

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes of the Meeting

April 3, 2017

1. Vice-President Logan called the meeting to Order at 8:00 pm.
2. Vice-President Logan requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – Councillors Brasco, Darcy, Fowler, Giordano, D. Leblanc, R. LeBlanc, Marchese, McLaughlin, McMenimen, O'Brien, Romard, Rourke, Vidal, Waddick and Logan were present.
3. A motion by President LeBlanc to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on March 20, 2017 was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes were approved.
4. Councillor McLaughlin rose to inform the Committee and the viewing audience about two events for Warrendale Little League – Friday night gathering at the American Legion and the Sunday annual parade.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Roger O'Connell of 114 Greer Street, Waltham to the Board of Cemetery Commissioners. It was stated that Mr. O'Connell was unable to attend due to a death in his family. President LeBlanc moved to place the matter on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter was tabled.
6. President LeBlanc moved to take the matter of the resolution of the traffic master plan (2/13/2017) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President LeBlanc moved to hear from the Traffic Engineer, Michael Garvin and the several representatives from McMahon Associates. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Darcy asked questions about adding a lane at the intersection of Waverly Oaks Road and Trapelo Road. Councillor Marchese asked questions about lane improvements at the intersection of Main Street and Newton Street, specifically for vehicles traveling east and turning right onto Newton Street. Councillor Marchese moved to request the Traffic Engineer opine on whether a right hand turn lane is needed on Main Street at Newton Street, including the impact on the intersection of Lyman Street and Main Street. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Brasco asked questions about the Piety Corner intersection, including funding for the relocation of the traffic lights, removal of the house and the most effective way to improve the intersection. Councillor Brasco asked if the Mayor's plan was doable without taking down the house. Mr. Garvin stated the house needs to be taken down. A representative of McMahon Associates stated the Mayor's plan would be inferior compared to the master plan. Councillor Brasco asked if the Mayor's plan was considered and if moving

the lights and adjusting the signalization will address the needs of the intersection. The representative of McMahon Associates replied "no". Councillor Brasco asked about environmental impacts and wanted to make sure all factors will be taken into consideration. Councillor Waddick questioned the logic of the Mayor's plan by placing the signals before designing the intersection. Mr. Garvin stated the design is done before the signals are placed. Councillor Randy LeBlanc asked questions about the Beaver Street and Forest Street intersection, including other traffic backups along Beaver Street. Councillor Randy LeBlanc asked questions about the cost of the design, including the cost at various percentages of completion. Councillor Rourke asked questions about the High Street, Joyce Road and Hamblin Road intersection. Councillor Rourke asked several questions about the grade efficiency of the Piety Corner intersection based upon the impact of the master plan. President LeBlanc asked questions about the funding source for improvements to the Piety Corner intersection. Mr. Garvin estimated that \$2.5 million of traffic impact fees was available. President LeBlanc asked follow up questions about the timeframe impact for other oversight boards/commissions/agencies to conduct their review. Mr. Garvin stated that he had met with the Chairman of the Conservation Commission and was told it would take a few months, not years. Councillor O'Brien asked questions about the Banks Square intersection. Mr. Garvin stated it would be impacted by the improvements made at the 1265 Main Street property. Councillor Fowler spoke about the Piety Corner intersection and the impact on the neighbors if the 380 Lexington Street house comes down. Councillor Romard also raised concerns about the impact of the house razing, specifically on an abutting neighbor. Councillor Romard asked several questions about the downtown area parking, including its sufficiency and usage. Councillor McLaughlin asked questions about the Beaver Street and Warren Street intersection and the Main Street, Warren Street, Gore Street and Barbara Road intersections. Councillor McLaughlin expressed concern for traffic safety at the Piety Corner intersection. Councillor Giordano asked questions about the Moody Street parking and what the impact would be if additional liquor licenses were granted. Councillor Darcy moved to request the Traffic Engineer investigate the possibility of providing a dedicated right turn only on the eastbound lane on Trapelo Road at the intersection with Waverly Oaks Road. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Darcy asked questions about the bus service in North Waltham, specifically on Trapelo Road. Councillor Fowler moved to request the Traffic Engineer seek funding for the 100% design of the Piety Corner intersection based upon the proposal in the traffic master plan, including demo of the house and all related permitting. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 11 in favor (Brasco, Fowler, Giordano, D. LeBlanc, R. LeBlanc, Marchese, O'Brien, Romard, Rourke, Vidal & Waddick), 3 opposed (Darcy, McLaughlin & McMenimen) and Logan presiding. After some discussion, Councillor McLaughlin moved to request the Traffic Engineer to get the opinion of the Chairman of the Conservation Commission pertaining to the Piety Corner intersection in writing. The motion did not pass on a roll call vote of 2 in favor (McLaughlin & McMenimen) and 12 opposed (Brasco, Darcy, Fowler, Giordano,

D. LeBlanc, R. LeBlanc, Marchese, O'Brien, Romard, Rourke, Vidal & Waddick) and Logan presiding. Vice President Logan spoke favorably of the traffic master plan and thanked Mr. Garvin, the Traffic Commission and McMahon Associates. Councillor Fowler moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter concerning the traffic master plan was tabled.

7. President LeBlanc moved to take the matter of the City Council budget request for FY2018 (3/13/2017) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President LeBlanc moved to add \$1,500 to the budget request for photos, since it was an inauguration year. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President LeBlanc moved that the description for the Clerk of the Long Term Debt Committee be amended to include the services consistent with the compensation ordinance (Veterans' Committee and Ad-hoc Committees) and to include Joe Vizard on the roster as the Clerk of the Committees. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor McMenimen spoke about council rules #29 and #51 pertaining to limited debate. Councillor McMenimen stated that she had done some investigating on timer devices and had the Clerk distribute packets of information to each Councillor. After more discussion, Councillor McMenimen moved to add \$1,000 to the budget request for a timer device. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 11 in favor (Darcy, Fowler, Giordano, D. Leblanc, R. LeBlanc, Marchese, McLaughlin, McMenimen, O'Brien, Rourke & Waddick), 3 opposed (Brasco, Romard & Vidal) and Logan presiding. Councillor Darcy moved to add the item of computer monitors in the amount of \$10,000 to the 'C' account as a budget request from the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). On the motion, Vice-President Logan gave up the Chair to President Diane LeBlanc to speak on the motion. Vice-President Logan was opposed to permanently affixing computer monitors in the Council Chamber, as it is an historic room. Vice-President stated it was a "solution in search of a problem". Councillor Darcy amended his motion to reflect the computer monitors would be portable units that could be easily moved. The motion to add \$10,000 to the City Council budget request for portable computer monitors was adopted on a roll call vote of 10 in favor (Darcy, Fowler, D. Leblanc, R. LeBlanc, Marchese, McLaughlin, McMenimen, Rourke, Waddick & Logan) and 5 opposed (Brasco, Giordano, O'Brien, Romard & Vidal). Councillor Romard raised questions about the functionality of the projector in the Council Chamber. More discussion occurred from several Councillors about the projector and a motion was made to reduce the budget request of \$800 to \$300 for maintenance/repair of the projector. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the \$300 budget request was approved. President LeBlanc moved to approve the City Council budget request, as amended, for FY2018. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the City Council budget request, as amended, for FY2018 was approved.
8. Councillor Marchese moved to take the matter of the property located at 101R Elm Street (10/24/2016) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Marchese indicated that an appraisal of the property was \$760,000 and there

was an offer of \$700,000 to sell the property to the City. Councillor Marchese moved to authorize the Mayor to sign a purchase & sales agreement to acquire the property. On the motion, Councillors Brasco, Darcy, Romard, R. LeBlanc, Fowler and Waddick asked detailed questions about the number of parking spaces and its usage, other potential uses for the site, the impact of the existing billboard and a second parking deck. The motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a purchase & sales agreement to acquire the property was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Marchese moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter of the 101R Elm Street property was tabled.

9. President LeBlanc moved to take the matter of filling vacancies – Assistant City Clerk (12/27/2016) off the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President LeBlanc informed the Committee that Assistant City Clerk Vizard will start on 4/10/2017 and the swearing in will be conducted by Vice-President Logan. President LeBlanc moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter was tabled.
10. A motion by President LeBlanc to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote, and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 10:55pm.

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