

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**OF THE LAWRENCE CITY COUNCIL**

**DATE: Tuesday, January 6, 2009**

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council was held on **Tuesday January 6, 2009** at 7: 05 p.m. in the City Council Chamber with all Members present except for Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez.

Approximately Fifteen [15] 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:

Kim Lampereur, 42 Seaverns Street, Boston, Ma with Mass. Alliance of HUD tenants, spoke in favor of the pending home rule petition in favor of affordable housing.

Clara Gomez, 127 Lowell Street, Lawrence, MA spoke in favor of the pending home rule petition in affordable housing.

John Lydon, 9 Monroe Street, Lawrence, MA spoke in opposition of the disagreements between the Mayor and Council President Blanchette. He suggested that any Council Member assigned to a sub-committee appear at the meetings. Mr. Lydon spoke about the inequitable real-estate tax assessments in the city. He also spoke in opposition of the many non-profit organizations.

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Councilor Abdo presented a motion to take document # 306/2008 out of the order appearing on the agenda. The motion was duly seconded and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [8-0].

### **III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Doc. 306/08: Lawrence Redevelopment Authority – Mrs. Constance M. Clark – Mayor Sullivan - Approved**

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Abdo presented the report from the Personnel Committee in the form of a motion to approve the appointment of Mrs. Constance M. Clark to the Lawrence Redevelopment Authority, which was duly seconded by Councilor Twomey.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Kolofos commented on the favorable work of Mrs. Clark in Lawrence.

Upon no further comment or discussion the Council Members present voted unanimously [8-0] to approve the appointment of Mrs. Clark to the Lawrence Redevelopment Authority.

#### **Doc. 306/08: Approved**

Councilor Abdo presented a motion to take document # 308/2008 out of the order appearing on the agenda. The motion was duly seconded and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [8-0].

#### **Doc 308/08: Appointment-Labor Representative Lawrence Housing Authority – Mr. Patrick Driscoll-Mayor Sullivan – Approved**

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Abdo presented the report of the Personnel Committee in the form of a motion to approve the re- appointment of Patrick Driscoll to the Lawrence Housing Authority which was seconded by Councilor Twomey.

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Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Kolofos discussed the duties and responsibilities attendant to the position with Councilor Abdoo provided information about the position and its requirements. A discussion ensued regarding prior meetings held by the Lawrence Housing Authority.

Upon no further comment or discussion the Council Members present voted unanimously [8-0] to approve the re-appointment of Patrick Driscoll as the Labor Relations Representative of the Lawrence Housing Authority.

**Doc. 308/08: Approved**

**IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**Doc.227/08 & 228/08: Speed Restrictions – Corbett Road & Hamlett Street – 20 mph – Hearings Held – Approved/30 Days waived**

At the request of Council President Blanchette, the 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 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 being granted the floor, Councilor Abdoo emphasized that the proposed ordinances were necessary to regulate the vehicles speeding on these particular roads.

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

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Council Members present to consider the matter presented. Upon a motion to approve the measure presented by Councilor Abdoo, as seconded by Councilor Twomey, the Council Members present voted unanimously [8-0] to approve the measure.

Councilor Kolofos presented a further motion to waive the 30 days waiting period required by section 3.8(a) of The Lawrence City Charter. His motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the Council Members Present [8-0].

**Doc. 227/08 & 228/08-Approved-30days Waived**

**Doc.242/08: Essex St. - “Right Turn only” - McDonald’s Restaurant –  
Hearing held - Approved**

At the request of Council President Blanchette, the 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 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 being granted the floor, Councilor Kolofos commented on the continued danger to the public if the ordinance is not approved.

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 Council Members present to consider the matter presented.

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Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Kolofos presented a motion to approve the proposed amendment which was seconded by Councilor Twomey and unanimously [8-0] approved by the Council Members present.

**Doc.242/08: Approved**

**Doc.252/08: Parking – 773-775-777 Essex St. - 15 min. - 3 spaces –Hearing held – Approved/30 Days waived**

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

Upon a motion to approve the measure and waive the 30 days waiting period required by section 3.8(a) of The Lawrence City Charter presented by Councilor Kolofos as seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, the Council Members present voted unanimously [8-0] to approve the measure as presented.

**Doc. 252/08: Approved-30 Days Waived**

**Doc.253/08: Handicapped Parking – 189 Crawford Street – Hearing held – Approved/30 Days waived**

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

Upon a motion to approve the measure and waive the 30 days waiting period required by section 3.8(a) of The Lawrence City Charter presented by Councilor Moran as seconded by Councilor Kolofos, the Council Members present voted unanimously [8-0] to approve handicapped parking at 189 Crawford Street.

**Doc. 253/08: Approved/30 Days waived**

**Doc.257/08: Handicapped Parking – 6 Vermont Street – to be DELETED– Hearing held – Approved/30 Days waived**

At the request of Council President Blanchette, the 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.

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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 Council Members present to consider the matter presented.

Upon a motion to approve the measure and waive the 30 days waiting period required by section 3.8(a) of The Lawrence City Charter presented by Councilor Kolofoles as seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, the Council Members present voted unanimously [8-0] to approve the removal of the handicapped parking sign at 6 Vermont Street.

**Doc. 257/08: Approved/30 Days waived**

**Doc.280/08: Handicapped Parking – 205 Willow Street – to be removed – Hearing held – Approved/30 Days waived**

At the request of Council President Blanchette, the 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.

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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 Council Members present to consider the matter presented.

Upon a motion to approve the measure and waive the 30 days waiting period required by section 3.8(a) of The Lawrence City Charter presented by Councilor Moran as seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, the Council Members present voted unanimously [8-0] to approve the removal of the handicapped parking sign at 205 Willow Street.

**Doc. 280/08: Approved/30 Days waived**

**Doc. 270/08: Adoption of G.L. c. 59, sec. 5L by the City of Lawrence, MA – Hearing Held – Approved**

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

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Upon motion of Councilor Kolofoles to approve the measure, as seconded by Councilor Gonzlaez, the Council Members present voted unanimously [8-0] to the Adoption of G.L. c. 59, sec. 5L by the City Of Lawrence, MA.

**Doc. 270/08: Approved**

**V: COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR, CITY OFFICIALS & CITY ATTORNEY:**

Council President Blanchette called the following matters to the attention of the Council Members as appearing on the Agenda which were referred as indicated:

**Doc.2/09: Appointment - Airport Commission-Charles Kolofoles-Mayor Sullivan – Ref. to Personnel Cmt.**

**Doc.3/09: Appointment - Airport Commission-The Honorable Michael T. Stella - Mayor Sullivan – Ref. to Personnel**

**Doc.4/09: Appointment - Airport Commission-Andres Castillo - Mayor Sullivan – Ref. to Personnel Cmt.**

**Doc.5/09: Appointment - Airport Commission-Paul Meli - Mayor Sullivan – Ref. to Personnel Cmt.**

**Doc.6/09: Appointment - Airport Commission-John Fitzpatrick - Mayor Sullivan – Ref. to Personnel**

**Doc.7/09: Appointment - Airport Commission-Sharon Birchall- Mayor Sullivan – Ref. to Personnel Cmt.**

**Doc.8/09: Appointment - Airport Commission-William Pedrick - Mayor Sullivan – Ref. to Personnel Cmt.**

**Doc.11/09: Water Treatment Center-Where’s the Contract?-Counc. Pres. Blanchette – Ref. to Budget & Finance**

Council President Blanchette introduced and discussed the reason for presenting this item. He stated he will submit the item for consideration to the Budget and Finance Committee.

**VI. APPROPRIATIONS-ORDERS-RESOLUTION:**

Council President Blanchette called the following matter to the attention of the Council Members as appearing on the Agenda which was referred as indicated:

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**Doc.12/09: Appropriation Transfer - Snow and Sanding – request to exceed – M.G.L. c. 44, sec. 31D-DPW Dir. Frank McCann – Ref. to Budget & Finance Cmt.**

**VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Doc.262/08: Parking – Passion Market – 76 Bennington Street-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, seconded by Councilor Gonzalez and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [8-0].

**Doc. 262/08: Public Hearing Ordered**

**Doc.271/08: Parking – 511-535 Broadway – 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, seconded by Councilor Moran and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [8-0].

**Doc. 271/08: Public Hearing Ordered**

**Doc.281/08: Revised Zoning Ordinances – Political Signage – 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 and seconded by Councilor Abdo.

Upon a call for discussion Councilor Kolofoles discussed the fact that a number of political signage has remained in place since the elections of 2007.

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Council President Blanchette commented about the review of the proposed ordinance presented by Attorney Boddy.

Upon no further comment or discussion, the Council Members present voted unanimously [8-0] to order a public hearing on the matter.

**Doc.281/08: Public Hearing ordered**

**Doc.283/08: National Grid – permission to locate poles, wires and fixtures on Canal 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, seconded by Councilor Gonzalez and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [8-0].

**Doc. 283/08: Public Hearing Ordered**

**Doc.267/08: Parking – Fire Department – Ladder 4 – 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 replacing signage reading “Fire Department Parking Only” on Crosby Street, which was duly seconded by Councilor Moran and unanimously [8-0] voted upon by Council Members present.

**Doc. 267/08: Approved**

**Doc.274/08: Home Rule Petition – Safe Affordable Housing – Ord. Comm. Approved**

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Kolofoles presented the report of the Ordinance Committee to approve the measure presented. The report was presented in the form of a motion and seconded by Councilor Abdo.

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Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Twomey discussed the reasons that he is not in favor of the proposed Home Rule Petition suggesting that the measure would likely result in the implementation of “rent control” in the City of Lawrence.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Kolofoles discussed the history of multi-family dwelling complexes constructed originally as a means of affordable housing and later sold for profit resulting in higher rents. Councilor Kolofoles stated that the Home Rule Petition is not rent control measure and suggested the bill provides for meaningful sanctions against property owners who do not abide by State and Federal housing guidelines. He reviewed pertinent portions of the proposed measure and commented upon their necessity for renters in the present housing market.

Upon no further comment or discussion, the Council Members present voted as follows to approve the Home Rule Petition. [7-Yes; 1-No; 1-Absent]

Councilor Fielding – Yes  
 Councilor Gonzalez – Yes  
 Councilor Moran – Yes  
 Councilor Abdoo – Yes  
 Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez – Absent  
 Councilor Twomey - No  
 Councilor Silva – Yes  
 Council Vice President Kolofoles – Yes  
 Council President Blanchette – Yes

**Doc.274/08: Approved**

**Doc. 282/08: Taxi License – Renewals – Ord. Comm. – Approved**

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Kolofoles presented the report of the Ordinance Committee to order approve the measure presented. The report was presented in the form of a motion and was seconded by Councilor Moran.

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Upon no comments, discussion or inquiry by the Council Members present, Council President Blanchette called the motion to the attention of the Council Members. Upon vote of the Council Members present, the measure was approved as follows: 7-YES; 1-NO; 1- ABSENT:

Council Vice President Kolofoles – Yes  
 Councilor Silva - Yes  
 Councilor Twomey - Yes  
 Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez - Absent  
 Councilor Abdo - No  
 Councilor Moran – Yes  
 Councilor Gonzalez - Yes  
 Councilor Fielding - Yes  
 Council President Blanchette – Yes

**Doc. 282/08: Approved**

**Doc.284/08: Transient Vendor – Roberto Burgos – Ord. Comm. – Approved**

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Kolofoles presented the report of the Ordinance Committee to approve the measure presented. The report was presented in the form of a motion, seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [8-0].

**Doc. 284/08: Approved**

**VIII. 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. The motion was seconded by Councilor Moran and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [8-0]:

**Doc.176/08: Political Signs – Ordinance – Ord. Comm. – Withdrawn**

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**VIII. OLD BUSINESS:** - None

**IX. TABLED MATTERS:**

**Doc.146/08: Water Treatment Plant and its affect on the 2009 City Budget – Ref. to Budget & Finance**

Councilor Twomey presented a motion to remove the item from the table which was seconded by Councilor Kolofoles and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [8-0].

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Twomey suggested the item be sent to the Budget and Finance Committee along with Doc. #11/09. [water treatment center-where's the contract?]

Councilor Kolofoles commented that Documents 146/08 and 11/09 were two different issues.

Council President Blanchette referred the item to the Budget & Finance Committee.

**Doc.146/08: Ref. to Budget & Finance Cmt.**

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 Dept. – reorganization
236/08	National Grid–req. permission to place underground electric conduits on Green St.-hear.
256/08	Parking – Prospect St/East Haverhill St- - removal of a 20 minute parking sign

**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:

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- 1/09: Handicapped Parking Sign – 2 Hobson Street – Jean R. Finnigan – Ref. to Ord. Cmt.
- 9/09: Request for Resolution for the benefit of Ace Metal Finishing-Frank O’Connor, Jr.- Economic Development Officer – Ref. to `Budget & Finance Cmt.
- 10/09: Parking - Odd/Even -Review of Ordinance-Counc. Pres. Blanchette – Ref. to Ord. Cmt

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:**

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

**ADJOURNED  
(8:05p.m.)**

Attest:

William J. Maloney  
City Clerk