

**CITY OF WOBURN
CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL
WOBURN CITY HALL
COMMITTEE ROOM
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024 – 6:00 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 Robert Ferullo, Councilor William Pappalardo, and Councilor Charles Viola. Absent: Councilor Darlene Mercer-Bruen

Also present: Mayor Michael Concannon

* * * * *

President Dillon took a moment of personal privilege to recognize National Law Enforcement Week. He thanked Woburn Police Chief Robert Rufo and all the officers in the Woburn Police Dept. for their good work to keep the community safe. He also thanked Councilor Ferullo and for his public safety work when he was Woburn Police Chief and Mayor Concannon for his tenure with the Massachusetts State Police. He also recognized Officer John Maguire and Officer John Gibbons III, both of whom died while in the line of duty, and Officer Robert DeNapoli, who was forced to retire after sustaining serious gunshot wounds while responding to an armed robbery in West Woburn.

* * * * *

Reading and approval of meeting minutes of April 29, 2024: Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the meeting of April 9, 2024, all in favor, 3-0.

* * * * *

Appointment of Edmund F. McGrath to the Woburn Board of Cemetery Commissioners: Chair Campbell said there are three matters before the committee tonight, the first of which is the appointment of Edmund McGrath to the Woburn Board of Cemetery Commissioners. Mayor Concannon said he is pleased to present Mr. McGrath to the committee for consideration to fill a vacancy on the Cemetery Commission. He said he believes this is an outstanding pick and he hopes the committee agrees. He said Mr. McGrath is a lifelong Woburnite who previously served on the cemetery board. He said Mr. McGrath expressed an interest in returning and he could not think of a better pick. Chair Campbell asked Mr. McGrath to tell the committee about himself and why he is interested in joining the Board of Cemetery Commissioners. Mr. McGrath said he taught in the Woburn School system for 38 years and has been working as a substitute teacher for the past 13 years. He said he previously worked at the cemetery for 12 years. He said he will often give students tours of the cemetery. He said it is important for kids to understand history.

Councilor Toro said he has known Mr. McGrath for the past 7-8 years through the Lions Club and he thinks Mr. McGrath is an excellent choice for this position. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro to suspend the City Council's rules to allow any member of the council not on the committee to address the appointment; approved, 3-0. Councilor Pappalardo said he has known Mr. McGrath for a long time. He said Mr. McGrath is the longest standing member of the Woburn Men's Softball League. President Dillon said Mr. McGrath is a man of great character. He said he had Mr. McGrath as a teacher at Woburn High School, though Mr. McGrath may not want to admit that. 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 Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro that the appointment of Edmund F. McGrath to the Woburn Board of Cemetery Commissioners "ought to pass;" approved, 3-0.

* * * * *

Reappointment of Meg Ann Meaney to the Board of Trustees for the Woburn Public

Library: Mayor Concannon said candidates for reappointment are usually not required to appear before the committee, but Ms. Meaney is available if needed. He said he is pleased to present Ms. Meaney as a candidate for another term on the library's board of trustees. He said Ms. Meaney has fostered a great relationship with the other members of the board. He said she is doing a great job and urged the committee to endorse her reappointment. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro that the reappointment of Meg Ann Meaney to the Board of Trustees of the Woburn Public Library "ought to pass;" approved, 3-0.

* * * * *

Reappointment of John Sawyer to the Woburn Board of Cemetery Commissioners: Mayor Concannon said Mr. Sawyer is here tonight to answer any questions the committee may have. He said Mr. Sawyer is a long-time member of the Cemetery Commission and runs a tight ship. He said he is proud to present Mr. Sawyer as a candidate for reappointment. Chair Campbell asked Mr. Sawyer to give the committee an update. Mr. Sawyer said there is a good crew at the cemetery. He said it is a very busy place. He said the staff thoroughly enjoys the every day work and the commission appreciates their efforts. He said there is a landscaping contractor that maintains the grounds. Councilor Toro said Mr. Sawyer is one of his neighbors and he has always been a good neighbor. He said he and Mr. Sawyer have had discussions about landscaping at the cemetery. He said he can personally attest Mr. Sawyer cares about landscaping because of the way his lawn looks. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro that the reappointment of Mr. Sawyer to the Woburn Cemetery Commission "ought to pass;" approved, 3-0.

* * * * *

Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro to adjourn, all in favor, 3-0. Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees