

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 4, 2023
Meeting held in-person at 50 Payson Avenue and remotely by Google Meet
6:00 p.m.

Members Present: President Homar Gomez, Vice-President Salem Derby, Owen Zaret, Koni Denham, Daniel Rist, David Meunier, Thomas Peake and Brad Riley were present in person. Councilor James Kwiecinski was present remotely.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: None available.

Public Speak Time Summary: None.

Communications from elected officials, boards and committees: None.

Mayor Communications:

5% Local Retirement COLA Option: Mayor LaChapelle had submitted a recommendation to allow the Retirement Board to increase the FY 2023 COLA for retirees up to 5%. This option is available due to legislation signed by Governor Baker in November. The increase would be retroactive to July 1, 2022. The Retirement Board had approved up to a 3% increase, but after waiting and watching the markets, it had been determined the additional 2% was well within financial projections. City Auditor Hetal Patel said the increase would have no monetary impact and would not impact the projection of the retirement system being fully funded by 2029.

There were no objections to voting on this motion at tonight's meeting as there is no appropriation involved.

On motion made by Councilor Rist and seconded by Councilor Peake it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) in accordance with Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022, the City Council approves implementation of the local retirement system option to increase the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Fiscal Year 2023 to 5% of the base amount specified pursuant to MGL Chapter 32, Section 103.

Announcements & President/Vice-President Communications: None.

Reports of Standing Committees:

FINANCE: Councilor Rist reported the Finance Committee will meet next on Jan. 11th at 5:15 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilor Zaret reported the Public Safety Committee would meet next on Feb. 21st.

APPOINTMENTS: Councilor Riley reported the Appointments Committee will meet next on Jan. 12th.

ORDINANCE: Councilor Derby reported the Ordinance Committee will meet next on Jan. 5th. They will be discussing both the Vacant Storefront ordinance and amendments to Sec. 6-23.

PROPERTY: Councilor Kwiecinski said that the City Planner had asked to remove the agenda item for a MassDevelopment Memorandum of Agreement on the Pleasant Street mills. On motion made by Councilor Kwiecinski and seconded by Councilor Rist it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to withdraw this item from the agenda.

RULES & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS: Councilor Rist reported the Rules Committee would meet next on Jan. 11th at 6:15 p.m. following the Finance Committee meeting.

New Business:

- a. Mayoral appointments: On motion made by Councilor Derby and seconded by Councilor Zaret it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to refer three Mayoral appointments to the Appointments Committee.

- b. Supplemental Appropriation: First reading by Councilor Rist on a request to appropriate \$3,000,000.00 from Free Cash to Stabilization Funds. On motion made by Councilor Rist and seconded by Councilor Peake it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to refer this request to the Finance Committee.

On motion made by Councilor Derby and seconded by Councilor Zaret it was unanimously voted (by roll call) that this meeting **ADJOURN**.

TIME: 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Barbara L. LaBombard
Clerk to the City Council