

**COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL
MONDAY, JULY 29, 2019 AT 6:05 p.m.
COMMITTEE ROOM
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Voting Members Present: Chair Joanne Campbell and Alderman Michael Concannon.
Absent: Alderman Robert Ferullo

Non-Voting Members Present: President Michael Anderson, Alderman Mark Gaffney (late),
Alderman Edward Tedesco, Alderman Lindsay Higgins, Alderman Darlene Mercer-Bruen, and
Alderman Richard Gately

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VOTED to dispense with the reading of the previous meeting's Minutes and to approve, all in favor, 2-0.

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Appointment of Joanne Daggett as the resident representative on the Woburn Traffic Commission: Chairman Campbell said Alderman Tedesco put in an order to appoint Ms. Daggett to fill the resident representative's position on the Traffic Commission. She said there may have been some miscommunication about the process, compared to what has been done in the past. She said Peter Socorelis was the last person appointed to the Traffic Commission and the council at that time put out a press release seeking candidates. She said the names of two candidates were forwarded by the committee to the council. Alderman Concannon asked if there is a requirement to follow that process. Chairman Campbell said there is a requirement to follow that process in Rule 34. Alderman Concannon asked if there has been a public advertisement. Chairman Campbell said any appointment shall be referred to the Personnel Committee after submission. She said the committee shall act a preliminary screening committee. She said she does not think there is any other way to proceed. Alderman Tedesco said Rule 34 is for confirmation. Alderman Concannon said there is a process for filling a vacancy and he does not see that being followed here. Chairman Campbell said she referred to minutes from 2012 when Mr. Socorelis was appointed as the business representative to the Traffic Commission. She said she would like to open the position to other potential candidates. Alderman Tedesco said Ms. Daggett is in the audience. He said the appointment is made by the Woburn City Council. Alderman Concannon said there has been public solicitation in the past. President Anderson said that was for the business representative. Alderman Mercer-Bruen said she remembers the council did solicit names when it first formed the Traffic Commission. Alderman Tedesco said there is some urgency to fill the vacancy before the Traffic Commission's meeting in September. Alderman Campbell said the term is for two years and the Traffic Commission is making some very important decisions. She asked if the council wants to solicit other candidates. Alderman Mercer-Bruen said the committee should hear from the nominee. Chairman Campbell said she would like to conduct the process as it has been done in the past. Alderman Tedesco said there is a candidate who is capable and willing to join the commission, but he will leave it up to the Personnel Committee. Alderman Concannon said the council could appoint someone

temporarily. Chairman Campbell said she would like to have an interview process, whittle the number of candidates to two and then have the council choose. Alderman Higgins asked if the Traffic Commission has had any issues with fielding a quorum. Alderman Tedesco said there were only five members at the last Traffic Commission meeting (Scrivener's note: Alderman Tedesco is chairman of the Traffic Commission, of which Alderman Campbell is also a member.) Alderman Higgins said if there are quorum issues, they will go away if the council appoints someone temporarily. Chairman Campbell said Traffic Commission member Myles Collins has been ill and has not attended in a long time. Alderman Mercer-Bruen asked if Chairman Campbell would like to advertise the vacancy. Chairman Campbell said she was told that is the process. Alderman Mercer-Bruen said she does not believe that is the process. President Anderson said the council does have the option of advertising the position and leaving the matter in committee. Chairman Campbell said she would not mind allowing Ms. Daggett to say hello to the committee. Alderman Concannon said the way the agenda is written indicates the committee is being asked to approve Ms. Daggett as a nominee. Alderman Tedesco said he does not think it's necessary to spend the city's money on an advertisement. He said just because the city followed a process in the past does not mean it's required. Chairman Campbell said if the council is filling any position in City Hall, she's not sure why the process would be different. Alderman Tedesco said there is a distinction between a full-time position and an appointee to a board. Alderman Gately said if the council advertises the position, it will be lucky if two people apply. Chairman Campbell said she would like to keep the matter in committee and send out a press release seeking candidates. Alderman Concannon asked if the council were to appoint a temporary member, would that person have an unfair advantage in the process to hire a permanent member. Chairman Campbell said she does think a temporary appointee would have an unfair advantage. Alderman Concannon asked if there is a compromise that works for both sides. He said even if Ms. Daggett is a temporary appointment, he will still have an open mind for anyone else who is interested. Chairman Campbell asked if Alderman Concannon would feel the same way if Ms. Daggett was not sitting in the room. Alderman Concannon said he would. He said he does not think there will be a lot of interest in the position. Alderman Higgins said Ms. Daggett is very active in community affairs and is well-spoken. She said Ms. Daggett has a presence. She said she thinks Ms. Daggett can serve on the position well as a temporary appointee. Alderman Concannon said he would be interested in a temporary appointment if the commission has quorum issues. Chairman Campbell said the commission does not have quorum issues. Alderman Tedesco said the commission was down one member due to Commissioner Collins' illness. He said the business representative's attendance is about 50/50. He said the variables are City Engineer Jay Corey and DPW Supt. Jay Duran, both of whom sometimes have conflicts with other meetings. Alderman Gately said he would vouch for Ms. Daggett. He said he knows Ms. Daggett and her family and you couldn't ask for nicer or more dedicated people. Alderman Campbell said she is trying to follow the process. She said she has no issues with Ms. Daggett's capabilities. Alderman Concannon said he is willing to go forward with a temporary appointment and solicit candidates. Chairman Campbell said she could put in an order to that effect. She said she would like for Ms. Daggett to introduce herself to the committee. Ms. Daggett said she thinks she is going to decline the position because it seems to be more than she was expecting. She said she is a retired teacher and police officer. Alderman Gately said she will be a great addition to the commission. President Anderson said the Traffic Commission only meets once a month and he does not think she should get scared away by the discussion about the process. Alderman Concannon said he thinks Ms. Daggett would do a great job, but in any event

he is not a fan of the Traffic Commission. Chairman Campbell said the discussion about the process has nothing to do with Ms. Daggett's qualifications. She told Ms. Daggett the acceptance of a temporary appointment is up to her. Alderman Concannon said he is willing to make a temporary appointment if Ms. Daggett still wants to join the commission. Alderman Gaffney arrived at 6:23 p.m. Ms. Daggett said a temporary appointment would be acceptable. Motion made by Alderman Concannon and seconded by Chairman Campbell that the Personnel Committee recommend the temporary appointment of Joanne Daggett, 34 Elijah Street, to the Woburn Traffic Commission; approved, 2-0. (Ferullo absent). Chairman Campbell said the temporary appointment will have to be voted on by the full City Council at its meeting on Tuesday, August 6. She said the Traffic Commission meets on the third Thursday of the month at 4 p.m. She said the commission's next meeting is in September. She said the process to move forward with a permanent appointment will start with a press release seeking candidates. She said she is sure there are not going to be too many people banging on the door. She said once the committee finishes the process of soliciting candidates, it will invite Ms. Daggett back for an interview.

Motion made by Alderman Concannon and seconded by Chairman Campbell to adjourn; approved, 2-0. Chairman Campbell adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.