

**CITY OF WOBURN  
CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
COMMITTEE ROOM  
WOBURN CITY HALL  
MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025, at 6:07 p.m.**

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**Voting Members present:** Chair Charles Viola, Councilor Joanne Campbell, Councilor Joseph Demers, Councilor Robert Ferullo, and Councilor Darlene Mercer-Bruen

**Non-voting Members present:** Councilor Lou DiMambro, Councilor Robert Toro, and Councilor William Pappalardo. Absent: President Jeffrey Dillon.

**Also present:** Mayor Michael Concannon, City Auditor Charles Doherty, Fire Chief Donald Kenton, City Solicitor Mark Salvati and Human Resource Director Shawna Healy

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**Reading and approval of previous meeting minutes:** Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Ferullo to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the meeting of April 7, 2025; all in favor, 5-0.

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**Order transferring \$135,000.00 from Mayor Salary Adjustment Acct# 0112151-511019 to Building Feasibility Director Salary Acct# 014051-511000:** Chair Viola stated that the item was put on the agenda by himself by mistake. Councilor Demers stated seeing that the ordinance hasn't been entertained yet they should table the matter, Chair Viola agreed to table the matter.

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**Order that \$211,079.93 be transferred from Unreserved Fund Balance Acct# 01-356000 to Police Salaries Acct# 0121051-511000:** Mayor Concannon stated he was joined here tonight by City Auditor Charles Doherty, Human Resource Director Shawna Healey, and City Solicitor Mark Salvati. Mayor Concannon stated this transfer pertains to the superior officers' contract settlement. Mayor Concannon stated that six of the seven contracts have been settled. Motion made by Councilor Mercer-Bruen and seconded by Councilor Demers to suspend the City Council rules to allow any non-voting member of the City Council to speak; approved, 5-0. Councilor Pappalardo asked if the funds were part of FY25 budget and what they are for. Mayor Concannon stated that it was for the superior officers' contract settlement.

Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Ferullo that the license "ought to pass," approved, 5-0.

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**Order that \$425,000.00 be transferred from Unreserved Fund Balance Acct# 01-356000 to Rubbish Removal Acct# 0151552- 529200 for \$305,000.00 and to Recycling Acct# 0151552-**

**529500 for \$120,000.00:** Mayor Concannon said when the City extended the contract with Waste Management there were a couple of items that were not know, one of them was the prevailing wage rate. Mayor Concannon stated they had a place holder in the contract, and when the rates were released in February they were high, \$145,000.00 is for the prevailing wage. Mayor Concannon stated the \$160,000.00 that was placed in the contract as an offset in the event that the city operated its own yard waste recycling in North Woburn. Mayor Concannon stated the City is still working towards that but were not able to implement that this first year of the contract. Mayor Concannon stated that \$120,000.00 is due to an increase in volume and an increase in the market price in the recycling cost which was another variable in the contract. Councilor Campbell asked Mayor Concannon to explain the \$160,000.00-yard waste. Mayor Concannon stated when the city negotiated a contract with Waste Management the City would get a credit for \$160,000.00 if the City were to set up a place where Waste Management could pick up the yard waste at the curb and drop it off somewhere here in the City, it would save us the amount of money in transportation costs. Mayor Concannon stated the City had hopes throughout the year of trying to establish that we've done some work up in North Woburn we have a site identified. Mayor Concannon stated the City has approval of the DEP but want to make sure that whatever plan the City implements that it passes muster with the residents and the City Council. Councilor Campbell asked if the site would be for Waste Management alone or would the residents be able to use the site. Mayor Concannon stated the \$160,000.00 is just an off set for Waste Management to pick up at curb and to bring to the City site to save them the cost. Mayor Concannon stated there are ongoing discussions as to what that could look like, whether the residents might have an option, the City is still working through the pieces and it is part of the discussion. Councilor Campbell asked if we do implement this, will Waste Management still honor that. Mayor Concannon stated yes that it is part of the contract. Mayor Concannon stated it is 160,000.00 per year, we just missed the first year because we haven't established yet. Councilor Campbell stated she has been getting questions regarding the implementation of the trash pickup that is going to take place on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Concannon stated that there will be a community meeting on Thursday here at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Concannon stated they have been updating the FAQ's on the website, as well as Waste Management will be at Thursday meeting to answer any questions. Any questions that come Thursday night they will be added to the FAQ's on the website. Councilor DiMambro stated he has been working with Mayor Concannon as well with the City Engineer Alex Rozycki. Councilor DiMambro stated he and City Engineer Alex Rozycki did a site visit to Manchester by the Sea to check out their recycling, he also did a site visit to Winchester and Lexington to see how they do their waste recycling. Councilor DiMambro stated he also contacted several other recycling outfits on how they go about recycling. DiMambro stated the City is trying to logistical figure out if it can be done in a fashion that is not going to burden the residents of North Woburn, that it going to add benefit and not add problems. Councilor DiMambro stated speaking for himself that at the beginning stages he thought it was going to be fairly easy, but the more he drilled down on it, and the more information he receives the more complicated it seems. Councilor DiMambro stated they haven't hit the mark, still have a way to go. If and when this should be rolled out it would definitely have to go in front of the residence of North Woburn. Councilor Pappalardo asked the Mayor if the new trash containers will be same size as recycle containers or smaller. Mayor Concannon stated they would be the same size as the recycle containers. Councilor Pappalardo asked if it would increase the cost. Mayor Concannon stated there is a small increase the City would be absorbing, it will be about \$20,000.00 that is included

