

Committee of the Whole

Minutes of the Meeting

January 19, 2021

Held remotely on ZOOM

1. Vice-President McMenimen called the meeting to Order at 8:00pm.
2. Vice-President McMenimen requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The COW Clerk called the roll – President Brasco, Councillors Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal, and Vice-President McMenimen were all present remotely.
3. Councillor McLaughlin moved to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on December 28, 2020. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the December 28, 2020 meeting were approved.
4. Councillor Stanley spoke to extend congratulations to Mary Caramanica who will be attaining age 100 years old this coming weekend. Councillor Stanley mentioned that a drive by parade will be held on January 24, 2021 from 11–12 at Sacred Heart Church parking lot.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the re-appointment of Paul Maillet as a constable. Councillor Darcy spoke briefly about the applicant and moved to confirm the re-appointment of Mr. Maillet. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
6. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the re-appointment of Robert Millian as a constable. Councillor LaCava moved to hear from Mr. Millian. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor LaCava asked Mr. Millian to give a brief description of his background and experience as a constable. Councillor LaCava moved to confirm the re-appointment of Mr. Millian. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
7. Vice-President McMenimen took leave of the Chair to speak on the open meeting complaint concerning the release of several sets of executive session minutes of meetings held in the City Council and the Committee of the Whole. Vice-President McMenimen spoke about the opinion that was received from the Law Department concerning how the executive session minutes should be handled. Vice-President McMenimen moved to approve the minutes of the 4/4/2016 executive session as draft minutes, as only five current Councillors were in attendance for the executive session. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 5 in favor (Darcy, McLaughlin, O'Brien, Vidal and McMenimen). Vice-President McMenimen moved to release the executive session minutes of 4/4/2016. The motion was adopted on a voice of 15 in favor (President Brasco, Councillors Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal, and Vice-President McMenimen). Vice-President McMenimen moved to approve the minutes of the 5/21/2018 executive session by only the 9 current Councillors in attendance for the executive session. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 9 in favor (Brasco, Darcy, Harris, LaCava, LeBlanc, McLaughlin, Stanley, Vidal and McMenimen). Vice-President McMenimen moved to release

the executive session minutes of 5 /21/2018. The motion was adopted on a voice of 15 in favor (President Brasco, Councillors Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal, and Vice-President McMenimen). Vice-President McMenimen stated the Committee has met its obligation within the 60-day time period and is sending the matter of then open meeting complaint back to the full Council.

8. President Brasco moved to take the resolution on the matter of the communication from the Mayor concerning the bond sale for the Waltham High School (11/23/2020). The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President Brasco moved to request the City Auditor, Paul Centofanti present his statement to the Committee. Then motion was adopted on a voice. Mr. Centofanti gave a brief presentation explaining the methodology for issuing bonds, the decision to issue bonds at this time, the results of the bond sale and its impact. Councillors Durkee and Paz asked follow up questions concerning the bond premium and the interest rate. Vice-President McMenimen spoke about the prior and current school building program and asked about the differences in the funding. Councillor Dunn asked if the Committee could receive a copy of the Auditor's remarks. President Brasco made the motion on behalf of Councillor Dunn. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President Brasco moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter was tabled.
9. Councillor O'Brien moved to take the matter of the resolution concerning the Piety Corner intersection project (12/28/2020). The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor O'Brien moved to hear from the Traffic Engineer, J. Michael Garvin. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Mr. Garvin spoke about the status and progress of the project, specifically the removal and relocation of utility poles. Mr. Garvin displayed for the Committee a schematic of the intersection that incorporated both the current and proposed traffic pattern layout. Mr. Garvin stated the proposed layout would shrink the size of the intersection, thereby making the traffic flow easier and more efficient. Councillor O'Brien asked the anticipated date of completion, to which Mr. Garvin responded two construction seasons. Councillor LaFauci asked about the status of the bid documents for construction phase, the timeframe in which Eversource would remove/relocate the utility poles and impacts with the WHS project. Vice-President McMenimen asked about the involvement of the Inspector of Wires, Tim Kelly, with the project. Vice-President McMenimen also stressed the need to follow up and stay on top of Eversource. Councillor LeBlanc offered to reach out to Eversource to ensure the removal/relocation of the utility poles is not delayed. Councillor LeBlanc also asked about extending the length of the fourth lane that directs traffic onto Bacon Street from Totten Pond Road. Mr. Garvin stated it could not be extended, as it would create an impact with the abutting property. Councillor O'Brien moved to place the matter on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
10. A motion by Councillor Paz to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote, and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 9:10pm.