

Committee of the Whole
Minutes of the Meeting
June 21, 2021

1. Vice-President McMenimen called the meeting to Order at 9:00pm 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 – Councillors Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, Lafauci, LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, Paz, Stanley, Vidal, and Vice-President McMenimen were all present in-person. President Brasco and Councillor O'Brien were absent.
3. Councillor McLaughlin moved to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on June 7, 2021. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the June 7, 2021 meeting were approved.
4. Councillor Vidal moved to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held in executive session on June 7, 2021. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the executive session minutes of June 7, 2021 were approved. Councillor Vidal moved to send the minutes to the Law Department for review before the vote to release them. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Acting Chief Kevin O'Connell as the Chief of the Police Department. A motion to hear from Acting Chief O'Connell was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor McLaughlin spoke in strong support of Acting Chief O'Connell citing his background, experience and commitment to the law enforcement profession. Councillor McLaughlin moved to confirm the appointment. On the motion, Councillor Mackin asked several questions about Acting Chief O'Connell's position on dealing with the homeless population and individuals with mental health issues. Councillor Stanley asked questions pertaining Acting Chief O'Connell's background and experience. Councillor Paz asked questions about interaction with various groups and immigration. Councillor Lafauci spoke favorably of Acting Chief O'Connell citing his community-first approach. Councillor LaCava asked questions about staffing levels, potential siting of a new police station, and policing priorities. Councillor LeBlanc asked questions about the impact to policing with the presence of Bentley and Brandeis in the community. Councillor Darcy spoke favorably, emphasizing Acting Chief O'Connell's reference of police as "guardians" not "warriors". The motion of Councillor McLaughlin to confirm the appointment of Kevin O'Connell as the Chief of Police was adopted on a roll call vote of 13 in favor, (Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, Lafauci, LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, Paz, Stanley, Vidal, and Vice-President McMenimen) and 2 absent (President Brasco and Councillor O'Brien).
6. The next agenda item was the LIP application for the property located at 99 Moody Street. A motion to hear from Assistant City Solicitor Michelle Learned was adopted on a voice vote. Attorney Learned explained the specifics of the language in the application and the purpose of the application. Attorney Learned explained there would be one unit designated as

affordable. Councillors Paz and LeBlanc asked several questions about the process, how the owner of the unit would be selected and the treatment of the unit in a future sale. Councillor Paz moved to approve the proposed order drafted by the Law department and to authorize the Mayor to sign the LIP application for submission to DHCD. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 12 in favor (Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, Lafauci, LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, Paz, Stanley and Vidal), 2 absent (Brasco and O'Brien) and McMenimen presiding.

7. A request was received from the Mayor requesting input from the City Council on any RFP and/or terms for the property located at 240 Beaver Street. Councillor LeBlanc rose to recuse himself from the matter due to the proximity of his residence to the property. Both Councillor Darcy and Councillor Harris addressed any apparent conflicts of interest with the State Ethics Commission and it was determined it did not impact their ability to discuss and vote on the matter. Councilor Darcy moved to table the matter. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 10 in favor (Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, Lafauci, Mackin, McLaughlin, Paz and Vidal), none opposed, 1 recused (LeBlanc), 3 absent (Brasco, O'Brien and Stanley) and Vice-President McMenimen presiding. Councillor McLaughlin moved to combine the matter of the UMass Field Station (2/11/2019) with the more current matter of the UMass Field Station (6/14/2021). The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
8. A motion by Councillor LeBlanc to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote, and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 9:55pm.

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