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**SUSPENSION
ACCEPTED AND FILED**

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Chelsea, Massachusetts, November 20, 2017

A Regular meeting of the Chelsea City Council was held. The meeting was held at the Chelsea City Hall located at 500 Broadway Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150. The following Councilors were present: Councilors Vidot, Avellaneda, Tejada, Rodriguez, Recupero, Cortell, Murphy, Lopez, Robinson, Frank and Garcia. Council President Robinson presided over the meeting. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

Prior to the Fire Department Promotions and Swearing-In Ceremony Councilor Murphy requested that the Resolution for Firefighter Omar Frometa be taken out of order to be acted upon. No objections.

The following resolution was introduced by Councilor Robinson and all members of the City Council. A motion from Councilor Murphy to adopt under suspension was adopted.

RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS;** Firefighter Omar Frometa received the *2017 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award* and has been working for the past 10 years as a volunteer in the classrooms, teaching fire and life safety to his own children and their classmates; and
- WHEREAS;** Omar Frometa was given the title of Public Safety Educator and was instrumental for the growth we now enjoy, (Senior SAFE and S.A.F.E. grants) that has broadened from pre-K to high school and senior citizens; NOW THEREFORE, BE IT
- RESOLVED;** that We, the Members of the Chelsea City Council, on behalf of the Citizens of Chelsea, wish to recognize and congratulate you, Omar Frometa, for going beyond the call of duty and touching the lives of thousands of students and seniors with your leadership and devotion to fire and life safety programs to the people of Chelsea.

Fire Department Promotional and swearing in Ceremony:

The following promotions took place at the ceremony:

Promoted to the rank of Captain: Philip Merritt,

Promoted to the rank of Lieutenant: Anthony Tiro

Appointed to the rank of firefighter: Massachusetts Fire Academy, Sean Byron (Class 257), Agust Calabro (Class 258)

Brookline Fire Academy, Kevin DeJesus, Juan Alejandro, Braulio Gonzalez, Carlos Calderon, Thiago DoNascimento, Ralph Pagan, Antonio Nieves Jr., and Joaquin Portillo.

Public speaking:

The public speaking portion of the meeting opened at 7:35 p.m. The following came forward to speak:

Mayra Romero, spoke about the T.P.S. Resolution.

Deisi Gonzalez 318 Broadway, spoke about T.P.S.,

Yessenia Alfaro, spoke about TP.S.,

Roberto Rodriguez 885 Broadway, spoke about T.P.S.

Mario Cabrera, 18 Webster Ave., spoke about T.P.S.

Lucy Pineda, Activist in Everett, Mass. Spoke about T.P.S.

Jose Palma, T.P.S. Coordinator explained about T.P.S.

Eric Dablas 66 Clark Avenue, talked about T.P.S.

Jose Iraheta, 73 Essex Street, T.P.S. holder.

The public hearing closed at 7:50 p.m.

Councilor Garcia requested that the T.P.S. Resolution be taken from New Business to be acted upon. No objections.

The following Resolution was introduced Councils Garcia, Robinson, Lopez, Rodriguez, Murphy, Avellaneda, Vidot, Recupero, Cortell, and Tejada.. Councilor Garcia moved to adopt by roll call. The roll call passed 11-0-0-0. Voting yes were Councilors, Vidot, Avellaneda, Tejada, Rodriguez, Recupero, Cortell, Murphy, Lopez, Robinson, Frank, and Garcia.

WHEREAS; The City of Chelsea has had and maintains a long and proud history as a city that welcomes, supports, values and respects its immigrants, regardless of their status of documentation, and refugees escaping war and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS; the demonstration of this support for immigrants has been shown through the Chelsea City Council passing a resolution designating Chelsea as a Sanctuary City in 2007; and

WHEREAS; Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is a form of immigration status that provides employment authorization and protection from deportation for foreign nationals who cannot safely return to their home countries; and

WHEREAS; The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), officially announced that it will not renew the Temporary Protected Status designation to 2,500 Nicaraguans and will consider whether or not to extend designations of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for some nationals that currently hold TPS including over 200,000 Salvadoran, 57,000 Honduran, and 50,000 Haitian immigrants; and

WHEREAS; In light of the Trump Administration's radical increase of immigration enforcement through executive orders, funding requests, and policy guidance, the continued existence of TPS is very much at risk; and

WHEREAS; It is estimated that ending TPS for immigrants from El Salvador, Haiti and Honduras would result in a \$6.9 billion reduction to Social Security and Medicare contributions over a decade, and the deportation of these individuals would cost taxpayers approximately \$3.1 billion dollars;

WHEREAS; the City of Chelsea recognizes the positive contributions of TPS holders and their families to the economy, social fabric, diversity and well-being of our community, now therefore, BE IT

RESOLVED; That the Chelsea City Council supports the Temporary Protected Status program and calls on the Department of Homeland Security to support immigrants, refugees escaping war, natural disasters, and crime; and be it further

RESOLVED; That the City Clerk be, and hereby is, requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Massachusetts Senator Ed Markey, Senator Elizabeth Warren, and Congressman Michael Capuano on behalf of the Chelsea City Council.

