

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE LAWRENCE CITY COUNCIL

DATE: Tuesday, April 3, 2007

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council was held on **Tuesday, April 3, 2007** at 7:05 p.m. in the City Council Chamber with all Members present except for Councilor DiMarca who arrived at 7:15 p.m. Council President Blanchette presided over the meeting.

Approximately Twenty -Two [22] persons were present.

A Moment of Silence was held.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

I. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Council President Blanchette informed the Council Members present that the minutes of City Council Meetings conducted March 20, 2007 were submitted by the City Clerk for consideration and acceptance of the City Council Members.

Upon the motion of Councilor Parolisi to accept the minutes as presented duly seconded by Councilor Gonzalez, the Council Members present voted unanimously [8-0] to accept the minutes.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Julio Castillo, 5 Lynch Street, Lawrence, MA spoke on behalf of the “Church of Christ’s Coming”. He stated that he was informed by City Attorney Boddy that there is a problem transferring title to real property recently awarded by the City Council. He

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requested the Council Members look into the matter and provide him with information so that title can be transferred as soon as possible.

Hirma Castillo 5 Lynch Street, Lawrence, MA [wife of Julio Castillo] stated that she agrees with the information provided by her husband and hoped the City Council can resolve the matter concerning the property at 290 Lowell Street, Lawrence, MA recently awarded to the Church.

Modesto Maldonado stated that several City Administrators have received an increase in their salaries and requested the City Council to consider repealing the water rate last approved by the City Council.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

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

Doc. 93/07: Tree Presentation – 5-10 minute Presentation by Maggie Super-Church- submitted by Council Pres. Blanchette- Presented

Council President Blanchette introduced the item and invited Maggie Superchurch to present the communication along with Jane Calvin from the Department of Conservation and Recreation [hereinafter referred to as DCR].

Upon conclusion of the presentation of Ms. Superchurch and Ms. Calvin, Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez was granted the floor and asked Ms Super-Church questions about programs to plant and maintain trees in locations that will enhance property in the City of Lawrence. Ms. Super-Church discussed the use of arborists and environmentalists to oversee any planting or removal project.

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Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Kolofos asked about the source of funding and if funding came from grants. He also discussed the possible necessity of approving an ordinance regarding such a project. Discussion ensued about the possible appointment of tree wardens through the Department of Public Works.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Silva stated that she was pleased with the presentation and informed the Council Members that Jonas Stundza was probably the most knowledgeable individual in the City of Lawrence concerning trees and their placement throughout the City as an active environmentalist. Ms. Superchurch stated that about 17 trees would be planted this spring.

Upon being recognized Councilor Parolisi discussed whether the trees place along Essex Street are properly located given the proposed plan to reconstruct Essex Street to again become a two way street.

Upon no further question or comment from other Council Members present. Council President Blanchette thanked Ms. Superchurch and Ms. Calvin for their input and information. He also stated that he is familiar with the environmental work of Jonas Stundza and complimented his efforts particularly with the placement of trees in the Campagnone Common. He stated that the placement of trees has been recognized through historical identification efforts conducted by City Attorney Charles Boddy in his prior position as the City Land Use Planner. He again thanked the presenters for the information provided.

Doc. 93/07: Presented

V. APPROPRIATIONS-ORDERS-RESOLUTION:

Doc. 48/07: Appropriation Transfer – City Clerk’s Office – from Employee Training to Repair and Maintenance - \$1,000.00 – Budget and Finance Comm. - Approved

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At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Parolisi presented the report from the Budget and Finance Committee in the form of a motion to approve the Appropriation Transfer requested. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kolofoles and unanimously approved by vote of the Council Members present [9-0].

Doc. 48 /07: Approved

Doc. 61/07: Appropriation Transfer – Purchasing Dept. – from Advertising to Office Supplies – \$1,500.00 and from Dues and Membership to Office Supplies - \$300.00- Budget & Finance Committee - Approved

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Parolisi presented the report from the Budget and Finance Committee in the form of a motion to approve the Appropriation Transfer requested. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kolofoles and unanimously approved by vote of the Council Members present [9-0].

Doc. 61 /07: Approved

Doc. 78/07: Appropriation Transfer – City Attorney’s Office – from Judgments to Litigation – \$100,000.00 – B & F Committee – Approved

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Parolisi presented the report from the Budget and Finance Committee in the form of a motion to approve the Appropriation Transfer requested. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez and unanimously approved by vote the Council Members present [9-0].

Doc. 78/07: Approved

Doc. 80/07: Appropriation Transfer – Fire Dept. – from Fire Adm. Anticipated Grant City Share \$26,263.00 to Mechanical Div. Repair and Maintenance- Vehicles \$25,000.00 and to Assistance to Firefighters Grant Assist to Firefighters Grant \$1,263.00 – Budget and Finance Committee – Approved

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At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Parolisi presented the report from the Budget and Finance Committee in the form of a motion to approve the Appropriation Transfer requested by the Fire Department. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Gonzalez and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [9-0].

Doc. 80/07: Approved

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Doc.70/07: Teleport Communications Boston – request permission to place conduit and cable on Franklin and Canal Streets – Ord. Comm. – Public Hearing Ordered

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

Doc. 70 /07: Public Hearing Ordered

Doc. 156/06: Building Permit Fee Waiver Program – Temporary Freeze – Ordinance Comm. & Public Hearing Ordered

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

Doc. 156 /06: Public Hearing Ordered

Doc. 50/07: National Grid – request permission to place underground conduits on Haverhill Street – Ordinance Committee – Public Hearing Ordered

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

Doc. 50 /07: Public Hearing Ordered

Doc. 27/07: Handicapped Parking Sign – 26 Atkinson Court – Ord. Committee – Public Hearing Ordered

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

Doc. 27 /07: Public Hearing Ordered

Doc. 55/07: Handicapped Parking Sign – 47 Woodland Street – Ord. Committee – Deletion of Ordinance/Removal of Sign-Approved

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Kolofoles presented the report of the Ordinance Committee to delete the City Ordinance provision for the installation of a Handicapped Parking space and at 47 Woodland Street. The report was presented in the form of a motion to delete the City Ordinance provision which was seconded by Councilor Gonzalez and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [9-0].

Doc. 55 /07: Ordinance Deleted/Sign to be Removed – Approved

Doc. 56/07: Handicapped Parking Sign – 49 Woodland Street – Ord. Comm.- Deletion of Ordinance/Removal of Sign – Approved

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Kolofoles presented the report of the Ordinance Committee to delete the City Ordinance provision for the installation

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of a Handicapped Parking space and at 47 Woodland Street. The report was presented in the form of a motion to delete the City Ordinance provision which was seconded by Councilor Gonzalez and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [9-0].

Doc. 56 /07: Ordinance Deleted/Sign to be Removed – Approved

Doc.73A/07: Handicapped Parking Sign – 268 Ames Street – removal of signage – Ord. Committee – Ordinance Deleted/Sign to be Removed – Approved

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Kolofoles presented the report of the Ordinance Committee to delete the City Ordinance provision for the installation of a Handicapped Parking space and at 268 Ames Street. The report was presented in the form of a motion to delete the City Ordinance provision which was seconded by Councilor Gonzalez and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [9-0].

Doc. 73A /07: Ordinance Deleted/Sign to be Removed – Approved

Doc. 73B/07: Handicapped Parking Sign – 211B Farnham Street – to be placed – Ord. Committee – Public Hearing Ordered

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

Doc. 73B /07: Public Hearing Ordered

Doc. 72/07: Team ECR – permission to hold a car show at Pemberton Park – Ordinance Committee – 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 the measure

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presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gonzalez and unanimously approved by vote of the Council Members present [9-0].

Doc. 72/07: Approved

Doc.75/07: Little Leagues – Fundraising Tag Days – 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 the measure presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gonzalez and unanimously approved by vote of the Council Members present [9-0].

Doc. 75/07: Approved

Doc. 82/07: Lawrence High School – ROTC – use of Campagnone Common Park on 4/25 & 4/26/07- Field Day – 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 the measure presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez and unanimously approved by vote of the Council Members present [9-0].

At the invitation of the City Council, Captain Robert Maldonado discussed and explained the intended field day activities planned by his organization and related the several school related events to take place.

Doc. 82/07: Approved

Doc. 76/07: FY'08 CDBG Funding recommendations – B & F Comm. – Public Hearing Ordered

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Parolisi presented the report of the Budget & Finance Committee to order a public hearing on the measure

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presented. The report was presented in the form of a motion for a public hearing which was seconded by Councilor Kolofoles and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [9-0].

Doc. 76/07: Public Hearing Ordered

VII. WITHDRAWALS:

Council President Blanchette granted Councilor Kolofoles the floor to present a motion to withdraw concerning the following matters:

Doc. 03/07: Parking – Hill Street – Ord. Comm. - Withdrawn

**Doc. 36/07: Traffic Signals – Common Street from Broadway to Jackson Street
Ord. Comm. – Withdrawn**

Councilor Kolofoles' motion to withdraw the above matters from the City Council Agenda was seconded by Councilor Silva and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [9-0].

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

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

**Doc. 305/05: Disposition - 71 Merrimack Street – Michael R. Sweeney, Planning
Department Director – Ref. to Housing Committee**

IX. TABLED MATTERS:

The following items remained “tabled” without further action:

60/06	Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board, Lawrence Redevelopment Authority & Conservation Commission – hearing held
215/06	Good Citizenship Award – Mayor
128/06	Acting Jobs Positions and Consultants – on more than 90 days
257/06	Resolution – Dr. Claire Paradiso

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367/06 Water Treatment Center – Fiber Optics – update on who authorized such work to occur –
Where is the contract and the bid? – Council President Blanchette
43/07 Resolution-Jessica Mercado-Greater Lawrence Technical School-student-Counc.Gosselin
46/07 Sign Ordinance – new sign – discussion – Peter Blanchette, Building Inspector
34/07 Arlington Mills Smart Growth District –hearing
42/07 Lawrence Community Works – FY 2006 unpaid invoice - \$4,217.66
14/07 Temporary Appointments – proposed amendments to Section 2.04.081 of the
Municipal Code

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:

69/07 Teleport Communications Boston – request permission to place conduit and cable on
Beacon Street, Beacon Avenue and Andover Street – Joseph Acosta, Principal – Ref to
Ord.
89/07 City Contract Ordinance – approval by City Council for all contracts over \$50,000 –
Council President Blanchette – Ref. to Ord.
90/07 Prior Year Bill – Veteran’s Services Department – Francisco Urena, Director-Ref. to
Budget & Finance
91/07 Old Gold Dealer License – Belkis Oslan – 442 Essex Street – Ref to Ord.
92/07 Handicapped Parking – 80 Hawley Street – Providencia Aponte – Ref to Ord.
94/07 Lead Abatement Program –Review – complaint filed about discrepancies with the
Program – Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez – Ref. to Housing
95/07 Water and Sewer – repeal rates – Counc. Alvarez-Rodriguez – Ref. to Ord.
96/07 Water and Sewer – switching to a sliding scale or two tier formula -
Counc. Alvarez-Rodriguez – Ref. to Ord.
97/07 Security Swipe Card – City Hall/Employees – Counc. Gosselin – Ref. to Personnel

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Upon the Motion To Adjourn presented by Councilor DiMarca, the Council Members
present voted unanimously to Adjourn [9-0].

ADJOURNED
(8:03p.m.)

Attest:

William J. Maloney
City Clerk