

Committee of the Whole
Minutes of the Meeting
June 28, 2021

1. Vice-President McMenimen called the meeting to Order at 11:10pm 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, LaCava, Lafauci, LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, Paz, Vidal, and Vice-President McMenimen were all present in-person. Councillors O'Brien and Stanley were absent.
3. The first agenda item was changes to the regulatory agreement with DHCD for the property located at 315 College Farm Road. Councillor Dunn moved to hear from Assistant City Solicitor Michelle Learned. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Upon questioning from Councillor Dunn, Attorney Learned explained there were two minor word revisions that needed to be made in the agreement. Satisfied with the explanation, Councillor Dunn moved to accept the two minor word changes and to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with DHCD. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 12 in favor (Brasco, Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, Lafauci, LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, Paz, and Vidal), 2 absent (O'Brien and Stanley) and McMenimen presiding.
4. A request was received from the Mayor to allow temporary occupancy of the gymnasium at the Fitch School for Healthy Waltham. Councillor Darcy rose to explain he addressed any apparent conflicts of interest with the State Ethics Commission and it was determined it did not impact his ability to discuss and vote on the matter. Councillor Harris rose to state the matter was already in the Committee on Economic and Community Development and not the Committee of the Whole. Vice-President McMenimen acknowledged the oversight.
5. A request was received from the Mayor concerning the matter of a \$46,000 funding authorization for water fires on the Charles River. The Auditor and the Mayor explained the proper disposition of the matter was to rescind the order (#33607 12/12/2016) for the item. President Brasco moved to rescind the order. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the order for \$46,000 was rescinded.
6. President Brasco moved to take the matter of the RFP for the property located at the UMass Field Station (6/14/2021). The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor LeBlanc rose to recuse himself from the matter due to the proximity of his residence to the property. Councillor Durkee moved to hear from the Mayor. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. The Mayor appeared to give an update on the RFP process. The Mayor asked for input from the Council to make any changes to RFP, including the term and the evaluation criteria. Upon questions from Councillor Durkee, the Mayor explained the current tenant does not have a lease only a license. Councillor Durkee stated he wants to support the Mayor's plan. Councillor Durkee moved to accept a lease term of 5 years with the option of an additional 5 years. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 11 in favor (President Brasco, Councillors

Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, Lafauci, Mackin, McLaughlin, Paz, and Vidal), 1 recused (LeBlanc), 2 absent (O'Brien and Stanley) and Vice-President McMenimen presiding. The Mayor spoke about City Councillors having contact with any of the tenants. The Mayor stated if there was any contact, the Mayor will set the criteria of the RFP with a majority of the Councillors and rents determined by an appraiser/assessor. The Mayor stated certain Councillors should recuse because of contact with potential respondents to the RFP. Vice-President McMenimen stated some Councillors received information from advocates via e-mail. The Mayor stated that after the City acquires the property it will be declared surplus and an RFP will be prepared. Vice-President McMenimen advised that if any Councillor feels in jeopardy, they need to recuses themselves. The Mayor stated it was her intent to come back to the City Council when the RFP is ready. Councillor Durkee moved to have the Mayor come back with an RFP once the property is acquired. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 11 in favor ((President Brasco, Councillors Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, Lafauci, Mackin, McLaughlin, Paz, and Vidal), 1 recused (LeBlanc), 2 absent (O'Brien and Stanley) and Vice-President McMenimen presiding. Councillor Durkee moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

7. A motion by Councillor LaCava to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote, and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 12:05am on Tuesday, June 29,2021.

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