

**Committee of the Whole**  
Minutes of the Meeting  
April 5, 2021

1. Vice-President McMenimen called the meeting to Order at 8:00pm 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 Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaFauci, LeBlanc (arrived at 9:05pm), McLaughlin, O'Brien, Paz, Vidal, and Vice-President McMenimen were all present in-person. Councillors Mackin and Stanley were present remotely. Councillor LaCava was absent.
3. President Brasco rose to inform the Committee of the recent passing of former City Councillor James Regan. President Brasco and Vice-President McMenimen both spoke fondly of Mr. Regan and highlighted his accomplishments as a local businessman and elected official. President Brasco asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Regan.
4. Councillor LaFauci moved to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on March 15, 2021. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the March 15, 2021 meeting were approved.
5. Councillor Vidal moved to take the matter of the electricity aggregation program off the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Darcy moved to hear from the Planning Director, Catherine Cagle and Good Energy representatives, Daria Mark and Stefano Loretto. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Vidal asked several questions about the outreach efforts to the community and the ability for residents to receive information about the program. It was explained that several ZOOM meetings had been held of recent and the recordings would be on the City's website. Councillor Vidal expressed the concern he has received from residents about the automatic enrollment in the program and having to "opt out". Mr. Loretto explained the State regulations that allow for this type of roll out for the program. Councillor O'Brien asked several questions concerning the "opt out" provision, including the deadline and the number of residents that have chosen to "opt out". Mr. Loretto stated that to date about 1,800 of the 23,000 eligible residents have opted out and their experience reflects an opt out rate of about 10%–15%. Councillor Harris followed up with additional questions concerning the impact and benefit of the program to residents. Councillor Harris asked that the explanation of Ms. Mark and Mr. Loretto be stated in "plain English" and that the message be communicated to the residents. Councillor McLaughlin stated his concern about the notification process and expressed the need to do a second mailing to residents. Councillor Dunn asked about the experience of the program in other communities. Mr. Loretto stated that renewal contracts had been executed in several other communities. Councillor Dunn moved to request that Good Energy list the metro Boston communities that have adopted this program and financial data of how the rates changed

after the 31 month initial period. Councillor Dunn further stated in her motion that they should be able to go back several cycles on some of these towns since they started in 2016. The motion was adopted on a voice vote with no audible objection. Councillor LaFauci asked several questions about the potential tax deduction that a resident may be eligible for and how it would be calculated. Councillor LeBlanc also asked a follow up question about the tax impact on residents and stated the importance of promoting competition amongst different suppliers. Councillor McLaughlin moved to table the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote with no audible objection.

6. The matter of the FY2022 City Council budget was discussed. Councillor Darcy discussed the need to install monitors in the Council Chamber (2) and outside the Council Chamber (1) for those in attendance. Councillor Darcy moved to add \$8,000 to the City Council FY2022 budget request. The motion was adopted on a voice vote with no audible objection.
7. President Brasco moved to take the resolution concerning the Police Department (9/14/2020) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President Brasco moved to request the Acting Police Chief, Kevin O'Connell appear to discuss the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President Brasco moved to discharge the matter to the City Council without a recommendation and that the matter be re-committed to the Public Safety/Public Works Committee for discussion at the April 20, 2021 meeting. The motion was adopted on a voice vote with no audible objection.
8. A motion by Councillor LeBlanc to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote, and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 9:40pm.

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