

**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  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2022**



**JOHN P. MAHAN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**INTERVIEWS, 6:45 PM**

**Interview for the appointment of Ronald Giroard for the Office of Emergency Management. The interviewed began at 6:45 PM.**

Dean J. Mazzarella, Mayor; Request the appointment of the following individuals to the Office of Emergency Management:

**Communication Unit:**

Ronald Girouard                      140 Adams Street, Apt 404                      Leominster, MA

**The City Council praised Mr. Giroard for his hard work and dedication to the City. Mr. Giroard informed the Council about his passion for the City of Leominster and videography. The City Council felt the Mr. Girouard will be a great addition to Emergency Management.**

**Emergency Operations:**

Shen Bergeron                      54 Richard Road                      Leominster, MA

*(Ways & Means; Regular Course 09/12/2022; Interviews 09/26/2022 @ 6:45 PM; Majority Vote)*

**Interview for Shen Bergeron was moved to October 11, 2022, at 6:45PM.**

**PUBLIC HEARING, 6:50 PM**

5-23 David Cormier Ward 3 Councillor and Pauline Cormier, Ward 2 Councillor; Request to amend Chapter 13 Section 13-29 of the revised ordinances entitled Handicapped parking spaces and add the following, Two reserved spaces on Summer Street closest to the entrance to Carter Park, opposite 60 Summer Street. (Legal Affairs; Regular Course 09/12/2022; Public Hearing 09/26/2022 at 6:50 PM; 2/3 Vote)

**The Public Hearing opened at 7:05 PM. Councillor Angelini gave an overview of the Petition. He informed the Council that the Traffic Agent proposed two different locations for handicap parking spaces.**

**Dean Carlson, Co-chair of the Leominster Disability Commission spoke in support of handicap parking at Carter Park.**

**John Decicco, of 193 North Main Street, spoke in support of handicap spaces at Carter Park.**

**Gail Turbide, of the Disability Commission also spoke in favor of Handicap parking spaces. She also mentioned the need for a handicap accessible van space.**

**The City Council as Whole agreed that Handicap Spaces at Carter Park are necessary and that further research to determine the appropriate amount of handicap spaces to be made.**

**The Public Hearing was continued to October 11, 2022, at 6:35 PM.**

## **PUBLIC HEARING, 6:51 PM**

C-13 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor; Request that the City Council adopt the attached ordinance updates. This ordinance update to Chapter 16. Personnel. Section 16-30 of the Leominster Revised Ordinances reflects:

1. Leominster Fire Department salary and wage adjustments for the FY 2022 through FY 2024.
2. Leominster Police Department Salary and wage adjustments for the FY2022 through FY 2024.
3. Dispatch salary and wage adjustments for the FY 2022 through FY 2024
4. Department of Public Works salary and wage adjustments for the FY 2022 FY 2024. (Legal Affairs; Regular Course 8/22/2022; Public Hearing 09/12/2022 at 6:51 PM; 2/3 Vote)

**The Public Hearing opened at 7:41 PM.**

**Council President David Cormier asked to abstain from item number one, due to having a family member that works for the Fire Department. He would participate in the vote for the other items.**

**Councillor Angelini gave an overview of the Communication and asked anyone in the audience to speak. No one spoke. The Public Hearing closed at 7:45 PM.**

## **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 7:45 PM. Councillor President David Cormier asked three times if anyone in the Public wished to speak. No one spoke. The Public Forum closed at 7:46 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 7:00 PM. Councillor Bodanza made a motion to recess. Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir seconded the motion. By a Vote of 9-0 the motion was carried. The City Council went into recess at 7:03 PM. The Regular meeting of the City Council reconvene at 7:46 PM.**

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**Councillor's in attendance: Councillor David Cormier, President, Councillor Pauline Cormier, Vice President, Councillor Bodanza, Councillor Ardinger, Councillor Angelini, Councillor Brady, Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir, Councillor Deacon, Councillor, Freda; others present Katelyn Huffman, City Clerk, Maribel Perez, Assistant City Clerk.**

**IV. APPROVAL OF RECORDS**

- August 22, 2022
- September 12, 2022

**These minutes were approved and placed on file.**

**V. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

Money Orders

- C-16 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor: Request that an appropriation of \$250,000.00 be made to the Police Department Overtime Account; the same amount to be transferred from the Stabilization Fund. *(Finance; Regular Course 09/26/2022; 2/3 Vote)*

**This Communication was given Regular Course.**

- C-17 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor; Request that an appropriation of \$30,000.00 be made to Montachusett Recovery Center; the same amount to be transferred from the Opioid Settlement Fund. *(Finance; Regular Course 09/26/2022; Majority Vote)*

**This Communication was given Regular Course.**

**Councillor Freda requested that the Finance chair acquire the balance of the Opioid Fund.**

C-18 Dean J. Mazzarella, Mayor: Request an appropriation of \$349,770.80 be made to the Police In-Service Reform Expense Account; the same amount to be transferred from Stabilization.

RE: Additional training needed due to police reform.

- In-Service overtime \$186,269.04
- Instructors overtime \$67,280.64
- In Service and Accreditation overtime \$52,281.12
- Anticipated equipment cost for training \$43,940.00

(Finance; Regular Course 09/26/2022; 2/3 Vote)

**This Communication was given Regular Course.**

#### Appointments

Dean J. Mazzarella, Mayor; Request the appointment of the following individuals to the Office of Conservation Commission: Term to Expires 04/15/2025.

Josh Bowdridge                      10 Tisdale Street                      Leominster, MA

Stephanie Quinlan                      140 Lincoln Street                      Leominster, MA  
(Ways and Means; Regular Course 09/6/2022; Interviews 10/11/2022, @ 6:45 PM  
Majority Vote)

**These appointments were given Regular Course and an interview was schedule for October 11, 2022, at 6:40 PM.**

Dean J. Mazzarella, Mayor Request the reappointment of the following individual to the Office of Disability Commission. Term to Expires 04/15/2025.

Noelle Balutis                      161 Spruce Street                      Leominster, MA  
(Ways & Means; Regular Course 09/26/2022; Interview 10/11/2022, @ 6:40 PM;  
Majority Vote)

**This appointment was given Regular Course.**

## VI. PETITIONS FIRST TIME ON THE AGENDA

- 7-23 Joseph A. Quinn, Sealer of Weights and Measures: Requests to amend the City of Leominster Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, by updating the content of Article X- Inspector of Weights and Measures. This request includes updating the ordinance and the fee schedule. A recommended ordinance and fee schedule has been approved by the Mayor and has been submitted to the City Council. The reason for this PETITION is that the current ordinance is outdated and needs to be updated. The current ordinance was last updated with significant changes in 1960. The fee schedule has had minor changes periodically over the years. *(Legal Affairs; Regular Course 9/26-2022; Public Hearing 10/11/2022, at 6:45 PM; 2/3 Vote)*

**This petition was given Regular Course with a referral to the Health Department and KP Law.**

- 8-23 Request to sign the Election Order for the November 8, 2022, State Election. *(Ways & Means; Regular Course 9-26-2022; Majority Vote)*

**This petition was given Regular Course.**

- 9-23 Elizabeth Wood, Planning Director, on behalf of the Planning Board: Request to amend the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to lot size requirements for a lot division in the Residential A Zone for lots sized a minimum of 37,780 sq. ft. *(Legal Affairs; Regular Course 9/26/2022; Public Hearing 10/24/2022 at 6:50 PM; 2/3 Vote)*

**This petition was given Regular Course with a referral to the Building Department, Assessors Office, and Planning Board.**

- 10-23 Elizabeth Wood, Planning Director, on behalf of the Planning Board: Request to amend the zoning ordinance pertaining to lot width requirement for lots in the Rural Residential Zone. *(Legal Affairs; Regular Course 9-26-2022; Public Hearing 10/24/2022 at 6:51 PM; 2/3 Vote)*

**This petition was given Regular Course with a referral to the Building Department, Assessors Office, and Planning Board.**

**VII. MATTERS BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL**

**VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT – THE BALANCE OF THE STABILIZATION FUND  
WAS \$18,794,280.00**

**IX. FINANCE**

C-14 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor; Request an appropriation of \$10,000.00 be made to the Northwest School Library Project Account; the same amount to be transferred from the Stabilization Account. *(Finance; Regular Course 09/12/2022; 2/3 Vote)*

**The Finance Committee recommended that the City Council GRANT the communication. By a vote of 9-0 the communication was granted.**

**ORDERED: By a vote of 9-0 the communication was ADOPTED.**

C-15 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor; Request that an appropriation of \$500,000.00 be made to the Street Resurfacing Expense Account; the same amount to be transferred from the Stabilization Account. *(Finance; Regular Course 09/12/2022; 2/3 Vote)*

RE: Due to contract increase

**The Finance Committee recommended that the City Council GRANT the communication. By a vote of 9-0 the communication was granted.**

**ORDERED: By a vote of 9-0 the communication was ADOPTED.**

**X. LEGAL AFFAIRS**

C-13 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor; Request that the City Council adopt the attached ordinance updates. This ordinance update to Chapter 16. Personnel. Section 16-30 of the Leominster Revised Ordinances reflects:

1. Leominster Fire Department salary and wage adjustments for the FY 2022 through FY 2024.
2. Leominster Police Department Salary and wage adjustments for the FY2022 through FY 2024.
3. Dispatch salary and wage adjustments for the FY 2022 through FY 2024
4. Department of Public Works salary and wage adjustments for the FY 2022 FY 2024. *(Legal Affairs; Regular Course 8/22/2022; Public Hearing 09/12/2022 at 6:51 PM; 2/3 Vote)*

**The Legal Affairs Committee recommended that the City Council Grant the communication. Council President David Cormier, requested to abstain from item number 1 of this communication due to conflict of interest. By a Vote of 9-0 this communication was GRANTED. For item number 1 the Vote was 8-0-1 (Councillor David Cormier abstained).**

5-23 David Cormier Ward 3 Councillor and Pauline Cormier, Ward 2 Councillor; Request to amend Chapter 13 Section 13-29 of the revised ordinances entitled Handicapped parking spaces and add the following, Two reserved spaces on Summer Street closest to the entrance to Carter Park, opposite 60 Summer Street. *(Legal Affairs; Regular Course 09/12/2022; Public Hearing 09/26/2022 at 6:50 PM; 2/3 Vote)*

**The Legal Affairs Committee recommended that the City Council give the Petition Further Time. This Petition was given Further Time by a Vote 9-0. A continued Public Hearing set for October 11, 2022, at 6:35 PM.**

6-23 Elizabeth Wood, Planning Director, on behalf of the Planning Board: Request to amend the zoning ordinance pertaining to the parking of unregistered vehicles. See attached letter. *(Legal Affairs; Regular Course 09/12/2022; Further Time 9-26-2022; Public Hearing Tuesday, 10/11/2022 at 6:50 PM; 2/3 Vote)*



**The Legal Affairs Committee recommended that the City Council give the Petition Further Time. This Petition was given Further Time by a Vote 9-0.**

**XI. WAYS AND MEANS**

Dean J. Mazzarella, Mayor; Request the appointment of the following individuals to the Office of Emergency Management:

Communication Unit:

Ronald Girouard                      140 Adams Street, Apt 404                      Leominster, MA

**The Ways and Means Committee recommended that the City Council confirm the appointment of Ronald Girouard. By a Vote of 9-0 by a Vote of 9-0 this appointment Confirmed.**

Emergency Operations:

Shen Bergeron                      54 Richard Road                      Leominster, MA

**The Ways and Means Committee recommended to rescheduled Shen Bergeron's interview for October 11, 2022. At 6:45 PM. By a vote of 9-0 this appointment was given Further Time.**

*(Ways & Means; Regular Course 09/12/2022; Interviews 09/26/2022 @ 6:45 PM; Majority Vote)*

**XII. NEW BUSINESS**

**XIII. OLD BUSINESS**

**XIV. COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**Councillor Mark Bodanza, announced that he filmed a segment with a French production crew for the program "Invitation Au Voyage" which is broadcast on the European Culture TV channel ARTE. This segment will air in February 2023, in both France and Germany. Councillor Bodanza was interviewed about Leominster's Joseph Palmer, who was persecuted for wearing a beard and was the famed expertise for Bronson Alcott's utopian experiment- Fruitland's. Councilor Bodanza is eager to hear his French translation.**

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

**Councillor Angelini made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir seconded the motion. By a vote of 9-0 the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.**

- Katelyn Huffman, City Clerk