

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

**DATE: Friday, June 29, 2007**

A **SPECIAL MEETING** of the City Council was held on **Friday, June 29, 2007** at 6: 05 p.m. in the City Council Chamber with all Members present except Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Silva who arrived at 6:30 pm., and Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez who arrived at 7:30 p.m. Council President Blanchette presided over the meeting.

In the absence of William J. Maloney, City Clerk, Ms. Patricia Waters transcribed the minutes of the meeting.

**I. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: - None.**

**II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.**

**III. APPROPRIATIONS-ORDERS-RESOLUTION:**

**Doc.193/07: Budget - Request for 30-Day Budget – Mayor Sullivan-Ref. to Budget & Finance**

Council President Blanchette called the Special Meeting of the City Council to order and explained the purpose as a necessary measure to consider the proposal submitted by Mayor Sullivan requesting the City Council Members to approve a thirty day budget.

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Councilor Parolisi presented the report of the Budget and Finance Committee on the measure stating that it was being sent to the Full City Council without a recommendation. The measure was presented by Councilor Parolisi in the form of a motion for the approval of a thirty day budget. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kolofoles.

Upon being recognized by Council President Blanchette, Fire Chief Peter Takvorian stated that a transfer from the “Overtime Account” to the “Fire Suppression Account” in the

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amount of \$389,563.00 was necessary. He urged the Council Members to approve the measure presented and to approve all fee increases recommended by the Fire Department. Deputy Fire Chief Jack Bergeron spoke in support of the position presented by Fire Chief Takvorian.

Upon being granted the floor, Mayor Michael Sullivan informed the Council Members that a thirty day operational budget, if approved, will allow the City of Lawrence to remain functional as of July 1, 2007.

**[Councilor Silva arrived at 6:30 p.m.]**

Upon being recognized, Councilor Frechette pointed out to Mayor Sullivan and the Council Members that there appeared to be discrepancies between the proposed FY 2008 Budget figures being presented for approval and the “year to date” costs and expenses. He stated that the FY 2008 proposed Budget amounts are higher in all departments. Councilor Frechette stated that an amount of \$100,000.00, if still available, be transferred from the Mayor’s proposed budget and used to provide for public safety costs. In response, Mayor Sullivan informed the Council Members that this amount has been removed from the Mayor’s proposed budget. Upon request of Councilor Frechette, Mayor Sullivan stated that he would provide the City Council Members with information pertaining to the free cash account.

Upon no further comment or discussion offered or presented, Council President Blanchette requested the Council Members to consider the motion presented for the approval of a thirty day budget. Upon a roll call vote of the Council Members, the measure was defeated by failing to obtain six affirmative votes as follows [YES = 5;

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NO = 2; ABSENT = 2].

Councilor Marie Gosselin – Yes  
 Councilor Jorge Gonzalez - Absent  
 Councilor Joseph Parolisi - Yes  
 Councilor Nunzio DiMarca - No  
 Councilor Nicholas Kolofoles - Yes  
 Councilor Nilka Alvarez-Rodriguez - Absent  
 Councilor Grisel Silva - No  
 Council Vice President Gil Frechette - Yes  
 Council President Patrick Blanchette – Yes

**Doc. 193/07 – Thirty day Budge [July 2007] – defeated.**

A discussion ensued among the Council Members present concerning the costs that a thirty day budget would meet if approved.

Upon being recognized, Mayor Sullivan explained that the monies to be expended by the proposed thirty day budget would barely keep the City operational. Upon inquiry by Councilor Silva, Mayor Sullivan explained the necessity to provide for payment of on-going contracted services.

Upon no further discussion or inquiry concerning the matter, Councilor Parolisi presented a motion to recess the Council Meeting at 7:15 p.m. which was seconded by Councilor Gosselin and unanimously approved by the Council Members present.

**RECESS @ 7:15 P.M.**

Upon a motion to terminate the recess presented by Councilor Parolisi, seconded by Councilor Frechette and unanimously approved by the Council Members present, the City Council Meeting resumed proceedings at 7:30 p.m.

**[Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez arrived at 7:30 p.m.]**

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Council President Blanchette stressed the importance of keeping the City operational into the new fiscal year which would be possible with the approval of a thirty day budget as submitted by Mayor Sullivan. He commented that if anyone on the prevailing side of the vote previously defeating the thirty day budget were to present a motion to reconsider the matter, then the issue could be presented for further consideration.

Upon being recognized, Councilor Silva commented that she believes the Council Members are inefficient in their deliberation of the matter presented much in the same way that the public perceives employees of the City of Lawrence are working inefficiently. She commented that it will be Council President Blanchette's fault if a thirty day budget is not approved.

Upon being recognized, Councilor DiMarca presented a motion to reconsider the vote to defeat the approval of a thirty day budget as a voting member of the prevailing side in regard to the vote to defeat the measure entered earlier. The motion was seconded by Councilor Parolisi and approved by the Council Members present as follows [YES = 7; NO = 1; ABSENT = 1]:

Council Vice President Gil Frechette – Yes  
 Councilor Grisel Silva - No  
 Councilor Nilka Alvarez-Rodriguez - Yes  
 Councilor Nicholas Kolofoles - Yes  
 Councilor Nunzio DiMarca - Yes  
 Councilor Joseph Parolisi – Yes  
 Councilor Jorge Gonzalez - Absent  
 Councilor Marie Gosselin – Yes  
 Council President Patrick Blanchette – Yes

**Doc. 193/07 – Reconsideration approved**

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In regard to reconsideration of the measure, Council President Blanchette explained that a thirty day budget, if approved, would allow ordinary maintenance and paychecks to employees to be paid over the course of the next thirty days.

Upon being recognized, Councilor Silva entered a Charter Objection pursuant to Section 3.8 (c) of the Lawrence City Charter. Councilor Silva stated that the Charter Objection by rule should end all discussion on the matter until the next sitting of the City Council. Councilor Kolofoles seconded the motion.

Council President Blanchette stated the Chair does not recognize the Charter Objection entered as it is procedurally defective. He stated that the provisions of Section 3.8 (c) require that a properly presented Charter Objection must be entered on the first occasion the question is put to the City Council. Since the matter was previously before the City Council, a Charter Objection is inappropriately interposed. He also stated that the vote of four or more Council Members would be necessary to terminate a vote taken on the measure. Since neither situation applies, the Charter Objection is not applicable.

Without further comment or discussion offered or presented by the Council Members present, Council President Blanchette called the motion for approval of a thirty day budget for the consideration and vote of the Council Members present. The Council Members voted to approve a thirty day budget as presented upon the following vote.

YES = 6; NO = 2; ABSENT = 1:

Councilor Marie Gosselin – Yes  
Councilor Jorge Gonzalez - Absent  
Councilor Joseph Parolisi - Yes  
Councilor Nunzio DiMarca - No  
Councilor Nicholas Kolofoles - Yes  
Councilor Nilka Alvarez-Rodriguez - Yes

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Councilor Grisel Silva - No  
 Council Vice President Gil Frechette - Yes  
 Council President Patrick Blanchette – Yes

**Doc. 193/07 – Thirty day Budge [July 2007] – approved.**

**IV. WITHDRAWALS: None.**

**V. OLD BUSINESS: None.**

**VI. 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
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
46/07	Sign Ordinance – new sign – discussion – Peter Blanchette, Building Inspector
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
107/07	Legal Pending Litigation and Claims against the Police Dept. and the City- Council. Silva
123/06	Revisiting Residency Requirements
309/05	Surplus Declarations – 128 Newbury Street
161/07	Greater Lawrence Technical School – Daniel Fleming – resignation letter
34/07	Arlington Mills Smart Growth District – hearing held
195/07	Resolution – LHS Valedictorian – Karina Ovalles
196/07	Resolution – LHS Valedictorian – Cristina Ovalles
197/07	Resolution – LHS Salutarian – Tu Le

**VII. NEW BUSINESS: - None.**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Upon Motion of Councilor Gosselin as seconded by Councilor Kolofoles, the Council

Members present voted unanimously to Adjourn.

**ADJOURNED**  
**(7:40p.m.)**

Attest:

William J. Maloney  
 City Clerk