

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



MINUTES

CITY OF LEOMINSTER

CITY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 11, 2022

JOHN P. MAHAN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PUBLIC HEARING, 6:35 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; Further Time 9/26/2022; Public Hearing 09/26/2022 at 6:50 PM; 10/11/2022, 6:35PM; 2/3 Vote*)

The Public Hearing opened at 6:35 PM. Councillor Angelini requested that the Petitioners give a summary of the circumstances surrounding Petition 5-23. Councilor David Cormier, spoke and said that there are limited parking spaces and that there are some months where the neighborhood has more events than others. Due to these events, there is a need to have additional parking spaces. Councillor Pauline Cormier said that she wants people to utilize the handicapped parking. She proposed to have the Section of Summer Street blocked off and to designate it as Emergency handicap parking during events. Councillor Pauline Cormier was very concerned. She explained that she spoke to the Mayor's office and that they are very concerned to expand due to safety reasons and to avoid private residents from utilizing it as private parking. Councillor Freda said she was very disappointed that they could not do better for the handicapped parking. Councillor Brady was concerned about measurements for the spaces as compared to the Petition requested. Councillor David Cormier said that lines will have to be repainted to fall in line. Councillor Angelini said it is best to do it properly and as of right now it is a work in progress. Councillor Bodanza asked if another Petition is necessary to accommodate handicapped temporary parking. Councillor David Cormier said that it was unnecessary due to Police having the authority to create these parking spaces. The Legal Affairs Committee agreed to give this Petition Leave to Withdraw without prejudice. Councillor Angelini asked three times if

anyone in the Public wanted to speak on behalf of the Petition and no one spoke. The Public Hearing closed at 6:53 PM.

INTERVIEWS, 6:40 PM

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)

The Ways and Means Committee interviewed Ms. Bergeron.

Ms. Bergeron gave a summary of her qualifications as a teacher and how she can bring all her talents to the table. She is well educated in health and wellness. She has taught students of all ages and is eager to give back to the Community.

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)

The Ways and Means Committee recommended rescheduling the interviews for Mr. Bowdridge and Ms. Quinlan to the next meeting on October 24, 2022, at 6:40 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING, 6:45 PM

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 10/11/2022, at 6:45 PM; 2/3 Vote)*

The public Hearing opened at 7:02 PM. Councillor Angelini read the Petition into the record. Joseph Quinn, Sealer of Wights and Measures, provided the City Council with a verbal summary of the proposed changes and explained that this ordinance has not been updated in many years. Councillor Angelini asked three times if anyone in the Public wanted to speak in favor or against the Petition. Sal Ciccone, 428 Union St, spoke in favor of the petition. Public Hearing closed at 7:24 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING, 6:50 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 Public Hearing started at 7:24 PM. Councillor Angelini read the Ordinance into the record. Elizabeth Wood, Planning Director, informed the Council that there are too many tow yards in the area with a large quantity of unregistered vehicles. This amendment to the Zoning Ordinance would remedy the issue. Sal Ciccone, Member of the Planning Board, informed the Council that the Board met with different departments regarding this matter, and together they created this solution. Councillor Bodanza informed the Council that there were typos within the proposed Ordinance and recommended that they be addressed. Councillor Freda voiced concern regarding the enforcement of this Ordinance, she stated that hiring a second enforcement officer would benefit the city. Councillor Brady asked who the current enforcement officer was. He was informed that the current enforcement officer is the Building Commissioner. Councillor Angelini asked three times if anyone in the Public wanted to speak for or against the Petition. No one spoke. The Legal Affairs Committee recommended that the Public Hearing be continued to October 24, 2022, at 6:30 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 8:01 PM. Councillor President David Cormier asked three time if anyone in the Public wished to speak. No one spoke. The Public Forum closed at 8:02 PM.

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

The Regular meeting of the City Council opened at 7:00 PM Councilor Bodanza made a motion to recess. Councillor Freda seconded the motion. The motion

carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0. The meeting went into recess at 7:02 PM. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:02 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL OF COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor David Cormier, Councillor Pauline Cormier, Councillor Peter Angelini, Councillor Todd Deacon, Councillor Mark Bodanza, Councillor Claire Freda, Councillor William Brady were present. Others present Katelyn Huffman, City Clerk and Maribel Perez, Assistant City Clerk.

IV. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

- September 26, 2022

Councillor Pauline Cormier informed that the minutes were approved to file. Councillor Freda requested to add to the minutes the Opioid documentation and update request that was made at the prior meeting. These minutes were approved and placed on file.

V. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Money Orders

C-19 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor; Request that a Police donation account be established, allowing the police department to accept donations and spend funds on applicable police expenses. *(Finance; Regular Course 10/11/2022; Majority Vote)*

This Communication was given Regular Course.

