



WAKEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Monday, May 11, 2020
7:00 P.M. (Via Zoom virtual meeting)

**COUNCIL
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Councilor Edward F. Dombroski, Jr., Chair
Councilor Ann McGonigle Santos, Vice-Chair
Councilor Mehreen N. Butt
Councilor Jonathan P. Chines
Councilor Paul R. DiNocco
Councilor Peter J. May
Councilor Julie Smith-Galvin

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Town Council Clerk Sherri A. Dalton
Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio
Town Counsel Thomas A. Mullen

----- TOPICS OF DISCUSSION -----

Call to Order	Councilor Dombroski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance	Councilor Dombroski introduced a compilation video that consisted members of the Wakefield High School Class of 2020, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, with much thanks to WCAT for putting the video together.
Attendance	All seven (7) Councilors were present and participating via Zoom.
Public Engagement	Maria Isabel Castro of 19 Charles Street, a member of the Human Rights Commission, asked the Council to waive the restriction and allow the Commission to fly the Pride Flag at the Americal Civic Center.
Approval of Minutes	Councilor Santos motioned to approve the April 27, 2020 regular Town Council Meeting Minutes. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.
COVID-19 Updates	Wakefield/Lynnfield Chamber of Commerce Executive Director John Smolinsky was invited by Chairman Dombroski to discuss the economic impacts of COVID-19 on local businesses. Mr. Smolinsky stated one of the biggest jobs the Chamber has had recently was disseminating relevant information regarding COVID-19 to the Wakefield business community. "Card for the Community" program has raised over \$19,000.00 and donations from the general public to the community have served over 400 households. He is having conversations with other Chambers and would like to work closely with the Health Department to put something together for the businesses when it is time for them to re-open. Chairman Dombroski thanked Mr. Smolinsky and the Chamber for all the work they have been doing. Councilor Chines thanked Mr. Smolinsky and stated that the Cards for the Community program has been a tremendous success. He asked

if there were others things that the Town could do to support the businesses. Mr. Smolinsky said that he has talked to the Town Administrator about having a survey sent to the businesses so that they can inform what they need in terms of support. Councilor Santos commented that thinking out of the box is the new normal. Councilor Butt thanked Mr. Smolinsky and his team for getting information out to the public and asked to also included members that are not part of the Chamber. Mr. Smolinsky stated that the Chamber has been very inclusive of everyone. Chairman Dombroski thanked Mr. Smolinsky for working with him on the draft of the Economic Development Council.

Town Administrator Maio thanked Mr. Smolinsky for all his work. He went on to say that he spoke with the Health Director today and the word is that the town is stable and there are no issues with getting PPE supplies for the first responders. There is a committee working on a re-opening plan for not only town buildings but the businesses as well. He is hoping for more guidance tomorrow by the Lt. Governor. The follow-up that is being done by the Health Department nurses and school nurses to patients that have had COVID-19 has been amazing. Councilor Chines questioned the re-entry plans and asked what they are looking at. Town Administrator Maio answered that everything is being looked at. Councilor Chines asked that a draft of the re-entry plan be shared with the Town Council. Chairman Dombroski thanked Mr. Maio for his near-daily updates to the Town Council.

Chairman Dombroski stated that he had been in contact with the Chair of the Board of Health and that the Chair did not think it was necessary to take part in the Town Council meeting tonight, but rather passed along some updates through him. The Board of Health rescinded their Mask Order since it is now a State Order and currently their primary job is case tracking. Chairman Dombroski also was in contact with Chief Skory who stated all is well and the morale is good with the Department and they are being very vigilant. The protocols that he stated at the last meeting are still in effect and they still have a reasonable amount of PPE. An increasing concern is incidents of child abuse, as children are not attending school or many pediatrician appointments, where mandated reporters to DCF would be able to pick up on signs of abuse. Domestic violence concerns continue to be monitored.

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

Chairman Dombroski reminded that all the budgets of the town have been previously voted on. Since that time, things have changed considerably from an economic standpoint. There has been some discussion with the Town Council and the Town Administrator about making revisions based upon new projections of revenue and State Aid. Town Administrator Maio shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining COVID-19 budget responses. Mr. Maio recommended reducing \$95,000.00 from the Town Council budget (a new Economic Development Director position); reducing \$38,000.00 from the Police budget; reducing \$110,500.00 from the DPW budget; reducing \$100,000.00 from the Health Insurance budget; reducing \$50,000.00 from the Library budget; proposed reduction of \$400,000.00 in the School budget. Councilor Santos motioned to

