

**CITY OF WOBURN
DECEMBER 16, 2008 - 7:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Roll Call

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|---------|--------------|
| Denaro | Gonsalves |
| Drapeau | Mercer-Bruen |
| Galvin | Raymond |
| Gately | Doherty |

VOTED to dispense with the reading of the previous meeting's Journal and to APPROVE.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS:

ORDERED That the sum of \$150,000.00 be and is hereby transferred as so stated from BLS Receipts Acct #31359-595000 \$150,000.00 to Fire Ambulance Salary Acct #0122051-511500 \$125,000.00, Ambulance Maintenance Acct #0122054-544300 \$25,000.00

I hereby recommend that above: s/Paul Tortolano, Chief Fire Department
I have reviewed the above: s/Gerald W. Surette, City Auditor
I hereby approve the above: s/Thomas L. McLaughlin, Mayor

s/Alderman _____

A communication dated December 10, 2008 with attachment was received from His Honor the Mayor Thomas L. McLaughlin in response to a Resolution of the City Council requesting from the Chief of Police a status report concerning the amended take-home car policy in the Police Department and attached thereto was a memorandum dated December 9, 2008 from Jan Robbins Cox, Director of Human Resources to Mayor Thomas L. McLaughlin relative to the take-home cruiser policy.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

On the matter relative to Tax Classification for the City of Woburn. PUBLIC HEARING OPENED. Appearing was Andrew Creen, Chief Appraiser, Board of Assessors, and he offered a communication dated December 16, 2008 with a series of charts attached thereto entitled Fiscal Year 2009 Classification Hearing to the City Council as follows:

Dear President Doherty and Council Members:

The Board of Assessors is pleased to report that the valuation roll for fiscal year 2009 has been finalized after a reappraisal of all taxable properties was conducted by this office. The total assessed valuation for all real and personal property in the City effective January 1, 2008 is \$5.739 billion. This represents an decrease from the prior fiscal year's total of \$5.864 billion. This decline in taxable valuation is attributable primarily to the softening of the residential real estate market.

The City Council must now determine the relative tax burden to be borne by each class of property by selecting a "residential factor". To assist the Council in its deliberations, several charts have been prepared and are attached to this correspondence. These charts illustrate relevant valuation and tax levy data and the impact of your vote this evening.

By selecting a residential factor of "1" a single tax rate of \$14.02 results. Choosing a factor less than "1" results in a portion of the tax levy shifting from residential properties to commercial, industrial and personal property taxpayers. For example, adopting a residential factor of ".69" means that the residential class of property would pay 69% of the levy they would pay if there were no classification. Under this scenario, the levy increases for the other classes of property by a factor of 175 percent. The chart entitled "Classification Options" best illustrates the various scenarios available to you.

Woburn Board of Assessors
s/ Robert E. Maguire, Jr., Chairman
s/George J. Berardi, Secretary
s/William F. Sullivan, Jr.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PERSONNEL:

On the appointment of John Flaherty as a Member of the Woburn Handicapped and Disabled Citizens Commission, committee report was received "ought to pass".

FINANCE:

On the Order to appropriate the sum of \$200,812.15 to various police accounts, committee report was received "back for action."

On the Order to appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 from I&I Reserve Account to Enterprise Retained Earnings Account, committee report was received “back for action.”

On the Order to reduce the expenses of the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund, committee report was received “ought to pass”.

On the Order to transfer the sum of \$8,582.87 from Library Salary to Fire Salary, committee report was received “ought to pass”.

On the Order to appropriate the sum of \$2,000,000.00 from Reserve for Appropriation - I/I Study to various Sewer Accounts, committee report was received “ought to pass with conditions: all seven individual appropriations as marked are estimated and a bid will be accepted for each project; if the bid is below the I&I estimate the money goes back to the I&I; if the bid is above the estimate, the matter must be brought back for further appropriation.”

On the Order to authorize the Chief of the Fire Department to dispose of a 1979 American LaFrance Pumper, committee report was received “ought to pass with condition: that the proceeds of the sale be deposited in the General Fund.”

NEW PETITIONS:

Petition by Maqsud Shaikh dba M&M Taxi, 12 Naples Avenue for a new Taxi Cab License.

Petition by Robert P. Fucarile dba Classic Auto Sales, 9 Salem Street for renewal of a Second Class Motor Vehicle Sales License.

Petition by John S. Russo and Stephanie Rodman, both of 36 Day Circle, Woburn, Massachusetts 01801 for a special permit pursuant to Section 5.5 of the 1985 Woburn Zoning Ordinances, as amended, to allow bringing fill onto the site at 36 Day Circle.

Petition by David Dellarocco, 18 Heritage Drive, Woburn, Massachusetts 01801 for a special permit pursuant to Section 5.1.45 of the 1985 Woburn Zoning Ordinances, as amended, to allow used auto sales and for a Second Class Motor Vehicle Sales License at 5 Crescent Park, Unit #4.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

A communication dated December 12, 2008 was received from Charles L. O’Connor, Parking Clerk, Police Headquarters, 25 Harrison Avenue as follows:

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90, Section 20½, I am submitting a report to you on the parking violations in the City of Woburn for the period ending November 2008: number of parking violations issued 1036, number of violations paid 614, number of violations outstanding 550, amount collected and submitted to the Office of the Collector \$51,437.00. There exists a backlog of 4897 tickets for 1982 through 2007. Demand will be sent until all tickets have been paid. Parking violations referred to the Handicapped Commission to date \$7,900.00.

Respectfully submitted, s/Charles L. O’Connor, Parking Clerk City of Woburn

A communication dated December 8, 2008 was received from Attorney Jeffrey A. Honig, Kopelman and Paige, P.C. relative to new legislation and regulations for the use of road flaggers and police details on public works projects.

A communication dated December 9, 2008 with attachments was received from Donald J. Borchelt, Executive Director, Woburn Redevelopment Authority along with a copy of the information package for the October 21, 2008 and December 2, 2008 meetings of the Woburn Redevelopment Authority.

A communication dated December 11, 2008 was received from Case Lynch, LBR Associates, LLC, 3 Draper Street, Woburn requesting that the City Council amend the 1985 Woburn Zoning Ordinances, as amended, to allow for small wind systems.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF PRECEDING MEETING: None.

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS:

On the election to fill the vacancy in the office Alderman of Ward Four pursuant to Chapter 224 of the Acts of 1900 amending Chapter 172 of the Acts of 1897, known as the Charter of the City of Woburn.

MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS: None.

Motion made and 2nd to ADJOURN