

Council President

David R. Cormier

Council Vice President

Pauline M. Cormier



Councillors-at-Large

Thomas F. Ardinger
Susan Chalifoux-Zephir
Todd M. Deacon
Claire M. Freda

Ward Councillors

Ward 1 – William A. Brady
Ward 2 – Pauline M. Cormier
Ward 3 – David R. Cormier
Ward 4 – Mark C. Bodanza
Ward 5 – Peter A. Angelini

MINUTES

CITY OF LEOMINSTER

CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 10, 2023

JOHN P. MAHAN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

RECEIVED
LEOMINSTER CITY CLERK
2023 APR 25 AM 8:09

PUBLIC HEARING, 6:45 P.M.

- C-60 Dean J. Mazzarella Mayor: Request an amendment to the Non-Union employee's salary and wage scale for FY2024 with the attached scale. Also, please amend the ordinance to Non-Union positions and classifications based on the support attached.
(Legal Affairs; Regular Course 03/27/2023; Majority Vote)

The Public Hearing opened at 6:45 PM. Councillor Angelini read the communication into the record. He also read the referrals from the Mayor, Comptroller, and Human Resources director into the record. Councillor Angelini states that he knew the budget was coming up, and that this piece was necessary to handle before the budget could be set for the new fiscal year. He also stated that it is important to retain or attract new people to the City looking for employment, and that by conducting the study and approving the attached documentation, the salary increases would do just that.

Councillor Bodanza asked what the fiscal impact would be if this was accepted. Jennifer Reddington, Comptroller, informed the City Council that it would be about \$225,000 for the next fiscal year.

Councillor Bodanza and Councillor Deacon spoke in support of the communication. They echoed the Mayor's sentiment that the City has good employees that work as a team.

Councillor Ardinger stated that he reviewed the steps and agrees with the proposed changes.

Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir stated that she noticed many job titles had changed. She asked if the department heads had the ability to weigh in on the title changes and the job descriptions associated with them. She also stated that the new terms lacked specificity, which was helpful previously to understand what a persons job was.

Ms. Reddington stated that the updates to the job titles was made in effort to bring them into modern times and references, as many of the ones currently on the books are still civil service referenced titles. This would help employees when looking for other employment as the titles align more closely to industry standards. She also stated that when hiring new employees, they could add a little more description to each title if necessary to differentiate which department or job they were accepting.

Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir asked if a salary study had ever been done before.

Mayor Mazzarella stated that there had not been a salary study since he had become Mayor, 30 years ago.

Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir asked what the average increase in salary was for each employee.

Ms. Reddington reported that it varied and that each role was looked at individually, not the person in the role.

Mayor Mazzarella stated that employees will still receive COLA's and step raises.

Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir asked if during this study if talks of performance reviews ever came up.

Ms. Reddington stated that the each position was only looked at for the role itself. No individual experience, longevity, or other circumstances were considered to ensure a fair process.

Councillor Brady stated that some department heads feel challenged by entry level pay for new employees, such as a new mechanic. How will this be addressed?

Ms. Reddington stated that since the mechanic is a union position, it would need to be addressed during union negotiations.

Councillor Angelini thanked Ms. Hurley for her help and dedication to the study over the past few years. He commended her efforts.

Councillor Angelini asked three times if anyone wanted to speak in favor or in opposition of the communication. No one spoke. The public hearing closed at 7:06 PM.

PUBLIC FORUM, 6:55 P.M.

The public forum is an opportunity for any member of the audience to speak on a matter specifically listed on the Council Agenda. Speakers will be asked to come to the microphone and state their formal name and address along with identifying the specific item(s) they wish to address. Each speaker is respectfully asked to keep their comments within a two (2) minute time frame. The Council will not be responding or answering any questions; however, at the discretion of the Council President, clarification may be given.

The public forum opened at 7:07 PM.

Mayor Mazzarella, spoke in support of the capital improvement items communication C-59. He stated it took a lot of collaboration and work to get it done, and it will help the city foresee future needs and expenses in the future.

Council President Pauline Cormier asked three times if anyone else wanted to speak on an item listed on the agenda. No one spoke. The public forum closed at 7:09 PM.

I. REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, 7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the City Council opened at 7:00PM. Councillor Bodanza made a motion to recess. Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0. The regular meeting reconvened at 7:09 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL OF COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE

Council Vice-President Pauline Cormier, Councillor Bodanza, Councillor Ardinger, Councillor Angelini, Councillor Brady, Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir, Councillor Deacon, Councillor Freda present. Absent: Council President David Cormier.

