

**CITY OF WOBURN
WOBURN CITY COUNCIL
ORDINANCES CHARTER & RULES COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ROOM
WOBURN CITY HALL
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.**

Voting members present: Chair Joseph Demers, Councilor Robert Toro, Councilor Robert Ferullo, Councilor Lou DiMambro, and Councilor Mercer-Bruen

Non-voting members present: Councilor Charles Viola, and Councilor Joanne Campbell, and Councilor William Pappardo. Absent: President Jeffrey Dillon

Also present: Mayor Michael Concannon, City Auditor Charles Doherty, and Deputy Fire Chief George Poole

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Reading and approval of previous meeting minutes: Motion made by Councilor Ferullo and seconded by Councilor Toro to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the meeting of July 1, 2024; approved, 5-0.

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Order amending WMC 2-174 Rates of service for City Ambulance services: Mayor Concannon said the fire department periodically reviews the ambulance rates. He said Chief Kenton and Deputy Chief Poole have proposed a reasonable increase. He said the proposed changes put Woburn neither on the top of nor the bottom of the list. He said they are right on average. He said people who receive Medicare and Medicaid have fixed rates and are not affected by this. Deputy Chief Poole said the existing rates were found to be lower than average and these adjustments put the city in the middle of the range. He said these adjustments will only affect privately insured, which he said it about 30 percent of the clientele. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said Woburn has always been toward the bottom of the scale for insurance rates. She said she is glad Woburn is not increasing the rates to the Cadillac level. She said she supports this order 100 percent. Motion made by Councilor Ferullo and seconded by Councilor Mercer-Bruen that the order “ought to pass,” approved, 5-0.

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Order that the City Council fill vacancy in the position of City Engineer: Chair Demers said it is appropriate to table the matter at this time until the next item on the agenda has been adjudicated.

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Order amending WMC Title 2, Administration and Personnel, XXXIV Engineering Department: Chair Demers said the committee has received a red line copy of the ordinance. He said he spoke to the City Clerk who advised him the ordinance was modernized, and there was

input from the Human Resources Director. He said the changes codify the duties and responsibilities so the City Engineer's office can continue to provide the same high level of service as it did under John Corey. He said the City Council is the appointing authority. Councilor DiMambro asked if there is a salary attached. Chair Demers said the salary will be what is budgeted. He said normally the salary does not dip below what is currently budgeted. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said she wants to make sure she does not miss anything. She said under responsibilities in the section that provides review of special permits, she wants to make sure the City Council is included. She said the City Engineer plays a big role in the special permit process for the City Council. Chair Demers said the committee can recommend that amendment. Motion by Councilor Mercer-Bruen and seconded by Councilor DiMambro to add the phrase "and City Council" to the line item "Reviews plans submitted to Planning Department," in Section 2-215 Duties and Responsibilities; all in favor, 5-0. Motion made by Councilor DiMambro and seconded by Councilor Mercer-Bruen to suspend the council's rules to allow Mayor Concannon to address the order; approved, 5-0. Mayor Concannon said Mr. Corey has agreed to stay on an interim basis for 2-3 days per week. He said the ordinance requires him to officially notify the council of Mr. Corey's interim status, and this is that. He said there will be further overlap when the new engineer is hired. Councilor Mercer-Bruen asked if Mr. Corey's salary as a consultant will be coming out of the City Engineer's budget. Mayor Concannon answered affirmatively. Councilor Campbell asked why the committee is not moving forward with item #3 on the posted agenda. Councilor Demers said procedurally the committee has been advised to consider item #4 on the agenda before proceeding to item #3. Motion made by Councilor Ferullo and seconded by Councilor DiMambro that the order "ought to pass," as amended, approved, 5-0.

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Order that the City Council fill vacancy in the position of City Engineer: Chair Demers said this is pretty straightforward. He said the order will be referred to the Personnel Committee to begin the process of hiring the new City Engineer. Motion made by Councilor Toro and seconded by Councilor DiMambro to forward the order to the Committee on Personnel to begin the process of hiring the City Engineer; all in favor, 5-0.

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MOTION made by Councilor Ferullo and seconded by Councilor DiMambro to adjourn; in favor, 4-0. Chair Demers adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees

