

COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCES, CHARTER & RULES
MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022, AT 6:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WOBURN CITY HALL

Voting members present: Chairman Joseph Demers, Councilor Richard Gately, Councilor Darlene Mercer-Bruen, and Councilor Lou DiMambro. Absent: Councilor Robert Ferullo
Non-voting members present: President Michael Concannon, Councilor Joanne Campbell, Councilor Jeffrey Dillon, and Councilor Charles Viola

Also present: Dept. of Public Works Supt. John Duran

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Reading and approval of previous meeting minutes: Motion made by Councilor Mercer-Bruen and seconded by Councilor DiMambro to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 7, 2022; in favor, 4-0.

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Order amending Title 12 of the Woburn Municipal Code § 12-15 Digging up or obstructing ways – Permits required: Motion made by Councilor Mercer-Bruen and seconded by Councilor DiMambro to suspend the rules to allow Supt. Duran to address the committee; approved, 4-0. Supt. Duran said the proposed increase in the trench fee will put Woburn in line with other communities. He said a similar increase was already approved for the Building Dept.’s trench fee and this proposed increase resolves any discrepancy. He said an increase in the trench fee is long overdue. He said the fee will match the Building Dept.’s fee. He said he wants everything to run smoothly. Councilor Gately asked if the trench fee is for any sidewalk or street opening. Supt. Duran said the fee is for any trench opening that involves a utility. He said Jackie’s Law requires safety considerations for any trench deeper than three feet. He said there are trench safety concerns.

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Order amending Title 13 of the Woburn Municipal Code § 13.2.33 Cross Connection Control: Supt. Duran said cross connections are necessary to prevent contamination of the water supply. He said this is all about maintaining public health. He said Woburn has been quite a bit behind surrounding communities when it comes to this increase from \$33 to \$75. He said the City Solicitor has also changed the language in the ordinance to make it fit accordingly. Councilor Gately said a private company has been handling cross connections. Supt. Duran said that is correct. Chairman Gately asked if the private company’s rate will also increase. Supt. Duran said he anticipates it will. Council Gately asked if this service is subject to public bid laws. Supt. Duran said he will inquire with the city’s Purchasing Dept. Councilor Mercer-Bruen said she totally understands the rationale for the proposed increase but added she has never been big fan of raising fees for the sake of getting in line with other communities. She asked if there is

any reason to increase the fees other than keeping up with other communities. Supt. Duran said the city's outside consultant has been handling cross connection control and hasn't raised its rates in some time. He said most likely this will have to go out to bid. He said there is a lot to it. Councilor Mercer-Bruen asked what prompted the proposed increase. Supt. Duran said the fee has not been raised in the 11 years he has been superintendent of the DPW. Motion made by Councilor Mercer-Bruen and seconded by Councilor DiMambro to suspend the rules to allow any member of the council not on the committee to address the proposed ordinance changes; approved, 4-0. Councilor Dillon said he deals with this in his line of work. He said the city's rates are low. Motion made by Councilor Mercer-Bruen and seconded by Councilor DiMambro to return to the regular order to business; approved, 4-0. Motion made by Councilor Mercer-Bruen and seconded by Councilor Gately to receive and place on file a communication from Supt. Duran dated March 25, 2022, regarding the proposed increases; approved, 4-0. Motion made by Councilor Mercer-Bruen and seconded by Councilor DiMambro that the Order amending Title 12 of the Woburn Municipal Code § 12-15 Digging up or obstructing ways – Permits required "ought to pass;" approved, 4-0. Motion made by Councilor Mercer-Bruen and seconded by Councilor DiMambro that the Order amending Title 13 of the Woburn Municipal Code § 13.2.33 Cross Connection Control "ought to pass;" approved, 4-0.

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MOTION made by Councilor Mercer-Bruen and seconded by Councilor DiMambro to adjourn; in favor, 4-0. Chairman Demers adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees