

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & LICENSES
FEBRUARY 25, 2019 AT 6:13 p.m.
COMMITTEE ROOM
WOBURN CITY HALL

Voting members present: Chairman Lindsay Higgins, Alderman Michael Concannon, Alderman Darlene Mercer-Bruen, Alderman Joanne Campbell, and Alderman Robert Ferullo

Non-voting members present: President Michael Anderson, Alderman Richard Gately and Alderman Mark Gaffney. Absent: Alderman Edward Tedesco

Order to meet with Police Chief and Fire Chief: Chairman Higgins said she spoke on Friday with the mayor, who advised her the chiefs will not be coming because he insisted they not attend. She said she was advised by the mayor that the committee does not have the authority to make the chiefs attend. President Anderson said if the chiefs come down for an appropriation, the committee can take that as an opportunity to ask them questions. Chairman Higgins said she was advised by Mayor Galvin that the only time the chiefs are required to attend a committee meeting is when the Finance Committee is deliberating budget items. Alderman Campbell said that's not the case. Alderman Concannon said the committee has to be careful the line of questioning doesn't stray too far from what is on the posted notice of meeting. He said the council has to stay in its lane. He said it is disappointing the mayor is preventing the chiefs from attending. He said he does not think the committee is going to put the chiefs in a bad spot. He said the committee just wants updates on how things are going. Alderman Gately said this has been a long battle with the mayor. He said the mayor has blocked every avenue the council has to confer with the department heads. He said he asked DPW Supt. John Duran and City Engineer John Corey why the new hot top on some of the streets failed. He said there has to be a reason why it failed. He said he got an email response from the mayor that it was a problem with the contractor and the construction crews are repairing it on their own dime. He said that's not what he asked. He said he wants to know why it failed. He said he is hoping the same hot top wasn't used on Nashua Street. Alderman Ferullo said better quality hot top was used on Nashua Street. Alderman Gately said the problem was the street wouldn't accept the hot top. He said the same thing happened on Montvale Avenue. Chairman Higgins said what the mayor told her is any inquiries to department heads should go directly to him. President Anderson said Engineer Corey and Supt. Duran will answer any question the council has. Alderman Gately said the council should not have to go through the mayor. Alderman Concannon said he would prefer the department heads answer questions in a public forum. Alderman Ferullo said that process worked well when he was the police chief. Alderman Concannon said it is reasonable for the council to expect department heads to appear if they are invited. He said he does not think the council and the mayor are at a point where they are going to have to battle over this issue. Alderman Gately said there were a number of relevant department heads invited to a water meeting and the mayor ended up answering all the questions.

Boston Xclusive for a new Livery License: Representing the petitioner was Karlen Yegoyan, 379 Cambridge Street, Burlington, MA. Chairman Higgins said Mr. Yegoyan is seeking a livery license for one vehicle. Chairman Higgins asked if the vehicle is registered in the city of Woburn. Mr. Yegoyan said the vehicle is not registered in Woburn. Chairman Higgins said the

vehicle must be registered in Woburn for excise tax purposes if the license is to be approved. Alderman Ferullo asked if the business address is an office or a post office box. Mr. Yegoyan said it is a post office box. Alderman Concannon asked where the car will be stored overnight. Mr. Yegoyan said the car will be parked overnight in Burlington. President Anderson asked why Mr. Yegoyan isn't seeking a license in Burlington. Mr. Yegoyan said he cannot get a commercial license in Burlington with a residential address. Alderman Mercer-Bruen said she thinks she used Mr. Yegoyan's service on New Year's Eve. Alderman Concannon asked if Mr. Yegoyan's only connection to Woburn will be the post office box. He also asked if Mr. Yegoyan will ever be in Woburn. Mr. Yegoyan said the business will be listed in Woburn. Alderman Ferullo said the license holders just need a place to hang their hat. Chairman Higgins asked if the business is registered in Burlington. Mr. Yegoyan said his business is registered in Andover. Alderman Mercer-Bruen said she asked Mr. Yegoyan about a license for the airport and he said he was going to do that. Mr. Yegoyan said he can't get a license in Andover because he could not get his car inspected there. He said he will file with Massport once he gets a license. Alderman Campbell asked if Mr. Yegoyan has had any issues in Andover or Burlington. Alderman Ferullo said any issues would show up during the police vetting process. Mr. Yegoyan said he has not been advertising. He said he is currently able to drop off at the airport but he can't pick up until he gets a license. Alderman Mercer-Bruen said she is going to recuse herself because of her prior business dealing with Mr. Yegoyan. President Anderson said Mr. Yegoyan will have to change the vehicle registration before the council approves the license. Motion made by Alderman Campbell and seconded by Alderman Concannon that the license renewal "ought to pass," with a condition that the vehicle must be registered in the city of Woburn, with the provision of proof of registration, approved, 4-0, with Alderman Mercer-Bruen abstaining.

Motion made to adjourn by Alderman Mercer-Bruen and seconded by Alderman Campbell; approved, 5-0. Chairman Higgins adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees