

316  
SUSPENSION ACCEPTED AND FILED

Chelsea, Massachusetts January 25, 2021

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, Recupero, Garcia, Vega-Maldonado, Robinson, Rodriguez, Taylor, Lopez, Brown and Zabot. Council President Avellaneda presided over the meeting. The meeting had audio difficulties and opened at 7:20 p.m.

### Memoriums and Celebratory Resolutions

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

### RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a leader of great courage and skill who became known as a drum major of the American Civil Rights Movement to enfranchise black citizens ; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. King's life was tragically cut short by an assassin's bullet in April of 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee while he was there to champion the cause of underprivileged workers; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the efforts of many dedicated people who believe Dr. King deserves national recognition the third Monday in January is nationally recognized as a day to remember Dr. King, his legacy, and the causes for which he so gallantly fought and died; and

**WHEREAS**, Massachusetts had the privilege of Dr. King's presence when he lived and studied in Boston at Boston University School of Divinity, receiving his PhD in 1953; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. King's life will always shine as a light for those without hope and as an example to be emulated by all who care about their fellow human beings, regardless of race, religion, class or nationality; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Chelsea City Council hereby recognize January 18,2021 as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the City of Chelsea and asks all citizens to reflect upon the significance of this extraordinary man’s life.

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

### **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, In 1926, famed African American historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson, established “Negro History Week” to celebrate Black history, accomplishments, diversity and achievements;

**WHEREAS**, 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**, Black History Month allows for discussions of our country’s legacy of slavery, institutional and structural racism.

**WHEREAS**, This year’s theme for 2021 Black History Month is “Black Family, Leadership and Service” and we are honoring longtime Chelsea business-owner Paul Smith for his leadership and service to the community along with our Chelsea Police Officers Barbosa and Daniels for their service representation and leadership not only in the department but in the community as well”; NOW THEREFORE,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chelsea City Council hereby recognizes February as Black History Month; Black Family, Leadership and Service. Thank you to the Lewis H. Latimer Society, Bunker Hill Community College, Rev. Sandra Whitley, Chelsea Public Schools, and the Chelsea Black Community for their contribution to the City of Chelsea and beyond.

**Public Speaking:**

The public speaking portion of the meeting opened at 7:28 p.m. The following came forward to speak:

Representative Jessica Giannino Revere and Chelsea

Joan Cromwell Chelsea Resident

Sharon Caulfield Chelsea Resident

The public speaking portion closed at 7:38 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the City Council Meeting dated January 11,2021 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 Recuperero to accept and file was adopted under suspension.

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

Re: Veterans Tax Work-Off Program

Dear Councilors:

I am writing in response to the recent City Council Order requesting creation of a tax work-off program for Veterans with no age limits.

The Council should note that we already have such a program in place. In November of 2017, the City Council created such a program by local adoption of M.G.L. c. 59, Section 5N. That program is codified in our Ordinance at Chapter 26, Section 26-3. That program has no age limit requirement. Any Veteran, regardless of age, may take part. A Veteran in the program can work-off a maximum amount of \$1,500 from his/her tax bill.

Sincerely,  
Thomas G. Ambrosino  
City Manager

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

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

Re: Request for State of the City Address

Dear Councilors:

I am writing to request that the City Council allow me some time at the upcoming February 8, 2021 City Council meeting to provide a State of the City address. I expect the address to be brief, lasting no more than 10-15 minutes.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Thomas G. Ambrosino  
City Manager

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

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

Re: Re-Appointment 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 re-appointment to the Board of Assessors, Mr. Fella Goldberg, 1 Boatswain Way, Chelsea and Kathleen Conlon, 83 Tudor Street, Chelsea, for new three year terms expiring on February 28, 2024.

For re-appointment to the Board of Health, Mr. Ola Bayode, 9 Eden St. Chelsea, Mr. Richard Jackson, Jr. 250 Congress Ave. Chelsea and Dr. Dean Xerras, 1441 Centre Street, Newton, for new three year terms expiring on February 28, 2024.

For re-appointment to the Board of Library Trustees, Ms. Beth Novak, 126 Bloomingdale St. Chelsea and Ms. Kristina Larson Shaw-Byrnes, 604 Washington Ave. Apt.5, Chelsea, to new three year terms expiring on February 28,2024.

For appointment to the Board of Registrars of Voters, Mr. Michael D. O'Shea, 124 Addison St. #10, Chelsea, for a three year term expiring in 2024.

For re-appointment to the Conservation Commission, Mr. Stephen Sarikas, 137 Prescott Ave. Chelsea, Judith Dyer, 11 Heard St. Chelsea and Ms. Devan Braun Spencer Ave. #304, Chelsea, for new three year terms expiring on February 28,2024.

For re-appointment to the Council of Elder Affairs, Ms. Rebecca Swope, 29 Tudor St. Chelsea, Antonio Ortega, P.O. Box 410016, Cambridge, Ms. Irene Malachowski, 23 Garland St. Chelsea and Mr. Greg Walczak, 124 Chester Ave. Chelsea for new three year term expiring on December 15,2023.

For re-appointment to the Cultural Council, Ms. Marlene Jennings, 33 Breakwater Drive, Chelsea for a new three year term expiring on December 15,2023.

For re-appointment to the Economic Development Board, Ms. Tatiana Bougdaeva, 823 Broadway, Chelsea, for a new five year term expiring on February 28,2026.

For re-appointment to the Traffic & Parking Commission, Ms. Renee Hibbard, 175 Cottage St. Chelsea, for a three year term expiring in 2024.

For re-appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Mr. Joseph Mahoney, 200 Captains Row #403, Chelsea and Ms. Marilyn Vega-Torres, 77 Essex Street, Chelsea, for new year terms expiring on February 28,2024.

I respectfully request your approval of these re-appointments, including the residency waivers for Dr. Xerras and Mr. Ortega. Copies of the resumes for the new appointees are attached.

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 The Nature Conservancy

Dear Councilors:

Recently, the Department of Housing & Community Development secured a grant from The Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy is a charitable environmental organization that aids in the protection, conservation and restoration of impacted land and wetlands through financial support and technical oversight.

This specific \$25,000 grant will provide funds for the City of Chelsea's Island End River Flood Resilience Project. That project will provide funds for the City of Chelsea's Island End River Flood Resilience Project. That project seeks to enhance flooding resilience and environmental restoration of the Island End River area within the City of Chelsea. The grant will supplement the existing funding that the City already has in place from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program. A copy of the Award Letter is attached.

In accordance with M. G. L. c. 44, &53A, I am requesting that the City Council formally approve the acceptance of this grant of \$25,000 from The Nature Conservancy. A copy of the required Order 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 January 5, 2021 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 President Roy Avellaneda regarding the creation of a Special Subcommittee for the redistricting of new wards/precincts. A motion from Councilor Garcia to accept and file was adopted under suspension.

A copy of a communication was received from President Roy Avellaneda in regards of appointing Councilor Robinson and Councilor Vidot to the Interview Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer. A motion from Councilor Robinson to accept and file was adopted under suspension.

**Unfinished Business:**

Councilor Robinson removed from Conference the order pertaining to accepting the M.G.L. C. 60, &3f FOR Veterans Assistance. No objections.

The following order was introduced by Councilor Robinson. Councilor Robinson moved to adopt by roll call. The roll call passed 11-0-0. Voting yes were Councilors Vidot, Avellaneda, Recupero, Garcia, Vega-Maldonado, Robinson, Rodriguez, Taylor, Lopez, Brown and Zobot.

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.

**Second Readings:**

The following appointments to Boards and Commissions were approved at the request of Councilor Robinson on roll call, 11-0-0-0. Voting yes were Councilors Vidot, Avellaneda, Recupero, Garcia, Vega-Maldonado, Robinson, Rodriguez, Taylor, Lopez, Brown, and Zobot.

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

Re: Re-Appointments to Board 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 re-appointment to another temporary six-month term as Chair of the Board of Assessors, Acting Chief of Assessing Mr. James Sullivan, 17 Fairmont St. Winchester, Massachusetts, such term to expire on June 30,2021. It is expected this position will be filled on a permanent basis upon the hiring of a new Chief of Assessing.

For re-appointment to the Board of Health, Mr. Emmanuel Tellez, 188 Broadway, Apt. 9, Chelsea for a new three-year term expiring on December 20,2023.

For re-appointment to the Conservation Commission, Mr. Robert Lynch, 116 Shaumut St. #1, for a new three year-term expiring on December 15,2023.

For re-appointment to the Licensing Commission, Mr. Mark Rossi, 55 Clark Avenue, Chelsea, for a new three year term expiring on December 7,2023.

For re-appointment to the Planning Board, Ms. Sylvia Ramirez, 63 Reynolds Ave. Chelsea, for a new three year-term expiring on December 15,2023.

For re-appointment to the Traffic & Parking Commission, Mr. Aaron Kraemer, 27 John St.; #1, Chelsea, for a new three year term expiring on December 20,2023.

I respectfully request your approval of these re-appointments.

Sincerely,  
Thomas G. Ambrosino  
City Manager

The following order introduced by Councilor Garcia and read for the second time. Councilor Garcia moved to adopt by roll call. Councilor Robinson amended the order to send to Conference. That amendment was defeated by roll call 3-8-0-0. Voting yes were Councilors Robinson, Taylor, and Brown. Voting no were Councilors Vidot, Avellaneda, Recupero, Garcia, Val-Maldonado, Rodriguez, Lopez, and Zobot. Councilor Garcia amended her original order to replace the word "add" and insert the words Manager propose an order to appropriate and also add Covid-19 Cases in the City of Chelsea. The amendment passed by roll call 11-0-0-0. Voting yes were Councilors Vidot, Avellaneda, Recupero, Garcia, Vega-Maldonado, Robinson, Rodriguez, Taylor, Lopez, Brown, and Zobot. The amended Request reads as follows:

Request, that the City Manager propose an order to appropriate to the Chelsea Funeral Fund managed by St. Lukes Church \$25,000 for, Covid-19 cases in the City of Chelsea.

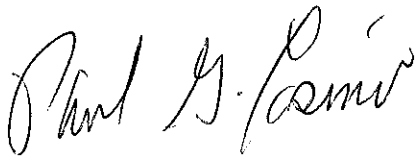
**New Business:**

The following order was introduced by Councilor Robinson. Councilor Robinson moved roll call. The roll call passed 11-0-0-0. Voting yes were Councilors Vidot, Avellaneda, Recupero, Garcia, Vega-Maldonado, Robinson, Rodriguez, Taylor, Lopez, Brown, and Zobot.

Ordered, That the City Council hereby accepts and approves the grant from The Nature Conservancy in the amount of \$25,000 to enhance task and deliverable related to the Island End River Flood Resilience Project.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Paul G. Casino  
Clerk of the Chelsea City Council