

**CITY OF WOBURN
CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL
WOBURN CITY HALL
COMMITTEE ROOM
MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024 – 7:09 P.M.**

Voting members present: Chair Joanne Campbell, Councilor Joseph Demers, and Councilor Robert Toro

Non-Voting members present: President Jeffrey Dillon, Councilor Lou DiMambro, Councilor William Pappalardo, Councilor Joseph Demers, Councilor Charles Viola, and Councilor Darlene Mercer-Bruen

Also present: Mayor Michael Concannon

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Reading and approval of meeting minutes of March 11, 2024: Motion made by Councilor Toro and seconded by Councilor Demers to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2024; approved, 3-0.

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Appointment of Tracy A. R. Jolly to the Woburn Board of Registrars of Voters: Chair Campbell asked Ms. Jolly to tell the committee about herself and why she is interested in a position on the Board of Registrars of Voters. Ms. Jolly said she is virtually a lifelong resident of Woburn. She said she was a Woburn Police officer and is currently a member of the Woburn Public Library Board of Trustees. She said she will resign from the library board if her appointment to the Board of Registrars of Voters is confirmed. She said she has enjoyed working with the Woburn Public Library but she is ready to move on to a different venture with this role on the Board of Registrars of Voters. Chair Campbell said members of the Board of Registrars of Voters are expected to be available for elections and other election-related business and asked if that will be an issue for Ms. Jolly. Ms. Jolly said she works from home and her schedule is very flexible. Councilor Toro thanked Ms. Jolly for coming in for an interview. He said he thinks Ms. Jolly will be a great addition to the Board of Registrars of Voters. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro to suspend the council's rules to allow any member of the council not on the committee to address the appointment; approved, 3-0. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said she agrees with what Councilor Toro said. She said Ms. Jolly has been a great asset to the community and thanked her for her willingness to serve on the Board of Registrars of Voters. Councilor Demers said he has gotten a chance to know Ms. Jolly and he thinks she will be a good addition to the board. He said there have been changes to election policy and he thinks Ms. Jolly's background as a lawyer is important. President Dillon said in a previous term he was the City Council's liaison to the Woburn Public Library and he was very impressed by Ms. Jolly's work with the board of trustees, particularly with her legal background. He said he thinks Ms.

Jolly will do similarly good work with the Board of Registrars of Voters. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro to return to the regular order of business; approved, 3-0. Motion made by Councilor Toro and seconded by Councilor Demers that the appointment of Tracy A.R. Jolly to the Woburn Board of Registrars of Voters “ought to pass;” approved, 3-0.

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Appointment of Kathryn Haughn to the Woburn Commission on Disability: Chair Campbell said it has been a long wait for Ms. Haughn and thanked her for her patience. Ms. Haughn said she wants to say she has some challenges and said the committee may need to be patient with her. She said she has lived in Woburn for 11 years. She said she is a former educator at the middle school and high school levels. She said she currently works part-time for the Boys & Girls Club of Stoneham and Wakefield. She said she worked at Bitty & Beau’s. She said she has been living with Multiple Sclerosis for more than eight years. She said in 2018 she had a life-changing event. She said she is absolutely committed to people with disabilities. She said she and some co-workers at Bitty & Beau’s opened a coffee shop in Wakefield called Inspire Café. She said she feels like she will offer unique insight to the Commission on Disability. Councilor Demers said it is very inspirational that Ms. Haughn is here. He said it is important to have someone who is facing challenges to be part of policy-making. Councilor Toro said he is a former Commission on Disability member. He said he loves to see the applicants that Mayor Concannon has been appointing to the commission. He said the commission underwent a big reorganization five years ago and Ms. Haughn will be joining an active and engaged commission. Motion made by Commissioner Toro and seconded by Commissioner Demers to suspend the council’s rules to allow any member of the council not on the committee to address Ms. Haughn’s appointment. Councilor Viola thanked Ms. Haughn for her willingness to volunteer. He said his mother has lived with Multiple Sclerosis for 50 years. He said hopefully there will be a cure soon. He said he is happy to see the commission is getting invigorated. Ms. Haughn said she will bring some ideas she has discussed with friends from Inspire Café. She said hopefully there will be a cross-community dynamic. Councilor Ferullo thanked Ms. Haughn for her willingness to serve the community and her willingness to put herself out there. He also thanked Mayor Concannon for making appointments to the Commission on Disability a priority. President Dillon said the Commission on Disability is a very important body and he thanked Ms. Haughn for her courage. Chair Campbell said she loves that there will be an exchange of ideas that Ms. Haughn will bring from Inspire Café. She said she thinks Mayor Concannon has made a wonderful choice in nominating Ms. Haughn. Councilor Pappalardo said he thinks inspirational is the right term for Ms. Haughn. Councilor DiMambro said he wants to echo his colleagues’ comments about Ms. Haughn’s courage and inspiration. He said Ms. Haughn has an energy about her. He said the Commission on Disability is an important part of the community. Councilor Mercer-Bruen welcomed Ms. Haughn aboard. She said if there is anything she or the commission needs she should not hesitate to reach out to the council. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro that the nomination of Kathryn Haughn to the Woburn Commission on Disability “ought to pass;” approved, 3-0.

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Motion made by Councilor Toro and seconded by Councilor Demers to suspend the City Council's rules to allow Mayor Concannon to address the committee in regard to the nominees; approved, 3-0.

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Appointment of Sarkis S. Chinian as the Chair of the Woburn Board of Registrars of Voters: Mayor Concannon said Mr. Chinian is being designated as Chair of the Board of Registrars of Voters. He said he and City Clerk Lindsay Higgins did not feel Mr. Chinian needed to appear at this meeting because he is already a member of the board and familiar to most of the council members. He said Mr. Chinian will be taking the role of Joseph Palmisano, who passed away unexpectedly and tragically earlier this year. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro that the nomination of Sarkis Chinian to as the Chair of the Woburn Board of Registrars of Voters "ought to pass;" approved, 3-0.

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Re-appointment of Paul A. Scanlon to the Woburn Commission on Disability: Mayor Concannon said this is a re-appointment. He said Mr. Scanlon has been a member of the Commission on Disability for several years. Motion made by Councilor Toro and seconded by Councilor Demers that the re-appointment of Paul Scanlon to the Commission on Disability "ought to pass;" approved, 3-0. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro to return to the regular order of business; approved, 3-0.

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Motion made by Councilor Toro and seconded by Councilor Demers to adjourn; all in favor, 3-0. Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees