

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Minutes of the Meeting
September 21, 2015

Vice-President LeBlanc called the meeting to Order at 8:00 pm

1. Vice-President LeBlanc requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – all Councillors were present.
2. A motion by Councillor Giordano to accept the minutes of the COW meeting held on August 3, 2015 was adopted on a voice vote.
3. A resolution was submitted by Councillor Stanley concerning the compensation of Waltham poll workers. Councillor O'Brien recused himself from the matter. Councillor Stanley spoke briefly and explained the purpose of his resolution was to ensure that Waltham poll workers are paid comparably to other poll workers in neighboring cities and towns. A motion by Councillor Stanley to approve the resolution was adopted on a unanimous roll call vote of 14-0, with Councillor O'Brien recused from the vote.
4. A resolution was submitted Councillor Stanley concerning the "underground economy" and its impact on the City of Waltham. Councillor Stanley spoke briefly and explained the purpose of his resolution. He stated that representatives of the Carpenters' Union Local 275 were in attendance and had a presentation/comments concerning the "underground economy". A motion by Councillor Stanley to hear from off-committee members – Kevin Kelley and Mark Erlich was adopted on a voice vote. Both Mr. Kelley and Mr. Erlich spoke about the consequences of misclassifying workers as independent contractors rather than as employees. Their power point presentation highlighted some of the statistics that confirmed their claims. Councillors Vizard, Rourke, McMenimen, Romard, McLaughlin, Darcy, Fowler, Logan, O'Brien, Waddick all spoke in support of the resolution and offered comments/suggestions to potentially mitigate the impact on the City. Councillor Stanley re-iterated the importance of the issue. A motion by Councillor Stanley to table the matter was adopted on a voice vote.
5. A resolution was submitted by Councillors McMenimen and Brasco to have the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Echelson appear before the Committee of the Whole this evening to introduce himself and provide his vision of the school district from both an educational and financial perspective. The Clerk of the COW informed the members that the Superintendent was unavailable this evening but would be available at a future meeting. A motion by Councillor McMenimen to invite Dr. Echelson to the COW meeting of October 5 was adopted on a voice vote. A motion by Councillor McMenimen to table the matter was adopted on a voice vote.
6. Councillor Stanley moved to take the matter of the resolution concerning an Olympic Committee (3/23/2015) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. A motion by Councillor Stanley to file the matter was adopted on a voice vote.

7. Councillor Waddick moved to take the matter of the PRC recommendation concerning 25 Lexington Street (8/3/2015) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Waddick stated the communication the Councillors received from the Mayor was only a transmittal letter and it did not specifically ask for their approval/vote. Councillor Waddick moved to hear from an off-committee member – Mayor McCarthy. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Upon checking, it was determined the Mayor was not in her office. Councillor Waddick requested that the Mayor and PRC attend the COW meeting of October 5. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. A motion by Councillor Waddick to table the matter was adopted on a voice vote.
8. Councillor Brasco moved to take the matter concerning treatment services for public safety positions (9/8/2014) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. A motion by Councillor Brasco to file the matter was adopted on a voice vote.
9. President Marchese moved to take the matter concerning the registered marijuana dispensary (8/3/2015) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President Marchese stated that Assistant Solicitor Azadi was not available to attend tonight's meeting and moved to request her attendance at the COW meeting scheduled for October 5. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. A motion by President Marchese to table the matter was adopted on a voice vote.
10. A motion by Councillor Logan to adjourn was adopted by a voice vote and the Chair declared the committee adjourned at 9:10pm.

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