Communications from City Manager:

A copy of a communication was received from City Manager Thomas G. Ambrosino with regards to the Chelsea Mitigation Request for Route 1 Viaduct Rehabilitation Project. The original letter was sent to Mr. Jonathan L. Gulliver, Highway Administrator Massachusetts Department of Transportation. Councilor Avellaneda moved to wave the reading and accept and file under suspension. No objections. A copy of the eight page request is available in the City Council folder dated November 20, 2017.

Communications and petitions to the Council:

A copy of a communication was received from City Council President Robinson, regarding the appointment of Councilor Recupero, Councilor Lopez, and Councilor Rodriguez to the Special Committee to look into how the Boston Affordable Housing Program operates. A motion from Councilor Recupero to accept and file was adopted under suspension.

Second Readings:

The following order was introduced by Councilor Robinson, and read for the second time. A motion from Councilor Murphy to adopt by roll call passed 9-0-2-0. Voting yes were Councilors Vidot, Tejada, Rodriguez, Recupero, Cortell, Murphy, Lopez, Robinson, and Frank. Councilors Avellaneda and Garcia were not present.

ORDERED, that, to fund the collective bargaining agreement negotiated with the Chelsea Fire Department Union, Local 937 for Fiscal Year 2018, the Chelsea City Council authorized the transfer of \$364,600 for the Salary Reserve Account #0199959-598000 to the FY 2018 Fire Department Salaries Account 0122051-510200.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Murphy and read for the second time. A motion from Councilor Murphy to adopt by roll call passed 9-0-2-0. Voting yes were Councilors Vidot, Tejada, Rodriguez, Recupero, Cortell, Murphy, Lopez, Robinson, and Frank. Councilors Avellaneda and Garcia were not present.

ORDERED, that pursuant to Section 4-3(1) of the Chelsea City Charter, the Chelsea City Council approve the cost items set forth in the collective bargaining agreements negotiated with the Chelsea Fire Department Union, Local 937 memorialized in the one year Memorandum of Agreement for Fiscal Year 2018 executed on Oct. 27, 2017 and the three year Memorandum of Agreement for Fiscal Years 2019-2021 executed on Oct. 27, 2017.

The following order was introduced y Councilor Robinson and read for the second time. A motion from Councilor Murphy to adopt by roll call passed 9-0-2-0. Voting yes were Councilors Vidot, Tejada, Rodriguez, Recupero, Cortell, Murphy, Lopez, Robinson, and Frank. Councilor Avellaneda and Garcia were absent.

ORDERED: That the City of Chelsea accept the provisions of General Law Chapter 59, Section 5N which authorizes the City to establish a tax work-off program for veterans or for the spouse of a veteran where the veteran is deceased or has a service-connected disability, and that the City adjust the exemption by allowing the maximum reduction of the real property tax bill to be based on 125 volunteer hours at the minimum wage as opposed to \$1,000.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Murphy and read for the second time. A motion from Councilor Murphy to adopt by roll call passed 11-0-0-0. Voting yes were Councilors Vidot, Avellaneda, Tejada, Rodriguez, Recupero, Cortell, Murphy, Lopez, Robinson, Frank and Garcia.

Whereas, the City of Chelsea City Council has supported the community effort toward healthier eating and active living initiatives as part of the comprehensive Healthy Chelsea Project;

Whereas, Health Resources in Action – in partnership with North Shore Medical Center Partners HealthCare and North Shore Medical Center in partnership and the Department of Public Health’s Mass in Motion program has awarded a grant to the Chelsea Department of Health and Human Services to provide support to this ongoing project;

Whereas, the City Council accepted the Health Resources in Action grant in the amount of \$240,000 to the City of Chelsea, such amount provided to the City in four (4) annual installments of \$60,000 for one-year durations beginning March, 2012 through March, 2015; and \$70,000 from March, 2016 through September, 2017;

Whereas, Health Resources in Action has offered to again extend the funding for this program for a specified period;

Be it hereby Resolved by the City Council of the City of Chelsea, as follows:

That the City Council hereby accepts and approves the Health Resources in Action grant in the amount of \$40,000 to the City of Chelsea for the period October 1, 2017 to September 29, 2018.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Robinson. And read for the second time. A motion from Councilor Recupero to adopt by roll call passed 11-0-0-0. Voting yes were Councilors Vidot, Avellaneda, Tejada, Rodriguez, Recupero, Cortell, Murphy, Lopez, Robinson, Frank, and Garcia.

WHEREAS, the Chelsea City Council has authority to adopt ordinances to protect the health, safety and welfare of all residents of the City of Chelsea;

WHEREAS, the City of Chelsea wishes to adopt a new Veterans Property Tax Work-off Program in order both to assist veterans facing larger property tax bills and to increase the participation of veterans in municipal government.

