

Committee of the Whole
Minutes of the Meeting
September 20, 2021

1. Vice-President McMenimen called the meeting to Order at 8:03pm in the City Council Chamber.
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 Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, O'Brien, Paz, Vidal, and Vice-President McMenimen were all present in-person. Councillors Darcy, Dunn, Lafauci and Stanley were absent.
3. Councillor LeBlanc moved to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on June 21, 2021. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the June 21, 2021 meeting were approved.
4. Councillor Vidal moved to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on June 28, 2021. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the June 28, 2021 meeting were approved.
5. Councillor Vidal moved to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on August 2, 2021. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the August 2, 2021 meeting were approved.
6. A request was received from the Mayor to transfer the care, custody and control of the Government Center Gymnasium to the Recreation Department. A motion to hear from the Mayor and Recreation Director Nick Abruzzi was adopted on a voice vote. The Mayor gave an overview of the reassignment of offices in Government Center and would allow the storage in the gymnasium to be located in the vacated offices on the lower level. Councillors LeBlanc, LaCava and Paz asked several questions about the intended use of the gymnasium, any safety concerns, and public access to the space. Councillor Durkee moved to transfer the care, custody and control of the Government Center Gymnasium to the Recreation Department. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
7. A request was received from the Mayor to transfer the care, custody and control of the Fitch School Gymnasium to the Recreation Department. A motion to hear from the Mayor and Recreation Director Nick Abruzzi was adopted on a voice vote. Mr. Abruzzi gave an overview of the intended use of the gymnasium and his willingness to work with Healthy Waltham. Councillor Harris spoke about the ability to increase recreational space in the Fitch School neighborhood. The Mayor stated that Healthy Waltham should respond to the RFP on the UMass Field Station property for compatibility reasons with their food distribution program. Councillor Harris moved to transfer the care, custody and control of the Fitch School Gymnasium to the Recreation Department. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

8. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Crystal Philpott as the Purchasing Agent. The Mayor gave an introductory statement about Ms. Philpott citing her work ethic and willingness to advance in the procurement field. A motion to hear from Ms. Philpott was adopted on a voice vote. Upon questions from Councillor McLaughlin, Ms. Philpott explained her background and multi-faceted experience for the position. President Brasco spoke favorably of Ms. Philpott and moved to confirm her appointment. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 11 in favor (Brasco, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, O'Brien, Paz, Vidal, and McMenimen), none opposed, and 4 absent (Darcy, Dunn, Lafauci and Stanley).
9. A resolution was submitted by Vice-President McMenimen concerning the "overlay district", including a request for the Law Department to appear. It was stated that Assistant City Solicitor Patricia Azadi was not available. President Brasco moved to table the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
10. A resolution was submitted by Vice-President McMenimen concerning the "zoning act", including a request for the Law Department to appear. It was stated that Assistant City Solicitor Patricia Azadi was not available. President Brasco moved to table the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
11. A motion to take the matter of the executive session minutes of 8/3/2020 for the land acquisition of 89 Maple Street off the table was adopted on a voice vote. Vice-President McMenimen stated that the minutes of the executive session had been approved by the Committee, sent to the Law Department for review and a vote to release was required. President Brasco moved to release the minutes of the executive session meeting held on 8/3/2020. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
12. A motion by Councillor President Brasco to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote, and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 8:35pm.

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