So, let us not be blind to our differences, but let us also direct attention to our common interests and the means by which those differences can be resolved. And if we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity. For, in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children’s future. And we are all mortal. President John F. Kennedy, June 10, 1963.
Procession/Procesión

Honor Guard/Guardia de Honor

Mayor/Alcalde Daniel Rivera

Lawrence City Council/ Consejo de Ciudad de Lawrence

Lawrence School Committee/Comité Escolar de Lawrence

Greater Lawrence Technical School Committee
Comité Escolar de Escuela Técnica de Lawrence

Program/Programa

Welcoming Remarks .................................................................City Clerk William J. Maloney

Invocation..................................................................................Pastor Mercedes Martínez Arias
Iglesia Ministerio Evangelístico

“National Anthem”......................................................................Emily Santos, Captain, JROTC

Prayer for Public Safety ..............................................................Rev. Christopher J. Casey, V.F.
Our Lady of Good Counsel

Oath of Office...............................................................................Administered by City Clerk

Address to the City of Lawrence and Elected Officials.............. Mayor Daniel Rivera

Closing Prayer............................................................................ Pastor Mercedes Martínez Arias
Iglesia Ministerio Evangelístico

Thursday, January 2, 2020/Jueves, 2 de Enero del 2020
INAUGURATION/INAUGURACION

LAWRENCE CITY COUNCIL/ CONSEJO DE LAWRENCE

David C. Abdoo
Maria D. De La Cruz
Marc L. Laplante
Ana I. Levy
Pavel M. Payano
Celina A. Reyes
Estela A. Reyes
Jeovanny Rodriguez
Kendrys R. Vasquez

LAWRENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE/ COMITÉ ESCOLAR DE LAWRENCE

Joshua Alba
Jonathan Guzman
Kassandra Infante
Patricia M. Mariano
Enrique Matos
Rafaela Pichardo

GREATER LAWRENCE TECHNICAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
COMITÉ ESCOLAR DE ESCUELA TECNICA DE LAWRENCE
(Lawrence Members/Miembros de Lawrence)

Zoila Disla
Stephany Infante
Leo J. Lamontagne

Thursday, January 2, 2020/Jueves, 2 de Enero del 2020
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE LAWRENCE CITY COUNCIL

DATE: Thursday, January 2, 2020

The INAGURAL MEETING of the City Council was held on Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Approximately One Hundred [100] persons were present.

The National Anthem was sung and the Inaugural Proceedings were called to order by City Clerk William J. Maloney.

1. OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED: LAWRENCE CITY COUNCIL, LAWRENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, GREATER LAWRENCE TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

City Clerk William J. Maloney announced that the duly Elected Members of the Lawrence City Council and administered the Oath of Office to the following elected members:

Lawrence City Council Members:

Ana Levy [Councilor at Large];
Pavel Payano [Councilor at Large];
Celina A. Reyes [Councilor at Large];
Maria Delacruz [District A];
Estela A. Reyes [District B];
Kendrys R. Vasquez [District C];
Jeovanny Rodriguez [District D];
David C. Abdoo [District E];
Marc L. Laplante [District F];

City Clerk William J. Maloney announced that the duly Elected Members of the Lawrence School Committee and administered the Oath of Office to the following elected members:

Lawrence School Committee Members:

Kassandra Infante [District A];
Enrique Matos [District B];
Rafaela Pichardo [District C];
Joshua Alba [District D];
Patricia M. Mariano [District E];
Jonathan Guzman [District F];
City Clerk William J. Maloney announced that the duly Elected Members of the Greater Lawrence Technical High School Committee Members and administered the Oath of Office to the following elected members:

Greater Lawrence School Committee Members [Lawrence Members]:

Leo J. Lamontagne;
Stephany Infante.;
Ziola Disla*;

[*Member Elect Disla was not present and was administered the Oath of Office separately by City Clerk Maloney on January 10, 2020].