NOW, therefore be it Ordained, that the Revised Code of Ordinances of the City of Chelsea as amended, be further amended and adopted as follows:

AN ORDINANCE REVISING PART II CHAPTER 26 OF THE CHELSEA CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADD A VETERANS PROPERTY TAX WORK-OFF PROGRAM

That Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Chelsea, Massachusetts is hereby amended by adding a new Section 26-3 which reads as follows:

Sec. 26-3 - Veterans property tax work-off program.

- (a) *Authority.* The City of Chelsea hereby accepts Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 5N, in order to authorize establishment of a program to allow veterans, as defined in clause Massachusetts General Law Chapter 4, Section 7, Clause 43, or a spouse of a veteran in the case where the veteran is deceased or has a service-connected disability, to volunteer to provide services in exchange for a reduction in the real estate property tax obligations of that veteran on the veteran's tax bills, which reduction shall be in addition to any exemption or abatement to which that person is otherwise entitled.
- (b) *Program goals.* The goals of this program are to assist veterans of the city with payment of residential property tax bills and to increase the involvement of veterans in municipal government.
- (c) *Eligibility requirements.* An applicant must meet or exceed all the following requirements in order to be eligible to participate in the program:
 - (1) Must be a veteran, as defined in clause Massachusetts General Law Chapter 4, Section 7, Clause 43, or be the spouse of a veteran where the veteran is either deceased or has a service-connected disability.
 - (2) Must own and occupy the residential property for which real estate taxes are paid to the city by the applicant.
 - (3) Must be income eligible. Income limitations on eligibility shall be the same as those in place for Chelsea seniors pursuant to M.G.L. c. 59, Section 5, Clause 41D.
- (d) *Selection process.*
 - (1) An applicant must meet eligibility requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section.
 - (2) The Personnel Department shall administer the program and, working in conjunction with the Veterans Affairs Department, it shall have full discretion to assign applicants to appropriate work situations.
 - (3) The veteran's real property tax work-off program shall include no more than twenty five (25) individuals on an annual basis. In the event there are more applications than positions available, the selection shall occur by means of a public lottery.
- (e) *Reduction of real property tax bill guidelines.*
 - (1) The hourly rate for services shall be set at the state's minimum wage.
 - (2) The maximum reimbursement credited to any individual during a program year shall be based upon 125 volunteer hours at the state's minimum wage, or the maximum allowed by M.G.L. Chapter 59, § 5N, whichever is greater.
 - (3) Upon completion of the hours of work service, or a fraction thereof, participants will be entitled to receive a reduction of their next real property tax bill. The Personnel Department shall maintain a record for each taxpayer including, but not limited to, the number of hours of service and the

total amount by which the real property tax has been reduced and to provide a copy of that record to the assessor in order that the actual tax bill reflect the reduction of the real property taxes.

- (4) Applicants shall be made aware that the city will issue a "W-2" form for federal income tax purposes only.

This change shall take effect as of January 1, 2018.

New Business:

The following order was introduced by Councilor Robinson. A motion from Councilor Murphy to adopt under suspension was adopted.

REQUEST, that a Sub-Committee on Conference be held with DPW to talk about how we are awarding contracts and if we do bonuses if the work gets done ahead of time and are there penalties if the work is not completed on time.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Robinson. A motion from Councilor Murphy to adopt under suspension was adopted.

REQUEST, that a Sub-Committee on Conference be held with Zoning and Planning Boards to discuss their vision for the city.

The following order was introduced by Councilors Recupero and Lopez. A motion from Councilor Lopez to adopt under suspension was adopted.

ORDERED, that the City Council scheduled a Subcommittee on Conference with the City Manager, Director of Public Works, and White Water regarding the maintenance of catch basins and fire hydrants and their process.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Avellaneda. A motion from Councilor Avellaneda to adopt by roll call passed 11-0-0-0. Voting yes were Councilors Vidot, Avellaneda, Tejada, Rodriguez, Recupero, Cortell, Murphy, Lopez, Robinson, Frank, and Garcia.

Request, that the City Council President create a special sub-committee to come up with possible parking changes to the areas around the Silver Line stops in Chelsea. Said sub-committee would work with City Manager Police Chief or designee, City Clerk or designee and Planning Director or designee.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Recupero. A motion from Councilor Recupero for roll call was defeated 4-7-0-0. Voting yes were Councilors Tejada, Recupero, Lopez, and Garcia. Voting no were Councilors Vidot, Avellaneda, Rodriguez, Cortell, Murphy, Robinson, and Frank.

ORDERED, that the City Manager look into implementing the eligibility age of 60 years and above for all senior citizen programs.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Recupero. A motion from Councilor Recupero referred the order to the sub-committee on conference under suspension.

ORDERED, that moving forward, any and all public announcements pertaining to any matters that require public participation be handled in the following manner:

- 1) All public announcements be included in the water bills sent to all property owners.
- 2) All public announcements also be dispersed throughout the school systems and handed out to all children in envelopes with a note for it to be given to their parents.

All public announcements for distributions should be written in both English and Spanish as our community is more than fifty percent Hispanic and English is their second language. Taking the above will help increase public involvement in the community's understanding of upcoming laws, changes, etc.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Casino
Clerk of the Chelsea City Council