

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

**DATE: Tuesday, July 31, 2007**

A **SPECIAL MEETING** of the City Council was held on **Tuesday, July 31, 2007** at 7:12 p.m. in the City Council Chamber with all Members present except for Councilor DiMarca and Councilor Silva. Council President Blanchette presided over the meeting. In the absence of City Clerk William J. Maloney, Temporary Assistant Clerk Carole Morin took minutes of the City Council Meeting.

Approximately Fifty-Two [52] persons were present.

A Moment of Silence was held.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**I. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** - None

**II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None

Council President Blanchette stated that tonight's meeting was posted on Thursday July 26, 2007 and proceeded to give an overview of Document 184/07 and reminded the Council Members that it was a tabled item.

Councilor Parolisi presented a motion to remove Document 184/07 from the table which was seconded by Councilor Gosselin and unanimously approved by the Council Members present [7-0].

**III. TABLED MATTERS:**

**Doc. 184/07: FY'08 City Budget – Public Hearing Ordered**

Council President Blanchette read a memo from Mayor Sullivan concerning the request presented to the Council Members to order a Public Hearing for FY 2008 and an offer to submit a 14 day continuing appropriation for consideration of the City Council

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Members. Council President Blanchette stressed the importance of the matter presented and opened the matter for further discussion among the Council Members.

Upon being recognized, Councilor Parolisi presented a motion to order a public hearing on the FY'08 City Budget which was seconded by Councilor Gosselin.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Gosselin invited Mayor Sullivan to address the City Council and stated she would vote for a public hearing if a 30 day Budget was appropriated.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Frechette stated he was not at the last meeting of the City Council held on July 27, 2007 and that he wished to pose questions about the proposed budget to Mayor Sullivan. A discussion ensued between Councilor Frechette and Mayor Sullivan regarding the funding Police Department and Fire Department positions. Councilor Frechette stated he does not want to see firefighters "laid off". A brief discussion ensued between Councilor Frechette and Mayor Sullivan regarding the sale of City owned property which was not presented in the original budget information. Councilor Frechette stated he would vote to order a public hearing on the FY 2008 Budget.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez posed several questions to Mayor Sullivan regarding the tax levy and the free cash availability. Mayor Sullivan stated that the Department of Revenue [hereinafter referenced as DOR] would be in his office tomorrow and that the Council was invited to attend and ask questions directly to their representatives. Discussion ensued between Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez and Mayor Sullivan concerning the FY 2008 Budget. Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez stated that she would

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prefer a 30 day budget and that she would support ordering a public hearing on the proposed FY 2008 Budget.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Parolisi questioned Mayor Sullivan about his proposal to request the approval of 14 day budget rather than a 30 day budget.

Council President Blanchette informed the Council Members and the public that a public hearing could be advertised in time for a public hearing as early as next week.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Kolofoles and Mayor Sullivan discussed the tax levy, how it's based on a higher property tax assessment and the implications it would have on the tax rate to be paid by the people who own property in Lawrence.

Mayor Sullivan responded by informing the Council Members that the tax levy is capped and that when the public hearing is ordered they can work together on the proposed FY 2008 Budget. A brief discussion ensued between Councilor Kolofoles and Mayor Sullivan concerning cutting expenses, service charges, and Health Insurance. Councilor Kolofoles stated he would prefer a 30 day budget to be recommended for approval.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Gonzalez stated he was upset about summer programs for the small children being eliminated.. Mayor Sullivan stated that everyone has their personal issues with any proposed loss of service, but that he wasn't willing to stall a City Budget proposal for such reasons. Councilor Gonzalez expressed his dissatisfaction with the budgetary proposals being submitted by the Administration and that he would not change his vote of disapproval.

Upon being granted the floor, Councilor Gosselin and Mayor Sullivan discussed outside revenue sources and asked if any Federal Emergency Management Agency

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[hereinafter FEMA] was available to the City of Lawrence. Mayor Sullivan stated there were some FEMA funds remaining from 2007 sources. Councilor Gosselin inquired about newly hired personnel. Mayor Sullivan discussed ways his administration tried to save money by implementing the bi-weekly payroll which was subject to union action returning to the one week payroll and a loss of savings. A discussion ensued concerning health insurance and gasoline costs. Councilor Gosselin recalled that prior Administrations engaged the assistance of an oversight board to educate the public regarding City operations, costs and expenditures. Councilor Gosselin stated that she believes the FY 2008 Budget presented does not present a good financial outlook for the City of Lawrence and its residents. She stated that she believes the process is frustrating and needs assistance from outside the City.

Upon being recognized, a brief discussion ensued between Councilor Kolofoles and Mayor Sullivan regarding the Lawrence infrastructure and the possible reduction in the number of employees working as laborers in the Parks Department.

Upon no further comments, discussion or inquiry by the Council Members present, Council President Blanchette called the motion for consideration of the Council Members present.

Upon a roll call vote of the Council Members present, the measure was approved to order a public hearing as follows: 6-YES; 1-NO; 2 ABSENT:

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

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Councilor Nilka Alvarez-Rodriguez - Yes  
 Councilor Grisel Silva - Absent  
 Council Vice Pres. Gil Frechette - Yes  
 Council Pres. Patrick Blanchette - Yes

**Doc. 184/07: Public Hearing Ordered**

**IV. PUBLIC HEARING** - None

**V. COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR, CITY OFFICIALS & CITY ATTORNEY** -  
 None

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

**Doc. 221/07: 30 Day Budget – August 2007 – Approved**

Council President Blanchette introduced the measure to the Council Members present and recognized Mayor Sullivan who presented a 30 day budget for consideration of the Council Members. Mayor Sullivan issued a copy of the proposed 30 day budget to each of the Council Members.

Upon being recognized, Councilor Parolisi presented a motion for the approval of the proposed 30 day budget as presented. Their motion was seconded by Councilor Gosselin and approved by roll call vote of the Council Members present as follows:

6=Yes; 1=No; 2=Absent.

Councilor Frechette – Yes  
 Councilor Silva - Absent  
 Councilor Alvarez-Rodriguez - Yes  
 Councilor Kolofoles - Yes  
 Councilor DiMarca - Absent  
 Councilor Parolisi – Yes  
 Councilor Gonzalez - No  
 Councilor Gosselin - Yes  
 Councilor Blanchette – Yes

**Doc. 221/07: Approved**

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**VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS** – None

**VIII. WITHDRAWALS** - None

**IX. OLD BUSINESS** – None

**X. 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
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
184/07	FY’08 City Budget

**XI. NEW BUSINESS** - None

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:**

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

**ADJOURNED**  
**(8:30p.m.)**

Attest:

William J. Maloney  
City Clerk