

COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
WOBURN CITY HALL
COMMITTEE ROOM

Voting Members present: Chair Joanne Campbell, Councilor Joseph Demers, and Councilor Jeffrey Dillon

Non-voting members present: President Michael Concannon, Councilor Lou DiMambro, Councilor Charles Viola, Councilor Robert Ferullo, and Councilor Richard Gately

Non-voting members absent: Councilor Darlene Mercer-Bruen

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Reading of previous meeting minutes and approval: Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Jeffrey Dillon to waive the reading of and to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 9, 2023; all in favor, 3-0.

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Appointment of Christopher Glaser to the Woburn Redevelopment Authority: Chair Campbell welcomed Mr. Glaser to the meeting and asked him to tell the committee about himself. Mr. Glaser said Woburn Center is doing pretty well with little vacancies and new buildings going up. Mr. Glaser said he has been in the business for 55 years that has included a carpenter, concrete worker, and chief estimator. Mr. Glaser said it is like his job meetings to find ways to solve issues, and table the one that cannot be solved and find a consultant to assist. Mr. Glaser said he wanted to donate time for the benefit of the City. Mr. Glaser said there are a lot of positive things happening here and a lot better than in other cities. Mr. Glaser said change is going to happen, but it could go the other way if it is not managed properly. Mr. Glaser said the office just hired a full time person, but there could also be more grants out there. Mr. Glaser said he knows Don Queenin from high school and will get to know the other members. Chair Campbell said she spoke with Tina Cassidy, the administrator for the WRA, and she wanted to emphasize the big things are to work as a team and to know of any ideas he may have. Mr. Glaser said they look at parking a lot. Mr. Glaser said he is not sure if the parking is lacking or the management of it needs improvement. Mr. Glaser said for the merchants to survive they need traffic and parking. Mr. Glaser said there may be a need for more parking in the area. Mr. Glaser said he has driven through the back parking lot looking for parking when he wants to get pizza. Mr. Glaser said the parking across from the old Tanner Tavern helped. Chair Campbell said there will be more and more overnight parking in that lot. Mr. Glaser said there needs to be more foot traffic and he knows of the residential aspect over the former Brothers' Pizza location. Chair Campbell said there will be some parking in the new lot. Councilor Demers said he was excited to see Mr. Glaser back here as he interviewed for another position before. Councilor Demers said this seems to be more in Mr. Glaser's wheelhouse than the other position. Councilor Demers said there is more grant money out there. Councilor Demers said with the Pocket Park, his construction background will give them more bang for the buck. Councilor Demers said there needs to do a better job publicizing the parking we do have, especially at City Hall after 4:30 p.m. Mr. Glaser said people may not even know about it. Councilor Demers said perhaps some new signage can be put up and the Mr. Glaser has his support. Councilor Dillon said he is a great

fit. Councilor Dillon said like himself and Councilor Gately, Mr. Glaser started as a laborer and worked his way up to the top. Councilor Dillon said this is great board to have such knowledge. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Dillon to suspend the rules to allow non-voting members to speak; all in favor, 3-0. Councilor Gately said he would like his name put on the Pocket Park. Councilor Gately said there needs to be a parking deck at the Walnut Street parking lot, and it is not out of place. Mr. Glaser said there only place they can go there is up. Councilor DiMambro said Mr. Glaser is a great addition with his construction background and it is nice to have someone like this on the board. Councilor DiMambro said Mr. Glaser is a great fit. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Dillon to return to the regular order of business; all in favor, 3-0. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Dillon that the appointment of Christopher Glaser to the Woburn Redevelopment Authority “ought to pass;” approved, 3-0. Chair Campbell stated the official vote will be on Tuesday, April 4th. Mr. Glaser thanked the committee for their time.

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Appointment of Anne Chavez to the Woburn Council on Aging: Chair Campbell said that Ms. Chavez does not drive and that Chair Campbell spoke with Marie Lingblom, the Director of the Council on Aging, directly about Ms. Chavez’s skill set. Chair Campbell said Ms. Lingblom could not have said enough about Ms. Chavez. Chair Campbell said Ms. Chavez is a retired teacher and has been a member since 2015. Chair Campbell said Ms. Chavez is at the Senior Center almost every day and she takes new people under her wing and show them around. Chair Campbell said that Ms. Lingblom called Ms. Chavez a terrific ambassador for the Council on Aging. Councilor Demers said the key word is “ambassador” and she will be a great fit. Councilor Dillon said she has seen her in action. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Dillon that the appointment of Anne Chavez to the Woburn Council on Aging “ought to pass;” approved, 3-0.

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Re-appointment of Sarkis S. Chinian to the Woburn Board of Registrars of Voters: Chair Campbell said she spoke with City Clerk Higgins and that City Clerk Higgins stated Mr. Chinian takes his responsibilities very serious, he is always willing to volunteer, is very diligent, and that there is no one better. City Clerk Higgins confirmed Chair Campbell’s statements and said she does not like to speak for others, but that former City Clerk Bill Campbell would say the same. Councilor Demers said that Mr. Chinian loves the democratic process. Councilor Dillon said Mr. Chinian’s reputation speaks for himself. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Dillon that the appointment of Sarkis S. Chinian to the Woburn Board of Registrars of Voters “ought to pass;” approved, 3-0.

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Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Dillon to adjourn; all in favor, 3-0. Chairman Campbell adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

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