

**CITY OF WOBURN
CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL
WOBURN CITY HALL
COMMITTEE ROOM
MONDAY, JULY 1, 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, Councilor Charles Viola, and Councilor Darlene Mercer-Bruen

Also present: Mayor Michael Concannon

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Reading and approval of meeting minutes of May 28, 2024: Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the meeting of May 28, 2024, all in favor, 3-0.

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Appointment of Charles T. Culhane to the Woburn Golf & Ski Authority: Mayor Concannon said Mr. Culhane is literally a lifelong public servant. He said Mr. Culhane is totally committed to the city of Woburn. He said Mr. Culhane has a good way about him. He said Mr. Culhane has a good eye for what can be done to improve operations at the Woburn Golf & Ski Authority. Chair Campbell asked Mr. Culhane to tell the committee about himself and why he is interested in joining the Woburn Golf & Ski Authority. Mr. Culhane said he grew up on Waltham Street, went to Woburn High and is a retired lieutenant from the Winchester Police Dept. He said he is a longtime member of the United Veterans Council and a 35-year member of the Woburn Country Club. Councilor Demers said he always asks any appointees to the WG&SA to continue to promote youth programs. He said the youth golfers are future members. Mr. Culhane said the future of the country club is junior golf. He said the PGA runs a program for junior golfers in the spring and fall. He said there is a citywide golf tournament for junior golfers and it is a super time for the kids. Motion made by Councilor Toro and seconded by Councilor Demers to suspend the council's rules to allow any member of the council not on the committee to address the appointment; approved, 3-0. President Dillon said Mr. Culhane's reputation is well-known. He said Mr. Culhane is a hard worker. He said Mayor Concannon's picks for municipal boards get better and better. Councilor Viola said he has known Mr. Culhane for many years. He said he will support Mr. Culhane's nomination. Councilor DiMambro thanked Mr. Culhane for his years of service. He said it is important to get the youth involved, at the high school, middle school and elementary school levels. He said guys like Mr. Culhane train them right. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro that the appointment of Mr. Culhane to the Woburn Golf & Ski Authority "ought to pass;" approved, 3-0.

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Appointment of Robert J. Klein to the Woburn Planning Board: Mayor Concannon said he would like to keep this matter in committee until August.

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Appointment of John J. Garcia to the Board of Trustees for the Woburn Public Library:

Mayor Concannon said Mr. Garcia is a lifelong Woburnite who grew up in East Woburn. He said Mr. Garcia is a graduate of Woburn High and has family in Woburn. He said Mr. Garcia has time to commit to the library board, has good judgment and will be a great asset to the board. Chair Campbell asked Mr. Garcia to tell the committee about himself and why he wants to join the Woburn Public Library Board of Trustees. Mr. Garcia said he has a background in engineering. He said Mr. Garcia has really been excited about what has been going on at the library. He said he watched the library director give a presentation a few weeks ago and he was impressed. He said he would like to be involved in facilitating STEM objectives. He said he thinks he can help with that. He said he will have more time to get involved. Councilor Toro asked what interests Mr. Garcia has in the STEM realm. Mr. Garcia said he has been involved in a lot of programs that involved engagement by younger learners. President Dillon said he graduated from high school with Mr. Garcia in 1977. He said he was a top-notch good kid at the high school. He said he thinks Mr. Garcia will be a good fit for the library. He said he thinks Mr. Garcia is going to get in there and do a good job. Councilor Pappalardo said he has known Mr. Garcia for 50 years. He said he has no doubt Mr. Garcia will do a good job. Councilor DiMambro said he likes the fact that Mr. Garcia has an engineering background. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro that the appointment of John Garcia to the Woburn Public Library Board of Trustees “ought to pass;” approved, 3-0.

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Appointment of Maria Zeqo to the Woburn Redevelopment Authority:

Mayor Concannon said Ms. Zeqo is being nominated to replace Arthur Duffy, who stepped down from the WRA. He said Ms. Zeqo is a local banker who works in Woburn Center. He said Ms. Zeqo is very appreciative of an opportunity to give back to the community. Chair Campbell asked Ms. Zeqo to tell the committee about herself and why she is interested in being appointed to a position on the WRA. Ms. Zeqo said she is originally from Albania and has lived in Woburn for the past 16 years. She said she is technically a graduate of Woburn High since she earned her GED while she was living in Woburn. She said she then studied at Northeastern University and Babson College in Wellesley. She said she has been a banker for 17 years, starting first at a bank at Four Corners, then moving to Rockland Trust in Woburn Center and now at Salem 5 in Woburn Center for the past seven years. She said she feels it is time to give back to the community. Councilor Demers said there is a big project coming to Woburn Center and he hopes Ms. Zeqo will be active when the public meeting process starts. He said it will be good to have a fresh face with fresh ideas on the WRA. Councilor Toro asked why Ms. Zeqo wants to join the WRA. Ms. Zeqo said commercial banking is her niche and she thinks she can bring some financial experience to the authority. Councilor DiMambro said he thinks it will be beneficial to have

someone with banking experience on the WRA. Councilor Viola said he thinks it's great Ms. Zeqo wants to give back to the city. President Dillon said he is very impressed with Ms. Zeqo's resume. He said she seems like a perfect fit and she will bring some fresh ideas. He said with the Woburn Center traffic project looming it will be good to have new ideas. Councilor Pappalardo said he is the council's liaison to the WRA. He said Ms. Zeqo seems like she has good energy and she will be a good fit with the authority. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro that the appointment of Maria Zeqo to the Woburn Redevelopment Authority "ought to pass;" approved, 3-0.

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Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Toro to adjourn, all in favor, 3-0. Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees