

A Special meeting of the City Council met on Monday, July 11, 2022 at 6:00pm.

Members present were Councilor John Hanlon, presiding, Councilors Irene Cardillo, Darren Costa, Richard Dell Isola, Al Lattanzi, Michael Marchese, Stephanie Martins, Wayne Matewsky, Vivian Nguyen and Stephanie Smith. Member absent was Councilor Jimmy Le.

The Committee considered an Order offered by Councilor John Hanlon, as President: That the Committee convene in Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21, purpose (1) (Open Meeting Law) as the Chair declares to discuss the reappointment of the City Clerk to a new five-year term.

City Clerk Sergio Cornelio and his Attorney John Tocci were also present.

The Committee voted to open public participation on the subject matter and those provided with an opportunity to speak were Bill Thomson, Tony Raymond, Maria Radosta Bussell, Sandy Juliano, John Puopolo, Paula Sterite, Wendy Poste and Josetta Yutkins all supporting the reappointment of Sergio Cornelio as City Clerk.

President Hanlon announced that the Council would go into Executive Session upon a roll call vote in the affirmative pursuant to Executive Sessions of the Open Meeting Law unless City Clerk Cornelio opted to have any discussions on his reappointment in public. City Clerk Cornelio informed President Hanlon he preferred to have any discussions on his reappointment held in public.

Councilor Martins remarked that there were no tools to measure performance and stated that she had concerns about time reporting, medical paternity leave, time not in office, working from home, election concerns on impartiality which she considered some of these issues bordered on fraud. Attorney Tocci noted that Councilor Martins questions were extremely biased and felt that she should not be involved in these proceedings due to legal issues between parties. Councilor Martins responded that she had spoken to the City Solicitor and that position of City Clerk falls under the City Councils purview. Councilor Martins asked City Clerk Cornelio to respond to her questions and he refused to do so. Councilor Dell Isola questioned him about going to the State House on his life-time tenure proposal after it failed. City Clerk Cornelio responded that he did but that the vote was 7-4 so he submitted to the State Legislature to determine if a majority or 2/3rds was required and noted that it went without the Mayor's signature because it hadn't passed. Councilor Dell Isola questioned if he took Paternity leave without Paternity leave being available at the time. Attorney Tucci responded that City Clerk took Paternity time off for his newborn but the time used was actually unused vacation and sick time since the City did not have any paternity leave at the time. Councilor Matewsky referenced past City Clerks in office and noted that he actually voted against Mr. Cornelio but complimented his performance over the past five years. Councilor Matewsky suggested that the City Clerk be less political and

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referenced the political tension in the City. Councilor Lattanzi mentioned the intent of the Charter Commission with the overwhelming vote of confidence from the public to make the City Clerk a 5-year appointment rather than a life-time appointment and that is the reason the matter was before the Council. Councilor Dell Isola asked City Clerk Cornelio if he would be willing to be excluded from involvement in the election commission and City Clerk Cornelio responded that he shouldn't be involved especially when he has to answer to eleven elected members of the City Council and felt that no City Clerk should be involved and recommended that the charter be changed to exclude the City Clerk. Councilor Smith agreed that the City Clerk needed to be removed from the election process and noted she would commence to make that change as well as to provide a Human Resource process to evaluate positions that are up for reappointment. She remarked that it is important for the City Clerk to be present in the office and at City Council meetings acknowledging that the City Clerk is fairly-well compensated.

Councilor Marchese moved to reappoint City Clerk Sergio Cornelio, the motion was seconded by Councilor Smith - - Councilors Cardillo, Costa, Dell Isola, Marchese, Matewsky, Smith and Hanlon voted in favor to reappoint - - Councilors Lattanzi, Martins and Nguyen voted in opposition to reappoint. Councilor Smith moved to reconsider in the hope it did not prevail with Councilor Marchese seconding the motion - - Councilor Lattanzi, Martins and Nguyen voted in favor of reconsideration - - Councilors Cardillo, Costa, Dell Isola, Marchese, Matewsky, Smith and Hanlon voted in opposition to reconsideration - - Reconsideration failed - - City Clerk Sergio Cornelio reappointed to City Clerk. The Special meeting adjourned at 6:48pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees