

**CITY OF WOBURN
MARCH 7, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBER, WOBURN CITY HALL**

Roll Call

Campbell	Ferullo
Demers	Gately – Absent
Dillon	Mercer-Bruen
DiMambro	Viola
Concannon	

VOTED to dispense with the reading of the previous meeting’s Journal and to APPROVE, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent).

MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS:

A communication was received from His Honor Mayor Galvin dated March 2, 2023 as follows:

President Concannon and City Council Members

Powers and Sullivan will be available at your next regularly scheduled City Council meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 7:00 pm to discuss the results of the City audit for the year ending 6/30/21. This presentation will last 15 minutes with a Q&A session to follow.

Respectfully, s/Scott D. Galvin, Mayor

City Clerk Higgins stated there are also three handouts from Powers & Sullivan, LLC. Motion made and 2nd that all communications be received and made part of the permanent records, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent). Motion made and 2nd to suspend the rules to allow His Honor Mayor Galvin or his designees to speak on the matter, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent). Mayor Galvin thanked the Council and stated he has been trying to schedule meeting to present this, and it has been a little delinquent. Mayor Galvin stated they will be presenting on the June 2021 report. Mayor Galvin stated during budget time, we will be presenting the June 2022 report. Mayor Galvin recognized Charles Doherty, City Auditor, and Tim Donovan, Treasurer/Collector who were an integral part in this process. Mayor Galvin stated that Frank Serreti and Ben Adsit are here from Powers & Sullivan, LLC to provide a ten minute presentation. Mr. Serreti thanked the Mayor and the city and school financial teams for their assistance. Mr. Serreti stated everybody was very professional and courteous, answered all their questions, and they got the information that they needed. Mr. Serreti stated they are responsible for conducting the audit in accordance with US generally accepted auditing standards, government auditing standards, and the uniform guidance which

relates to the federal awards that the city received. management is responsible for these significant selecting significant accounting policies. Mr. Serreti stated that Note 1 of the financial statements said there were no new policies implemented during FY2021 and there were no changes to the existing policies. Mr. Serreti stated the sum of significant estimates included in the financial statements were mainly for the other most significant ones were for employment, benefit liability, and the net pension liability. Mr. Serreti stated they reviewed the assumptions and factors and they found those to be reasonable. Mr. Serreti stated to the financial statements they didn't encounter any difficulties with management and performing the audit. Mr. Serreti stated they did not have to propose any added adjustments to correct any errors on the City's books and records. Mr. Serreti stated the books and records were in very good shape and they did not have any disagreements with management over any accounting matters and auditing matters. Mr. Serreti stated in some cases management might decide to consult with outside accountants and auditors about accounting and auditing matters, and if the City does this, they request the other firm that they consult with them and are required to just check with them to make sure that they have all the relevant facts and circumstances related to any matters. Mr. Serreti stated for FY2021 audit results they were able to issue an unmodified opinion on the financial statements, which is the best opinion you can get. Mr. Serreti stated that in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles the reporting deadlines are met and the information that they received was accurate. Mr. Serreti stated responses were provided timely and to all his questions. Mr. Serreti stated they didn't identify any significant deficiencies. Mr. Serreti stated there were good controls over the budget process. Mr. Serreti stated for FY2021, the general fund had \$65.7 million, \$7.7 million of that was committed, of that \$4.3 million was committed to the affordable housing stabilization fund, another \$3.4 million relates to continuing appropriations. Mr. Serreti stated there was you also had \$709,000 were for encumbrances, leaving the city with \$57.3 million of unassigned unbalance. Mr. Serreti stated that is a really important number to the rating agencies, and the City ended up in about 36% of your budget for about an \$8.2 million increase to the prior year. Mr. Serreti stated since 2011 the balance was \$19.8 million with about 18% of the budget, so the City is steadily increasing its reserves. Mr. Serreti stated this puts the City in a really strong position and it will allow the City to weather an unexpected storm., and it also allows the City to maintain the AAA bond rating. Mr. Serreti stated from a budgetary result standpoint the City had a \$2.1 million general fund surplus with revenues coming in over budget \$4.8 million. Mr. Serreti stated expenditures were under budget by \$8.4 million. Mr. Serreti stated those were offset by the use of \$8.9 million of free cash. Mr. Serreti stated 3.5 million that was used to reduce the tax rate, \$5 million was transferred into the general stabilization fund, another \$375,000 for a roadway study, and \$750,000 went into the OPEB Trust fund. Mr. Serreti stated that is a significant contribution to the OPEB, which is great, because that helps the City get her a higher discount rate, which will help the City lower the liability and fund it. Mr. Serreti stated on the report for federal awards, it is required for any entities that has received more than \$750,000 in federal funds in a year, the City is required to undergo a single audit. Mr. Serreti stated of the City expended \$8 million in federal funds during the year, majority of that is related to the coronavirus relief fund and the education stabilization fund. Mr. Serreti stated both programs are under the Cares Act, and that was about 62% of the total expenditures. Mr. Serreti stated the two programs were tested and they had no findings in question and were able to issue unmodified opinions on compliance. Mr. Serreti stated the City did a really good job of managing those funds. Mr.

Serreti stated with respect to the management letter, there are seven comments in there that carried over from the prior year. Mr. Serreti stated two were resolved at the end of FY2021, and the purchase order issues is being worked out and is still in progress. Mr. Serreti stated the other four are still in progress as well. Mr. Serreti stated the FY2022 audit is substantially complete and are awaiting on OPEB valuation to be booked and get recorded. Mr. Serreti stated once they get that they will be able to do some testing of the census data and payroll testing and should be wrapping up soon. Upon inquiry from Councilor Dillon, Mr. Serreti stated the AAA bond rating means the City has a very strong financial health. Councilor Mercer-Bruen stated the City is in a position to weather a storm and that is not surprising. Mr. Serreti stated this indicates a lot of hard work the Mayor and the City Council has done and a lot of well thought out planning. Motion made and 2nd to return to the regular order of business, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent). Motion made and 2nd that the MATTER BE PLACED ON FILE, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent).

A communication was received from His Honor Mayor Galvin dated March 2, 2023 as follows:

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.40 §5B and c.44, §53, I am requesting that the City Council establish a special purpose Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund to facilitate the receipt and ultimate distribution of the City’s share of funds from the various opioid settlements.

Woburn’s share of funds from the opioid settlements between the Attorney General’s Office and opioid distributors McKesson, Cardinal, AmerisourceBergen is \$598,973.00 and its share from opioid maker Johnson & Johnson is \$137,673.00. This fiscal year, Woburn has already received \$154,918.00, with additional payments scheduled through 2038. Payments will be distributed through the Commonwealth.

Further, in August of 2023, the City will begin receiving opioid settlement funds on an annual basis from Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens and Walmart as follows:

Walmart	\$86,581.33	to be paid in 6 annual payments
Teva	\$115,586.11	to be paid in 3 annual payments
Allergan	\$68,860.70	to be paid in 7 annual payments
CVS	\$152,893.69	to be paid in 10 annual payments
Walgreens	\$166,255.88	to be paid in 18 annual payments

I am submitting herewith a draft Order for the creation of the Opioid Stabilization Settlement Fund and the initial funding with a transfer of \$154,918.00. As reflected in the draft Order, opioid settlement funds must be used solely to create, or supplement and strengthen, resources available to Woburn residents and families for substance use disorder prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery. Appropriations to the stabilization fund requires only a simple majority vote, while appropriations from the stabilization fund require a 2/3 vote of the City Council.

I will be available to discuss this matter in committee.

Sincerely, Mayor Scott D. Galvin

ORDERED Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Woburn, pursuant to M.G.L. c.40, §5B and c.44, §53, that a special purpose Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund be created into which all opioid settlement proceeds from manufacturers and retailers shall be dedicated and deposited annually, such funds to be used to create, or supplement and strengthen resources available to communities and families for substance use disorder prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery; and further, that the sum of \$154,918.00 be appropriated from receipts reserved for appropriation to the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, or to take any other action relative thereto.

s/President Michael P. Concannon
Per Request of the Mayor

Motion made and 2nd that all communications be received and made part of the permanent records, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent). Motion made and 2nd that the MATTER BE REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent).

A communication was received from His Honor Mayor Galvin dated March 2, 2023 as follows:

I am pleased to announce that we agreed on the terms of a new three-year contract with the Woburn Local 4928 MA Library Staff Association, AFT/AFL-CIO, effective 7/1/21 thru 6/30/24. I have included a copy of the memorandum of agreement for your review.

The new agreement is fair to our Librarians and Taxpayers and will continue to move the City of Woburn forward in a positive direction.

The contract provides for annual increases of 1%/2%/2% over the three-year contract, with an initial \$1000.00 added to the base salary of full-time employees (.51/hour for part time employees) in the first year.

I am requesting the City Council approve the transfer of \$91,110.68 from the Mayor's salary account to the library department salary account to assist in funding the negotiated salary increases retroactive from 7/1/21 through 6/30/23. I will be available to discuss this matter in committee.

Sincerely, Scott D. Galvin, Mayor

ORDERED That the sum of \$91,110.68 be and is hereby transferred as so stated from Mayor Salary Adjustment Acct# 0112151-511019 \$91,110.68 to Library Salaries Acct# 0161051-511000 \$91,110.68, for Library Contract Settlement.

I hereby recommend the above: s/Scott D. Galvin, Mayor
I have reviewed the above: s/Charles E. Doherty, City Auditor

s/President Michael P. Concannon

Motion made and 2nd that all communications be received and made part of the permanent records, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent). Motion made and 2nd that the MATTER BE REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent).

A communication was received from His Honor Mayor Galvin dated March 2, 2023 as follows:

I am pleased to announce that we agreed on the terms of a new three-year contract with the Woburn Police Patrol Association, effective 7/1/21 thru 6/30/24. I have included a copy of the memorandum of agreement dated 1/19/2023 for your review.

The new agreement is fair to our Police Patrol Officers and Taxpayers and will continue to move the City of Woburn forward in a positive direction.

The contract provides for an increase in the hourly detail rate, an enhanced benefit for officers who do not use any sick time, an increase in education incentive payments for officers who are ineligible for the Quinn Bill, an increase of .5% in step pay for Officers reaching twenty years of service and a 1%/2%/2% wage increase over the three-year contract, with an initial \$1500 added to the base salary in the first year.

I am requesting the City Council approve the transfer of \$468,478.48 from the Mayor's salary account to the police department salary account to assist in funding the negotiated salary increases retroactive from 7/1/21 through 6/30/23. I will be available to discuss this matter in committee.

Sincerely, Scott D. Galvin, Mayor

ORDERED That the sum of \$468,478.48 be and is hereby transferred as so stated from Mayor Salary Adjustment Acct# 0112151-511019 \$468,478.48 to Police Salaries Acct# 0121051-511000 \$468,478.48, for Police Contract Settlement.

I hereby recommend the above: s/Scott D. Galvin, Mayor
I have reviewed the above: s/Charles E. Doherty, City Auditor

s/President Michael P. Concannon

Motion made and 2nd that all communications be received and made part of the permanent records, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent). Motion made and 2nd that the MATTER BE REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent).

A communication was received from His Honor Mayor Galvin dated March 2, 2023 as follows:

On January 11, 2013, Bayer Crop Science, Inc. and Pharmacia Corp. agreed to provide approximately \$4.25 million to the natural resource Trustees in order to resolve their environmental liability for the Industri-Plex Superfund Site (the Site) located in Woburn, Massachusetts. Under the terms of the settlement, which was lodged with and approved by the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, the Trustees recovered their past costs and approximately \$3.8 million for restoration (restoration planning, implementation, oversight, and monitoring) funding.

The Industri-Plex Trustee Council awarded restoration funding towards two Woburn projects:

The Shaker Glen Wetland Stream Restoration Project \$2,000,000
The Scalley Dam Fishway Design Construction Project \$1,000,000

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44 §53A, I am requesting that the City Council vote to accept Woburn's eligible grant share of funds awarded and received to date from the Industri-Plex Trustee Council in the amount of \$124,700 for design and permitting at The Shaker Glen Restoration Project and \$93,900 for the design and permitting of the Scalley Dam Fishway Project.

In addition. I am requesting the City Council accept \$80,635 in grant funding from The North American Wetlands Council for design and permitting of the Scalley Dam Fishway Project and \$235,000 for design and grading at The Shaker Glen Restoration Project.

I will be available to discuss this matter at the Council's Tuesday meeting.

Sincerely, Scott D. Galvin, Mayor

ORDERED Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Woburn, that the Mayor be and is hereby authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, § 53A to accept Woburn's eligible grant share of funds awarded and received from the Industri-Plex Trustee Council in the amount of \$124,700.00, and \$235,00.00 from the North American Wetlands Council for the design and permitting at the Shaker Glen Restoration Project; and \$93,900.00 from the Industri-Plex Trustee Council and \$80,635.00 from the North American Wetlands Council for the design

and permitting of the Scalley Dam Fishway Project, and that the same be expended without further appropriation.

s/President Michael P. Concannon
Per Request of the Mayor

Motion made and 2nd that all communications be received and made part of the permanent records, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent). Motion made and 2nd that the ORDER BE ADOPTED, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent).

Presented to the Mayor: March 9, 2023 s/Scott D. Galvin March 9, 2023

A communication was received from His Honor Mayor Galvin dated March 2, 2023 as follows:

Hurld Park is being designed and constructed as a 11.3-acre climate resilient park with a lower elevation (north section), flood resilient restored wetland, stream, floodplain and walking trails. The upland (south section) is being designed as a heat resilient park with recreation and community gathering space.

The Hurld Park has been awarded a Congressional earmark of \$3,900,000 sponsored by Congresswoman Catherine Clark and a State earmark of \$300,000 sponsored by State Representative Richard Haggerty for design and construction work.

We have also been awarded a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant from the Commonwealth in the amount of \$271,425 and an additional Congressional Earmark (CE) sponsored by Congresswoman Clark in the amount of \$259,000 for design and permitting of Hurld Park.

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44 §53A, I am requesting that the City Council vote to accept Woburn's eligible grant share of funds awarded and received to date in the amount of \$271,425(MVP) and \$259,000 (CE) for design and permitting.

I will be available to discuss this matter in committee.

Sincerely, Scott D. Galvin, Mayor

ORDERED Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Woburn, that the Mayor be and is hereby authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, § 53A to accept Woburn's eligible grant share of funds awarded and received in the form of a grant from Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) in the amount of \$271,425.00, and an additional Congressional Earmark in the amount of \$259,000.00, for the design and permitting of the Hurld Park project, and that the same be expended without further appropriation.

s/President Michael P. Concannon
Per Request of the Mayor

Motion made and 2nd that all communications be received and made part of the permanent records, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent). Motion made and 2nd that the ORDER BE ADOPTED, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent).

Presented to the Mayor: March 9, 2023 s/Scott D. Galvin March 9, 2023

A communication was received from His Honor Mayor Galvin dated March 2, 2023 as follows:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to a bill filed with Senate and House of Representatives in the State Legislature to legalize the right to strike for teachers and public employees, at the behest of the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA).

Illegal teacher strikes have become more common despite the imposition of fines and damages by courts and municipalities. The Woburn Teachers Association, encouraged by the MTA, waged an unlawful five-day strike. This prolonged strike deprived students of their educational rights enshrined in the Massachusetts Constitution, as we strive to close learning gaps caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, the strike significantly disrupted parents' schedules and resulted in missed work and unplanned day care expenses for their children. The strike also inconvenienced residents and taxpayers, causing over \$300,000 in unbudgeted expenses. The Woburn Teachers Association (WTA) contractually agreed to pay \$245,000 of those expenses.

