

City of Fall River Massachusetts
Office of the City Clerk

ALISON M. BOUCHARD
CITY CLERK

INÊS LEITE
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MEETING: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Zoom (Virtual Meeting Application) pursuant to the Governor's Declaration of State of Emergency due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

PRESENT: Councilors Shawn E. Cadime, Michelle M. Dionne, Bradford L. Kilby, Pam Laliberte-Lebeau, Trott Lee, Christopher M. Peckham, Leo O. Pelletier, Linda M. Pereira, and Cliff Ponte

ABSENT: None

IN ATTENDANCE: None

City Clerk Alison M. Bouchard called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by a salute to the flag and announced that the meeting may be recorded with audio or video and transmitted through any medium.

In accordance with Section 9-18 of the City Charter, persons were allowed to address the Council. Due to the COVID-19 Essential Services Advisory, citizen input was submitted by email by Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. to be read at the meeting. The Assistant City Clerk read communications received from city residents, copies of which are attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

Agenda:

1. Citizen Input

Patrick Higgins, 1197 Robeson Street – Salary ordinances and restaurant license renewals
Collin Dias, 560 Ray Street – Superintendent Matthew Malone, Mayor and transparency

Councilor Linda M. Pereira requested that Mr. Dias' communication be forwarded to the members of the School Committee.

2. Council Orders:

a. Election of President for the year 2021

On a motion made by Councilor Christopher M. Peckham and seconded by Councilor Linda M. Pereira, it was voted 9 yeas to adopt the order. On a roll call vote, Councilor Cliff Ponte received 9 votes and Councilor Cliff Ponte was declared President of the City Council for the year 2021.

Council President Ponte delivered the following remarks: "I would like to thank my colleges for your support for another year to serve as Council President. Obviously 2020 was a year that we look

back at as a very challenging year that we didn't know was coming. 2021 we don't know what the future holds for it, but I will say that the future holds for a City Council, a body of 9 members, who really care about moving this city forward and really care about making some long lasting changes in this community and I am happy to be a part of it with you all, so thank you again for your support. I am honored to serve this honorable body as your Council President and I am looking forward to do that for what hopes to be a better 2021."

b. Election of Vice President for the year 2021

On a motion made by Councilor Michelle M. Dionne and seconded by Councilor Christopher M. Peckham, it was voted 9 yeas to adopt the order. On a roll call vote, Councilor Pam Laliberte-Lebeau received 9 votes and was declared Vice President of the City Council for the year 2021. Council Vice President Laliberte-Lebeau thanked her colleagues for supporting her election for another year.

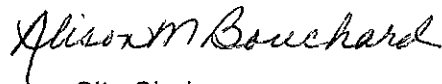
On a motion made by Councilor Linda M. Pereira and seconded by Councilor Shawn E. Cadime, it was voted 9 yeas to adjourn at 6:19 p.m.

Due to the pandemic and this meeting being held virtually, Council President Cliff Ponte and Council Vice President Pam Laliberte-Lebeau were sworn to their duties by the City Clerk the next day in the City Clerk's office.

List of documents and other exhibits used during the meeting:

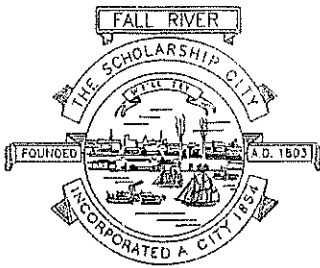
Citizens' Input Communications
Agenda (attached)
DVD of meeting

A true copy. Attest:



City Clerk

In City Council, January 19, 2021
Approved, 9 yeas



City of Fall River Massachusetts
Office of the City Clerk

RECEIVED

2020 DEC 28 P 3:22

ALISON M. BOUCHARD
CITY CLERK

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

INÊS LEITE
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ONE GOVERNMENT CENTER
AND VIRTUAL MEETING

This meeting is closed to the public and will be available for viewing on Comcast Cable Channel 18 in Fall River or the following websites: Fall River Government Television - www.frgtv.fredtv.us/live; Facebook - www.facebook.com/frgtv/live; Livestream - <https://livestream.com/accounts/12896038>

AGENDA

1. Citizen Input
Due to the COVID-19 Essential Services Advisory, citizen input must be submitted by email to city_council@fallriverma.org by Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. to be read at the meeting.
2. Council Orders:
 - a. Election of President for the year 2021
 - b. Election of Vice President for the year 2021

Inês Leite
Assistant City Clerk

ADA Coordinator: Gary P. Howayeck, Esq. 508-324-2650

SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 5, 2021

COMMUNICATIONS

SUBMITTED

FOR

CITIZENS' INPUT

[EXTERNAL] CITIZENS INPUT FOR JAN 5 2021 CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

RECEIVED

Patrick Higgins <patrick@patrickhiggins.co>

JAN -5 P 2:27

Tue 1/5/2021 2:00 PM

CITY CLERK
FALL RIVER, MA

To: City Council <City_Council@fallriverma.org>;

Importance: High

My name is Patrick Higgins of 1197 Robeson St., I note with great interest that even though the ordinance cap salaries for different department heads of the city, and there is an ordinance for a residency requirement, this administration as well as the last 2 does not require full compliance with the ordinances. I would suggest that a city councilor should put in a resolution to delete all city ordinance since the city does not comply with them at all. We have several restaurants who did not get their paperwork in to renew the 2021 licenses and therefore their licenses to operate expired, yet they remain open and operating with no consequences. I know that Councilor Kilby is an attorney, would you not agree that when the city allows a business to operate with an expired business license, the city has civil liability exposure if someone were to get hurt at this unlicensed business, since the city allowed them to continue to operate and knew that the license had expired as of December 31st.

Thanks

Patrick Higgins

[EXTERNAL] Citizens Input Fall River City Council

Collin Dias <collind00@aol.com>

Tue 1/5/2021 2:23 PM

To: City Council <City_Council@fallriverma.org>;

RECEIVED

2021 JAN -5 P 2:23

CITY CLERK _____
FALL RIVER, MA

Citizens input 1/5/2021 Fall River City Council Special Meeting

Good afternoon council President and members of the City Council,

Happy new year everyone. I wish to express my deep disappointment and dissatisfaction with the lack of transparency in City hall. For years, I've considered myself a champion for freedom of information, and I have fir what's fought against corruption and lack of transparency. I am most displeased with Mayor Paul Coogan violating the law by denying citizens input that respectfully asked for more transparency regarding the complaints against Superintendent Matthew Malone. It only asked the Mayors administration to respectfully give a statement on the nature of the complaints and that city residents deserve to know when there is wrongdoing, or alleged wrongdoing by public officials. And this can be done without compromising any investigation into allegations.

When the Mayor is right, I will defend him, like I have before. However the Mayor is wrong here. I have had a ton of respect for the Mayor, and I still do, however when there is wrongdoing I must be fair, and I say to the Mayor, knock it off, and show the transparency and integrity you campaigned on, and don't obstruct the citizens input of city residents who want to criticize the government in a respectful manner. And I hope the city council feels the same way I do.

Thank you very much for your time.

Respectfully submitted;

Collin Dias
560 Ray Street, Fall River, Massachusetts, 02720

Sent from my iPhone

