

COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCES, CHARTER & RULES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2022, AT 6:00 p.m.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WOBURN CITY HALL

Voting members present: Chairman Joseph Demers, Councilor Darlene Mercer-Bruen, Councilor Lou DiMambro, Councilor Richard Gately, and Councilor Robert Ferullo

Non-voting members present: President Michael Concannon, Councilor Charles Viola, Councilor Joanne Campbell, and Councilor Jeffrey Dillon

Also present: Council on Aging Director Marie Lingblom

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Reading and approval of previous meeting minutes: Motion made by Councilor Ferullo and seconded by Councilor DiMambro to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 21, 2022; approved, 5-0.

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Order to amend Woburn Municipal Code Sections 2-160 through 2-162A regarding the Council on Aging: Director Lingblom said the Woburn Senior Center community experienced a devastating loss with the death of Josephine Clancy this past weekend. Director Lingblom said Ms. Clancy brought a lot of joy to the senior center. She said Ms. Clancy was the mother of well-known Woburn resident Fr. Richard Clancy. She said services for Ms. Clancy will be held at St. Anthony Church. She said the order under consideration by the committee reduces the number of members on the Council on Aging board from 15 to between 7-10. She said during the Covid period it was difficult for the board to achieve a quorum. She said she conferred with Mayor Galvin and City Solicitor Callahan Doucette about the proposed change to the order. She said they both the Mayor and the City Solicitor felt a range between 7-10 members would be sufficient. She said there are also associate members of the COA who volunteer but are not voting members. She said the COA is in the process of bringing all the policies at the senior center up to date. She said the City Solicitor suggested updating the ordinance to reflect what was going on. She said Friends Helping Seniors is the independent non-profit entity affiliated with the senior center, but there is no legal connection. She said that made her uneasy about her role. She said the ordinance change adds the director as a liaison. She said Friends Helping Seniors paid one-third the cost of the last van that was purchased for the senior center. Councilor Gately asked how many people are currently on the COA committee. Director Lingblom said there are currently nine active board members. She said there is a 10th member, but that member is in the hospital. She said 10 is a solid number. Councilor Gately said he has no issues with changing the ordinance. He said the COA does good work. Director Lingblom said the ordinance currently calls for 15 members. Councilor Gately said that is a lot of people to be on a committee. He said he understands why the COA would have difficulty achieving a quorum. Motion made by Councilor Mercer-Bruen and seconded by Councilor DiMambro that the order “ought to pass;” approved, 5-0.

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MOTION made by Councilor Mercer-Bruen and seconded by Councilor DiMambro to adjourn; in favor, 5-0. Chairman Demers adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees