

**COMMITTEE ON LIAISON
AUGUST 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Voting Members present: President Lindsay Higgins, Alderman Michael Concannon, Alderman Darlene Mercer-Bruen, Alderman Lindsay Higgins, Alderman Joanne Campbell, Alderman Edward Tedesco, Alderman Robert Ferullo, Alderman Jeffrey Dillon, and Alderman Richard Gately

Also present: City Solicitor Ellen Callahan Doucette

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NAI Entertainment Holdings LLC vs. City of Woburn, et al – REDACTED

Interviews with Ward 4 Alderman candidates – President Higgins said she has compiled a series of questions for the candidates. Motion made by Alderman Tedesco and seconded by Alderman Campbell to receive and make part of the permanent record a document from President Higgins entitled “Ward 4 Alderman Candidate Questions” as follows: “1. Position Requirements to be eligible (at time of appointment): a. Legal Voter (registered to vote); b. Citizen of the United States for at least one (1) year? c. Resident of the City for at least one year preceding; 2. What do you see as the role of an Alderman and why do you want to be appointed to the City Council? 3. What in your background, education and/or life experience will help you serve as an Alderman, and how? 4. Follow-up questions by members of the City Council. 5. Closing remarks by Candidate;” approved, 8-0. President Higgins said the questions are similar to those that were asked of the candidates for Alderman at-large the last time there was a vacancy. She said she has added additional questions about the position requirements. Alderman Mercer-Bruen asked how the candidates will be limited to the 10-minute time frame for interviews, and if candidates will be given a 2-minute warning. President Higgins said she will keep track of the time. President Higgins asked if every member of the committee possesses the resumes and cover letters from the candidates. No one on the committee answered conflictingly.

William Booker – Mr. Booker thanked the committee for inviting him. He referenced President Higgins’ status as the first elected female president of the City Council and said that sounds good to him. Mr. Booker responded affirmatively to all three questions about his eligibility for office. In response to Question #2, Mr. Booker said he was previously the Ward 4 alderman for three terms, from 2000-2006. He said the City Council serves as the city’s legislative branch and that alderman is a very important position. He said serving on the City Council is like serving on the board of directors of a \$10 billion company. He said the responsibility is huge. He said when he was an alderman, he used to arrive for meetings 30-45 minutes early. He said there is so much for which to be responsible. He said when he was an alderman the City Council built the new high school, approved projects on Presidential Way and adopted important legislation. He said the increase to the tax base was in the tens of millions of dollars. He said his tenure on the council involved a lot of hard work, answering a lot of phone calls, and communication with residents, even before the advent of social media. He said he has a lot to offer after 31 years working for the U.S. Postal Service, 30 of which were spent in a supervisory role. In response to Question #3, Mr. Booker said he graduated from Woburn High School in 1980, and then he

attended Salem State. He said he worked for the U.S. Postal Service. He said he was a Kraft employee for 4-5 months when he was asked to be a manager. He said he asked if the promotion came with a raise and he was told the pay increase was from \$18,000 to \$23,000. He said this was in 1999. He said he then ran for Ward 4 alderman. He said he was up against an incredible foe in incumbent Bill Mulrenan. He said because of that he knew he had to work harder. He said when he was campaigning, his children were 4 and 6 years old. He said it was a juggling act. He said the night he won election to the council was incredible. Alderman Gately asked if he and Mr. Booker served on the council at the same time. Mr. Booker said Alderman Gately was elected to the council one term after he left. He said he wished he had served with Alderman Gately, because it would have been fun. Alderman Gately asked how Mr. Booker thinks the City Council should treat future developments proposals, and if he is in favor of expanding development or slowing things down. Mr. Booker replied the city is never going back to its status with an industrial base of tanneries, piggeries and greenhouses. He said Woburn is a huge city with a small-town feel. He said the new Woburn Mall is warm up for the Vale project. He said the city has to consider what is going to happen to the Altavesta and the Linscott schools. He said there has to be a plan for a new school. He said large projects like the Woburn Mall and the Vale have to be managed. He said that is the job of the City Council. He said if the council doesn't like the direction of the project, it should demand more. He said he likes R-1 projects. He said when he was on the council, there was a Chapter 40B filing by Archstone Properties on the West Side, which the city fought. He said his City Council hired attorney Gary Brackett to oppose Archstone. He said the city kept stringing out the case and eventually was able to buy the property. He said the city did not have the same favorable result with the Ledges project in North Woburn. He said he remembers when Alderman Mercer-Bruen ran against incumbent Paul Medeiros one of her campaign points of emphasis was her claim that Alderman Medeiros was often on the losing side of 8-1 votes. He said Alderman Mercer-Bruen has the ability to work with people to get what she wants, and he is willing to do that as well. In his closing remarks, Mr. Booker said he would like to sit up on the rostrum with the rest of the council. He said he worked for 31 years at the Postal Service. He said he has lived in the ward for 33 years and his family is involved in Ward 4. He said Ward 4 is where he lives. He said he is not here because he wants insurance or a salary. He said he is here because he loves the city of Woburn. **Anthony Caliri** – Mr. Caliri answered affirmatively to all three questions about his eligibility for office. In response to Question #2, Mr. Caliri said we are living a very, very divisive time. He said one of the things he plans on doing is police reform. He said he thinks the city needs to change the way it hires police officers. He said there needs to be more of an emphasis on social work. He said Woburn is a great community and there are a lot of great police officers, but the city needs to be more careful about whom it hires. Mr. Caliri said he graduated from Woburn High School in 2020. He said he was born in Winchester and has lived here for 18 years. He said he attended the Wyman School, then the Altavesta School, then Kennedy Middle School and then Woburn High. He said he thinks he is very passionate about issues and he thinks he can bring that attitude to the council. In response to Question #3, Mr. Caliri said he is a student at Framingham State University. He said he plans on being a history teacher at the high school level. President Higgins asked if Mr. Caliri would like to make a closing statement. Mr. Caliri declined. **Joseph Demers** – Mr. Demers answered affirmatively to all three questions about his eligibility for office. In response to Question #2, Mr. Demers said he worked for State Rep. James Dwyer as an aide. He said he worked cooperatively with the council as a member of the School Committee. He said he has seen what goes in to being an alderman. He said the expertise he will bring to the

council is constituent service and his experience working as an elected official. In response to Question #3, Mr. Demers said he initially wanted to be a high school history teacher. Then he met Rep. Dwyer and worked for him at the State House. He said when Rep. Dwyer retired, he ran for state representative. He said he served on the School Committee for six years and it was a great experience, particularly from a budgeting perspective. He said he is now the coordinator of the MACCS Program. He said manages a half-million dollars in grants. He said the program has been adapting to the Covid-19 crisis. Alderman Campbell asked Mr. Demers what issues he thinks the city will be facing in the next five years and what solutions he has. Mr. Demers said traffic is always an issue. He said when he worked as a legislative aide his role included aiding in progress on the New Boston Street bridge and the Salem Street bridge projects. He said housing is an important issue. He said his primary goal is to preserve the quality of life in Woburn and keep the community affordable. He said people are finding it more difficult to buy a home here in Woburn. Alderman Gately said Mr. Demers did an outstanding job on the School Committee and with Rep. Dwyer. He said there is nothing in Mr. Demers' background that he does not like. He said Mr. Demers' experience on the School Committee would be welcome on the City Council. He said the city is getting bigger and more diverse by the day and he would like to hear about Mr. Demers' thoughts about the population of the schools. Mr. Demers replied Supt. Matthew Crowley has done a really good job of reaching out to the community. He said he is a huge proponent of smart growth projects. He said the cost of real estate is pricing out some Woburn families. He said what he is hearing is projects like the one at Shannon Farm have not created growth on school population. He said there are people who are moving to Woburn in enroll in the special needs programs in the schools. President Higgins asked Mr. Demers is he wished to make a closing statement. Mr. Demers thanked the council. He said the aldermen share his passion for the city. He said he has been involved in the community for his entire adult life. He said he wants to continue to live in Woburn. He said he wants the city to remain affordable for generations. **John Dillon** - Mr. Dillon answered affirmatively to all three questions about his eligibility for office. In response to Question #2, Mr. Dillon said 20-25 years ago he ran unsuccessfully for a seat on the School Committee. He said he worked in the education realm for 20 years and did not have time to consider running for City Council. He said he also didn't run because Ward 4 already had one of the best aldermen the city ever had. He said he is now out of education. He said when his father passed away, his father didn't get to do a lot of things he wanted. He said he wants to do some of the things he wants to do. He said he has always had a passion for law enforcement. He said he has more time to dedicate to the City Council. He said the City Council is a great group of people. He said he thinks he has the pulse of the community. He said he thinks he can do a great job. In response to Question #3, Mr. Dillon said he has been connected to the city for a long time. He said his wife is a Woburnite whose family ran Wells drug store. He said 5-6 years ago his wife's family sold their home and he and his wife decided to build out their home as a 2-family. He said he understands the pulse of the city. He said he owns real estate on Felton Street. He said his children are 15 and 13. He said they keep him busy, but he wants to help the community. Alderman Campbell asked Mr. Dillon what his view is on development in the city. Mr. Dillon said it is vital that the city constantly monitors the downtown area. He said the city should encourage new businesses. He said he knows what's going on. He said not all of it is good. He said what frustrates him is he often hears that Woburn is good enough, but he thinks Woburn out to be better than just good enough. He said he wants his children to stay in Woburn. He said the city is great right now, but there is room for improvement. He said he will be diligent about that. President Higgins asked Mr. Dillon if he

wished to make a closing statement. Mr. Dillon said he was in the education field for 27 years. He said he thinks he has the perfect background for the City Council. He said when he saw the list of people who have applied for alderman, he was very nervous, because there are 3-4 candidates with great political experience. He said if the council members are open-minded, want a new face and someone who is not going to be complacent, then he is the guy they want. He said he would appreciate votes from members of the council. **Frank DiMauro** - Dr. DiMauro answered affirmatively to all three questions about his eligibility for office. In response to Question #2, Dr. DiMauro said an alderman must take on a number of different roles, including consideration of special permits and budget review, but the most important component is constituent services. He said he has been a member of the Lions Club since 1999. He said he worked the mayor on the Woburn Wins program. He said he worked with the Woburn High cross-country team to develop the Monster Dash and Fun Run. Dr. DiMauro said he is a dentist who has his own business. He said he did not open his business in Woburn. He said he grew up on Bow Street and there were already 12 dentists on Bow Street. He said he worked with the Middleton Board of Trade. He said he is probably one of the people Alderman Anderson is glad about leaving. He said he used to contact Alderman Anderson all the time. In response to Question #3, Dr. DiMauro said he deals with people all the time in his role as a dentist, and he tries to keep things on a positive note. He said today's health crisis is reflected in his business. He said the dental industry is in a crisis mode right now. He said he has decided to cut back on his work hours to 12 per day. He said you have to be flexible. Alderman Gately asked Dr. DiMauro if he likes the location of the new fire station. Dr. DiMauro said he likes that location. He said there is access to the highway. He said the site is flat and there are no wetlands. Alderman Gately asked Dr. DiMauro if he goes to Horn Pond. Dr. DiMauro said he is involved in the Monster Dash. Alderman Gately asked if the pond should be cleaner. Dr. DiMauro said he helps with the cleanup. He said he has walked the pond. Alderman Campbell asked Dr. DiMauro what his view is on future development in the city. Dr. DiMauro said Burlington has an edge on Woburn in terms of planning. He said sometimes Woburn is in a rush to get things done. He said the new configuration of traffic lights on Washington Street seems to be working well. President Higgins asked Dr. DiMauro if he wished to make a closing statement. Dr. DiMauro said he was born in Woburn. He said he went to the White School, the Kennedy Middle School and Woburn High School. He said he raised his kids here. He said he feels like he has been involved in the city. He said he attended budget hearings. He said he feels this is a time to get more involved. Motion made by Alderman Tedesco and seconded by Alderman Mercer-Bruen to take a 2-minute recess; approved, 8-0. President Higgins recessed the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Motion made by Alderman Tedesco and seconded by Alderman Mercer-Bruen to return to the regular order of business; approved, 8-0. President Higgins reconvened the meeting at 7:38 p.m. **Vincent Ferlisi** - Mr. Ferlisi answered affirmatively to all three questions about his eligibility for office. In response to Question #2, Mr. Ferlisi said he has a lot to offer. He said he has been a resident for a long time, he wants to give back to the city, and this is the way to do it. He said he works with a lot of mayors throughout the state. He said he is proactive when he gets something he likes to work on. In response to Question #3, Mr. Ferlisi said he went to Merrimack College and earned a degree in chemistry. He said he has been involved in public service for 38 years. He said he is semi-retired. He said he has been involved with the Lions Club and Woburn Public Media. He said he is in touch with everything in the city and the ward. He said he feels like the ward needs someone different. Alderman Campbell asked Mr. Ferlisi what in his view the city will be facing in terms of development over the next five years. Mr. Ferlisi replied there are always parking

issues in the city. He said he is not opposed to development. He said the city needs to take a giant step forward. He said the city can encourage development in areas where there is space. He said he does not think the city should be stagnant. He said he wants Woburn to keep moving forward. He said he thinks the city may need to boost the Woburn Fire Dept. He said the city may need to increase the Police Dept. He said the city may need to also look at infrastructure. Alderman Gately said Woburn is blessed with a lot of open space and asked if Mr. Ferlisi would be in favor of setting aside more open space. Mr. Ferlisi said it depends upon where the open space is. He said he would like to keep the West Side the way it is. He said he would consider the preservation of open space on a case-by-case basis. He said he doesn't think the city ought to be encouraging development in wetlands. President Higgins asked Mr. Ferlisi if he wished to make a closing statement. Mr. Ferlisi said he thinks he has summed up his qualifications well. He said he feels like his experience working with government at different levels is a plus. He said he feels like he brings a lot to the table. He said he feels like he can make a difference. **Anthony Langone** - Mr. Langone answered affirmatively to all three questions about his eligibility for office. In response to Question #2, Mr. Langone said he thinks the role of an alderman is to aid residents. He said an alderman needs to be available at the time of a crisis. He said an alderman needs to be a voice on the City Council. He said an alderman's role is to solve problems and find solutions. In response to Question #3, Mr. Langone said he thinks he is pretty well-rounded. He said he was able to learn a lot of things first-hand while he was in the Air Force. He said there were a lot of stressful situations. He said while he has worked at the State House, he has been exposed to state and local issues. He said he developed a professional network. He said since he was appointed to the city's Traffic Commission, he has worked with a lot of the city's department heads. Alderman Gately said he has communicated with Mr. Langone both over the phone and via email. He thanked Mr. Langone for his military service. He said Mr. Langone has a nice resume. He said Mr. Langone does a lot of work for a lot of people. He asked Mr. Langone how he would best serve his constituents. Mr. Langone said he would talk to them. He said it is important to listen. Alderman Gately said the city has spent a lot of money on infrastructure. He asked how the quality of Mr. Langone's water is. Mr. Langone said he loves Woburn tap water. He said a lot of people like to criticize Woburn, and he is the first to defend it. Alderman Campbell asked Mr. Langone what he foresees in terms of development in the city over the next five years. Mr. Langone said it seems like the city is becoming more attractive to singles and younger couples. He said he likes that the city is revitalizing Woburn Center. He said there are challenges with crowding. He said he listened to the last City Council meeting and it seemed like parking is a huge issue. He said the city is running out of parking. He said he does not think there needs to be another study of Woburn Center, but the city does need to find solutions. President Higgins asked Mr. Langone if he wished to make a closing statement. Mr. Langone said what compelled him to apply for alderman is his desire to serve Woburn residents. He said Woburn is his home. He said he attended every school in the ward. He said he is looking for ways to serve within the community like he has worked on Beacon Hill. He said he has worked to obtain local aid, Chapter 70 funds, and Chapter 90 funds. He said he is the resident representative on the Traffic Commission. He said he thinks he will bring some fresh ideas to the council. He said he has worked with the MBTA. He said he likes transit-oriented issues. He said understands the budget process. He said he worked on the home rule petition for the new fire station. He said he worked on a local liquor license bill. He said he has made professional relationships at the State House that will be helpful in his role as an alderman. He said he loves Ward 4, he loves the city, and he is looking for a way to serve it. He said he knows he has big

shoes to fill. He said Alderman Anderson made the city a better place in which to live. **Philip McGovern** - Mr. McGovern answered affirmatively to all three questions about his eligibility for office. He said he wants to elaborate on the third question, regarding whether he has been a resident of the city for at least one-year preceding. He said his career has largely involved active duty military service. He said he was deployed to Iraq in 2007 while serving with the National Guard. He said Woburn has always been in his home. He said in 2011 he co-purchased a home on Mishawum Road, and then he moved to Main Street. He said he was transferred to the regular Army until 2015, and in between he was deployed for seven of eight years. He said in 2015 he joined Congressman Ed Markey's staff. He said he worked for Sen. Markey for three years and then returned to Woburn. He said he has never permanently lived anywhere else than Woburn since 1965, when he moved with his family to Washington Street. He said he has lived in other places on a temporary basis, but there has never been anywhere else he has intended to live. He said his mother became ill in 2018 and he was frequently at 582 Main Street, spending more time there than he anticipated. He said he meets the criteria for consideration as an alderman. He asked the council members to take a look at the city charter's residency requirements and determine if he qualifies. He apologized for his long explanation. Alderman Gately thanked Mr. McGovern for his military service. Alderman Gately says he comes from a military family himself. He thanked Mr. McGovern for what he is saying, and he agrees 100 percent. He said he does not think Mr. McGovern's residency status should be penalized for living outside the city in the context of his military service. Mr. McGovern said he is well-prepared for the role of alderman. He said he has deep experience with constituent services. He said the city is very different now than it was when he was a kid. He said he wants to ensure Woburn remains a livable city. Mr. McGovern was excused because his 10-minute time limit expired. President Higgins said she spoke to City Solicitor Ellen Callahan Doucette who told her the residency requirement is one year prior to appointment. Alderman Mercer-Bruen asked if Mr. McGovern qualifies. President Higgins said the City Solicitor's opinion is Mr. McGovern's interpretation of the resident requirement is inaccurate because it requires one year preceding appointment. Alderman Concannon asked if the City Solicitor issued an opinion about the definition of residency. President Higgins said the City Solicitor stated residency means living in the city.

Robert Meaney - Mr. Meaney answered affirmatively to all three questions about his eligibility for office. In response to Question #2, Mr. Meaney said he has done the job before. He said he knows what the role is all about. He said he served three terms as Ward 3 Alderman. He said he knows the ins and outs of the duties. He said one of the reasons he left the council was because he was starting a family, so he bowed out gracefully. He said he has familiarity with the City Charter, the Zoning Ordinance and municipal budgets. In response to Question #3, Mr. Meaney said he was a political science major. He said his aspiration was to become an attorney, but he never really followed through, and then he started in law enforcement. He said he then moved to the insurance industry. He said he has interacted with people for more than 30 years in the insurance industry. He said he has 15-20 years of experience in sales and marketing. Alderman Campbell asked Mr. Meaney what he foresees in terms of development in the city over the next five years. Mr. Meaney replied the next couple of years will be tough on the city because of Covid-19. He said he has seen the vacancy rates go up across the business classes of property because more people are working from home. He said he thinks the vacancy rates may reach 30-40 percent, and that may put the squeeze on the city financially. He said the city is undergoing growth and there are a number of projects that are going to define the city over the next five years. Alderman Gately said he knows Mr. Meaney is a hard worker. He said he had nothing but

respect for Mr. Meaney's father. He asked Mr. Meaney if he thinks the location of the new fire station is a good location. Mr. Meaney said he thinks the location of the new fire station is perfect. He said the city may want to consider an annex to the fire department in the overlay district but reiterated the new fire station is a perfect location. Alderman Gately thanked Mr. Meaney for all the stuff he has been doing. President Higgins asked Mr. Meaney if he wished to make a closing statement. Mr. Meaney said he served on the Burlington Zoning Board of Appeals, including 10 years as chairman, and thus has familiarity with Chapter 40A. He said he has dealt with Chapter 70 and cheery sheet funding. He said he has experience and will not need any training. He said his children are 23 and 24 and he works from home, so he is able to put in the time. He said he grew up in a family that likes to give something back to the community.

Ken Parlee - Mr. Parlee answered affirmatively to all three questions about his eligibility for office. In response to Question #2, Mr. Parlee said his business has been struggling and he would like to do what he can for the community. He said he wants to do more for the city, and he wants a challenge that involves helping other people. He said he wants to make sure he is there for his neighbors. In response to Question #3, Mr. Parlee said he was a paper boy at age 7 and since then he has always worked hard. He said he worked at a marina. He said he loves boats. He said he worked for ZF Marine for 3-4 years until the 2008 recession and he quit so the foreman wouldn't get laid off. He said he had a friend who worked on cars who offered him a job developing software, which turned into a real estate development opportunity. He said the process is buy, rehab, rent and refinance. He said that has been very rewarding. He said he wants to take some of his time and dedicate it to someone other than himself. He said he wants to challenge himself. He said he respects what the council does. He said he was particularly impressed with Alderman Campbell when he attended a Traffic Commission meeting. He said when he saw what the council does, he wants to become an alderman. **Kathryn Thifault** – President Higgins said the committee received an email from Ms. Thifault indicating she is unavailable for an interview because she is out-of-state and does not have transportation. Motion made by Alderman Gately and seconded by Alderman Tedesco to receive the email from Ms. Thifault and make it part of the permanent record; approved, 8-0. President Higgins said the ward alderman will be appointed at the City Council's September 8 meeting, which she said will probably be held remotely due to the concerns about social distancing. Alderman Campbell asked if the committee will be whittling down the field of candidates tonight. President Higgins said the committee didn't do that last time. Alderman Tedesco said even if the committee pares the field of candidates, the council is not bound to adhere to the committee's recommendation. He said the council can pick anyone from Ward 4 who qualifies for the position. Alderman Mercer-Bruen asked if the committee is prevented from voting tonight. President Higgins said at least three candidates have to be nominated for the process not to be considered a final round of interviews. Alderman Mercer-Bruen said it sounds like the council can't vote tonight. Alderman Tedesco said the City Clerk isn't here to swear in the new alderman. Alderman Campbell asked Alderman Tedesco to clarify his comment about not paring the field of candidates. Alderman Tedesco said the charter does not require the council to conduct interviews. He said the council can pick anyone living in the ward who meets the qualifications. Alderman Campbell said she thinks the committee could vote to forward the names of five finalists. Alderman Tedesco said he has conferred with the City Clerk. Alderman Campbell asked if anyone else on the committee wants to narrow the field of candidates. Alderman Mercer-Bruen said she does not feel the need. She said she also does not feel like the council needs to wait until September 8. She said she feels like they would only be making the candidates wait. Alderman Tedesco said even if the committee picks someone

tonight, they couldn't be sworn in until September 8. Motion made by Alderman Tedesco and seconded by Alderman Mercer-Bruen to send the matter "back for action" on September 8; approved, 8-0.

Motion made by Alderman Tedesco and seconded by Alderman Mercer-Bruen to adjourn; approved, 8-0. President Higgins adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Attest: _____
Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees