City of Quincy, Massachusetts
Mayor James R. McIntyre City Hall
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Quincy, Massachusetts 02169

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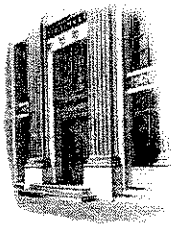

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The City Council of the City of Quincy met on Monday, December 19, 2011 in the City Hall Council Chambers with City Council President Kevin F. Coughlin presiding. Present were Councilors Finn, Gutro, Keenan, Laforest, McFarland, McNamee, Orlando, and Palmucci.

President Coughlin opened the meeting with a moment of silence in recognition of all the men and women serving our nation in the military, both at home and abroad. Members of the Quincy Veteran's Council posted the colors, and Staff Sergeant Jimmy Locke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Coughlin presented a commendation to Quincy Firefighter Michael Eastwick for the action he took in assisting an elderly woman involved in a car accident in Abington, Massachusetts.

Councilor Finn recognized the Planning Department for being awarded a 2012 Audrey Nelson Award for the Housing First for Families Program.

Traffic Engineer Jack Gillon addressed the Council to discuss the Walter J. Hannon Parkway and traffic concerns. Extensive discussion was held and questions from Councilors were addressed.

#2011-187 – Installation of No Parking on both sides of Wibird Street from McGrath Highway to Washington Street. This was introduced on December 5, advertised on December 8, and is ready for passage. Councilor Gutro moved passage. On the motion made by Councilor Gutro, seconded by Councilor Laforest with a recommendation it ought to pass, the order passed by a 9-0 roll call vote.

#2011-188 – Installation of handicapped parking sign at 33 Oval Road. This was introduced on December 5, advertised on December 8, and is ready for passage. Councilor Gutro moved passage. On the motion made by Councilor Gutro, seconded by Councilor McFarland with a recommendation it ought to pass, the order passed by a 9-0 roll call vote.

#2011-189 – Passenger Loading Zone on Walter J. Hannon Parkway on the southerly sign in front of the gym and career center. Councilor Gutro moved passage. On the motion made by Councilor Gutro, seconded by Councilor Finn with a recommendation it ought to pass, the order passed by a 9-0 roll call vote.

#2011-184 – Appropriation of $35,000 to Police Department Contractual Homeland Security-Maritime Division, to be transferred from Waterway Improvement Fund. Councilor Keenan moved this order be removed from the Finance Committee, all in favor. Police Chief Keenan addressed the Council. He stated maintenance has been started on the boats and is being paid from the Repair and Maintenance Account. They are requesting an offset from the Waterways Improvement Fund. In response to an inquiry from the Council, Chief Keenan stated the Asset Forfeiture funding is not an appropriate place to fund this type of activity, this is used for drug investigations and related activities. Councilor Finn expressed concern with declining collection rates and urged the Auditor to stay vigilant with this. He also expressed concern about this decline in relation to transferring the Harbormaster duties to the Police Department. Councilor McFarland moved approval. On the motion made by Councilor McFarland, seconded by Councilor Laforest with a recommendation it ought to pass, the order passed by an 8-1 roll call vote.

Public Works Commissioner Raymondi addressed the Council to provide an update on the Sea Street water main project. He indicated it is the policy of the City to look at the infrastructure below a roadway before it is paved, as 75% of the City's water mains are older cast iron pipes, 43% installed before 1927. The pipes on Sea Street were 8 inch mains which had a large buildup inside the pipe which lowered the capacity for water to flow through it, lowering water pressure and fire suppression capacity. This section of Sea Street was chosen for repair due to continuous leaks.

Petitions, Memorials, Remonstrances:

Councilor Gutro stated a list of people who were delinquent on tax payments was recently published in the newspaper. He has received several calls on this and asked what the process is which leads to the publishing of these names. Mr. Fatseas from the Mayor's office stated in order to put a property in tax title the information has to be published. Every person on that list was sent a tax bill and after numerous attempts the City must publish the information to proceed with a tax title sale. He stated it is unfortunate that some people who are deceased, or may have sold the property, appear on the list, but it is the City's responsibility to collect the taxes and they are taking a more aggressive stance.

Councilor Palmucci stated on January 26, 2012 the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce will be honoring Marcy Reed, the President of National Grid, with their 2012 Pinnacle Award. He stated Marcy Reed went on vacation to Hawaii while thousands of National Grid customers were without power during Hurricane Irene. During the DPU hearing at Quincy High School Marcy Reed apologized publically for doing a poor job and failing to properly prepare for the Hurricane. On behalf of the residents he represents he expressed his disappointment that the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce would reward Marcy Reed for her sheer mediocrity.

Councilor Gutro recognized the passing of Terry Phalen, longtime Quincy resident, and the mother of former Mayor William Phalen.

President Coughlin thanked the Council for allowing him to serve as president of the Council for the past two years.

President Coughlin recognized At Large Councilor John Keenan, who will now serve as State Senator, and former Ward 2 Councilor and present DPW Commissioner Daniel Raymondi. He also recognized Councilor Francis Orlando, who served a six month interim term as Ward 2 Councilor.

The meeting was adjourned in memory of Theresa McCabe Phalen.

Motion made to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Joseph P. Shea
City Clerk