

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes of the Meeting

May 4, 2015

1. Vice President LeBlanc called the meeting to Order at 8:00 pm.
2. Vice President LeBlanc requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – all Councillors except Councillor Giordano were present.
3. A motion by President Marchese to accept the minutes of the meeting held on April 21, 2015 was adopted on a voice vote.
4. Vice President LeBlanc took a moment to recognize, in the audience, Sergeant-at-Arms Dave Sanderson.
5. Vice President LeBlanc took a moment to mention it was “Public Service Week” and to thank all City employees and elected officials for their commitment and service to the community.
6. A request was received from the Mayor to request approval of the use of two parking lots at the Fernald property for the upcoming Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS golf tournament to be held at Belmont Country Club during June 9-14, 2015. Councillor McMenimen rose to recuse herself from the discussion as a proximate abutter of the property. Councillor McLaughlin explained the potential economic benefit to the City while the tournament was being held. Councillor Darcy suggested a listing of hotels and restaurants be distributed to those utilizing the parking area. Councillor Stanley expressed concern about allowing non-residents to have access to the site when Waltham residents seem to be precluded from access to the site. Councillor McLaughlin moved to approve the request to allow parking at the Fernald property during the tournament event period. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
7. A request by Councillor McMenimen to take a matter out of order was adopted on a voice vote. A resolution concerning the declaration of the opening of Waltham Youth Baseball on May 16 be known as “Wayne Abbott Day” was submitted by Councillor McMenimen. Councillor McMenimen moved to hear from an off-committee member – William Hanley, President of Waltham Youth Baseball. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Mr. Hanley spoke of the youth baseball program at Nipper Maher Park and the profound influence and generosity of Mr. Abbott towards the many children who participated over many years. Councillors Stanley, O’Brien, McLaughlin, Logan, Marchese and Vizard all offered personal stories of the Nipper Maher program and the positive impact it had on their lives. Councillor McMenimen moved to approve the resolution. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

8. A resolution concerning the oil spill of 4,000 gallons into the Charles River was submitted by Councillor Logan. Attached to his resolution, Councillor Logan requested that a representative of Eversource, the City Engineer and the Environmental Specialist attend a future meeting of the Committee of the Whole. It was mentioned that the representative from Eversource would be available to attend the May 18 meeting. It was requested that the Clerk of the Committee notify the City Engineer and Environmentalist Specialist to attend the May 18 meeting, also. Councillor Logan moved to place the matter on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
9. A draft order to amend the General Ordinances, Section 2-107, to add the position of Assistant Director for Human Services was submitted by Councillor Vizard. Councillor Vizard spoke about the purpose and need for the position, including offering comparisons with other communities. Councillor Logan stated the draft order should be discussed in the Ordinance and Rules Committee. Councillor Logan moved to discharge the matter from the Committee of the Whole to the City Council so that it may be re-committed to the Ordinance and Rules Committee. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
10. A resolution concerning the decision of the School Administration to not allow Waltham students to attend the Minuteman Vocational School until the tenth grade was submitted by Councillor Fowler. Councillor Fowler spoke about the importance of a vocational education and the opportunities it can offer to students pursuing a career in a vocational trade. Councillor Fowler made it clear that his resolution was not intended to usurp or undermine the authority of the School Committee, but to simply ask them to look at the issue. Councillor Fowler moved to approve the resolution. On the motion, Councillor Logan cautioned the Committee to be careful of getting involved in the School Committee's business and not turn the City Council into a "court of appeal". Councillor Logan moved to file the resolution. On the motion, Councillors Vizard, Romard, Stanley, Darcy and O'Brien all commented on the resolution. The motion to file was approved on a roll call vote of 9-4, with one absent and one presiding. Voting in favor of filing were Councillors Darcy, Logan, Marchese, McLaughlin, McMenimen, Romard, Rourke, Vizard and Waddick. Voting against were Councillors Brasco, Fowler, O'Brien and Stanley. Councillor Giordano was absent from the meeting and Vice-President LeBlanc presiding.
11. A resolution concerning the acquisition of the property located at 67 Crescent Street was submitted by Councillor Logan. A discussion ensued amongst Councillors Logan, Darcy and Rourke over the sequence of steps for approval of a CPA application for land acquisition and the inclusion/need for an appraisal. Councillor Logan stated he would seek additional information. Councillor Logan moved to place the matter on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
12. A resolution concerning the installation of cameras and microphones in the Hoover Committee Room was submitted by Councillor Logan. Councillor

Logan provided the Committee members with a draft copy of an amended council order #33127. Councillor Logan identified and explained the reasons for the changes. Councillor McMenimen moved to hear from off-committee members – WCAC staff Kerry Quinlan and Bill Heatley. Ms. Quinlan explained to the Committee about the logistical manner and reasons for the proposed installation of the microphones. On further discussion the last sentence of item 5 in the amended order #33127 was deleted. Councillor Logan moved to approve the deletion of the last sentence of item 5. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Logan moved to approve the revised amended order #33127. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

13. Vice-President LeBlanc informed the Committee that Housing Director Waters had provided a written response to the Committee concerning the request of Councillor Fowler that was approved by the Committee on April 6.
14. Councillor O'Brien informed the Committee of a recent robbery in the Cedarwood neighborhood and urged residents to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the Police Department.
15. A motion by Councillor Rourke to adjourn was adopted by a voice vote and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 9:05 pm.

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