



City Council Actions

In City Council

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Present: Councilors Baker, Bowman, Crossley, Danberg, Downs, Gentile, Greenberg, Grossman, Humphrey, Kalis, Kelley, Krintzman, Laredo, Lipof, Malakie, Markiewicz, Noel, Ryan, Wright & Albright.

2 Vacancies

The City Council voted 20 Yeas, 2 Absent (Councilors Leary and Norton) with 2 Vacancies to Accept the Committee Recommendations on the following items:

Note: The City Clerk's office received notification on February 24, 2021 that a provision for In-person early voting was authorized by Chapter 255 of the Acts of 2020 "An Act for Providing for Early Voting by Mail". The Secretary of the State's office advised the Clerk's office to seek Council approval to allow in-person early voting. Section 2-9 of the Charter permits the Council to accept an item to the docket and approve it on the same evening, provided the item falls within the scope of Section 2-9 of the Newton City Charter and is declared an emergency measure necessary to protect the health and safety of the people and property of the City of Newton. The emergency preamble requires a separate 2/3 vote of the City Council. President Albright introduced the item to the Council and the Council voted to accept the item to the Docket for Referral to Committee of the Whole. The Council voted to go into a Committee of the Whole with Programs and Services Chair Krintzman presiding. Acting City Clerk Christopher Sullivan presented the request for approval to allow early voting at City Hall from Monday, March 8, 2021 through Friday, March 12, 2021 from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. Mr. Sullivan noted that authorization for early in-person voting will allow for the elimination of additional applications and reduce time spent for voters at City Hall. Due to the Covid-19 emergency and the timing of the information relative to early voting, the Council may approve the item with an emergency preamble. Associate City Solicitor Maura O'Keefe worked with the City Clerk's office to draft the preamble (shown below). The Committee of the Whole voted 20 in favor, none opposed to pass the emergency preamble. The Committee of the Whole voted 20 in favor, none opposed in favor for #69-21. Councilor Krintzman requested and was granted a suspension of the rules to report an item for which there is no written report. Councilor Krintzman presented details of the request. The Council voted 20 in favor, none opposed for item #69-21 and in favor of the emergency preamble. The Council adjourned at 7:30 pm.

EMERGENCY PREAMBLE

BE IT HEREBY ORDERED:

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the City Council that the following measure constitutes an Emergency Measure under Section 2-9(b) of the Charter of the City of Newton due to the precise timing of certain procedural requirements in connection with the Special Election now scheduled for Tuesday March 16, 2021 and in light of unique allowances related to early in-person voting as provided in Chapter 255 of the Special Acts of 2020, "An Act Providing for Early Voting by Mail";

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to provide a fair election to all eligible voters in the City of Newton;

WHEREAS, the City Council, in order to preserve the public safety, as well as the health and convenience of eligible voters, proposes the following measure for early in-person voting for the Special Election on March 16, 2021, as permitted by Chapter 255 of the Special Acts of 2020;

THEREFORE, the following measure shall be and hereby is adopted as an Emergency Measure which shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Referred to Committee of the Whole

#69-21

Request to allow early in person voting for March 16, 2021 Special Election
ACTING CITY CLERK requesting approval to allow in-person early voting at City Hall from Monday, March 8, 2021 through Friday, March 12, 2021 from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm as authorized by Chapter 255 of the Acts of 2020 "An Act Providing for Early Voting by Mail" for the Special Municipal Election to be held on March 16, 2021.