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SUSPENSION ACCEPTED AND FILED

Chelsea, Massachusetts, January 27, 2020

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 Zobot, Garcia, Taylor, Robinson, Brown, Maldonado, Rodriguez, Avellaneda, and Lopez. Councilors Recupero and Vidot were absent. Council President Avellaneda presided over the meeting. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

Celebratory Resolutions:

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in 1926, Carter G. Woodson, the child of slave parents, established "Negro History Week" to celebrate and study the accomplishments of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, this event evolved into Black History Month in the United States, a country of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, as Carter G. Woodson valued education and believed that it was never too late to learn, it is beneficial for all Americans to continue to learn about the heritage and the experiences of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, it is through learning that we become enlightened and come to understand each other more clearly; and

WHEREAS, the Lewis H. Latimer Society and the Chelsea Black Community will be holding events throughout the month of February; now therefore, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Chelsea City Council hereby recognizes February as Black History Month and wishes to thank the Lewis H. Latimer Society and the Chelsea Black Community for their contributions to the City of Chelsea and beyond.

Public Speaking:

The public speaking portion opened at 7:10 p.m.

The following came forward to speak:

Roman Pucko Peabody Mass, spoke on the item on the agenda with regards to waiver of Intent and the hiring practices policy. What is it?

Alexander Floyd-Vards Chelsea Resident, spoke on Housing for the Veterans, More competition on certain Businesses.

The public speaking portion closed at 7:20 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

The City Council minutes of the Meeting dated January 13, 2020 were approved at the request of Councilor Lopez under suspension.

City Manager Communications:

The following communication was read from City Manager Thomas G. Ambrosino. A motion from Councilor Robinson to accept and file was adopted under suspension.

The Honorable Chelsea City Council
Chelsea City Hall
500 Broadway
Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150

Re: Notice of Waiver Intent

Dear Councilors:

Pursuant to the Administrative Code Section 1.12.02, I am writing to notify you of my intention to hire Mr. Halil Demir, 134 Ridge Road, Revere, Massachusetts for the part-time Building Inspector position and to grant him a waiver from the residency requirement set forth in the Administrative Code, Part IV, Section 1.12.01. Mr. Demir is the preferred candidate of the ISD Director. A copy of Mr. Demir's resume is attached.

In accordance with Section 1.12.02, I request that you provide me with any comments on the proposed waiver within seven days.

Sincerely,
Thomas G. Ambrosino
City Manager

The following communication was read from City Manager Thomas G. Ambrosino. A motion from Councilor Lopez to accept and file was adopted under suspension.

The Honorable Chelsea City Council
Chelsea City Hall
500 Broadway
Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150
Re: Streetlight Inventory

Dear Councilors:

I am writing in response to the recent City Council Order requesting that the City inventory all existing streetlights and take steps to fix all those that are non-working. The Public Works Commissioner has agreed to assign an employee to complete this inventory task. The inventory will take approximately one month. Once we identify all non-working streetlights the City will assign repairs to our contractor.

Please keep in mind that our contract vendor can only repair non-working streetlights if the problem is with the streetlight itself. However, on many occasions the problem is with the wiring from Eversource. When that is the case, the City must rely upon Eversource to fix the problem on its own (and often slow) repair schedule. In most instances, where streetlights have been out for long periods of time the problem is one that can only be remedied by Eversource, and the City is awaiting the Eversource repair.

Sincerely,
Thomas G. Ambrosino
City Manager

The following communication was read from City Manager Thomas G. Ambrosino. A motion from Councilor Lopez to accept and file was adopted under suspension.

The Honorable Chelsea City Council
Chelsea City Hall
500 Broadway
Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150

Re: Patrols in Sector 4

Dear Councilors:

I am writing in response to the recent City Council Order requesting an update on police patrols in Sector 4.

I have attached for your review a Memorandum from Police Chief Brian Keyes highlighting the “impact patrols” conducted in Sector 4 during the last quarter of 2019. A total of 579 such patrols occurred in Sector 4 during that period. According to Chief Keyes “impact patrols” are short term patrols of anywhere from 15-30 minutes on foot, intended to have a visible impact on an area.

Sincerely,
Thomas G. Ambrosino
City Manager

The following communication was read from City Manager Thomas G. Ambrosino. A motion from Councilor Robinson to accept and file was adopted under suspension.

The Honorable Chelsea City Council
Chelsea City Hall
500 Broadway
Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150

Re: Administrative Order on Council of Elder Affairs

Dear Councilors and City Clerk Cintron-White

Pursuant to Section 6-1 (a) of the City of Chelsea Charter, I am writing to notify you that I have promulgated a new Administrative Order regarding the Council on Elder Affairs. At the request of the Council and Director Tracy Nowicki, I have reduced the membership of the Council from eleven to nine members to make it more efficient.

Sincerely,
Thomas G. Ambrosino
City Manager

The following communication was read from City Manager Thomas G. Ambrosino. A motion from Councilor Robinson moved the Communication to a second reading under suspension.

The Honorable Chelsea City Council
Chelsea City Hall
500 Broadway
Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150

Re: Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Dear Councilors:

Pursuant to Section 4-2 of the Charter of the City of Chelsea, I am writing to recommend the following individuals to Boards and Commissions in the City.

For appointment to the Tree Board, Mr. David M. Therrien, 20 High Street, Chelsea, for a three year term expiring in 2023.

For appointment to the Board of Health, Ms. Corinna S. Culler, 55 Eleanor Street, #11, Chelsea, to serve the remainder of the term of Chris Miller who has resigned. This term expires on February 25, 2022.

For appointment to the Historical Commission, Mr. James Roche, 645 Broadway, Chelsea, for a three year term expiring in 2023.

For a re-appointment to the Traffic & Parking Commission, Ms. Carolyn Vega 85 Blossom St. Chelsea, for a new three year term expiring on March 12, 2023.

For re-appointment to the Council on Elder Affairs, Mr. Gerald DeStefano, 99 Great Woods Road #1, Saugus, for a new three year term expiring on March 12, 2023.

For re-appointment to the Board of Library Trustees, Ms. Alexandria Christmas 67 Cook Ave. Chelsea, for a new three year term expiring on March 12, 2023.

I respectfully request your approval of these appointments. I have attached the resumes of the new appointees.

Sincerely,
Thomas G. Ambrosino.

The following communication was read from City Manager Thomas G. Ambrosino. A motion from Councilor Rodriguez to accept and file was adopted under suspension.

The Honorable Chelsea City Council
Chelsea City Council
500 Broadway
Chelsea, Massachusetts 02150

Re: Community Center and Homeless Shelter

Dear Councilors:

I am writing in response to the recent City Council Orders requesting that I look into the creation of a community center and a homeless shelter. I will discuss each in turn.

With respect to the Community Center, I know this has been an aspiration for the City Council for quite some time. The constraint truly is funding. If the City wishes to create a Community Center, it will need to make two significant financial commitments. The first will be the commitment of funds for acquisition of a sight either through purchase of a building or long term lease and build out of some existing space on the City. However, even after the physical space is required, the City will need a similar significant and long-term financial commitment to staff and equipment.

The alternative to creating a brand new community center is to continue expanding programming within our existing Recreation & Cultural Affairs Department, utilizing school space that we currently have available. I do believe that with new space provided by the Clark Avenue Middle School, this may be a more cost effective means for accomplishing the Council's goals.

As for a homeless shelter, this too would require a major financial commitment. The City would have to acquire the site, be lease or purchase, and then engage in what would likely be an extremely costly build out given the strict regulatory requirements applicable to shelters. Further, in the case of a homeless shelter, the City would also face the challenge of finding an appropriate location for this use given the typical objection by abutters. Frankly, this is not an effort I would recommend pursuing at this time.

Please do not interpret my lack of enthusiasm for a shelter as lack of empathy for the plight of the City's homeless. We currently spend considerable resources caring for this population, through our direct service contracts with CAPIC and North Suffolk, through the efforts of our weekly HUB roundtable and efforts are both significant and, at the moment, adequate to handle the relatively small number of truly homeless individuals present in our City.

Sincerely,
Thomas G. Ambrosino
City Manager

Second Readings:

The following orders were read for a second time. Councilor Robinson moved to adopt by roll call. The roll call passed 9-0-2-0. Voting yes were Councilors Zobot, Garcia, Taylor, Robinson, Brown, Maldonado, Rodriguez, Avellaneda, and Lopez. Absent were Councilors Recupero and Vidot.

Ordered , that the Chelsea City Council authorize the transfer of \$11,818.00 representing the unexpended portion of \$50,000.00 Operating Budget authorized from CIP Fiscal Year 2020 Fire Dept SCBA Cylinders Project, 0122058-580000 Account Series to the CIP FY20 Fire Dept, AED Units Project 0122058-580000 Account Series, Operating Budget.