in the FY26 proposed budget. Mayor Concannon stated there maybe people who think the larger binds are too large, but for the most part the larger bin works for most people. Councilor Demers asked if the City was going to be sending a mailer out. Mayor Concannon stated every resident in Woburn will receive a mailer outlining the change within the next couple of weeks. Councilor Campbell asked if another bin could be purchased. Mayor Concannon stated there is an option to lease another bin, as well the option to purchase overflow bags. Councilor DiMambro asked if there is anything in the budget that might be able to have a big piece day where you could put a big piece out or a couple of big pieces out once a month or periodically. Mayor Concannon stated there is a component to the contract which come with a fee, the resident would call Waste Management and make the arrangement to have the big item picked up, but it is not built in to the contract. Councilor Mercer-Bruen stated that July 1<sup>st</sup> if it doesn't fit in the buckets you can't throw it out, as of July 1<sup>st</sup> anything that doesn't fit into the buckets you will have to pay extra. That is the word the City needs to get out right now. Mayor Concannon stated that here is always a transition period the City will work with the residents. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Campbell that the transfer "ought to pass;" approved, 5-0.

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**Order that the sum of \$1,796,000.00 be transferred from Fire/BLS Ambulance Acct# 31359-595000 to Fire Regular Salary Acct# 0122051-511000, Fire Overtime Acct# 0122051-513100, Holiday Acct# 0122051-514500, and Apparatus Maintenance Acct# 0122054-544400:** Mayor stated he is joined by Chief Kenton and Auditor Charles Doherty. Mayor Concannon stated these are the ordinary type of transfers we do. Mayor Concannon stated apparatus maintenance we have an older fleet that requires additional maintenance, put an amount in the budget, but as it has happened in years past need a little bit more to pay the maintenance costs. Mayor Concannon stated the increase in holiday pay is a result of the contract settlement. Auditor Doherty stated the number here is what is needed to finish out the year to bring salaries in line, but also the overtime. Auditor Doherty stated it is an annual transfer that is done, this year is actual well under last year. The City went over a considerable amount last year, through the efforts of the department and the Mayor we have been able to get the overtime to come down, we have already seen over \$300,000.00 reduction in overtime this year. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Campbell that the transfer "ought to pass;" approved 5-0.

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**MOTION** made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Ferullo to adjourn; all in favor, 5-0. Chair Viola adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST

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Diane J. Stiffler  
Assistant City Clerk