Others present: Katelyn Huffman, City Clerk and Maribel Perez, Assistant City Clerk.

IV. APPROVAL OF RECORDS

- March 13, 2023 – These minutes were given further time.
- March 27, 2023 – These minutes were given further time.

V. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Money Orders

- C-61 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor; Request to accept the proposed CDBG Budget/Action Plan for the City of Leominster-Year 49. (*Ways & Means; Regular Course 04/10/2023; Public Hearing 04/24/2023 at 6:35 PM; Majority Vote*)

This communication was given regular course with a recommendation to set the public hearing for April 24, 2023 at 6:35 PM. By a vote of 8-0 the public hearing was set.

- C-62 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor; Request to adopt a COLA increase from 3% to 5% under the new law, a retirement system would need Council approval, as well. RE: To increase the 3% cap to 5% for one time. This law requires Council Approval. (*Finance; Regular Course 04/10/2023; Majority Vote*)

This communication was given regular course.

Reappointments

Dean J. Mazzarella, Mayor; Request the Reappointment of the following individuals.

Board of Appeals-term to expire 04/15/2026

Henry Frye 435 Lancaster Street Leominster, MA

Planning Board; term to expire 04/15/2028

Patrick Perla 11 Revolution Drive Leominster, MA

Registrars of Voters; terms to expire 04/15/2026

Ann B. Mahan 85 Exchange Street Leominster, MA

Charles Milhans 54 Rose Avenue Leominster, MA

Nancy Piermarini 215 West Street Leominster, MA

These reappointments were given regular course.

VI. PETITIONS FIRST TIME ON THE AGENDA

33-23 Gregory C. Chapdelaine, Purchasing Agent: Request to allow the Purchasing Agent to award two contracts, each for a six-year period. Both contracts will be bid separately and awarded separately. RE: Banking Services and Lockbox Services. (*Finance; Regular Course 04/10/2023; Further time 04/24/2023*)

This petition was given regular course.

34-23 Gregory C. Chapdelaine, Purchasing Agent: Request to allow the Purchasing Agent to award a contract for Ambulance Billing Services for a six-year period. (*Finance; Regular Course 04/10/2023; Further time 04/24/2023*)

This petition was given regular course.

35-23 John Fraher, Captain Leominster Police Department: Accept a new section of the City of Leominster Revised Ordinances Chapter 14 Section 22. Regarding prohibitions and requirements for the commercial sale of firearms & ammunition (gun shops) within the City of Leominster. See attached proposed ordinance. (*Legal Affairs; Regular Course 04/10/2023; Public Hearing 04/24/2023 at 6:40 PM; Majority Vote*)

This petition was given regular course with a recommendation to set the public hearing for April 24, 2023, at 6:40 PM. Referrals were requested from the mayor, the planning board and the building commissioner. It was also requested that the police department send a representative down to the public hearing. By a vote of 8-0 the public hearing was set.

36-23 John Fraher, Captain Leominster Police Department: Accept a new section of the City of Leominster Revised Ordinances Chapter 11 Section 7.1. Regarding the sale of firearms & ammunition by pawnshops within the City of Leominster. See attached proposed ordinance. (*Legal Affairs; Regular Course 04/10/2023; Public Hearing 04/24/2023 at 6:45 PM; Majority Vote*)

This petition was given regular course with a recommendation to set the public hearing for April 24, 2023, at 6:45 PM. Referrals were requested from the mayor, the planning board and the building commissioner. It was also requested that the police department send a representative down to the public hearing. By a vote of 8-0 the public hearing was set.

VII. MATTERS BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL

VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT – BALANCE OF STABILIZATION: \$20,968,097

IX. FINANCE

C-58 Dean J. Mazzarella, Mayor: Request that an appropriation of \$125,000.00 be made to the Fire Department Capital Account; the same amount to be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Account. *(Finance Committee; Regular Course 03/27/2023; Majority Vote)*

The Finance Committee recommended giving this communication LEAVE TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT PREJUDICE. By a vote of 8-0 the communication was given LEAVE TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

C-59 Dean J. Mazzarella, Mayor: Request that an appropriation of \$1,401,825.00 be made to the General Fund Account; same to be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Account.

These funds are needed to fund the FY2023 Capital Request from various Departments. Please list below and the attached (attach accompanying documentation if application).