C-20 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor; Request that a transfer of \$203,914.30 be made from the E-911 grant fund to the Fire Capital Project fund to continue work on the new 911 Dispatch Center. *(Finance; Regular Course 10/11/2022; Majority Vote)*

This Communication was given Regular Course.

C-21 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor; Request that the appropriation of \$2,500,000 that was made on June 27, 2022, to the Fall Brook School Capital Project Fund; with the same amount being transferred from the Excess and deficiency Account (undesignated Fund Balance) be reread into record

and new updated language from MSBA be approved. (*Finance; Regular Course 10/11/2022; Majority Vote*)

This Communication was given Regular Course.

Appointments

Dean J. Mazarella, Mayor; Request the appointment of the following individual to the office of Council on Aging: Term to expire 04/25/2025.

Marlene Thibeault 556 Central St., Lot 1, Leominster, MA 01453

(*Ways & Means; Regular Course 10/11/2022; Interviews 10/24/2022 @ 6:40 PM; Majority Vote*)

This Communication was given Regular Course. An interview was schedule for October 24, 2022, at 6:40 PM.

VI. PETITIONS FIRST TIME ON THE AGENDA

11-23 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, add three handicap parking spaces in the Carter Park parking lot on Main Street, Map 24 Parcel 9, at the southern most part of the lot. (*Legal Affair; Regular Course 10/11/2022; Public Hearing 10/24/2022 at 6:45PM, 2/3 Vote*)

This Petition was given Regular Course. A public hearing was set for November 28, 2022, at 6:50 PM. Referrals were requested from The Mayor's Office and the Disability Commission.

VII. MATTERS BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL

VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT

Councillor Bodanza read the Financial Report. The balance of the stabilization fund was \$18,794.280.

IX. FINANCE

C-16 Dean J. Mazzarella, 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)*

The Finance Committee recommended that the City Council grant the Communication. By a vote of 7-0 this communication was GRANTED.

ORDERED: By a vote of 7-0 the Communication was ADOPTED.

C-17 Dean J. Mazzarella, 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)*

The Finance Committee recommended that the City Council grant the Communication. By a vote of 7-0 this communication was GRANTED.

ORDERED: By a vote of 7-0 the Communication was ADOPTED.

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)

The Finance Committee recommended that the City Council grant the Communication. By a vote of 7-0 this communication was GRANTED.

ORDERED: By a vote of 7-0 the Communication was ADOPTED.

X. LEGAL AFFAIRS

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; 9-26-2022; Public Hearing Tuesday, 10/11/2022 at 6:50 PM; 2/3 Vote)*

The Legal Affairs Committee recommended giving this Petition Further Time. By a vote of 7-0 this Petition was given Further Time. This Communication was scheduled for a Public Hearing on October 24, 2022, at 6:30 PM.

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 10/11/2022, at 6:45 PM; 2/3 Vote)*

The Legal Affairs Committee recommended granting this Petition. By a vote of 7-0 this Petition was GRANTED.

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; Further Time 10/11/2022; Public Hearing 10/24/2022 at 6:50 PM; 2/3 Vote)*

The Legal Affairs Committee recommended giving this Petition Further Time. By a vote of 7-0 this Petition was given Further Time. This Communication was scheduled for a Public Hearing on November 28, 2022, at 6:40 PM.

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; Further Time 10/11/2022; Public Hearing 10/24/2022
at 6:51 PM; 2/3 Vote*)

**The Legal Affairs Committee recommended giving this Petition
Further Time. By a vote of 7-0 this Petition was given Further Time.
This Communication was scheduled for a Public Hearing on
November 28, 2022, at 6:45 PM.**

XI. WAYS AND MEANS

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

Ways and Means Committee recommended to GRANT this Petition. By a vote of 7-0 this Petition was GRANTED.

Dean J. Mazzarella, Mayor; Request the appointment of the following individuals to the Office of 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*)

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

The Ways and Means Committee recommended to Grant this appointment. By a vote of 7-0 this appointment was CONFIRMED.

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*)

The Ways and Mans committee requested to reschedule these appointments for October 24, 2022, at 6:45 PM and give this communication Further Time. By a vote of 6-1 the communication was given further time.

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*)

The Ways and Means Committee recommended granting this reappointment. By a vote 7-0 this reappointment was RE-CONFIRMED.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of an Ordinance

C-13 Dean J. Mazarella, 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 this Ordinance be given a second reading. By a vote of 7-0 this Communication was ADOPTED.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

NONE.

XIII. COMMUNITY CALENDAR

None.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

**Councillor Pauline Cormier made a motion to adjourn the meeting
Councillor Angelini seconded the motion. By a vote of 7-0 the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.**

- Katelyn Huffman, City Clerk