

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

JUNE 12, 2023

JOHN P. MAHAN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION, 6:45 P.M.

Regarding street paving and sidewalk construction/repair.

The public information session began at 6:45 PM. Ray Racine, DPW Director and Mark Piermarini, Assistant DPW Director were present. They provided the City Council with an overview of the street and sidewalk paving process and explained that they had a top 100 list of streets that needed to be paved. They picked from the list using Chapter 90 money and City provided funding. Not every street could be selected.

Councillor Freda asked why some unaccepted streets were selected and not others.

Mr. Racine explained that he could not select every street, but they did select unaccepted streets that posed an immediate road safety issue for emergency services and that were closest to being accepted by the City.

Councillor Brady asked who to report a road that needed repair to.

Mr. Racine stated that it is best to call the DPW to report it.

Councillor Pauline Cormier asked if a constituent could pave over a sidewalk when doing their driveway.

Mr. Racine said no, they should call DPW to inspect the sidewalk first before making that decision.

Councillor Angelini applauded the DPW for their hard work and continued dedication to City and its roads.

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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 7:06 PM. John DeCicco, 193 North Main Street, spoke in favor of petition 46-23. He stated that he thought the closure of the Leominster Labor and Delivery department would be detrimental to the city and surrounding areas and that the Council should support the resolution opposing the closure of the Labor and Delivery department at the hospital.

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

The regular meeting of the City Council convened at 7:00 PM. Councillor Bodanza made a motion to recess. Councillopr Chalifoux-Zephir seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 9-0. The meeting went into recess at 7:01 PM and reconvened at 7:10 PM.

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

- May 8, 2023 - **These minutes were approved as amended and placed on file.**
- May 22, 2023 - **These minutes were approved as amended and placed on file.**

- June 5, 2023 - **These minutes were approved as amended and placed on file.**

V. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Money Orders

- C-85 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor: Request that an appropriation of \$58,000.00 be made to the Election Capital Account and the same to be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Account. *(Finance Committee; Regular Course 06/12/2023; Majority Vote)*

This communication was given regular course.

- C-86 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor: Request that an appropriation of \$45,000.00 be made to the Medicare Insurance Account; the same to be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Account. *(Finance Committee; Regular Course 06/12/2023; Majority Vote)*

This communication was given regular course.

- C-87 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor: Request that an appropriation of \$2,000,000 be made to the Capital Stabilization Fund; the same amount to be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Account (undesignated Fund Balance). *(Finance Committee; Regular Course; Majority Vote)*

This communication was given regular course.

- C-88 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor: Request that an appropriation of \$10,000.00 be transferred from the Library's Personnel Budget to the Library's Operating Budget:

\$8,000.00 from Part-time to Light

\$1,000.00 from Clerk's to Light

\$1,000.00 from Librarians to Light

(Finance Committee; Regular Course 06/12/2023; Majority Vote)

This communication was given regular course.

- C-89 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor: Request that an appropriation of \$25,000.00 be made to the department of Public Works Highway Overtime Account; the same to be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Account. *(Finance Committee; Regular Course 06/12/2023; Majority Vote)*

This communication was given regular course.

C-90 Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor: Request to accept the local transportation funding aid of \$1,132,023.00 from the Massachusetts Department of Transports into the Highway State Aid Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account. RE: Chapter 90 Supplement Budget Award for Fiscal Year 2024. *(Finance Committee; Regular Course 06/12/2023; Majority Vote)*

This communication was given regular course.

Appointments

Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor: Request confirmation of the appointment of Nicole LaPlante to the position of Treasure/Collector for the City of Leominster for a term of three years; effective June 27, 2023. *(Ways & Means Committee; Regular Course 06/12/2023; Majority Vote)*

This appointment was given regular course. A resume was requested. A interview was scheduled for 06/26/2023 at 6:40 PM)

Dean J. Mazzearella, Mayor: Request the confirmation of the permanent appointment of Aaron F. Kennedy to the position of Chief of Police for the City of Leominster for a term of five years, effective July 1, 2023. *(Ways & Means; Regular Course 06/12/2023; Majority Vote)*

This appointment was given regular course. A resume was requested. A interview was scheduled for 06/26/2023 at 6:45 PM)

VI. PETITIONS FIRST TIME ON THE AGENDA

45-23 Julio Ramos, Officer; Leominster Police Department: Request an ordinance Amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinance entitled "Motor Vehicles and Traffic."

Chapter 13, Section 13-24 of the Revised Ordinance entitled "No Parking on Certain Streets" is hereby amended by inserting the following text:

West Street (north side headed west) from point beginning 709 feet from the intersection of Blossom Street to a point of 794 feet from said intersection. *(Legal Affairs Committee; Regular Course; 06/12/2023; Public Hearing 06/26/2023, at 6:45 PM.)*

This petition was given regular course and a public hearing was set for June 26, 2023, at 6:45 PM. A sketch of the proposed ordinance was requested.

47-23 David R. Cormier, Ward 3 Councillor: Request to Amend Chapter 13-77 “Stop signs” and add the following: eastbound traffic on Richard Road at Central Street. *(Legal Affairs Committee; Regular Course 06/12/2023; Public Hearing 06/26/2023 at 6:47 PM)*

This petition was given regular course and a public hearing was set for June 26, 2023, at 6:47 PM. A referral from the Traffic Division was requested.

48-23 David R. Cormier, Ward 3 Councillor: Request to install a stop sign against southbound traffic on Richard Road at Sawtelle Road. *(Legal Affairs Committee; Regular Course 06/12/2023; Public Hearing 06/26/2023 at 6:48 PM)*

This petition was given regular course and a public hearing was set for June 26, 2023, at 6:48 PM. A referral from the Traffic Division was requested.

49-23 David R. Cormier, Ward 3 Councillor: Request to install a stop sign against northbound traffic on Kurasowicz Lane at Richard Road. *(Legal Affairs Committee; Regular Course 06/12/2023; Public Hearing 06/26/2023 at 6:49 PM)*

This petition was given regular course and a public hearing was set for June 26, 2023, at 6:49 PM. A referral from the Traffic Division was requested.

50-23 David R. Cormier, Ward 3 Councillor: Request to install a stop sign against southbound traffic on Kurasowicz Lane at Sawtelle Road. *(Legal Affairs Committee; Regular Course 06/12/2023; Public Hearing 06/26/2023 at 6:50 PM)*

This petition was given regular course and a public hearing was set for June 26, 2023, at 6:50 PM. A referral from the Traffic Division was requested.

51-23 Gregory C. Chapdelaine, Purchasing Agent: Request to allow the Purchasing Agent to award a contract for the lease of space for a five-year period. **RE: Petition to enter into five-year contract – Lease of Space for Leominster Center for Excellence.** *(Finance Committee; Regular Course 06/12/2023; Majority Vote)*

This petition was given regular course. It was requested that the purchasing agent provide any information regarding the RFP process and what the city is looking for in terms of the lease.

52-23 Julio Ramos, Officer; Leominster Police Department: Request to Amend Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinance entitled “Motor Vehicles and Traffic.”

Chapter 13, Section 13-24 of the Revised ordinance entitled “No Parking on Certain Streets” is hereby amended by **deleting** the following text:

Stearns Avenue (north side) from Highland Avenue to Blossom Street, between the hours of 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Stearns Avenue (south side) from Highland Avenue to Blossom Street, between the hours of 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Chapter 13, Section 13-24 of the Revised ordinance entitled “No parking on Certain Streets” is hereby amended by **inserting** the following text:

Stearns Avenue (north side) from Highland Avenue to Arlington Street, between the hours of 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday-Friday

Stearns Avenue (south side) from Highland Avenue to Arlington Street, between the hours of 7:30AM to 3:30 PM, Monday-Friday (*Legal Affairs; Regular Course 06/12/2023; Public Hearing 06/26/2023 at 6:40 PM; Majority Vote*)

This petition was given regular course. A public hearing was set for 06/26/2023 at 6:40 PM. A sketch or drawing of the proposed ordinance was requested.

53-23 Julio Ramos, Officer; Leominster Police Department: Request to Amend Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinance entitled “Motor Vehicles and Traffic.”

Chapter 13, Section 13-24 of the Revised Ordinance entitled “No Parking on Certain Streets” is hereby amended by inserting the following text:

Blossom Street (east side) beginning at the intersection of Stearns Avenue and Blossom Street (headed south) ending at 100 feet from the intersection, between the hours of 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday-Friday

Blossom Street (west side) beginning at the intersection of Stearns Avenue and Blossom Street (headed south) ending at 100 feet from the intersection, between the hours of 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM, Monday-Friday (*Legal Affairs; Regular Course 06/12/2023; Public Hearing 06/26/2023 at 6:43 PM; Majority Vote*)

This petition was given regular course. A public hearing was set for 06/26/2023 at 6:43 PM.

VII. MATTERS BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL

VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT -STABILIZATION FUND BALANCE: \$21,046,586.00

IX. FINANCE

- C-82 Dean J. Mazzarella, Mayor: Request an appropriation of \$44,180.15 be made to the Library's Operating Account; the same amount to be transferred from the Library's State Aide to Public Library Account. RE: Security camera replacement project. *(Finance Committee; Regular Course 05/22/2023; Majority Vote)*

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

ORDERED: By a vote of 9-0 the order was ADOPTED.

- C-83 Dean J. Mazzarella, Mayor: Request an appropriation of \$20,000.00 be made to the Library's Operating Account; the same amount to be transferred from the Library's State Aid to Public Library Account. RE: Book purchases. *(Finance Committee; Regular Course 05/22/2023; Majority Vote)*

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

ORDERED: By a vote of 9-0 the order was ADOPTED.

- C-84 Dean J. Mazzarella, Mayor: Request that an appropriation of \$1,343,653.00 be made to the School Transportation Expense Account; the same amount to be transferred from the Excess and Deficiency Account. *(Finance Committee; Regular Course 06/05/2023; Majority Vote)*

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

ORDERED: By a vote of 9-0 the order was ADOPTED.

X. WAYS AND MEANS

- 46-23 Susan Chalifoux-Zephir, Councillor At-Large; Request that the City Council ADOPT the attached resolution. *(Ways & Means Committee; Regular Course; 06/05/2023; Majority Vote)*

Councillor Bodanza made a motion to amend the resolution by adding two additional WHEREAS clauses. Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by a vote of 9-0.

Councillor Freda informed the Council she had spoken with Linda Young, President and CEO of UMass Health, and informed her about the lack of communication and the blindsided nature of this announcement. She informed Councillor Freda that she would have Eric Dickson contact the Council and set up a time where he could speak to them about the closure of the Labor and Delivery ward.

By a roll call vote of 9-0 the amended RESOLUTION was ADOPTED.

XI. TABLED ITEMS IN WHICH ACTION IS PROPOSED

- 13-18 Accept the deed for Katie Lane and request the street be taken by eminent domain by the City of Leominster. Petitioner offers to pay any legal fees that may be incurred. *(Tabled 11/27/2017)*

By a vote of 9-0 the petition was taken off the table.

The Legal Affairs Committee recommended that the City Council give the petition FURTHER TIME and that new referrals be sought from the Planning Department and DPW. By a vote of 9-0 the petition was given FURTHER TIME.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

XIV. COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- **Councillor Bodanza informed the Council that on Saturday, June 17, 2023, there would be the observance of Juneteenth at the Drake house at 21 Franklin Street. Free tours would be provided from 1PM-3PM.**

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Councillor Chalifoux-Zephir made a motion to adjourn. Councillor Ardinger seconded the motion. By a vote of 9-0 the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

- Katelyn Huffman, City Clerk