

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes of the Meeting

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

1. Vice-President McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 8:00pm in the City Council Chamber.
2. VP McLaughlin asked the Clerk to call the roll to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – Councillors Bradley-MacArthur, Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, President McMenimen, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal, and VP McLaughlin were present in-person. Councillor Katz was absent.
3. President McMenimen moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 3, 2023. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the April 3, 2023 meeting were approved.
4. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Gail David as a member of the Waltham Housing Authority (WHA). Councillor LaFauci spoke in favor of Ms. David citing her background. Councillor LaFauci moved to approve the confirmation of the appointment of Ms. David. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Robert Charbonneau as a member of the Waltham Council on Aging Board. A motion by Councillor Dunn to hear from Mr. Charbonneau was adopted on a voice vote. Upon questions from Councillor Dunn, Mr. Charbonneau spoke of his background and interest for the position. Councillor Dunn moved to approve the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. Charbonneau. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
6. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Christopher Demeo as a member of the Waltham Council on Aging Board. A motion by Councillor LaCava to hear from Mr. Demeo was adopted on a voice vote. Upon questions from Councillor LaCava, Mr. Demeo spoke of his background and interest for the position. Councillor LaCava moved to approve the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. Demeo. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
7. Councillor LaCava moved to take the matter of the Real Estate Tax and Personal Property Tax Small Business Exemption (12/12/2022) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor LaCava moved to hear from Assessor Francis Craig. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Assessor Craig gave a presentation to explain his handout citing the pros and cons of each exemption. Councillor LaCava asked several follow up questions about eligibility and the estimated dollar impact to the tax levy. Councillor LaCava also questioned the amount of time spent by City employees to bill and collect the taxes. Councillor LaCava moved to request the City Treasurer provide a cost analysis of the time spent. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor LaCava moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

8. Councillor Dunn moved to take the matter of the Hobbs Brook communication (8/1/2022) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Dunn moved to request the COW Clerk contact the Law Department to provide an update to the request made on 8/1/2022. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Dunn moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
9. Councillor Harris moved to take the matter of the MBTA Action Plan (11/14/2022) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Harris moved to send the matter to the full Council and to have it re-committed to the Ordinances & Rules Committee. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
10. Councillor LeBlanc rose to congratulate all Waltham residents who ran the Boston Marathon, specifically citing Henry Ward who ran it four times in one day.
10. A motion by Councillor LaFauci to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote and VP McLaughlin declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

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