

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE LAWRENCE CITY COUNCIL

DATE: Wednesday, August 5, 2009

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council was held on **Wednesday, August 5, 2009** at 7: 05 p.m. in the City Council Chamber with all Members present. Councilor Silva arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Approximately Sixteen [16] persons were present.

A Moment of Silence was held.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

I. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: - None

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Paul Lambert, 193 Saratoga Street, Lawrence, MA commented on Doc. 221/09 and stated it would be best if the one way went as far as Stearns Ave.

Sandra Lambert, 191 Saratoga Street, Lawrence, MA spoke in opposition of the proposed ordinance. [Doc. 221/09]

Fernando Landor, Tremont Street, Lawrence, MA [Parking attendant] discussed posted signs at the Museum Square Parking Lot which he stated are being ignored.

Mr. Hamayoun Maali, 53 Chester Street, Lawrence, MA spoke about the misuse of the School printer and stated the new administration should have passion.

Marty Dunn, 198 Saratoga Street, Lawrence, MA spoke in opposition of the proposed ordinance regarding Saratoga Street.

[Wednesday, August 5, 2009]

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Doc. 198/09: Handicapped Parking – 8 Portland Street – Hearing held - Approved

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Assistant City Clerk Carole Morin read the public hearing notice as published regarding the item presented. Upon the conclusion of the Clerk's reading of the public notice, Council President Blanchette opened the public hearing portion of the proceedings and invited anyone who wished to be heard to present themselves before the Council Members.

Upon no discussion or comment offered by anyone present, Council President Blanchette closed the public comment portion of the proceedings and called upon the Council Members present to offer comment or discussion.

Upon no discussion or comment offered by the Council Members present, Council President Blanchette closed the discussion portion of the hearing and called upon the Members present to consider the matter presented. Upon a motion to approve the measure presented by Councilor Abdo, as seconded by Councilor Fielding, the Council Members present voted unanimously [8-0] to approve the measure. [Councilor Silva was absent at the time of the vote].

Doc. 198/09: Approved

Doc. 208/09: Parking – 49 Walnut Street – 15 minute – Hearing held - Approved

At the request of Council President Blanchette, the Assistant City Clerk read the public hearing notice regarding the above as published. Upon the conclusion of the Clerk's reading of the public notice, Council President Blanchette opened the public hearing portion of the proceedings and invited anyone who wished to be heard to present themselves before

[Wednesday, August 5, 2009]

the Council Members. Upon no public comment offered on the matter, Council President Blanchette closed the public hearing portion of the proceedings and called upon the Council Members present to offer comment or discussion.

Upon no discussion or comment offered by the Council Members present, Council President Blanchette closed the discussion portion of the hearing and called upon the Members present to consider the matter presented. Upon a motion to approve the measure presented by Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez, as seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, the Council Members present voted unanimously [8-0] to approve the measure. [Councilor Silva absent at the time the vote was recorded].

Doc. 208 /09: Approved

Doc.221/09: Saratoga Street between Lawrence and Stearns Avenue – request to be changed from two ways to one way – Hearing – held – Approved- w/amendment

At the request of Council President Blanchette, the Assistant City Clerk read the public hearing notice regarding the above as published. Upon the conclusion of the Clerk's reading of the public notice, Council President Blanchette opened the public hearing portion of the proceedings and invited anyone who wished to be heard to present themselves before the Council Members.

Upon no public comment offered on the matter, Council President Blanchette closed the public hearing portion of the proceedings and called upon the Council Members present to offer comment or discussion.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez presented a motion to approve the item, as seconded by Councilor Abdoo.

[Wednesday, August 5, 2009]

Upon a call for discussion, Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance and suggested that it would be for the best interest of the residents in that area.

[A petition was submitted to the Council Members opposing the proposed ordinance as presented.]

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Kolofoles invited Deputy Chief Bergeron to address the Council Members and suggested the proposed ordinance should read one way up to Saratoga Terrace, not Birch Street. Upon inquiry, Deputy Chief Bergeron discussed how narrow the Street was up to Saratoga Terrace.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Moran posed question to Deputy Chief Bergeron. Councilor Moran and Deputy Chief Bergeron discussed how narrow certain parts of Saratoga Street are with cars parked on both sides and the ability of Fire Trucks to maneuver through.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Twomey suggested making Saratoga Street one-way up to Stearns Ave. Discussion ensued between Councilor Twomey and Councilor Kolofoles regarding the best possible situation for the area. Councilor Twomey and Council President Blanchette discussed the problems in the area also.

Upon inquiry, Mr. Lambert stated that it would not hurt to have the one-way all the way to Saratoga Terrace.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Kolofoles commented on the private roads in that area.

[Wednesday, August 5, 2009]

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Silva discussed her concerns in regards to a bad curve in the street from Fern Street to Stearns Avenue. She suggested not only making it a one way but, also one side parking.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez amended her motion to include the one way street petition on Saratoga Street from Lawrence Street to Stearns Ave.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Kolofoles inquired of Mr. Lambert if houses would be affected in that area in regards to parking.

Upon no further discussion or comment offered by the Council Members present, Council President Blanchette closed the discussion portion of the hearing and called upon the Members present to consider the matter presented.

Upon a motion to approve the measure with the amendment, presented by Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez as seconded by Councilor Abdo, the Council Members present voted unanimously [9-0] to approve the one-way on Saratoga Street from Lawrence Street to Stearns Ave.

Doc. 221

/09: Approved

Doc.222/09: Brook Street - request to have alternate parking year round – Hearing held – Tabled

At the request of Council President Blanchette, the Assistant City Clerk read the public hearing notice regarding the above as published. Upon the conclusion of the Clerk's reading of the public notice, Council President Blanchette opened the public hearing portion of the proceedings and invited anyone who wished to be heard to present themselves before the Council Members.

[Wednesday, August 5, 2009]

Upon no public comment offered on the matter, Council President Blanchette closed the public hearing portion of the proceedings and called upon the Council Members present to offer comment or discussion.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez presented a motion to table the item, as seconded by Councilor Kolofoles and the Council Members present voted unanimously [9-0] to table the item.

Doc.222/09: Tabled

IV: COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR, CITY OFFICIALS & CITY ATTORNEY:

Doc.269/09: Increased Violence in the City of Lawrence – request Chief Romero attend to provide an overview of situation - Counc. Moran – Discussed

Council President Blanchette introduced the item and deferred the matter to Councilor Moran.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Moran discussed the recent increased violence in Lawrence and asked Chief Romero what is being done to minimize the situations.

In response, Chief Romero read a prepared statement in regards to the increased violence in Lawrence, and the need for the community, elected official and police to work together to reduce crime. He commented on a \$3 million budget cut for the Police Department and reduced manpower for policing. Chief Romero further discussed the positive effects of community involvement to reduce crime and thanked the Council Members for their support. A discussion ensued between Councilor Moran and Chief Romero regarding a certain situation placed to the Police Department.

[Wednesday, August 5, 2009]

Addressing the Council Members, John Reynolds the department's crime analysis director spoke about crime area's in Lawrence and how quickly the information is relayed to shift commanders and officers.

Chief Romero discussed the unfortunate situation of less money and fewer officers and the need to deal with the spike in crime. A discussion ensued between Councilor Moran and Chief Romero in regards to grants and keeping officers from being laid-off. Chief Romero commented on the reduction of State Police and working with them.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Gonzalez discussed a certain situation in his neighborhood where shots were fired and how the residents provided the Police Department with a license plate number. Discussion ensued regarding neighborhood meetings, getting the community involved and Councilors pledging their support.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez and Chief Romero discussed the take over of parks by youngsters and how to bring them back to kids and make a neighborhood strong again. Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez commented on the implementation of Block Watch. A discussion ensued between Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez and Chief Romero in regards to gangs, their release, police notification and the number of guns and drugs in the city and the need to rehabilitate them.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Kolofoles voiced his concern about the violence in the city and the statement made by the Chief, in the newspaper publicizing the department's shrunken police force and financial issues. Councilor Kolofoles specifically referred to a statement the Chief made regarding one of the "bloodiest" night he's seen and whether this enhanced gang violence. Councilor Kolofoles commented on the number of

[Wednesday, August 5, 2009]

cars the department has out on city streets and that lighting is a big deterrent to crime.

