

**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 24, 2023**

**JOHN P. MAHAN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

RECEIVED  
LEOMINSTER CITY CLERK  
2023 MAY 23 AM 9:48

**INFORMATION SESSION 6:00 P.M.**

Information session with National Grid regarding the A1/B2 transmission line soil boring project.

**The information session began at 6:00 PM. Stephanie and Bethany, both representatives from National Grid, presented the A1/B2 transmission line project. The PowerPoint Presentation for this information session is subsequently attached to these minutes for future reference.**

**Stephanie Leclair, the National Grid representative explained that this large scale, multi-state project would be implemented to replace old infrastructure with new infrastructure for safety.**

**Councillo Bodanza asked where the additional clearing would occur. Ms. Leclair informed him that they did not have a map to depict the clearing, but would confer with their team and provide an appropriate map and response to illustrate the new clearing.**

**Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir asked how much larger the new poles would be.**

**Ms. Leclair informed the Council that the new infrastructure would be about 43 feet taller.**

**Councillor Angelini asked to see a copy of the EENF notice, as the link provided for it did not work. He also asked if National Grid is still a party in the administrative consent order #000662.**

**Ms. Leclair stated they would find out this information and get back to the Council with it.**

**Councillor Freda asked if National Grid is using any defoliants?**

**Ms. Leclair stated they would find out this information and get back to the Council with it.**

**Councillor David Cormier asked if all easement infrastructure would be removed and placed back as it was originally found, or in better condition.**

**Ms. Leclair stated that it would be put back as it was found or better.**

**Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir asked if the same amount of wires would be placed on the new infrastructure.**

**Ms. Leclair stated it would be the same amount of wires.**

**Councillor Brady asked what the overall budget for the project was.**

**Ms. Leclair stated they would find out this information and get back to the Council with it.**

**Councillor Angelini asked three times if anyone from the public wanted to speak. No one spoke.**

**The public information session concluded at 6:24 PM.**

## **PUBLIC HEARING, 6:35 P.M.**

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

**The public hearing opened at 6:35 PM. Councillor Pauline Cormier asked Ellen Racine, CDBG coordinator, to provide an overview of the proposed CDBG budget.**

**Ms. Racine informed the Council that the CDBG program is to provide low to moderate income household with money from HUD to help them stay in their homes. A lien is placed on the property, so when it is sold, the money goes back to the program to help with future home improvements and families through the program.**

**Councillor Pauline Cormier asked how many people were assisted in the past year.**

**Ms. Racine informed the City Council that last year, about 380 people were assisted through the program.**

**Councillor Pauline Cormier asked the process for someone to apply for help.**

**Ms. Racine informed the Council that it is an income based program. A application must be filled out and proof of assets submitted. Once the application is submitted a HUD certified inspector will assist in making a determination on the type of aid allowed. The Mayor makes the final decision.**

**Councillor Pauline Cormier asked what the budget for this year looked like.**

**Ms. Racine informed the Council that is similar to last year's budget. There has been an additional charity included, and one removed due to not meeting the legal requirements of the program.**

**Councillor Pauline Cormier asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak for or against the communication. No one spoke. The public hearing closed at 6:46 PM.**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING, 6:40 P.M.**

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)*

**The public hearing opened at 6:47 PM. Councillor Angelini asked that the Police Chief and Captain provide the City Council with an overview of the proposed ordinance.**

**Captain Fraher informed the City Council that the packet provided included information from the ATF of Massachusetts. He outlined the process for a Firearms dealer to apply for a license to do business. He stated these businesses can only operate in commercial areas no mixed use, or otherwise as per MGL. The intent of this is to ensure that the City does not experience an overburden of shops as Littleton has.**

**Councillor Bodanza asked if the ordinance is written in such a way that it will not make it impossible for people to open shops, but is restrictive enough to meet the cities needs.**

**Captain Fraher stated that he worked with the City Solicitor to craft the ordinance, which was mirrored from like communities, and that this would allow businesses to open in commercial areas if they met the requirements.**

