

Committee of the Whole

Minutes of the Meeting

December 28, 2020

Held remotely on ZOOM

1. Vice-President McMenimen called the meeting to Order at 8:55pm.
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 present remotely.
3. President Brasco moved to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on December 21, 2020. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the December 21, 2020 meeting were approved.
4. Vice-President McMenimen went over the Committee of the Whole docket and gave the reasons why certain items need to remain or be removed from the docket. Vice-President McMenimen stated she would take up the matter of the executive session minutes pertaining to the open meeting law complaint from the State in the next City Council meeting later this evening.
5. Councillor LeBlanc moved to take the matter of the non-CPA use of the Fernald property (10/26/2020) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Vice-President McMenimen recused herself from the discussion/vote due to her proximity to the site, and asked President Brasco to serve as Chair. Councillor LeBlanc asked the Chair of the Fernald Use Committee, Councillor McLaughlin if there is any update he can share with the Committee. Councillor McLaughlin stated the matter had been moved from the Fernald Use Committee and to the Committee of the Whole. Councillor McLaughlin also stated that a request for the Mayor to appear at a future COW meeting had been approved. Councillor LaFauci gave a detailed sequential list of the Mayor’s recommendations for the development of the Fernald property. Councillor LaFauci stated the City should go forward with the request to conduct a feasibility study for the non-CPA portion of the Fernald property citing the possible uses for CPW, a cemetery, City Yard, materials management and parking for school buses. Councillor LaFauci re-iterated that it is just a feasibility study and that “no shovels were going in the ground”. Councillor LaFauci moved to conduct a feasibility study of the uses of the non-CPA portion of the Fernald property for CPW, Cemetery, City Yard, materials management and the parking of school buses. On the motion, Councillor McLaughlin voiced his support and encouraged that a site visit be held. Councillor Darcy raised concerns of not having a citizen input meeting that was discussed and approved in the Fernald Use Committee. Councillor LaFauci stated the citizen input is important, but the study should be conducted first. Councillor Darcy stated not having a citizen input meeting first goes against the vote of the Fernald Use Committee. Councillor LaCava stated he did not have the same recollection. Councillor McLaughlin stated at the Fernald Use Committee of 11/9/2020, Councillor Darcy asked for a citizen input meeting, but it was not specifically tied to the

feasibility study. Councillor McLaughlin stressed it would be better served to have a site visit (Councillors/citizens), conduct the feasibility study, then hold the citizen input meeting. Councillor Mackin asked about the portion of the Fernald property that would be the focus of the feasibility study. Councillor LaFauci stated it would be the 50 acres labeled as area 3A and 3B. Councillor Mackin asked if the motion to conduct the feasibility study was limited to the uses identified in the Mayor's letter of 10/22/2020. Councillor McLaughlin stated it was predominately CPW uses. Councillor Mackin expressed concern of no consideration for a museum or other historical remembrances of the site. Councillor Paz stressed the importance and the need to conduct the feasibility study and the site visit. Councillor Harris was in support of the feasibility study and the need to look at the municipal use of the property, while maintaining respect for the past. Councillor Vidal voiced his support and the feasibility study was a step in the right direction to see what can be done there. Councillor Vidal said it is the time to do something. Councillor O'Brien spoke about looking at the minutes of prior meetings and focus groups. Councillor O'Brien stated he supported the feasibility study and citizen input. Councillor LeBlanc stated his support and the need for the site visit. Councillor Darcy stated the residents of North Waltham are opposed to locating the CPW at the Fernald property, citing concerns of noise and lights all hours of the day. Councillor Darcy also stated the current CPW site poses problems for those residents. Councillor McLaughlin reminded the Committee that this same 50-acre non-CPA portion was considered as the site for the new Waltham High School. The original motion of Councillor LaFauci to conduct a feasibility study of the uses of the non-CPA portion of the Fernald property for CPW, Cemetery, City Yard, materials management and the parking of school buses was approved on a roll call vote of 12 in favor (Brasco, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, McLaughlin, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley and Vidal), 2 opposed (Darcy and Mackin) and McMenimen recused. Councillor McLaughlin moved to request the Mayor work with the City Clerk to schedule a site visit. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

6. Vice-President McMenimen resumed the Chair.
7. President Brasco moved to carry all tabled items on the COW docket forward to 2021. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
8. A motion by Councillor McLaughlin to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote, and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 9:45pm.

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