#154-Institutional Technology	\$ 118,875
#192-Buiding Maintenance	\$ 230,000
#210-Fire Department	\$ 231,250
#220-Police Department	\$ 60,000
#300-School Department	\$ 25,000
#421-Highway-DPW	\$ 257,200
#491-Cemetery	\$ 9,000
#543-Veterans Center	\$ 5,000
#610-Library	\$ 331,000
#630-Recreation Department	\$ 134,500
Total Request	<u>\$1,401,825</u>

(Finance Committee; Regular Course 03/27/2023; Majority Vote)

The Finance Committee recommended that the City Council GRANT this communication. Councillor Deacon recused himself from all matters related to the School due to a conflict of interest. By a vote 8-0 (Councillor Deacon abstained from the item referring to School Department making this item a vote of 7-0) the communication was GRANTED.

X. LEGAL AFFAIRS

C-60 Dean J. Mazzearella Mayor: Request an amendment to the Non-Union employee's salary and wage scale for FY2024 with the attached scale. Also, please amend the ordinance to Non-Union positions and classifications based on the support attached.
(Legal Affairs; Regular Course 03/27/2023; Majority Vote)

The Legal Affairs Committee recommended that the City Council GRANT the communication. By a roll call vote of 8-0 the communication was GRANTED.

XI. WAYS & MEANS

Reappointments

Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor: Request the reappointment of the following:

Library Board of Trustees; terms to expire 04/15/2026

Susan Shelton 4 Keyes Lane Princeton, MA

(Ways and Means; Regular Course 03/27/2023; Majority Vote)

The Ways and Means Committee recommended that the City Council CONFIRM the reappointment. By a roll call vote of 8-0 the reappointment was CONFIRMED.

Secondhand Dealers

29-23 Upscale Consignment: Request to renew license to deal secondhand articles at 875 Merriam Ave, Leominster, MA (Ways & Means; Regular Course; 3/27/2023; Majority Vote)

The Ways and Means Committee recommended that the City Council GRANT the license to renew secondhand articles. By a vote of 8-0 the license was GRANTED.

30-23 GameStop, Inc: Request to renew license to deal secondhand articles at 26 Orchard Hill Park Drive, Leominster, MA (Ways & Means; Regular Course; 3/27/2023; Majority Vote)

The Ways and Means Committee recommended that the City Council GRANT the license to renew secondhand articles. By a vote of 8-0 the license was GRANTED.

31-23 Best Buy Stores LP # 1433: Request to renew license to deal secondhand articles at 33 Orchard Hill Park Drive, Leominster, MA (Ways & Means; Regular Course; 03/27/2023; Majority Vote)

The Ways and Means Committee recommended that the City Council GRANT the license to renew secondhand articles. By a vote of 8-0 the license was GRANTED.

32-23 Fred's Auction: Request to renew license to deal secondhand articles at 38 Spruce Street, Leominster, MA (Ways & Means; Regular Course; 03/27/2023; Majority Vote)

The Ways and Means Committee recommended that the City Council GRANT the license to renew secondhand articles. By a vote of 8-0 the license was GRANTED.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of an Ordinance

19-23 William Brady, Ward 1 Councillor: Request to Amend Chapter 13 entitled "Motor Vehicles and Traffic", Section 13-34 "No parking on certain streets" by inserting the following:

*"No parking on Lock Drive, on both sides, for the entirety of the street"
(Legal Affairs; Regular Course 02/27/2023; Further Time 03/13/2023;
Public Hearing 03/27/2023 at 6:50 PM; Majority Vote)*

Councillor Angelini recused himself from the petition due to a possible conflict of interest. The Legal Affairs Committee recommended that the City Council ADOPT the first reading of the ordinance. By a roll call vote of 7-0-1 (Councillor Angelini abstained due a possible conflict of interest) the first reading of the ordinance was ADOPTED.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

XIV. COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- **DOG TAG FLAG – APRIL 28, 2023 – APRIL 30, 2023 – JOHNNY ROBERGE PARK – COUNCILLOR FREDA REPORTED ON THIS. SHE INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT THE CEREMONY WILL BE HELD APRIL 29, 2023, AT 11AM.**
- **COUNCILLOR FREDA REPRTEED THAT THE RIBBON CUTTING FOR WACHUSETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXPANSION OCCURRED LAST WEEK.**

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Councillor Bodanza made a motion to adjourn. Councuillor Chalfioux-Zephir seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

- Katelyn Huffman, City Clerk