All elected officials elected on November 5, 2019 and the Oath of Office being administered in accord with the lawful provisions of the Lawrence City Charter which provides for the term of office of all members elect to a term of two years beginning at seven o'clock in the evening on the first secular day in January of each even numbered year following their election which shall continue until their successors have been chosen and qualified [See, Sec. 3.1(c) and Sec. 5.1(c) of the Lawrence City Charter [2019 ed.].

Upon the conclusion of the Administration of the Oath of Office the ceremonial proceedings of the Inauguration were concluded [see program above] City Clerk Maloney announced that the Members of the Lawrence School Committee would be conducting its “Organizational Meeting” pursuant to Section 5.2 of the Lawrence City Charter which provides in part as follows:

5.2 Organization. Officers.

The school committee shall meet at seven o'clock in the evening on the first secular day in January in each even numbered year. After a majority of the school committee members elect have been sworn they shall be called to order by the mayor, or in his absence by the member present senior in service, who shall preside. The school committee shall then elect, from its membership, by roll call vote, a vice-chairman of the committee. Four votes shall be necessary for election. No other business shall be in order until the school committee has thus been organized.

[The Organizational Meeting proceedings were announced as a public session and to be held at the Library facilities in the South Lawrence East School [where the Inaugural event was held].
City Clerk Maloney then called to order the “Organizational Meeting” of the Members of the Lawrence City Council pursuant to Section 3.2 of the Lawrence City Charter which requires the election of the President and Vice President of the City Council by its Members and provides as follows:

3.2 Organization. Officers.

The city council shall meet a seven o'clock in the evening on the first secular day in January of each even numbered year. After a majority of the councillors elect have been sworn they shall be called to order by the city clerk, or in the absence of the city clerk by the member present senior in years of service, who shall preside. The city council shall then elect, from its membership, by separate roll call votes, a president and a vice-president. Five votes shall be necessary for election. No other business shall be in order until the city council has thus been organized.

City Clerk Maloney designated the seats of each of the Lawrence City Council Members by random selection whereby each Council Member selected a “playing card” from a deck containing nine (9) cards and assigning each of the Council Members a seat from 1 to 9 to left of the City Clerk and seated as follows:

Seat #1 - Councilor Jeovanny Rodriguez
Seat #2 - Councilor Pavel Payano
Seat #3 - Councilor Ana Levy
Seat #4 - Councilor David Abdoo
Seat #5 - Councilor Celina Reyes
Seat #6 - Councilor Maria De La Cruz
Seat #7 - Councilor Estella Reyes
Seat #8 - Councilor Kendrys Vasquez
Seat #9 - Councilor Marc Laplante

City Clerk Maloney opened the proceedings for the election of the City Council President.

DOCUMENT # 1-2020: ELECTION OF LAWRENCE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

City Clerk Maloney introduced the item and explained the process of electing the City Council President and Vice President to the Council Members present. The City Clerk then opened Nominations for City Council President and called upon the Council Members to present their nominations.

Nomination #1:

Upon being recognized, City Councilor Estela Reyes nominated Kendrys Vasquez as President of the Lawrence City Council. The nomination of Councilor Vasquez was seconded by Councilor Jeovanny.
Upon inquiry by City Clerk Maloney, Councilor Kendrys Vasquez confirmed that he accepts the nomination as City Council President.

Upon no other nominations or motions presented, City Clerk Maloney closed nominations for City Council President and called upon the Council Members conducted a roll call of the Council Members recording their vote upon the nomination of Kendrys Vasquez for City Council President as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vote # 1</th>
<th>date:1-2-20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RIGHT ▼</td>
<td>Voting for:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counc. Marc Laplante [ML]</td>
<td>Councilor Vasquez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counc. Kendrys Vasquez [KV]</td>
<td>Councilor Vasquez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counc. Estela Reyes [ER]</td>
<td>Councilor Vasquez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counc. Maria De La Cruz [MD]</td>
<td>Councilor Vasquez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counc. Celina Reyes [CR]</td>
<td>Councilor Vasquez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counc. David Abdoo [DA]</td>
<td>Councilor Vasquez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counc. Pavel Payano [PP]</td>
<td>Councilor Vasquez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counc. Jeovanny Rodriguez [JR]</td>
<td>Councilor Vasquez</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Upon the conclusion of the roll call vote, City Clerk William J. Maloney announced nine [9] votes recorded for Councilor Kendrys Vasquez and no votes for any other Council Member and declared Kendrys Vasquez as the duly Elected President of the Lawrence City Council by vote of the City Council Members as called and recorded above.

City Clerk William J. Maloney relinquished the gavel and Chair to City Council President Kendrys Vasquez who was seated immediately to the right of the City Clerk resulting in the following seating order to the right of the City Clerk:

Seat #1 - Councilor Jeovanny Rodriguez  
Seat #2 - Councilor Pavel Payano  
Seat #3 - Councilor Ana Levy  
Seat #4 - Councilor David Abdoo  
Seat #5 - Councilor Celina Reyes  
Seat #6 - Councilor Maria De La Cruz  
Seat #7 - Councilor Estella Reyes  
Seat #8 - Councilor Marc Laplante
Chair – Council President Kendrys Vasquez

City Council President Vasquez introduced the next item of City Council business calling for the election of the Lawrence City Council Vice President [Document 2/2020].

DOCUMENT # 2-2020: ELECTION OF LAWRENCE CITY COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

Nomination #1:

Upon being recognized, Councilor Abdoo nominated Marc Laplante as Vice President of the Lawrence City Council. The nomination of Councilor Laplante was seconded by Councilor Estela Reyes.

Upon inquiry by Council President Vasquez, Councilor Laplante confirmed that he accepts the nomination as City Council Vice President.

Nomination #2:

Council President opened the floor for further nominations of City Council Vice President.

Upon being recognized, Councilor De La Cruz nominated Councilor Estela Reyes as Vice President of the Lawrence City Council. Council President Vasquez called for a second to the motion and declared the motion to fail for a lack of a second being presented upon call.

Nomination #3:

Council President opened the floor for further nominations of City Council Vice President.

Upon being recognized, Councilor Payano nominated Jeovanny Rodriguez as Vice President of the Lawrence City Council. Councilor Levy seconded the motion upon call for a second to the motion by Council President Vasquez.

Upon inquiry by Council President Vasquez, Councilor Rodriguez confirmed that he accepts the nomination as City Council Vice President.

Nomination #4:
Council President opened the floor for further nominations of City Council Vice President.

Upon being recognized, Councilor De La Cruz nominated Councilor Abdoo as Vice President of the Lawrence City Council. Council President Vasquez called for a second to the motion and declared the motion to fail for a lack of a second being presented upon call.

Close of Nomination for City Council Vice President and roll call vote:

Council President opened the floor for further nominations of City Council Vice President.

Upon no further nominations for City Council Vice President presented by any Council Members present, Council President Vasquez closed nominations for City Council Vice President and called upon the Council Members to announce their vote upon a call of the roll of the Council Members as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vote # 1</th>
<th>date:1-2-20</th>
<th>Voting for:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RIGHT ▼</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Counc. Marc Laplante [ML]</td>
<td>Councilor Laplante</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counc. Jeovanny Rodriguez [JR]</td>
<td>Councilor Rodriguez</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Upon the conclusion of the roll call vote, Council President Vasquez announced that six [6] votes are recorded for Councilor Marc Laplante and three [3] votes are recorded for Councilor Jeovanny Rodriguez resulting in Councilor Laplante being duly elected as Vice President of the Lawrence City Council.
ADJOURNMENT:

Upon conclusion of proceedings, Council President Vasquez called for a Motion to Adjourn.

Upon being recognized, Councilor Estela Reyes presented a motion to Adjourn which was duly seconded by Councilor De La Cruz, and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [9-0].

ADJOURNED
(8:12 p.m.)

Attest:

William J. Maloney
City Clerk

Date Approved: Tuesday, February 4, 2020
A REGULAR MEETING of the City Council was held on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 7:15 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 200 Common Street, Lawrence, MA.

Attendance recorded by roll call of the Council Members as follows:

Councilor Estela Reyes [District B Councilor] – Present;
Councilor Anna Levy [Councilor at Large] - Present;
Councilor Celina Reyes [Councilor at Large] – Present;
Councilor David Abdoo [District E Councilor] – Present;
Councilor Pavel Payano [Councilor At Large] — Absent at roll call;
Councilor Maria De La Cruz [Councilor District A] Present;
Councilor Jeovanny Rodriguez [District D Councilor] – Present;
Council Vice President Marc Laplante [District F Councilor] – Present;
Council President Kendrys Vasquez [District C Councilor] – Present;

Councilor Payano arrived at 7:23 p.m.

Other attendance matters:

Approximately Twenty [20] persons were present.

A Moment of Silence was held.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council President Vasquez informed the Council Members present that the minutes of City Council Meetings conducted December 3, 2019 were submitted by the City Clerk for consideration and approval of the City Council Members. Upon the motion of Councilor Abdoo to approve the minutes as presented duly seconded by Council Vice President Laplante, the Council Members present voted unanimously [8-0] to approve the minutes. [Councilor Payano being absent from the Council Meeting at the time the vote was called and recorded].
II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Council President Vasquez requested those who wished to provide public input and participation to present themselves and address the City Council. Upon the invitation of Council President Vasquez, the following individuals addressed the City Council:

Homayoun Maali, 53 Chester Street, Lawrence, MA stated that Mayor Rivera must support the Lawrence Police Department by finalizing contract negotiations with the Patrolman’s Union. He praised the members of the Lawrence Police Department, Lawrence Chief of Police Roy Vasque, Lawrence Firefighters, the workers in the Public Works Department, Superintendent of Public Schools Cynthia Paris, Lawrence Public School Teachers and its Union for their work provide to the City of Lawrence. He criticized Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healy for failing to take legal action against Columbia Gas for causing the gas explosions on September 13, 2108. He stated the Election Department should not have allowed a candidate for election to office be nominated to run for office because of being an inactive voter. He stated Lawrence School curriculum should include teachings of the poet Robert and concluded his comments announcing “God bless the USA” and “We pray for peace”.

Lenin Roa, 36 Columbus Ave., Lawrence, MA retired Navy Veteran and formerly homeless thanked Councilor Celina Reyes for her assistance finding a home.

Richard Russell, 34 Cross Street, Lawrence, MA read a “Facebook” posting regarding his recent tour of the City of Lawrence as part of the Lawrence Police Citizens Police Academy Program offered by the Lawrence Police recounting the extensive and routine detail required of Police Offices even to issue parking citations. He thanked the Lawrence Police for the opportunity to take the “ride along” tour commenting that it was very informative and enlightening.

[Approximately 7:23 p.m. – Councilor Payano arrived to the City Council Meeting]
Michelle Paletta, 198 Essex Street, Apt. #101 Lawrence, MA informed the Council Members that there is a lack of handicapped parking available at the elderly housing at the Brunswick House at 198 Essex Street making it difficult for challenged residents to access their apartments.

**III. PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**IV. TABLED MATTERS:**

**Doc. 133/14: Military/Veteran Recognition-Counc. Laplante – Tabled**

Upon being recognized, Council Vice President Laplante presented a motion to remove the above document from the tabled items. The motion was seconded by Councilor Estella Reyes and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [9-0].

At the request of Council President Vasquez, Council Vice President Laplante introduced Detective Eric Blanco informing the Council Members that he had just returned from military assignment in Afghanistan and now serving as a Lawrence Police Detective. Council Vice President Laplante further informed the Council Members about Detective Blanco’s military achievements and graduation from Lawrence High School. Councilor Laplante also recognized Detective Blanco’s Fiancée, Sister and Father who were present to support his recognition this evening. Council Vice President Laplante concluded by publicly recognizing and honoring Detective Blanco for his military service and continued service to the Lawrence Community presenting him with his personal City Council pin.

Upon conclusion of the presentation Councilor Abdoo presented a motion to re-table the item which was seconded by Councilor Celina Reyes and unanimously [9-0] approved Council Member present.

**Doc. 133/14: Tabled**

**Doc. 121/18: Recycling Program Ordinance-Counc. Payano-Ord. Cmt.-Pub. Hrg.[T] [12-26-19][motion to approve pending][pub. hrg continued an closed] - Tabled**

Council President Vasquez announced that the above measure remains pending informing the Council Members present that the public hearing had been “open” when the item was tabled by vote of the Council
Members. He called the measure to the attention of the Council Members present for their consideration and announced the resumption of the public hearing portion of the proceedings concerning this item.

Homayoun Maali, 53 Chester Street, Lawrence, MA stated the proposed ordinance punishes residents through a system of ticketing and prosecution. He requested the Council Members not approve the measure.

Richard Russell, 34 Cross Street, Lawrence, MA asked if those who are ticketed and prosecuted have any right of recourse particularly those who may be ticketed for overfilled trash bins. He stated that his trash bins are often used by others who place their trash in his trash bin without his knowledge. He also stated that there is no method available to pay cash for violations stating that the Lawrence City Ordinances allow for cash payments to be paid to the City.

Council President informed the Council Members that he noticed that the item may procedurally require that it be removed from the “table” and asked the Council Members to proceed accordingly.

Upon being recognized, Councilor Estella Reyes presented a motion to remove document 121/18 from the “tabled items” [nun pro tunct to the time following its introduction]. The motion was seconded by Council Vice President Laplante and unanimously [9-0] approved by Council Members present.

Upon continuing with the public hearing portion of the measure presented, upon being recognized Dom Frazier [no address provided] asked the Council Members to review the proposed measure with greater scrutiny. He discussed the adverse impact the measure may have on residents stating that the ordinance provides criminal prosecution for violators who are charged with trash crimes.

Jamie [last name inaudible], 3 Broadway Court Lawrence, MA stated there is trash everywhere that needs to be cleaned offering her assistance if she can help.

Upon no further discussion or comment offered by anyone present, Council President Vasquez closed the public comment portion of the proceedings and called upon the Council Members present to offer comment or discussion.
Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Payano presented a motion to “table” the measure. The motion was seconded by Councilor Estella Reyes and unanimously [9-0] approved by Council Members present.

Doc. 121/18: Public Hearing Continued and Closed/Tabled

V: Communication from Mayor, City Officials & City Attorney:

Doc. 14/20: Early Voting for Presidential Primary-implementation-
William J. Maloney, City Clerk – Withdrawn

Upon invitation by Council President Vasquez, City Clerk Maloney provided information concerning the approval of Early Voting in advance of the 2020 Presidential Primary authorized by the State Legislature to be held from Monday, February 24, 2020 through and including Friday, February 28, 2020 providing and estimated cost of implementation to be approximately 10,000.00 to 12,000.00 which would include all equipment and personnel necessary to operate a poll location where Early Voting will take place. He stated that the Secretary of State has issued guidelines and information to all Massachusetts Cities and Towns who are allowed to provide the hours of Early Voting operation during the approved dates and requested the Council Members to consider the following Early Voting Poll schedule of voting for approval:

Monday through Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday-Wednesday-Friday [8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.] and Tuesday-Thursday [8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.]
Monday through Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