Teachers and city employees work for the public good with an obligation to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of vital daily services that City residents and taxpayers expect, deserve and pay for. When public employees strike there is no alternative for the provision of these vitally important services. This situation is far different than what occurs in the private sector, where unions can serve as an important counterweight to powerful profit driven corporations. Although private sector strikes can be disruptive, customers can take their business elsewhere.

Teacher strikes will become much longer and more common if legalized when there is no threat of incurring court-imposed fines and local assessments. The five-day strike that disrupted our community would be minor compared to the disruption we would experience if teacher strikes are legalized. Prolonged strikes would drastically inconvenience and hurt students, parents, residents, taxpayers and result in unsustainable contract settlements.

I am requesting that you join me in signing this letter, in opposition to legalizing teacher and public employee strikes, which I will be forwarding to our State Delegation.

Sincerely, Scott D. Galvin, Mayor

Motion made and 2nd that all communications be received and made part of the permanent records, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent). Motion made and 2nd that the MATTER BE PLACED ON FILE, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent).

NEW PETITIONS:

Petition by James L. McKeown Boys & Girls Club of Woburn, Charles Gardner Lane, Woburn, Massachusetts 01801, for a Special Event Permit to allow a road race and health walk starting at Charles Gardner Lane and along area streets on May 7, 2023. Motion made and 2nd that the SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT BE APPROVED, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent).

Presented to the Mayor: March 9, 2023 s/Scott D. Galvin March 9, 2023

Petition by Nashoba Learning Group, 10 Oak Park Drive, Bedford, Massachusetts 01730, for a Special Event Permit to allow a 5K Run/Walk for Autism at Horn Pond on June 4, 2023. Motion made and 2nd that the SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT BE APPROVED, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent).

Presented to the Mayor: March 9, 2023 s/Scott D. Galvin March 9, 2023

Petitions for renewal of Common Carrier Licenses for the following: Transaction Corporate Shuttles Inc., 5 Wheeling Avenue; and M&L Transit Systems Inc., 60 Olympia Avenue. Motion made and 2nd that the MATTER BE REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND LICENSE, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent).

Petition by Accutemp Engineering Inc., 100 Maple Street, Building B, Stoneham, Massachusetts 02180, for a special permit pursuant to Section 57b of the 1985 Woburn Zoning Ordinances, as amended, to allow for overnight parking for 2 vehicles (rack body and box van), at 271 Salem Street, Building H. Motion made and 2nd that the MATTER BE REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEARING, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent).

Petition by 120 Commerce Apartments, LLC c/o Toll Brothers Apartment Living, 1140 Virginia Drive, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania 19034, to amend Section 23 Commerce Way Corridor Overlay District of the 1985 Woburn Zoning Ordinance, as amended, as follows: 1.

To amend Section 23.5.1 to allow solar energy systems (roof-mounted; solar carport/canopy on a parking garage; ground-mounted, small-scale; ground-mounted, medium-scale; ground-mounted, large-scale; off-grid; and passive) and solar thermal system uses by right; 2. To amend Section 23.5.2 to allow solar carport/canopy uses by special permit; 3. To add new Section 23.5.5 for photovoltaic installations shall be exempt from certain requirements; and 4. To add Section 23.12 solar photovoltaic installations, except as otherwise provided, shall comply with Section 26. Motion made and 2nd that the MATTER BE REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEARING, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent).

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

MOTION MADE AND 2ND TO SUSPEND RULE 35, TO ALLOW FOR THE TWO PETITIONERS FOR CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION TO SPEAK TONIGHT FOR FIVE MINUTES EACH, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent).

CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION:

On the request by Paul McElheney Jr. and Barbara Locke to discuss WTA Update, Mr. McElheney, 14 Canterbury Road, 2ND Vice President, Woburn Teachers Association ("WTA") stated he is a proud educator and is in his 22nd year of teaching. Mr. McElheney stated he truly loves his job, the community, and the students. Mr. McElheney stated the WTA is composed of over 630 members, which are members of the Kiwanis, the Lions, and Rotary members to name just a few of a prestigious organizations. Mr. McElheney stated its members volunteer at countless city events, churches, teaching, CCD, as well as coaching multiple sports. Mr. McElheney stated members are fully immersed in and committed to making our community a better place to live work, and raise a family. Mr. McElheney stated 59% of members live in and are taxpayers in Woburn, 54% of members grew up in Woburn and chose to teach here in the city, and over 60% of educators still have parents, brothers sisters and other relatives that also live in the city, of which all these individuals were also taxpayers and voters. Mr. McElheney stated he does not know of one teacher that does not go above and beyond for all students, and he sees it every day. Mr. McElheney stated I see it every day. Mr. McElheney stated if elected officials spend an entire day in any one of the classrooms, they will witness what teachers, and it would be a life-changing experience. Mr. McElheney stated schools today are vastly different than one many of others have attended. Mr. McElheney stated they work tirelessly to adjust to ensure that every student has an equitable and meaningful education. Mr. McElheney stated educators' morale has never been lower in the past than in the past two years, with negotiations being confrontational, and with

this particular go around, it was truly discouraging and demoralizing. Mr. McElheney stated the WTA was bombarded with a plethora of demands many of which were disheartening and unfair. Mr. McElheney stated the administrative side neither entertained nor accepted. Mr. McElheney stated a school committee member even told them that in order to receive the cost of living adjustment they were offering we had to give something in return. Mr. McElheney stated that is simply not negotiation, it is coercion or blackmail. Mr. McElheney stated the icing on the cake was when membership was told that they are all replaceable. Mr. McElheney stated the existing low morale of the WTA quickly morphed into anger and that anger transformed into a powerful sense of unity against the mounting pressure of continual disrespect and a pervasive unwillingness to listen and engage in meaningful dialogue. Mr. McElheney stated on January 27 the WTA overwhelmingly voted to go on strike. Mr. McElheney stated this was not an easy decision. Mr. McElheney stated they were not coerced, or even influenced by the Massachusetts Teachers Association (“MTA”) as it was assumed, and disseminated by some of our elected officials. Mr. McElheney stated during the strike, the City side of negotiations was not operated in good faith. Mr. McElheney stated WTA members were prepared to start bargaining sessions, immediately following the strike announcement, and suggested meeting on Saturday morning. Mr. McElheney stated the City declined this offer and agreed to meet on Sunday, wasting a full day of bargaining. Mr. McElheney stated with the meeting on Sunday one City member stated that they could not meet on Saturday because they had to attend a family members basketball game. Mr. McElheney stated the Mayor and his bargaining team refused to meet face-to-face, and there were extremely long wait times before a new proposal was sent back from the City. Mr. McElheney stated the Mayor was continually late to negotiations, and he and the administration chose to end early each day even though the WTA was willing and fully prepared to bargain from early morning to late into the evening each day. Mr. McElheney stated the mediator was not able to work on Saturday, February 5th, which led to an increase delay that was completely out of the WTA’s control. President Concannon stated the petitioner was over the allotted five minutes but if he could have a summary statement. Mr. McElheney stated after all the challenges receiving a bill for \$225,000, with Mayor Galvin dragging out negotiations excessively in order to bankrupt the WTA. Mr. McElheney stated he respectfully requests that the City Council’s Audits and Accounts Committee and the Finance Committee review the bill and lessen it or expunge it. Mr. McElheney stated his fellow educators continue to be the backbone of the great school system, and they will never stop advocating and fighting for what is right for the staff and students and refused to be bullied into silence or complacency. Mr. McElheney then thanked the Council for their time. Ms. Locke, 10 Maywood Terrace, thanked the Councilors for allowing her to speak tonight. Ms. Locke stated her comments will reiterate what Mr. McElheney stated. Ms. Locke stated on January 27th the WTA voted to strike, which was not an easy decision. Ms. Locke stated it was not something that they decided in a month, but that it has been a decade that she has been involved. Ms. Locke stated not only was the strike legal, but it was also necessary. Ms. Locke stated the decision was only validated when the next week with the antics that were embarrassing and downright mean. Ms. Locke stated it all could have been done on Saturday morning and back to school on Monday. Ms. Locke stated there was an agenda by the Mayor that nobody can disagree with. Ms. Locke stated that Sunday, they knew they had to sign a return to work agreement to return to that they did not agree with. Ms. Locke stated this was extortion. Ms. Locke stated they signed this agreement unwillingly knowing that the WTA

would have to pay \$75,000 this year, \$50,000 next year, \$50,000 the next year, and \$50,000 and, totaling nearly a quarter of \$1 million. Ms. Locke stated families donated money and people were paying \$100 for a cookie. Ms. Locke stated the City has over \$61 million, and what is a AAA bond rating when this is happening. Ms. Locke stated she had the return to work agreement and the itemization of expenses for nearly \$300,000. Motion made and 2nd that all communications be received and made part of the permanent records, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent). Ms. Locke stated she is willing to sit down and go through an item by item of the expenses and she respectfully asked that the City Council expunge these fees or fines and forgive them. Ms. Locke then thanked the City Council for allowing her to speak. Motion made and 2nd to return to the regular order of business, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent). Motion made and 2nd that the MATTER BE PLACED ON FILE, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent).

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

A communication dated February 23, 2023, was received from Anne Speicher, Executive Director, Woburn Retirement Board, regarding “5% Local COLA Option”. Motion made and 2nd that all communications be received and made part of the permanent records, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent). Motion made and 2nd that the MATTER BE REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON LIAISON, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent).

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS: None.

MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLVED Whereas, Multiple Sclerosis (“MS”) is an autoimmune disease of the central nervous system that can cause symptoms throughout the body ranging from difficulty walking to changes in memory or thinking abilities. It is believed that the immune system attacks the myelin sheath that would normally protect nerve fibers in the brain, spinal cord, and optic nerve. Myelin is a fatty material which protects and insulates nerves and acts as a protective coating. If myelin becomes damaged and/or destroyed, the scar tissue, known as sclerosis, disrupts electrical impulses between the brain and other parts of the body; and

Whereas, increased awareness and public education helps to educate the general public of the debilitating effects of Multiple Sclerosis, and inspires funds for research which is beneficial for developing treatments, looking for a cure or cause of MS, and helps those who are suffering from MS make decisions about their healthcare as there is no current cure; and

Whereas, over one million individuals are living with Multiple Sclerosis in the United States and over 2.5 million are living with MS worldwide. Studies

have shown that MS is caused by an early exposure to some environmental trigger in genetically susceptible individuals. Since 1975 the number of individuals who are living with MS has more than doubled according to research; and

Whereas, the month of March has been designated as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness month and the week of March 12-19, 2023;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, the City Council of the City of Woburn does hereby extend wishes of good health to all who are battling Multiple Sclerosis and urge all its residents to support charitable efforts of local organizations to help fight this terrible disease;

Be It Further Resolved, the City Council of the City of Woburn, do hereby urge all of Woburn's residents to join in declaring March 2023 as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month in the City of Woburn.

s/Michael P. Concannon, President, Councilor Robert J. Ferullo, Jr., Councilor Joanne E. Campbell, Councilor Richard F. Gately, Jr., Councilor Jeffrey P. Dillon, Councilor Joseph E. Demers, Councilor Lou DiMambro, Councilor Darlene Mercer-Bruen, and Councilor Charles Viola

Motion made and 2nd that the RESOLVE BE ADOPTED, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent).

Presented to the Mayor: March 9, 2023 s/Scott D. Galvin March 9, 2023

Motion made and 2nd to ADJOURN, all in favor, 8-0-1 (Gately Absent). Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Lindsay E. Higgins
City Clerk and Clerk of the City Council