

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

**DATE: Tuesday, January 8, 2008**

A **SPECIAL MEETING** of the City Council was held on **Tuesday, January 8, 2008** at 7: 08 p.m. in the City Council Chamber with all Members present.

Approximately Fifty-two [52] persons were present.

A Moment of Silence was held.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**I. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** None

Council President Blanchette introduced newly elected Council Members and announced the sub-committee assignments.

**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:

Carlos Matos, 69 Exeter Street, Lawrence, MA discussed unfinished fiscal business remaining from the prior council.

Maureen Nimmo, 24 Yale Street, Lawrence, MA Director of Lawrence Public Library spoke in opposition to budget cuts currently being implemented.

Norman Nimmo, 24 Yale Street, Lawrence, MA agreed with Maureen Nimmo's statement and discussed his opposition to the cuts currently being implemented.

Louise Sanberg, a Lawrence Library employee urged the City Council to approve the city budget with tax increases. She discussed the impact of certification loss upon Lawrence residents.

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Fausto Nunez, [no address] stated that the City Of Lawrence should never cut Police, Fire or Public works services. He encouraged unity among Lawrence residents to address the current problem.

Joseph Carberry, 11 So. Boylston Street, Lawrence, MA discussed his extensive family background in the City Of Lawrence. He encouraged the Council Members to establish a fair tax rate.

Susan Theriault, representing Garden Ambulance Co., discussed the improvements the City Of Lawrence has seen over the course of years and events that have challenged the City.

Peter Takvorian, Lawrence Fire Chief, discussed the obligations of the City Council to provide for the protection of its residents. He informed the Council Members that failure to approve a tax rate or water/sewer rate will result in closing two engine houses. He discussed the resulting response limitations that implementation of staff and operation reduction will cause.

Captain William Lannon, 65 Lowell Street, Lawrence, MA of the Fire Department discussed the importance of providing public safety through trained and dedicated fire safety personnel. He encouraged the Council Members to approve the tax rate and establish water/sewer rates.

Patrick Driscoll, 60 Rollins Street, Lawrence, MA stated that the Council Members have serious economic and financial decisions to consider and make to assure the delivery of public safety services in Lawrence.

Joseph Boren of Lawrence, MA passed on making any comment.

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Bernard Reilly, 117 Bunkerhill Street, Lawrence, MA, Director of Senior Services discussed the impact that recent lay-offs of City employees has resulted to the Lawrence Senior Center.

Lindy Galland, 196 West Street, Lawrence, MA stated her opposition to tax increases by way of higher taxes.

David Camasso, City Comptroller, 11 Beresford Street, Lawrence, MA discussed concerns over the response being received from small vendors in the area. He discussed the difficulties the City of Lawrence may have if the tax rate is not established in a responsible manner.

Graham Miller, 250 Colonial Road, Lawrence, MA commented on his disgust with the manner in which the tax hearings have been going. He urged the Council Members to approve the increase in the tax and water/sewer rates.

Rene Lavalley, 110 Weare Street, Lawrence, MA discussed the reasons that the tax rate and water/sewer rate should be approved by the City Council.

Joseph D'Amico, 11 Lorenzo Road, Lawrence, MA stated that the City Of Lawrence should economize.

Edward Warnshus, 270 Canal Street # 520, Lawrence, MA commented that the City Council should support and approve the tax rate and water/sewer rate.

Attorney Thomas Caffrey, Library Vice Chairman discussed the impact that recent "lay-offs" and budget cuts have had upon the operations of the City Library. He commented that further budget cuts will result in loss of important services necessary to the community.

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Barbara Gonzalez, 20 Dartmouth Street, Lawrence, MA, read a poem from the Fireman's prayer and discussed the importance of public safety positions. She criticized Mayor Sullivan for cutting budgetary funds from the Fire Department.

**III. PUBLIC HEARINGS:** - None

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

- None

**V. APPROPRIATIONS-ORDERS-RESOLUTION:** - None

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:** - None

**VII. WITHDRAWALS:** - None

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS:**

**Doc. 281A/07: Comprehensive Technical Corrections Plan FY 2008 – Water and Sewer Increases – Public Hearing Ordered**

**Doc. 301/07: Tax Classification Factor FY 2008 – Public Hearing Ordered**

Council President Blanchette introduced the agenda items for consideration. He read an opinion of City Attorney Charles Boddy dated January 7, 2008 into the record.

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Attorney Boddy confirmed that a more prudent course would be to suspend rule 20 and 21 and then order a public hearing on doc. 281A/08 and 301/07.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez presented a motion to suspend rule 20 and 21 in regards to Doc. # 281A/07 and 301/07. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gonzalez.

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Upon a call for discussion, Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez discussed the importance of re-visiting the issue concerning establishing the tax rate and other important financial matters. She implored the Council Members to consider suspending Rule 20 and 21.

Upon being granted the floor, Council Vice President Kolofoles inquired of Attorney Boddy and Attorney Boddy discussed and explained the “Mullen Rule”.

Upon no further discussion, comment or inquiry Council President Blanchette called the motion to the attention of the Council Members. Upon vote of the Council Members present, the motion to suspend Rule 20 and 21 was approved by roll call as follows: 8-YES; 1-NO;

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

Upon being recognized Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez presented a motion to order a public hearing on Doc. 281A/07 and 301/07. Councilor Gonzalez seconded the motion.

Council President Blanchette suggested that January 22, 2008 at 7:00 as a possible hearing date.

Upon no further discussion, comment or inquiry Council President Blanchette called the motion to the attention of the Council Members. Upon vote of the Council Members present, the motion to order a public hearing on Doc. 281A/07 and 301/07 was unanimously

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[9-0] approved by the Council Members present.

**Doc. 281A/07: Public Hearing Ordered**

**Doc. 301/07: Public Hearing Ordered**

**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
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
14/07	Temporary Appointments–proposed amendments to Sec. 2.04.081 of the Municipal Code
34/07	Arlington Mills Smart Growth District – hearing held
288/06	Traffic and Public Safety–5 corners (Floral, School, Hancock, Doyle Streets and Oregon Avenue) - Ord. Comm.
13/06	Parking Garage – new high school site –Counc. Gosselin
281/07	Comprehensive Technical Corrections Plan FY 2008 – Recap – B & F Comm.
123/06	Residency Requirement – revisiting – Ord.Comm.
124/07	Parking – Orchard St. – Ord. Comm.

**X. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Doc. 3/08: Financial Matters to be discussed – Mark Andrews, Budget and Finance Director – Presented**

**ITEMS ADDED AT THE MEETING**

**New Business**

**Doc. 4/08: FY 2008 Budget Adjustments-Mark Andrews, Budget & Fin. Dir.-Public Hearing Ordered**

At the request of Council President Blanchette, Director Andrews discussed proposed budget adjustments.

Upon being recognized Councilor Twomey presented a motion to suspend the rule and order a public hearing on Doc. 4/08 which was seconded by Councilor Gonzalez.

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Upon a call for discussion Council Vice President Kolofoles suggested referral of the item to sub-committee. Director Andrews discussed the importance of expediting the measure to the financial matters funding. Councilor Kolofoles discussed the practical application might the proposed cuts have upon affected services. In response, Director Andrews explained that prior supportive documents were provided to answer the question posed.

Council President Blanchette explained the reason and purpose of submitting the document on a separate document.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez asked Director Andrews if there was a way by which the Public Schools could be used for supportive Library services that may be lost as a result of cuts to the Lawrence Public Library. She commented that the paramount concern is neighborhood and Public Safety. She also asked Director Andrews to provide financial information concerning the Library and Public Safety.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Twomey posed questions about the proposed FY2008 adjustments.

Upon no further comments, discussion or inquiry by the Council Members present, Council President Blanchette called the motion to the attention of the Council Members. Upon consideration, the Council Members voted unanimously in favor of the motion to suspend the rule [9-0].

Upon motion of Councilor Kolofoles, seconded by Councilor Gonzlaez the Council Members present voted unanimously [9-0] to order a public hearing on the item.

**Doc. 4/08: Public Hearing Ordered**

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**XI. ADJOURNMENT:**

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

**ADJOURNED  
(8:50p.m.)**

Attest:

William J. Maloney  
City Clerk