City Clerk Maloney stated that the Lawrence City Charter provisions grant the City Council Members with supervisory authority over all election matters and provide the authority to exclusive establish matters related to polling hours, location and operation. He stated that the City Executive would be provide with notification of the vote of the City Council’s approvals in order to operate with unified effort in regard to matters that relate to plant operations [ie: use of the City Council Chamber as a poll location for Early Voting] and funding of personnel and equipment to be incurred to implement and administer the Early Voting mandate of the State Legislature. He stated further that his initial analysis of the FY 2020 Budget appears to contain sufficient funding to support Early Voting activities and all supplies, equipment and personnel would obtain
financial support with existing funds due to the fact that the Municipal Preliminary Election was cancelled in 20 of 24 polling locations in September of 2019. He cautioned that as long as the funds allocated by the Administration and approved by the City Council in June of 2019 remain available and the allocations were not removed for any other purpose, the cost of Early Voting activities could be supported without a supplemental budget approval. He stated that there may be additional equipment costs incurred to lease three “poll pads” which cost 500.00 for the license and 500.00 for each poll pad leased. The estimated cost for this item would be approximately 2,000.00 with a possible increase due to inflation. He stated that the Election Division anticipates hiring 5 poll workers to process voters and ballots each day which would be administered by existing staff which would require some overtime due to the work necessary to record and complete each voting day and prepare for the next voting day. All four election staff members would be required to be available to work about 1 or 2 hours overtime and paid at a rate of 1.5 hours their single hourly rate of pay which contributes to the overall costs of Early Voting operations. He stated that there is about a 1,000.00 increase for each day of Early Voting that takes place after 4:30 p.m. with that cost incurred by on duty poll workers and overtime pay for full time staff. Lastly, City Clerk Maloney asked the City Council Members to remember that the Election Division remains seriously understaffed with the four full time election staff available stating that they already are preparing and planning for election day to take place on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. He stated that requiring full time election staff to work 12 to 15 hours per day to administer and complete the required regular election duties and all Early Voting duties and obligations may cause employee “burn out”. He asked the Council Members to remember that elections do not end for City Election Staff after polls close on election day which marks the beginning of work necessary to certify the results of the Presidential Primary within six days continuing for about ten to fourteen days more. He informed the Council Members that the burdens of additional work placed on full time election staff is recognized by the State Auditor who makes financial adjustments in overall funds returned to the Cities and Towns based on formula applied by State Law. Although it is fortuitous that the City of Lawrence has available funds because it cancelled most of the
Municipal Preliminary, the availability of funds allocated for that purpose may not be available in future budget years. He stated that the State Legislature is likely to approve legislation that requires Early Voting to take place with all elections which will add an addition 20,000.00 to 30,000.00 to the annual budget for the Election Division. These costs when ordered by legislation will be mandated and not optional to the City of Lawrence. Other measures that will bring about “same day voter registration” and “rank choice voting” will increase the demands and experience requirements of an Election Office that uses a 1950’s or 1960’s structural model of operations. He stated that the City Election Division is not even close to 20th century standards of required operations which may required restructuring of the City Election Division by replacing it with an Election Commission and greater budgetary allowances. City Clerk Maloney concluded by informed and reminding the City Council Members that the Election Division Staff was accustomed to a one month sabbatical in December of each year and use to “shut down” for the entire month. This practice reflected the times but also was a reflection of the operational model in place which was developed when elections in Lawrence were considered a “part time” operation which the City Clerk would devote time to elections just before and just after each election event. Present day Election administration in Lawrence requires the City Clerk to split time between to complete required tasks of the City Clerk’s Office and the Election Division daily stating that if this continues it will likely result in sacrificing operations in both offices. He concluded by stating that both the Clerk’s Office and the Election Office require full time attention, oversight and supervision on a daily basis.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Levy posed questions to Mr. Maloney regarding cost savings from the last election which City Clerk Maloney stated that his review of budget expenditure associated with the Municipal Preliminary indicate a savings of about 78,000.00.

Discussion ensued among the Councilors and Clerk Maloney regarding scheduling and location for Early Voting.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Payano discussed marketing and advertisement for Early Voting. In response, City Clerk Maloney stated that marketing any City Department requires full time staff
with specific budgetary amounts allocated to pay for expenses incurred for signage, outreach and media advertising associated to provide a professional media approach. City Clerk Maloney informed the City Council that the City Election Division staff allocation has only four full time staff members and there is some media outreach provided by the Bilingual Coordinator and some interface with local print media and cable television networks to provide advertising of election deadlines and events held. He stated that simply “adding on” to the duties and responsibilities Election personnel are already mandated to perform by law with an item that is “option” will force a choice resulting in choosing to complete statutory requirements rather than optional items. He informed the Council Members that creating an additional duty and responsibility for the Election Division to perform media and advertising related tasks without hiring experienced staff versed in developing and conducting marketing strategies and without providing sufficient funding to pay for costs and expenses associated with professional marketing will result in adding work requirements to employees who already are required to perform mandated election tasks and without providing sufficient funds to execute a media related tasks without any knowledge, skill, training or ability to perform. He stated that if the Election Division is to be responsible to conduct media related tasks then a professional full time media staff member should be hired and provided with an operating budget which would probably be initially funded with 10,000.00. Drawing from existing staff and diverting existing budget monies will likely result in a failed operation without staff and money allocated. Councilor Payano disagreed and stated that the tasks related to media and marketing could be shared among existing staff with a plan in place to provide the public with information that would advertise election events to increase voter turnout and improve public awareness of elections. Councilor Payano stated that there may not be sufficient time to provide media information for the Presidential Primary stating further that a media plan should be devised and put in place in future elections. In response, City Clerk Maloney stated that the Election Division lacks sufficient staff and money to conduct media related tasks without sacrificing mandated election requirements.
Upon taking the floor, Council President Vasquez informed the Council Members that the City Council will be voting to approve the use of the Council Chambers and specifically authorizing the dates and times for conducting polling activities available for the public to vote early.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor De La Cruz presented a motion to approve the “second option” described by the City Clerk as follows:

Monday-Wednesday-Friday [8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.] and Tuesday-Thursday [8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.]

The motion was seconded by Councilor Celina Reyes and Council Members present voted unanimously [9-0] to approve this Early Voting Schedule for the upcoming Presidential Primary and authorizing the City Clerk to use the City Council Chamber as a poll location for Early Voting.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Estella Reyes moved to withdraw the item from the Council Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Levy and unanimously [9-0] approved by Council Members present.

VI. APPROPRIATIONS-ORDERS-RESOLUTIONS:


9/20 Appropriation Transfer Free Cash-Arlington Street Parking Lot to DPW-[Special Accounts to be created][75,450.00] Mayor Dan Rivera-Ref. to Budget & Finance Cmt.


11/20 Transfer Free Cash to Capital Improvement Pay-Go Projects-Replacement of Scoreboards at Veteran’s Stadium-[95,000.00] Mayor Dan Rivera-Ref. to Budget & Finance Cmt.


13/20 Transfer Columbia Gas Reserve Account to Capital Improvement Pay-Go Projects-Vehicle Maintenance [105,000.00] Mayor Dan Rivera-Ref. to Budget & Finance Cmt.

Council President Vasquez referenced the above items appearing on the Agenda and referred each item to the City Council Subcommittee for further proceedings as indicated.
VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS: - None

VIII. WITHDRAWALS: - None

IX. OLD BUSINESS:

Doc. 399/19: Open Meeting Law Complaint-Martha Sybert-recd. 12-18-19
(Executive Session Anticipated) – Letter to City Attorney

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Estella Reyes presented a motion to send correspondence to the City Attorney to authorize the City Attorney to prepare and issue a response to the complainant and as otherwise may be required. The motion was seconded by Councilor Levy and unanimously [9-0] approved by Council Members present.

Doc. 399/19: Letter to City Attorney

X. TABLED MATTERS:

Doc. 335/19: Review of Open Meeting Law Violation Complaint By Dalia Diaz
(Executive Session Anticipated)[T][10-15-19] – Withdrawn

Upon being recognized, Councilor Estella Reyes presented a motion to remove the item from the table and to withdraw the item from the Council Agenda informing the Council Members that the item has been resolved and does not require further attention by the Council Members. The motion was seconded by Councilor Levy and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [9-0].

Doc. 335/19: Withdrawn


Upon being recognized, Councilor Celina Reyes presented a motion to remove the item from the table which was seconded by Councilor Payano and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [9-0].

Council President Vasquez informed the Council Members that the above item was presented to address the Charter Review requirement for the decade beginning in 2010. He stated that the onset of a new decade requires the City Council to conduct Charter Review items relevant to the 2020 decade which he stated will present “item by item” throughout the pendency of the Council obligation. He announced that a new document
will be established to address items requiring Charter Review and stated that they may require Home Rule
Petitions to be properly completed as they progress.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Estella Reyes presented a motion to withdraw the item from the
Council Agenda without Prejudice as seconded by Councilor Abdoo.