Councilor Kolofoles discussed the possibility of Officers walking the beat.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Moran stated Chief Romero was invited for an overview and suggested a forum for in debt discussion.

Continuing his comments on the matter, Councilor Kolofoles suggested that further discussion should take place on this item at a sub-committee level.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Silva discussed youth groups and efforts to reach individuals who were prone to join or identify with gangs. Councilor Silva commended Chief Romero for a specific situation that occurred regarding a recent shooting. Councilor Silva encouraged neighborhood groups to get together. A discussion ensued between Councilor Silva and Chief Romero regarding the possibility of implementing a gun buy back program to reduce guns that may be used in crimes.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Twomey commended Chief Romero for educating the public on what is going on in The City of Lawrence.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez suggested a task force to meet with police and Chief Romero stated John Reynolds, the police department's crime analysis director, would be very helpful.

Council President Blanchette suggested neighborhood meetings with Officers Tom Cuddy and Sean Conway would benefit the efforts to reduce crime. A discussion ensued among the Council Members regarding Neighborhood Block Watch and revitalizing the neighborhoods.

Doc.269/09: Discussed

[Wednesday, August 5, 2009]

V. APPROPRIATIONS-ORDERS-RESOLUTION: - None

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Doc.209/09: Bread and Roses Festival – permission to use the Campagnone Common on 9/7/09 – Ord. Comm. – Approved

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Kolofoles presented the report of the Ordinance Committee in the form of a motion to approve Bread and Roses Festival request for permission to use the Campagnone Common on September 7, 2009. The motion was seconded by Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez and unanimously [9-0] approved by vote of the Council Members present.

Doc.209/09: Approved

Doc.224/09: Desfile Dominicano – request permission to use the Campagnone Common on 8/15/09 & 8/16/09 for their 10th Annual Dominican Parade and Festival – Ord. Comm.

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Kolofoles presented the report of the Ordinance Committee in the form of a motion to approve Desfile Dominicano's request for permission to use the Campagnone Common on August 15, 2009 and August 16, 2009 for their 10th Annual Dominican Parade and Festival. The motion was seconded by Councilor Abdoo and unanimously [9-0] approved upon the vote of the Council Members present.

Doc.224/09: Approved

Doc.225/09: Iglesia Evangelica Metodista Primitiva – request permission to use the Campagnone Common on 8/9/09 & 9/13/09 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to celebrate religious services – Ord. Comm. - Approved

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Kolofoles presented the report of the Ordinance Committee in the form of a motion to approve Iglesia Evangelica

[Wednesday, August 5, 2009]

Metodista Primitiva request to use the Campagnone Common on August 9, 2009 and September 13, 2009 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to celebrate religious services. The motion was seconded by Councilor Moran and unanimously [9-0] approved by the Council Members present.

Doc.225/09: Approved

Doc. 231/09: Pathfinder’s Club – Lawrence Hispanic Church – request permission to use the South Lawrence Common for “Pathfinder’s Day on 8/22/09 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Ord. Comm. - Approved

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Kolofoles presented the report from the Ordinance Committee in the form of a motion to approve Pathfinder’s Club – Lawrence Hispanic Church-request to use the South Lawrence Common for Pathfinder’s Day on August 22, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez and unanimously [9-0] approved by the Council Members present.

Doc.231/09: Approved

Doc. 251/09: Loading Zone–Senator William X. Wall Experiment Station–37 Shattuck St.–Ord. Comm. & Public Hearing ordered

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Kolofoles presented the report of the Ordinance Committee to order a public hearing on the measure presented. The report was presented in the form of a motion for a public hearing, seconded by Councilor Silva and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [9-0].

Doc. 251/09: Public Hearing Ordered

Doc. 257/09: Transient Vendor License – Antonia Vasquez – 12 Tenney Street – Ord. Comm. – Approved

[Wednesday, August 5, 2009]

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Kolofoles presented the report from the Ordinance Committee in the form of a motion to approve the Transient Vendor License for Antonia Vasquez, 12 Tenney Street, Lawrence, MA , which was seconded by Councilor Gonzalez and unanimously [9-0] approve by the Council Members present.

Doc.257/09: Approved

VII. WITHDRAWALS:

Council President Blanchette granted Councilor Kolofoles the floor for the purpose of presenting matters concerning the withdrawal of pending matters before the Ordinance Committee. Councilor Kolofoles moved to present the matters listed below in “block” form for withdrawal from the Council agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [9-0].

The Council Members present voted unanimously [9-0] to withdraw the following matters from the City Council Agenda:

- 44C/08: School Openings and Closings – Re: Frost School – Ord. Comm. - Withdrawn**
- 44D/08: School Openings and Closings – Re: Leahy School – Ord. Comm. - Withdrawn**
- 44E/08: School Openings and Closings – Re: Wetherbee School – Ord. Comm. – Withdrawn**

Doc.29/09: FY’09 Budget – update – Budget and Finance Comm. - Withdrawn

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Silva presented the above matter for withdrawal from the City Council Agenda in the form of a motion to withdraw. The motion was seconded by Councilor Twomey and unanimously approved by the Council

[Wednesday, August 5, 2009]

Members present [9-0].

Doc. 29/09 Withdrawn

VIII. OLD BUSINESS: - None

IX. TABLED MATTERS:

The following items remained “tabled” without further action:

- 275/07: Marion Avenue – park to be named – Ord. Comm.
- 6B/08: City Contract Ordinance – Section 3.04.230- Ord. Comm.
- 22/08: Personnel Department – Re-organization
- 236/08: National Grid–req. permission to place underground electric conduits on Green St.-hear.
- 39/09: Water Commissioner – lay off – compliance with MGL Chapter 111 Section 160- City Attorney invited to attend
- 141/09: Resolution – Delilah Rivera – Council Pres. Blanchette
- 281/08: Revised Zoning Ordinance – Political Signs – hearing
- 219/09: FOIA Request Ignored by Administration – copy of all bills and documents related to payment to Mintz Levin Law Firm–Budget and Finance Director Mark Andrews and Comptroller Dir. Cammaso to attend to answer questions
- 227/09: Cell Towers – Presence requested of Land Use Planner Dan McCarthy and City Attorney Richard D’Agostino to explain process in securing cells towers and the appeal process if denied
- 245/09: Audit Bid Process – Council Pres. Blanchette

X. NEW BUSINESS:

Council President Blanchette brought the matters listed below to the attention of the

Council Members present and referred each to the Council Subcommittee as indicated:

- 264/09: FY’2009 Bills – authorization to pay outstanding bills – LHS Associates, Inc. – Annual Street Listing Publication [\$600.00]; Eagle Tribune Publishing Co.–City Council Advertisements [\$1,382.01]–William Maloney, City Clerk – Ref. to Bud. & Finance
- 265/09: Pawnbroker Dealer License – Francisco A. Marcelino – 24A Jackson Street – Ref. to Ord.
- 266/09: Old Gold Dealer License – Francisco A. Marcelino – 24A Jackson Street – Ref. to Ord.

[Wednesday, August 5, 2009]

267/09: Transient Vendor License Application – Victor Marte – 342 Lawrence Street – Ref. to Ord.

268/09: Transient Vendor License Application – William H. Henderson – 36 Lupine Road, Andover, MA – Ref. to Ord.

270/09: Jowa Café – 336 Common Street – request for outdoor seating – 4 tables and chairs – Counc. Moran – Ref. to Ord.

271/09: Vacant Lots – illegal dumping sites – request for surveillance cameras – Council Vice Pres. Kolofoles – Ref. to Ord.

272/09: Telephone Communication and Utility Lines – Ordinance to remove obstructions – Council Vice Pres. Kolofoles – Ref. to Ord.

273/09: Parking – Essex Street both sides from Milton Street to Ames Street – prohibited on certain streets at all times- request to reaffirm the following ordinance 10.26.010 – Council Vice Pres. Kolofoles – Ref. to Ord.

274/09: Parking - Mello's Market – 187 Lawrence Street – two 15 minute parking spaces – Counc. Twomey – Ref. to Ord.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Upon Motion of Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez duly seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, the Council Members present voted unanimously to Adjourn.

**ADJOURNED
(9:04p.m.)**

Attest:

William J. Maloney
City Clerk