

Chelsea, Massachusetts December 21,2020

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, Vidot, Rodriguez, and Avellaneda. Councilors Recuperero, Vega-Maldonado, and Lopez were absent. Council President Avellaneda presided over the meeting. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m..

Memoriums and Celebratory Resolutions:

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Richard Russell married to Antonette Rusell is retiring after 37 years of service from the Chelsea Housing Authority; and

WHEREAS, Richie and Antonette enjoy their grandchildren, and will have the opportunity to spend more time with them and enjoy the finer things in life; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, On behalf of the City of Chelsea, we the members of the Chelsea City Council wish to go on record, so it is to congratulate you for your many years of service to the Chelsea Housing Authority and may you have many years of enjoyment upon your retirement.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Denise Ferdinand worker for the Chelsea Housing Authority from July 14,1999 to December 18,2020 and will be retiring; and

WHEREAS, Denise Ferinand has worked faithfully and was a dedicated worker for the Chelsea Housing Authority; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, On behalf of the City of Chelsea we the members of the Chelsea City Council wish to go on record, so it is to congratulate you for your many years of service to the Chelsea Housing Authority and may you have many years of enjoyment upon your retirement.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the City Council Meeting held on December 7,2020 were approved at the request of Councilor Garcia under suspension.

Communications from the City Manager:

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

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

Re: Approval of Donations to the Chelsea Public Library

Dear Councilors:

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, &53A1/2, I am writing to request that the City Council formally approve the following miscellaneous donation from Compare Supermarket, and a \$50 gift card from Market Basket. The latter two items will be used in conjunction with the annual Chelsea Reads celebration.

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: Grant from Barr Foundation for the North Suffolk Resilience and Sustainability Office

Dear Councilors:

Last week, the Barr Foundation formally approved the grant request from Chelsea Revere and Winthrop for the support of the North Suffolk Resilience and Sustainability Office. The grant is \$600,000 over a period of three (3) years. This City Council previously approved the Inter-Municipal Agreement for creation of this Office on November 2,2020.

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, &53A, I am requesting that the City Council formally approve the acceptance of this grant. A draft Order is attached.

Sincerely,
Thomas G. Ambrosino
City Manager

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

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

Re: Welcome to Chelsea Sign at Pearl/Marginal

Dear Councilors:

I am writing in response to the City Council request for a Welcome to Chelsea sign at the entrance to Chelsea at Pearl and Marginal Streets.

I am in full agreement that this location is appropriate for a Welcome to Chelsea sign. However, given the narrow sidewalks and lack of public space here, we will need to secure permission from one from one of the private property owners at the intersection in order to successfully locate such a sign.

At one point, we did have an agreement with Eastern Minerals that some Welcome to Chelsea signage would be included as part of the renovation of its parcel at the corner of Pearl and Marginal. Unfortunately, the redevelopment of that site has been delayed. As an alternative, we are now asking Eastern Minerals to allow the City to move forward with installation, on a portion of its site improvements. If we are able to obtain such permission, the City will install a Welcome to Chelsea sign at this location in the Spring.

Yours truly,
Thomas G. Ambrosino
City Manager

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

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

Re: Streetlights

Dear Councilors:

I am writing in response to the Council Order requesting an update on streetlight improvements.

As you know, the City owns and is responsible for all of its streetlights. However, the wiring and the electrical infrastructure for such lights remain owned by Eversource.

The City outsources maintenance of its streetlights to third party vendors. Currently, the streetlight vendor is Dagle Electrical Construction Corp. ("Dagle"). When a streetlight is reported out, Dagle is dispatched to attempt a repair. If the problem is with the streetlight itself, Dagle is typically able to perform the repair in short order. However, there are many times when the problem with the streetlight is with the underlying electrical wiring or infrastructure. In that case, Dagle and/or the City reports the matter to Eversource, and we must await an Eversource repair. That often takes a very long time. This is typically the reason why specific streetlights remain inoperable for lengthy periods.

Over the course of the past few years, the City Council has requested improvements to our streetlights. Initially when I first arrived, we responded to these request by increasing the settings on the existing streetlights to the highest level. Streets where increased settings on existing lights included include Library St., Bellingham St. Grove St. Gerrish Ave. Highland St. Watts St. Cottage St. Lynn St. Ext, Cross St. Ellsworth St. and Poplar St. among others.

Unfortunately, in certain cases, the City realizes that, because of the limited size of the existing streetlights, increasing lights to the highest setting wasn't always an adequate remedy for insufficient lighting. So, starting in the 2018 timeframe, we began to replace existing streetlights with new stronger heads. On at least three separate occasions, utilizing Free Cash (\$50,000 in FY18; \$180,000 in FY19; and \$400,000 in FY20), the City Council provided funding for the streetlight upgrade program.

I have attached to this letter 4 separate spreadsheets showing locations where streetlights were replaced with stronger lights. Although it is possible some locations are missing, I do believe these spreadsheets provide a fairly comprehensive list of the streets on which we have replaced streetlights and improved lighting.

The City is still in the process of upgrading streetlights in various neighborhoods utilizing the \$400,000 appropriation provided by the City Council last fiscal year. We expect this current contract work to be completed in the Spring of 2021. If there are particular streets that Councilors believe require an upgrade, I encourage you to contact Public Works Commissioner Fidel Maltez directly. We may be able to include such streets in the current program. Any additional streetlight work after this Spring will require a further appropriation.

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: Transfer for Innes Infrastructure Design Work

Dear Councilors:

I am writing to request a transfer from a completed capital in order to fund the final design of public infrastructure related to the Innes Apartments Redevelopment. No new funding is required.

As you know, the City was awarded a \$5 million MassWorks grant for the infrastructure improvements required for this project. Approximately \$1 million of that amount will be used for construction of the street and underground utility work in the Central Avenue area.

The City is responsible for completing the full design of that infrastructure work. At this point, the City has some funding from its I&I Fund for the sewer and drainage design. But, a gap remains for the design of the remaining work. There is funding available for this design. But, a gap remains for the design of the remaining work. There is funding available for this design in a 2014 capital project the Admirals Hill Pump Station Project. That Project is fully complete and has a remaining surplus of \$126,082.63. This money, if transferred, will be sufficient to complete the Innes infrastructure design work.

Based upon the above, I am requesting that the City Council transfer funding from this completed Admirals Hill Pump Station capital project for the purpose of completing Innes related design work. A Draft Order to accomplish this transfer is attached.

Sincerely,
Thomas G. Ambrosino
City Manager

Communications and Petitions to the Council

A copy of a communication was received from City Clerk Jeannette Cintron White in regards to actions approved at the December 8, 2020 Traffic and Parking Commission Meeting. A motion from Councilor Robinson to accept and file was adopted under suspension.

A copy of a communication was received from resident Annie Jones thanking Councilor, Avellaneda, Councilor Robinson, School Committee Member Henry Wilson and Chelsea Collaborative Director Gladys Vega for their assistance/information throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. A motion from Councilor Robinson to accept and file was adopted under suspension.

New Business

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

Ordered, that the City Manager provide the City Council an update in regards on the MWRA's water system regarding the COVID-19 virus.

small business loan and the rage of each grant recipient.

The following Order was introduced by Avellaneda. A motion from Councilor Garcia to adopt by roll call passed 8-0-3-0. Voting yes were Councilors Zabol, Garcia, Taylor, Robinson, Brown, Vidot, Rodriguez, and Avellaneda. Councilors Recupero, Vega-Maldonado and Lopez were Absent.

Ordered, that, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, &53A1/2 the Chelsea City Council accept gifts to Chelsea Public Library of: a Kindle Reader; a \$100 donation from Compare Supermarket; and a \$50 gift card from Market Basket.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Avellaneda. A motion from Councilor Robinson to adopt by roll call passed 8-0-3-0. Voting yes were Councilors Zabol, Garcia, Taylor, Robinson, Brown, Vidot, Rodriguez, and Avellaneda. Councilors Recupero, Maldonado, and Lopez were absent.

Ordered, That the Chelsea City Council hereby accepts and approves the Barr Foundation grant in the amount \$600,000 for the establishment of the North Suffolk Resilience and Sustainability Office.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Robinson. A motion from Councilor Robinson referred it to a second reading under suspension.

AN ORDER TRANSFERRING PROCEEDS OF A BORROWING THAT ARE NO LONGER NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT FOR WHICH THEY WERE ORIGINALLY BORROWED, TO PAY COSTS OF AN ALTERNATIVE CAPITAL PROJECT, AS AUTHORIZED BY CHAPTER 44, SECTION 20 OF THE GENERAL LAWS.

Ordered, That in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, the sum of \$126,082.63 representing the unexpected portion of the \$175,000.00 borrowed under Fiscal Year 2014 Capital Improvement Plan for water infrastructure improvements-Admirals Hill Pump Station Project-MWRA Water Bond-Account 55451415-584502, such balance remaining after the completion of the project for which the loan was authorized which is no longer needed to complete that project, is hereby transferred in the amount of \$126,082.63 for water utility improvements to the Innes Neighborhood Utility Improvement Project-MWRA Water Bond-Account 55421 series.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul G. Casino (FM)

Paul G. Casino
Clerk of the Chelsea City Council