councillor LaFauci spoke on the Resolution and read the Resolve. Inspector Bower spoke on the stretch code opt in law set in place today. The home energy rating system needs to be between 42-45 now. Gas needs to be at least at forty-two and electric at forty-five. Fifty-two is passing. There is no incentive or credit for fossil fuels. These are for everything being built as of now greater than four thousand square feet can only be full electric. If under 400 sq. feet you can have both gas and electric. It is 12,00+/- sq. feet for a multi-family for all electric and 20% needs EV wiring. With this recommendation in the resolution; if you double the size of your house, you need to bring your entire home up to code including R value. As of now if you build an addition the addition just needs to be up to code. Councillor Katz asked for some clarification. We, Waltham already have this. We are part of the energy code since 2010ish. There are 100 solar panels on resident's homes and the hertz value for stretch code is 42 (fossil) & 45 (full electric). The Chair rose to a point of information. This proposal is 15% more stringent or above the states regulations. Off Committee Council Bradley-MacArthur, the creator of the resolution asked Inspector Bower about electric cars and the 4,000 sq. foot benchmark. The Inspector said there are no longer credits for gas or propane but certain appliances offer them. You need to do solar panels if you want the credits for the gas. Councillor LaFauci spoke and stated we are an elected body representing the people. This additional stretch code is a hindrance and an injustice and the Councillor moved to file the Resolution. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

With no further matters Councillor LaFauci moved to adjourn.

Chairman LeBlanc declared the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Wilson, Assistant City Clerk

May 24, 2023