ORDERED, that, to fund the collective bargaining agreement negotiated with the Massachusetts Municipal Library Employees, Chelsea Chapter, Local 708, Massachusetts State Council 93, AFSCME, for Fiscal Year 2020, the Chelsea City Council authorizes the transfer of \$4,500 from the Salary Reserve Account #0199959-598000 to the FY2020 Library Department Salaries Account #0161051-510200.

ORDERED, that the Chelsea City Council authorize the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$400,000 in Free Cash to the FY20 DPW Streets and Sidewalks Capital Streetlights Account #0142258-581300.

ORDERED, that the Chelsea City Council authorize the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$115,000 in Free Cash to the FY20 DPW Streets and Sidewalks Street Signs Account #0142252-546500.

ORDERED, that the Chelsea City Council authorize the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$35,000 in Free Cash to the FY20 DPW Streets and Sidewalks Overtime Account #0142252-510400.

ORDERED, that the Chelsea City Council authorize the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$100,000 in Free Cash to the FY20 DPW Streets and Sidewalks Capital Road Improvements Account #0142258-583100.

- ORDERED, that the Chelsea City Council authorize the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$150,000 in Free Cash to the FY20 DPW Structures and Grounds Building Maintenance Account #0147052-524100.
- ORDERED, that the Chelsea City Council authorize the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$100,000 in Free Cash to the FY20 Planning Department Downtown Initiative Fund #3108 for Downtown events and public art.
- ORDERED, that the Chelsea City Council authorize the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$50,000 in Free Cash to the FY20 DPW Solid Waste Trash Containers Account #0143052-546700.
- ORDERED, that the Chelsea City Council authorize the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$30,000 in Free Cash to the FY20 DPW Streets and Sidewalks Street Signs Account #0142252-546500 for new Holiday decorations.
- ORDERED, that the Chelsea City Council authorize the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$350,000 in Free Cash to the FY20 DPW Streets & Sidewalks Other Capital Account #55402030-580000 series for work on Hooper Street erosion control.
- ORDERED, that the Chelsea City Council authorize the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$350,000 in Free Cash to the FY20 DPW Solid Waste Trash – Pickup/Disposal Account #0143052-524600 for debris disposal.
- ORDERED, that the Chelsea City Council authorize the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$250,000 in Free Cash to the Willow Street Project Account #55452031 for engineering work related to Willow St. flooding.
- ORDERED, that the Chelsea City Council authorize the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$900,000 in Water Retained Earnings to the FY20 CIP Upper Broadway Construction Project Account #55452029-580000 series for water utility work on Upper Broadway.
- ORDERED, that the Chelsea City Council authorize the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$900,000 in Sewer Retained Earnings to the FY20 CIP Upper Broadway Construction Project Account #55452029-580000 for sewer utility work on Upper Broadway.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Robinson. Councilor Robinson moved to L.O.T.

- ORDERED, that the Chelsea City Council authorize the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$300,000 in Free Cash to the FY20 Planning Department Contract Services Account #0117552-530600 for a soundproofing program.

The following Order was introduced by Councilor Robinson. A motion from Council Robinson moved the Order to the Sub-Committee on Conference under suspension.

- ORDERED, that the City hereby accepts the provisions of M.G.L. c. 60, &3F for the purpose of creating a Veterans Assistance Fund and operating such Fund in full accordance with the statute.

New Business:

Order introduced by Councilor Zabot. Councilor Zabot moved roll call. Councilor Lopez objected to the First Reading. The order will be brought up at the next Regular Scheduled Meeting.

Request, that the City Manager look into the purchasing of tablets, cases, keyboards and styluses for each of the City Council members.

Order introduced by Councilor Taylor. A motion from Councilor Taylor to adopt under suspension was adopted.

Request, that the Traffic and Parking Commission look into solutions to resolve the current extreme backups on Washington Ave. and Route 16, whether it be by changing the lane configuration or adding more time at the set of lights, or both.

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

Request, that the City Manager instruct the Chief of Police to assign an officer to enforce the "No Left Turn" on Adams and Garfield between 7-9 A. M.

The following order was introduced by Council Taylor. Councilor Taylor amended the order to read instead of \$500 make it \$250 Fine and add "paint the intersection". Adopted under suspension.

Request, that the Traffic and Parking Commission look into placing a sign at the intersection of Garfield and Sagamore that reads "No Blocking the Intersection. \$500 Fine."

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul G. Casino".

Paul G. Casino
Clerk of the Chelsea City Council