approve the reduction of \$95,000.00 from the Town Council budget. Councilor May seconded. Councilor Chines stated that he would be voting against this reduction as this is the amount that will fund the Economic Development Director position and feels that this is a much-needed position given the current situation with the businesses in town. Councilor Smith-Galvin, Councilor DiNocco, and Councilor Butt supported Councilor Chines comment. Councilor Santos asked if there was a compromise from not filling the position to filling the position. Town Administrator Maio stated that he has had conversations with Mass Business Development with how they could help the town in the interim and that he would work with the MAPC for planning assistance. The Mass Business Development did state that as of right now people are kind of leery to accept new job offers because if the economy becomes worse they are afraid of being let go. With not knowing what the "new normal" is going to be, Mr. Maio stated that he would like to make sure we get the right candidate. He further stated that it is important that the Town Council sets the tone that there is some sacrifice that is going to have to happen across all departments and that no everyone got what they wanted. He recommended going carefully as he thinks that things will be getting better hopefully by the end of the summer and this position could be added back into the budget in November which is a compromise. Chairman Dombroski stated that obviously this position is a priority but the timing of it is just not right. The messaging would be awfully inconsistent as a Council, as all of the other departments were told that they need to make cuts and sacrifices. He went on to say that we are very lucky that Mr. Maio has not talked about layoffs and furloughs and he prays that this will continue. Councilor May stated that he supports the Town Administrator, Councilor Santos, and Chairman Dombroski. Motion to eliminate the Economic Development Director position from the budget did not pass 4-3-0 by a roll call vote with Councilors Chines, Smith-Galvin, Butt, and DiNocco voting against the motion and Councilors Santos, May, and Dombroski voting in favor of eliminating the position from the budget. Councilor Santos motioned to approve the recommendation to reduce the Police Department budget by \$38,000.00. Councilor May seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote. Councilor Santos motioned to approve the recommendation to reduce the DPW budget by \$110,000.00. Councilor May seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote. Councilor Santos motioned to approve the recommendation to reduce the Health budget by \$100,000.00. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote. Councilor Santos motioned to approve the recommendation to reduce the Library budget by \$50,000.00. Councilor May seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

**Economic
Development
Council**

Chairman Dombroski stated that he did a considerable amount of research on Economic Development Councils that are in other communities across the country. The primary goal or objective is to try to bring together specific, experienced members of the community including business owners, business executives, commercial property owners, residents that are involved in business development that have marketing experience, organizations like the Chamber of Commerce, Community Partnership, Main Streets, and also people like

residential and commercial real estate lending experts. A lot can be gained from what is happening in other communities based upon what they are seeing and what they are experiencing. This Economic Development Council would work closely with the Economic Development Director and not take the place of the Director and would cost the town nothing. Councilor Santos said that she agrees with Chairman Dombroski and looks at this Council as something like the governor appointed a few weeks ago with regards to bring in top folks from business to think outside the box. Councilor DiNocco motioned to table this for further discussion. Councilor Chines seconded. Councilor Smith-Galvin thinks it is a great idea to get as many people involved as we can but has some hesitation as to who is going to manage the Council with not having an Economic Development Director. Councilor Chines agrees with Councilors DiNocco and Smith-Galvin. Motion to table passed 5-2-0 by a roll call vote with Councilor's May and Dombroski voting against the motion.

Committee Appointments

Councilor Santos motioned to appoint the first eight (8) applicants that applied to be appointed as voting members to the Youth Council and the last two (2) applicants as associate non-voting members to the Youth Council with one-year terms. Councilor Chines seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Councilor Chines motioned to re-advertise for the Middle School appointments to the Youth Council. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Councilor DiNocco motioned to appoint Catherine Dhingra as the Adult Advisor to the Youth Council. Councilor Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Councilor Santos motioned to appoint Michael Owen to the Veteran's Advisory Board with a three-year ending April 30, 2023. Councilor Chines seconded. Motioned passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Councilor DiNocco motioned to re-advertise for an appointment to the Conservation Commission to fill an un-expired three-year term through April 30, 2023 due to a resignation. Councilor May seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote. Chairman Dombroski stated that it is very important for all the committees, commissions, and boards to please not make recommendations until the application process has closed and they have actually received all applications. In this instance of the Conservation Commission, the advertising of these positions was February 4, 2020 and applications were not due until March 11, 2020. Applications were sent to all committees, commissions, and boards on March 25, 2020. However, the Conservation Commission at a meeting on February 13, 2020 decided to make recommendations relative to appointments for that Commission and sent a letter to that effect the following day on February 14, 2020. The decision was made six (6) weeks before they received all the applications and, therefore, they did not consider all applicants.

The MSBA requires that every city/town set up a very specific School Building Committee. Councilor Santos motioned to advertise for appointments to the MSBA High School Building Committee. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Councilor Butt asked Steve and Sherri to make sure the advertisement identifies the obligation. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

**Union
Contracts**

Three (3) union contracts are up on June 30, 2020 and they have been placed as Warrant Articles on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for June 8, 2020. The contracts are good for the Town and fair for the unions. All contracts are from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023. Consistent with every other union in town, the cost of living increases is a split 3% in Fiscal Year 2021. In the second year of the contract on July 1, 2021 the cost of living would be a straight 3%. The last year of the contract the cost of living will be 2.5%. The Police contract is \$140,000.00 and has a .5% increase for the first two (2) years of the contract for specialized training compensation. The last year of the contract the specialized training compensation is a 1% increase. The Fire contract is \$135,000.00 and has a .5% increase for each emergency medical training for the first two (2) years and then a 1% increase in the last year. There will also be a stipend position for an Emergency Medical Services Director and Coordinator. The Supervisors contract is \$60,000.00 and is a straight three (3) year contract with cost of living increases consistent with the other contracts. Councilor DiNocco motioned to approve the Police contract as presented. Councilor Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote. Councilor DiNocco motioned to approve the Fire contract as presented. Councilor Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote. Councilor DiNocco motioned to approve the Supervisors contract as presented. Councilor Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

**Town Owned
Land**

The last time the Town Council discussed 28 Redfield Road they agreed to reduce the overall purchase price from \$151,100.00 by the sum of \$14,500.00 which was a conservative estimate of the cost that would be incurred by the purchaser tearing down the existing building because of the encroachment which no one know existed at the time the parcel was advertised. A condition of the Town Council's vote was that the Town of Reading share with the Town of Wakefield the \$14,500.00 reduction. The Town of Reading cannot address this issue until their November 2020 Town Meeting. The purchaser has decided to absorb the Town of Reading's share. The reduction brings the purchase price to \$117,000.00. Councilor DiNocco motioned to reduce the purchase price to \$117,000.00 as presented. Councilor Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

**Surplus
Equipment**

Councilor Santos motioned to approve the request of the Department of Public Works to auction surplus equipment. Councilor Chines seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

**Farmer's
Market**

Representatives of the Farmer's Market presented the proposed 2020 Farmer's Market plan which is consistent with all of the current State regulations. Councilor

Chines asked that section 9 Local Non-Profit of the 2020 License Agreement be deleted just for the 2020 season. Councilor Santos motioned to approve the proposed 2020 Farmer's Market plan and also the 2020 License Agreement with section 9 local Non-Profit deleted for the 2020 season. Councilor Chines seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

**Banner
Request**

Councilor Santos motioned to approve the request of the Wakefield Elementary Schools to hang a banner across Main Street just outside of the Americal Civic Center from June 1, 2020 through June 15, 2020. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motioned passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

**Inter-Municipal
Agreement**

Councilor Santos motioned to approve the proposed three-year Inter-Municipal Agreement for the School Nutrition Director commencing July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023 between the Town of Reading Public Schools and the Town of Wakefield Public Schools as previously approved by the Wakefield School Committee. Councilor Santos motioned to approve the three-year Inter-Municipal Agreement for the School Nutrition Director as proposed. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

**Committee
Updates**

Members of the Clean Lake Committee presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding their initiatives. Their main focus has been on the water quality of Lake Quannapowitt and specifically work around the lake's watershed. This allows the focus on what enters into Lake Quannapowitt and what already exists in it as well as treatment at the source of pollution. This also falls under NPDE Regulations. The Main Street improvement projects was top priority by the committee. The reconstruction from Carriage Lane to Salem Street was their number one priority and they could apply for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action grant to fund the proposed stormwater improvement. They have many upcoming projects scheduled that can be viewed on the webpage of the website. Councilor DiNocco motioned to support the project recommendations from the Clean Lake Committee as presented and further instruct public works to apply for action grant funding through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program for the Main Street corridor from Carriage Lane to Salem Street as the project will provide much needed water quality improvements to the town's most valuable natural asset Lake Quannapowitt. Councilor Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote. Councilor Santos motioned for the addition of a non-voting student liaison to the Clean Lake Committee and for the publishing of the liaison through the Town Council Clerk. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Members of the Cultural Council stated they gave \$10,000.00 worth of grants to different organizations that were going to be bringing arts and culture to Wakefield prior to COVID-19. Since then they were given guidance from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to contact all recipients who received the grants and extended their grant period into 2021 and allowing them to write to the Cultural Council asking for any modifications that they might need to do for their

projects. The Massachusetts Cultural Council has established an Artist Relief Fund and they had 1800 applicants and only 272 awards. The Cultural Council said that as an option for the local councils if for some reason some of the grant awardees are not able to perform their programs, we could as a Town establish an Artist Relief Fund.

**Town
Warrants**

Councilors were updated on Warrant #36 dated March 03, 2020 through Warrant #40 dated March 31, 2020.

**Constituent
Issues**

Councilor Santos stated that it is fair for citizens to challenge and question the Town Council votes but what they cannot do is attack the Councilors' integrity and suggest that some people on the Council "accepted money" or "followed the money trail" for certain votes.

Councilor DiNocco agreed with Councilor Santos' comments and asked if all the masks were distributed. Town Administrator stated there are still a few that are being distributed.

Councilor Smith-Galvin received an inquiry regarding the electric charging station in the lot at Veteran's Field.

Councilor May stated he concurs with Councilors Santos and DiNocco.

**Chairman's
Comments**

The Regional Summit meeting was held last week and a total of 6 surrounding communities came together for a really robust dialogue and hopes that it will be something that continues in the months and years to come. Anyone that hasn't watched the meeting can view it online on WCAT's website and on their channel as well. He thanked the Councilors for attending that meeting as well.

He stated that this is his last meeting running it as Chairman because the one-year term has come to a close. He read some brief remarks that he prepared and thanked the Councilors for entrusting him with the leadership responsibility and supporting him in the position the entire year. He looks forward to working with everyone as we go forward to continue to carry on the many exciting projects and new opportunities that await us. He thanked Town Administrator Maio for his tremendous support throughout his time as Chairman. He also thanked Madam Clerk Dalton; WCAT; and all who watch at home.

**Town Council
Re-
Organization**

Chairman Dombroski entertained nominations for Chair for the ensuing year. Councilor DiNocco nominated Ann Santos as Chair for the upcoming year. There being no other nominations and Ann Santos having accepted the nomination, Chairman Dombroski declared the nominations closed. Councilor Butt seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Chair Santos entertained nominations for Vice-Chair for the ensuing year. Councilor Chines nominated Julie Smith-Galvin as Vice-Chair for the upcoming

year. There being no other nominations and Julie Smith-Galvin having accepted the nomination, Chair Santos declared the nominations closed. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Chair Santos thanked Councilor Dombroski for providing an unbelievable effort at what he has done in the past year including putting a form around things that sometimes always didn't have a form.

Announcements and Acknowledgements

Councilor Chines stated that Wakefield has fallen behind Stoneham in the Census; the Dodging for Dollars tournament at the Boys and Girls Club has been posted until August 22, 2020, but they can certainly still use support; he will be doing Facebook live office hours next Wednesday the 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Councilor Butt acknowledged the mask delivery and thanked everyone involved; recognized how fast the Council and other Wakefield boards and committees have adapted to Zoom meetings and thanked Steve and the IT department; the Community Garden is coming together; wished everyone a happy Eid Mubarak.

Councilor DiNocco recognized Councilor Dombroski and congratulated him for fulfilling his year as Chairman and going out on top of things as he did a great job on pushing a lot of things forward; Friends of Wakefield Small Business Fund is currently underway. It is a fund to support the small business owners who are struggling due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Town Administrator Maio recognized all the volunteers in the assembly and distribution of masks; the Town Council Clerk is the one to thank for the set-up for the Zoom meetings along with the IT Director and WCAT for making the meetings available and stated that we are very transparent as everyone can see the meetings; recognized and thanked Ed for a great year as Chair as he accomplished so much and that he made Steve Maio a better Town Administrator.

Councilor Smith-Galvin stated that she is hearing municipal solar is going to start going up.

Councilor May recognized Ed and thanked him for service as he served with honor and distinction and good luck to Ann and Julie with the coming year.

Councilor Dombroski wished Ann and Julie the best of luck and that there are great things ahead for the town.

Matters Not Anticipated for Agenda

Councilor DiNocco motioned to waive the section of the policy which states you must have an event at the Americal Civic Center in order for the Human Rights to raise the Pride flag. Council Butt seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Councilor DiNocco motioned to approve the request of the Human Rights Commission to raise the Pride flag at the Americal Civic Center for Pride month. Councilor Butt seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Adjournment At 10:40 p.m. Councilor DiNocco motioned to adjourn. Councilor Chines seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Next Council Meeting The next regular Town Council meeting is May 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri A. Dalton
Town Council Clerk

APPROVED