A discussion between Councilor Payano and Council President Vasquez ensued regarding process of
Charter Review envisioned by Council President Vasquez.

Upon being granted the floor, Council Vice President Laplante suggested the Council President could
create a special Charter Committee.

Council President Vasquez agreed and appointed the following members to the City Council Charter
Review Committee: Councilor Payano, Councilor Estella Reyes, Councilor Jeovanny Rodriguez and Council
Vice President Marc Laplante. Council President Vasquez stated that the Charter Review Committee should
meet periodically and the 2020 activities will wind up by December 31, 2020 with the new year advancing new
items.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor De La Cruz stated that amendments to the City Charter will
provide the Council Members with a vehicle for change.

Upon no further inquiry, comment or discussion the Councilor Members voted unanimously [9-0] to
withdraw the above item from the Council Agenda without prejudice.

**Doc. 39/10: Withdrawn w/o Prejudice**

**XI. TABLED MATTERS:**

The following items remained “tabled” without further action:

133/14 Military/Veteran Recognition-Counc. Laplante
72/16 Residency requirement-City Employees – Home Rule Petition – Review – Council Pres.– Ord. Cmt
125/17 Establishing maximum motor vehicle speed city wide to 25mph–Request to Amend Chapter 10.26
XII. NEW BUSINESS:

Council President Vasquez brought the matters listed below to the attention of the Council Members present and referred each to the Council Subcommittee as indicated:

3/20 Appointment of Vivian Marmol to the Lawrence Redevelopment Authority-Mayor Dan Rivera- Ref. to Pers. Cmt.
4/20 Appointment of Eddie E. Rosa to the Lawrence Redevelopment Authority-Mayor Dan Rivera – Ref. to Pers. Cmt.
5/20 Appointment of Dania Amador-Martis to the Lawrence Airport Commission-Mayor Dan Rivera – Ref. to Pers. Cmt.
6/20 Appointment of Ernest E. Coutermarsh to the Lawrence Airport Commission-Mayor Dan Rivera – Ref. to Pers. Cmt.
Upon taking the floor, Council President Vasquez informed the Council Members of the following City Council Subcommittee assignments:

**Budget and Finance Committee:**
Council Vice Pres. Marc Laplante;
Councilor David Abdoo;
Councilor Pavel Payano;
Councilor Jeovanny Rodriguez

**Ordinance Committee:**
Councilor Estela Reyes;
Councilor Anna Levy;
Councilor Celina Reyes;
Councilor Maria De La Cruz;

**Housing Committee:**
Councilor Jeovanny Rodriguez;
Councilor Anna Levy;
Councilor Pavel Payano;
Council Vice President Marc Laplante;

**Personnel Committee:**
Councilor David Abdoo;
Councilor Maria De La Cruz;
Council President Kendrys Vasquez;
Councilor Celina Reyes;

**Public Safety Committee:**
Councilor Pavel Payano;
Councilor Anna Levy;
Councilor Jeovanny Rodriguez;
Councilor Celina Reyes;
Committee of the Whole:
Council Vice President Marc Laplante [Chair by Charter];
Councilor Estela Reyes;
Councilor Anna Levy;
Councilor Celina Reyes;
Councilor David Abdoo;
Councilor Pavel Payano;
Councilor Maria De La Cruz;
Councilor Jeovanny Rodriguez;
Council President Kendrys Vasquez;

Charter Review Committee:
Councilor Estela Reyes;
Councilor Jeovanny Rodriguez;
Councilor Pavel Payano;
Council Vice President Marc Laplante

Council President Vasquez instructed the Council Members to conduct organizational meetings to select the Chair and Vice Chair of each Council Subcommittee.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:
Upon Motion of Councilor Estella Reyes duly seconded by Councilor Payano, the Council Members present voted unanimously to Adjourn.

ADJOURNED
(08:30p.m.)

Attest:

William J. Maloney
City Clerk

Date Approved: Tuesday, February 4, 2020