

**Council President**

David R. Cormier

**Council Vice President**

Pauline M. Cormier



**Councillors-at-Large**

Thomas F. Ardinger

Susan Chalifoux-Zephir

Todd M. Deacon

Claire M. Freda

**Ward Councillors**

Ward 1 – William A. Brady

Ward 2 – Pauline M. Cormier

Ward 3 – David R. Cormier

Ward 4 – Mark C. Bodanza

Ward 5 – Peter A. Angelini

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**MINUTES**

**CITY OF LEOMINSTER**

**CITY COUNCIL**

**FEBRUARY 13, 2023**

**JOHN P. MAHAN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION, 6:30 P.M.**

Leominster Flag Football League Girls' 14U

City Council President David Cormier asked Coach Jack Reed of the LFFL to give an overview of the league and the accomplishments they have had. He stated that the Leominster Blue Devils 14u Girls flag football team is a member of the Leominster Flag Football League and represents the LFFL at youth flag football tournaments all over the country. Seven (7) of the 8 team members have played in the LFFL for 4+ years and several were part of the first girls flag football league in the state of Massachusetts in 2017. The 8th team member is Alejandra Ramos from Panamá, who is part of the LFFL's exchange program with the country of Panamá.

The girls captured the Flag Football Life 14u Girls National Championship in Lakeland, FL on Sunday, January 15. The FFL National Championship is the most prestigious tournament in the country next to the NFL FLAG Championships at Pro Bowl and comes on the heels of girls finishing 2nd place at the 22-team We Run The World Championships in August 2022.

The Leominster Blue Devils 14u Girls faced a difficult road to the championship with all 6 games against the top 4 teams in the 12-team tournament. After a 2-1 record on day 1, with wins over the #3 and #4 teams and a 21-0 loss to the #1 team, the girls beat the #4, #1 and #2 ranked teams on their way to a national championship, including a ferocious 12-point comeback against the top seed in the tournament.

After several 2nd place finishes in years past, including this year's 15u Boys team, this is the first national championship for the Leominster Flag Football League.

**The City Council commended the team for their win and their efforts. Councillor Freda presented each of the players a certificate of acknowledgement.**

**PUBLIC HEARING, 6:45 P.M.**

17-23 Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Chalmers St - National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Chalmers St and Relocate 1 JO pole on Chalmers St beginning at a point approximately 35 feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Hoover St and continuing approximately 10 feet in a north direction. Install Pole # 15-02 to reconfigure services to house & reduce sag in overhead lines.

Location approximately as shown on plan attached.

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked - Chalmers St - Leominster - Massachusetts. *(Public Service Committee, Regular Course 01/23/2023; Public Hearing February 13, 2023, at 6:45 PM; Majority Vote)*

**Councillor David Cormier recused himself from the public hearing due to a possible conflict of interest. The public hearing opened at 6:47 PM. Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir asked the National Grid representative to provide an overview of the proposed pole petition.**

**Mike Maceig, of National Grid, informed the City Council that National Grid is proposing to relocate pole number 4 and put it in line with pole number 1 an pole number 4-1 to reduce sag.**

**Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir, as well as other Councillors voiced concern regarding a potential aerial trespass with the plan proposed.**

**Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir asked if anyone wanted to speak regarding the petition.**

**June Courtemache of 72 Hoover Street, stated that pole 1 is near her house. If the pole is moved as shown, the power lines would cross over the front of her property.**

**Mr. Macieg, stated that he would bring these questions and concerns back to National Grid and have them worked out immediately.**

**Councilor Chalifoux-Zephir and the Public Service Committee recommended that the petition be given further time and that the Public Hearing stay opened.**

**PUBLIC HEARING, 6:50 P.M.**

18-23 Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Elm St - National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on Elm St beginning at a point approximately 275 feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Hill St and continuing approximately 30 feet in a south direction. Install Pole# 54-5 for new underground service.

Location approximately as shown on plan attached.

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked - Elm St - Leominster - Massachusetts. (*Public Service Committee, Regular Course 01/23/2023; Public Hearing February 13, 2023, at 6:50 PM; Majority Vote*)

**Councillor David Cormier recused himself from the public hearing due to a possible conflict of interest The public hearing opened at 7:04 PM. Mr. Maceig stated that National Grid is seeking to install a new secondary service, pole 54-5 for 596 Elm Street.**

**Councillor Brady asked if the DPW had any issues with this petition.**

**Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir informed the Council that the DPW had no issued with the petition as is.**

**Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak regarding the petition. No one spoke.**

**The public hearing closed at 7:08PM.**

**PUBLIC FORUM, 6:55 P.M.**

The public forum is an opportunity for any member of the audience to speak on a matter specifically listed on the Council Agenda. Speakers will be asked to come to the microphone and state their formal name and address along with identifying the specific item(s) they wish to address. Each speaker is respectfully asked to keep their comments within a two (2) minute time frame. The Council will not be responding or answering any questions; however, at the discretion of the Council President, clarification may be given.

**The public forum opened at 7:08 PM. Council President David Cormier asked three times if anyone from the public wanted to speak for or against any item listed on the agenda. No one spoke. The public forum closed at 7:09 PM.**

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**I. REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, 7:00 P.M.**

**The regular meeting of the City Council opened at 7:00PM.**

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**The girls LFFL flag football team lead the City Council through the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**III. ROLL CALL OF COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE**

**City Council President David Cormier, City Council Vice President Pauline Cormier, Councillor Bodanza, Councillor Ardinger, Councillor Angelini, Councillor Brady, Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir, Councillor Freda present. Councillor Deacon absent.**

**Others present: Katelyn Huffman, City Clerk; Maribel Perez, Assistant City Clerk.**

**IV. APPROVAL OF RECORDS**

**- January 23, 2023 - These meeting minutes were given further time.**

## V. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

### Money Orders

- C-42 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor: Request an appropriation of \$32,163.00 be made to the Cemetery Capital PY- Building Rehab Account; the same amount to be transferred from the Cemetery Perpetual Care Account. *(Finance, Regular Course 02/13/2023; Majority Vote)*

**This communication was given regular course.**

- C-43 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor: Request an appropriation of \$9,000.00 be made to the Police Department Expense Account; the same amount to be transferred from the Stabilization Fund. *(Finance, Regular Course 02/13/2023; 2/3 Vote)*

**This communication was given regular course.**

- C-44 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor: Request an appropriation of \$7,100.00 be made to the Collective Bargaining Contract Services Account; the same amount to be transferred from the Stabilization Fund. RE: Assessment Center for the Police Chief. *(Finance, Regular Course 02/13/2023; 2/3 Vote)*

**This communication was given regular course.**

### Resolution

- C-45 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor: Request that the City Council support a resolution to adopt the City of Leominster's final Hazard Mitigation Plan. *(Ways & Means. Regular Course 02/13/2023; Majority Vote)*

**This communication was given regular course. It was noted that the Mayor's office would provide further information regarding this at the next City Council meeting.**

Appointments

Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor: Request that the City Council approve the attached membership of the School Building Committee for Fall Brook Elementary School. (See Attached). *(Ways & Means, Regular Course 02/13/2023; Majority Vote)*

**This communication was given regular course.**

Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor: Request the appointment of the following individuals to the Zoning Board of Appeals, terms to expire April 15, 2026.

Mark Piscione            35 Oakwind Hollow Road    Leominster, MA

Suzanne Koehler        541 Merriam Avenue        Leominster, MA

**This communication was given regular course. Interviews were scheduled for 02/27/2023 at 6:45 PM.**

*(Ways & Means, Regular Course 02/13/2023; Interview 02/27/2023 at 6:45 PM; Majority Vote)*

Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor: Request the appointment of Robert Sicard, 261 Granite Street, Leominster, MA to the Conservation Commission. Term to expire April 15, 2026. *(Ways & Means, Regular Course 02/13/2023; Interview 02/27/2023 at 6:50 PM; Majority Vote)*

**This communication was given regular course. Interviews were scheduled for 02/27/2023 at 6:50 PM.**

Suspension of the Rules and Emergency Preamble

C-46 Dean J. Mazzarella, Mayor: Request an appropriation of \$20,000.00 be made to the Building Department Expense Account; the same amount to be transferred from the Stabilization Fund. (*Finance, Regular Course 02/13/2023; Ratification if applicable 02/27/2023; 2/3 Vote*)

**A motion was made to suspend the rules. By a vote of 8-0 the rules were suspended. A motion was made to accept C-46 as an emergency preamble. By a vote of 8-0 the emergency preamble was granted.**

**The Finance Committee recommended that the City Council GRANT the communication. By a vote of 8-0 the communication was GRANTED.**

**ORDERED: By a vote of 8-0 the order was ADOPTED.**

**VI. MATTERS BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL**

**VII. FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Balance of the stabilization account was \$16,817,993.**

**VIII. FINANCE**

C-40 Dean J. Mazzarella, Mayor: Request an appropriation of \$51,536.00 be made to the Police Department Replacement Equipment Account; the same amount to be transferred from the Stabilization Fund. (*Finance; Regular Course 01/23/2023; 2/3 Vote*)

**The Finance Committee recommended that the City Council GRANT the communication. By a vote of 8-0 the communication was GRANTED.**

**ORDERED: By a vote of 8-0 the communication was ADOPTED.**

## IX. LEGAL AFFAIRS

- C-41 Dean J. Mazarella, Mayor: Request that the council authorize the appropriate department(s) to research, develop and participate in a contract, or contracts, to aggregate the electricity load of the residents and businesses in the City and for other related services, independently, or in joint action with other municipalities, and authorize the Mayor to execute all documents necessary to accomplish the same. *(Legal Affairs; Regular Course 01/23/2023; Majority Vote)*

**The Legal Affairs Committee recommended that the City Council grant the petition Further Time. The Mayor will be holding the an informational session at the next scheduled meeting to provide more information on this communication. By a vote of 8-0 the communication was given further time.**

## X. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

- 17-23 Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

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**Councillor David Cormier recused himself due to a possible conflict of interest. The Public Service Committee recommended that the City Council grant this petition Further Time and set up a continued public hearing for February 27, 2023 at 6:40 PM. By a vote of 7-0-1 (Councillor David Cormier abstained due to a possible conflict of**



**interest) the petition was given further time and the public hearing was continued.**

18-23 Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

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Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked - Elm St - Leominster - Massachusetts. *(Public Service Committee, Regular Course 01/23/2023; Public Hearing February 13, 2023, at 6:50 PM; Majority Vote)*

**The Public Service Committee recommended that the City Council GRANT the petition. By a vote of 7-0-1 (Councillor David Cormier abstained due to a possible conflict of interest) the petition was GRANTED.**

## **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

**No New Business was discussed.**

## **XII. OLD BUSINESS**

### Second Reading of an Ordinance

C-35 Dean J. Mazzarella. Mayor: Request that the following section of the City of Leominster Revised Ordinance, Chapter 8: Fire Protection, Section 8-19: Fees for ambulance service:

The chief of the fire department shall establish the rates to be charged as fees for the city fire department ambulance service within the commonwealth. The rates to be established shall be the local or city limit

charge or other city and town charges for ambulance service set at current recommended allowances as set forth by the Medicare program, plus an additional one hundred fifty percent of such charges for Basic Life Support (BLS) service and an additional one hundred fifty percent of such charges for Advance Life Support (ALS) service. The chief of the fire department shall furnish the city treasurer with a list of the persons transported monthly and the fee to be charged, and the city collector shall bill and collect the same.

Be amended to the following:

The chief of the fire department shall establish the rates to be charged as fees for the city fire department ambulance service within the commonwealth. The rates to be established shall be the local or city limit charge or other city and town charges for ambulance service set at current recommended allowances as set forth by the Medicare program, plus an additional **two hundred fifty percent of such charges for Basic Life Support (BLS) service and an additional two hundred fifty percent of such charges for Advance Life Support (ALS) service.** The chief of the fire department shall furnish the city treasurer with a list of the persons transported monthly and the fee to be charged, and the city collector shall bill and collect the same. (Legal Affairs; Regular Course 12/12/2022; Public Hearing January 9, 2023, at 6:45 PM; 2/3 Vote)

**The Legal Affairs Committee recommended that the City Council ADOPT the second reading of the ordinance. By a roll call vote of 8-0 the second reading of the ordinance was ADOPTED.**

### **XIII. COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**Councillor Bodanza informed the Council about the history of Frances Drake and her contributions to the underground railroad. He also informed the Council that an open house would be held at the Drake House on February 18, 2023 from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. He also stated that the Mayor has kicked off a “Friends of the Frances Drake House” initiative. The Historical Society was the first to make a donation of \$10,000 towards restoration of the first floor. Many Councillors have already contributed and it is open for monetary or voluntary contributions.**

**Councillor Bodanza also recognized Noah Gray, a Leominster Native, for his success at winning his first Superbowl ring with the Kansas City Chiefs, as well as recognition for all his community service and continued efforts he gives back to the City.**

**Councillor Freda congratulated Vinnie Alia for making it onto Next Level Chef.**

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

**Councillor Angelini made a motion to adjourn. Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir seconded the motion. By a vote of 8-0 the meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.**

- Katelyn Huffman, City Clerk