

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes of the Meeting

January 20, 2015

Chairwoman LeBlanc called the meeting to Order at 8:00 pm

1. Chairwoman LeBlanc requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – all Councillors except Councillor Stanley were present.
2. A motion by Councillor Logan to accept the minutes of the meeting held on December 22, 2014 was adopted on a voice vote.
3. A moment of silence was held to remember former City Councillor and City Clerk Peter Koutoujian. Councillor Rourke rose and spoke eloquently about Mr. Koutoujian, highlighting his many accomplishments and commitment to the City over his many years of service.
4. A request was received from the Mayor to appoint William Forte, 1 Hamilton Way, Holbrook as the Superintendent of Buildings/Building Commissioner. Councillor Fowler moved to hear from an off-committee member – William Forte. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Fowler asked questions of the candidate concerning his reasons for applying to Waltham, his experience in code enforcement, the certifications he currently holds and his ability to restore the public's confidence towards the department. Councillor Logan asked questions of the candidate concerning his other professional experience, including his service on the Conservation Commission, his approach to zoning enforcement issues and his willingness to engage the expertise of those individuals responsible for drafting the current zoning code. Councillor Logan moved to approve the appointment of William Forte as the Superintendent of Buildings/Building Commissioner. On the motion, Councillor Vizard asked questions of the candidate concerning his priorities, electronic filing and customer service. Councillor Waddick asked questions of the candidate concerning his ability to acclimate himself to the new position, his willingness to rely on his staff on certain decisions and his thought process when making a decision. Councillor Giordano asked questions of the candidate concerning his approach to customer service and his ability to be a "no nonsense" manager. President Marchese spoke favorably of the existing staff in the department and asked questions of the candidate concerning his management experience, his ability to streamline and improve the zoning code process. Councillor Rourke asked questions of the candidate concerning his approach to resolving disputes between neighbors on zoning issues, his willingness to enforce a violation and his familiarity with the City's I/I ordinance. Councillor Romard asked questions of the candidate concerning his leadership ability, his lack of experience serving as a department head and his knowledge of preparing/monitoring financial budgets. Councillor O'Brien asked questions of the candidate concerning his

experience and the reasons for his short tenure in Abington, his willingness to be strict with rules/regulations and concerns with rundown properties. Councillor McMenimen asked questions of the candidate about zoning and its impact on the community and quality of life, his ability to deal with the City Council, residents and developers. Councillor McMenimen asked additional questions about the other responsibilities of the position – specifically building maintenance and repairs. Councillor McLaughlin asked questions of the candidate concerning customer service, electronic filing and public safety, the status of his licenses and his knowledge of the City’s recent acquisition of the Fernald property. Councillor Darcy asked questions of the candidate concerning his Conservation Commission experience and it being an asset to his new position and his experience with issuing permits for educational and/or religious facilities. The motion of Councillor Logan to approve the appointment was adopted on a unanimous roll call vote of 14-0 of the councillors in attendance. Councillor Stanley was absent for the vote.

5. A request was received from the Mayor to accept from Samuel E. Park, as trustee of Berry Park Trust, the gift of the draft deed for the 20.87 acre Berry Park (f/k/a Berry Farm) property. Councillor Romard moved to hear from an off-committee member – Assistant City Solicitor, Patricia Azadi. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Attorney Azadi explained the deed to the Committee and answered questions from Councillors Romard, Logan and Darcy including the ability of the Council to include the parcel with Prospect Hill Park. It was stated that the adoption of another order would be the appropriate action. Councillor Logan requested that the Clerk of the Committee provide a copy of the proposed council order prior to the City Council meeting of January 26. A motion to accept from Samuel E. Park, as trustee of Berry Park Trust, the gift of the draft deed for the 20.87 acre Berry Park (f/k/a Berry Farm) property was adopted on a roll call vote of 13-0 of the councillors in attendance – Councillors Brasco and Stanley were absent for the vote.
6. A motion by Councillor Waddick to take the matter of the Exchange Street property (12/22/2014) from the table was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Waddick moved to go into Executive Session, to appoint Paul Centofanti as the Clerk of the executive session, to invite the Mayor and City Solicitor John Cervone into the executive session and to reconvene in open session at the conclusion of executive session. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 11-0 at 10:35 pm, with Councillors Darcy, Fowler, Giordano, Logan, Marchese, McLaughlin, McMenimen, Romard, Rourke, Vizard and Waddick in favor and Councillors Brasco, O’Brien and Stanley absent for the vote and Chairwoman LeBlanc presiding.
7. Chairwoman LeBlanc declared open session reconvened at 11:10 pm.
8. Councillor Waddick moved to place the matter of the Exchange Street property back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

9. Chairwoman LeBlanc announced that the legislative operating budget for fiscal year 2016 would be taken up at a future meeting.
10. Chairwoman LeBlanc announced fundraisers were being held by the Rotary Club "Football Frenzy Fundraiser" and by the Waltham Community Access "Valentine's Day Fundraiser".
11. A motion by President Marchese to adjourn was adopted by a voice vote and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 11:15 pm.

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