**Councillor Freda asked why churches are not included in the buffer zone cited in the ordinance.**

**Captain Fraher explained that this was due to the fact that a church can locate anywhere. If they were to move in next to an establishd dealer 10 years later, they would have to revoke the gun shops license due to the new church moving in, which seemed unfair. He stated that if the Council wished to amend the wording to include a buffer from churches, he would not contest it.**

**Councillor Angelini asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak for or against the petition. No one spoke.**

**The public hearing closed at 7:09 PM.**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING, 6:40 P.M.**

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)*

**The public hearing opened at 7:09 PM. Councillor Angelini asked Captain Fraher to provide man overview of the ordinance as proposed.**

**Captain Fraher stated that this oridnance is proposed to prevent pawnshops from selling firearm accessroies. The Police Department felt it would be best if licensed firearm dealers and professionals only**

**be allowed to sell these types of accessories as they are certified to do so.**

**Councillor Bodanza asked whether the suggestion to include specificity in the definition of the alarm system required in the ordinance was incorporated.**

**Captain Fraher informed the Council that this specificity was included in the proposed ordinance.**

**Councillor Angelini asked three times if anyone from the public wanted to speak for or against the petition. No one spoke.**

**The public hearing closed at 7:18 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 7:18 PM. Council President David Cormier asked three times if anyone wanted to speak regarding an item listed on the agenda. No one spoke. The public forum closed at 7:19 PM.**

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- I. REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, 7:00 P.M.**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. ROLL CALL OF COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**Others Present: Katelyn Huffman, City Clerk; Maribel Perez, Assistant City Clerk.**

**IV. APPROVAL OF RECORDS**

- March 13, 2023 – **Approved and placed on file.**
- March 27, 2023 – **Approved and placed on file.**
- April 10, 2023 – **Approved and placed on file.**

**V. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

Money Orders

C-63            Dean J. Mazzarella, Mayor: Request that an appropriation of \$60,000.00 be made to the Police Indemnification Accounts and the same to be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Account. *(Finance Committee; Regular Course 04/24/2023; Majority Vote)*

**This communication was given regular course.**

C-64            Dean J. Mazzarella, Mayor: Request that an appropriation of \$1,000,000.00 be made to the Street Resurfacing Expense Account; the same to be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Account. *(Finance Committee; Regular Course 04/24/2023; Majority Vote)*

**This communication was given regular course.**

C-65            Dean J. Mazzarella, Mayor: Request that an appropriation of \$250,000.00 be made to the Police Department Overtime Account; the same amount to be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Account. *(Finance Committee; Regular Course 04/24/2023; Majority Vote)*

**This communication was given regular course.**

Appointments

Dean J. Mazzarella, Mayor: request the reappointment of the following individual:

**Historical Commission: term to expire 04/15/2026**

Rocco Palmieri                      20 Haynes Court                      Leominster, MA

*(Ways & Means Committee; Regular Course 04/24/2023; Majority Vote)*

**This appointment was given regular course.**

**VI.      PETITIONS FIRST TIME ON THE AGENDA**

37-23                      Christopher Rivard: Request to renew transient vendor license. *(Ways and Means; Regular Course 04/24/2023; Majority Vote)*

**This petition was given regular course.**

38-23                      North Central MA Launch, LLC D/B/A Launch Leominster: Request a bowling alley license for Launch Leominster, 118 Commercial Road, Leominster, MA. *(Ways and Means; Regular Course 04/24/2023; Public Hearing May 8, 2023, at 6:50 PM; Majority Vote)*

**This petition was given regular course and it was recommended that a public hearing be held May 8, 2023 at 6:50 PM. By a vote of 9-0 the public hearing was set.**

39-23                      Sterling Jewelers Inc. D/B/A Kay Jewelers #1285: Request to renew license to deal second hand articles, 100 Commercial Road, Leominster, MA. *(Ways and Means; Regular Course 04/24/2023; Majority Vote)*

**This petition was given regular course.**

**PETITIONS FIRST TIME ON THE AGENDA, continued**

40-23            Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Spruce St - National Grid to install 1 SO Pole on Spruce St beginning at a point approximately 450' feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Whitney St and continuing approximately 20' feet in a south direction. Install Pole # 4-5 approximately 50' west of Pole # 4 for new transformer bank to temporarily feed 31 Spruce St.

Location approximately as shown on plan attached

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked - Spruce St - Leominster - Massachusetts.

No.# 30707914 April 14, 2023

Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

Your petitioner agrees to reserve space for one cross-arm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police, telephone, and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes. *(Public Service; Regular Course 04/24/2023; Public Hearing 05/08/2023 at 6:45 PM; Majority Vote)*

**This petition was given regular course and it was recommended that a public hearing be held May 8, 2023 at 6:45 PM. By a vote of 9-0 the public hearing was set.**

41-23            Entertainment Cinemas Leominster, LLC: Request to renew theater license located at 45 Sack Blvd, Leominster, MA. *(Ways & Means; Regular Course 04/24/2023; Majority Vote)*

**This petition was given regular course.**



**VII. MATTERS BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL**

**VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT – STABILIZATION FUND BALANCE: \$20,968,098.00**

**IX. FINANCE**

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

**The Council President asked the Ways and Means Committee to handle this communication.**

**The Ways and Means Committee recommended that the City Council GRANT the CDBG Budget/Action Plan for Year 49. By a vote of 9-0 (Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir recused herself from the portion regarding Ginny's as she has a potential conflict of interest) the CDBG Budget was GRANTED.**

- 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*)

**The Finance Committee recommended that the City Council ADOPT the communication. By a vote of 9-0 the communication was ADOPTED.**

- 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*)

**The Finance Committee recommended that the City Council GRANT the petition. By a vote of 9-0 the petition was GRANTED.**

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*)

**The Finance Committee recommended that the City Council GRANT the petition. By a vote of 9-0 the petition was GRANTED.**

**X. LEGAL AFFAIRS**

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*)

**The Legal Affairs Committee recommended that the City Council GRANT the petition. By a vote of 9-0 the petition was GRANTED.**

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*)

**The Legal Affairs Committee recommended that the City Council GRANT the petition. By a vote of 9-0 the petition was GRANTED.**

## XI. WAYS & MEANS

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

**The Ways and Means Committee recommended that the City Council CONFIRM the reappointments. By a vote of 9-0 the appointments were CONFIRMED.**

## XII. NEW BUSINESS

### **First Reading of an Ordinance**

- 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 Legal Affairs Committee recommended that this first reading of an ordinance be given FURTHER TIME as the City Solicitor had not yet submitted the ordinance form. By a vote of 9-0 the first reading of the ordinance was given FURTHER TIME.**

### **XIII. OLD BUSINESS**

#### Second 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 this due to a possible conflict of interest. The Legal Affairs Committee recommended that the City Council ADOPT the second reading of the ordinance. By a roll call vote of 8-0-1 (Councillor Angelini recused due to a possible conflict of interest) the second reading of the ordinance was ADOPTED.**

### **XIV. COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

- **DOG TAG FLAG – APRIL 28, 2023 – APRIL 30, 2023 – JOHNNY ROBERGE PARK – APRIL 29, 2023, AT 11 AM IS THE CEREMONY.**
- **MMCA EMAIL SENT OUT FOR APRIL 27. MEETING AT GRILL ON THE HILL FROM 6PM TO 8PM. ATTY NOONAN WILL SPEAK ON ISSUES REGARDING SOCIAL MEDIA.**
- **MEMORIAL DAY EVENT UPCOMING. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED ON NEXT TWO AGENDAS.**
- **MEDAL OF FIDELITY WILL OCCUR ON MAY 11. MORE INFORMATON TO FOLLOW ON NEXT AGENDA.**

### **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

**Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir moved to adjourn. Councillor Bodanza seconded the motion. By a vote of 9-0 the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:46PM.**

- Katelyn Huffman, City Clerk