



**MEETING OF SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL**  
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE  
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS  
MAY 27, 2021 AT 6:00 PM

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the City of Westfield CITY COUNCIL will be conducted via remote participation. Specific information can be found on the City of Westfield website at [www.cityofwestfield.org](http://www.cityofwestfield.org). For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting may do so by tuning into Channel 15 or online at [westfielddtv.org](http://westfielddtv.org). No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the City's website an audio recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://cityofwestfield-org.zoom.us/j/89728270352?pwd=R3cyR2hwMUlmcDd2cFBpeXpoTDFFEQT09>

Meeting ID: 897 2827 0352

Passcode: Us8+H=1R

Dial by your location

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Meeting ID: 897 2827 0352

Passcode: 94328274

The Special meeting was called to Order at 6:00 PM by President Bean.

The Clerk called the roll. Councilor Allie was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

1. Mayor Humason presented the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget. City Auditor Vicki Moro was also present. The Mayor informed the Council that it's a very different budget from last year when the budget was being prepared in the middle of a pandemic, the State aid did not come in until December and there were worries that the local aid receipts were going to be low. And it was hopeful this year would be much better. This FY22 budget has modest growth over last year and does not include any kind of tax rate increase. The FY22 budget includes \$200,000.00 to OPEB whereas the last year's budget only had \$20,000.00 to OPEB. It includes \$1.2 million for debt decline. The Master Plan was not included in the budget because it is a one-time cost and will come to the Council as an appropriation from Free Cash. There is a request for \$2 million from Free Cash, whereas last year it was \$1.5 million. There was a cut request to the School Committee and the request was not accepted by the School Committee which put the budget about \$1 million out of whack, therefore the request to use \$2

million from Free Cash. This expects to be a good year financially due to the expected marijuana money that has not been yet and not accounted for in the budget. When it is received it will go to Free Cash. There is an increase to Engineering for design of infrastructure projects to be ready when ARPA money available and from the infrastructure bond out of Washington D.C. He thanked City Engineer Mark Cressotti and Acting DPW Director Fran Cain and their staffs for all they've done with City infrastructure and paving of City streets. Last year during the pandemic there were no layoffs, but there were positions that were left unfilled. This budget includes 4 new positions in the following departments, IT, Building, Personnel and Health. He concluded his presentation and informed the Council that he would be happy to answer any questions they may have. Councilor Sullivan questioned the thought process for not accounting for the marijuana money. City Auditor Vicki Moro responded that per the guidance from the DOR, it is recommended not to account for it until there are 2 full years of receipts so as to have a clearer prediction of future revenues. Councilor Sullivan questioned what the estimated amount of Free Cash for FY21. The Auditor responded that snow and ice of about \$841,000.00 has to come out and that she will do the full calculation and get that information back to the Council. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that the year to date reports show optimism that there will be a healthy Free Cash for next year, but there may be some end of the year on some projects in the Schools. He informed the Council the budget as presented has \$6 million of new spending and even though the tax rate may not change it's only because of the higher property values due to the real estate market at this time. He expressed his concern with taking \$2 million out of Free Cash for operating expenses and not going to capital projects. The \$200,000.00 to OPEB is a step in the right direction, but the report that was just released shows a \$7 million increase in the last cycle. The pension obligation is a serious problem that keeps increasing. He informed the Council that \$6 million in new spending is a big deal and he will be looking at ways to cut that and there are no easy choices. Mayor Humason agreed OPEB and pension obligations are problems for Westfield, as well as for many other communities in the Commonwealth. Councilor Bean informed the Council that the pension number has gone down in some cycles and that it's a number that fluctuates. Councilor Flaherty questioned if some of the school projects such as the repairs to the swimming pool and Master Plan that will be using Free Cash will be coming in soon because if it's not done by the end of the Fiscal year, the Free Cash cannot be used until September. Mayor Humason informed the Council that there is Stabilization also that may be used for projects such as Hillside Road paving and that School projects and Master Plan was taken out of the budget in order to make the budget balance after the vote of the School Committee. Councilor Flaherty informed the Mayor that he can cut the School budget without the School Committee's approval. Mayor Humason informed the Council that he is aware of that and did not want to unilaterally cut it and disregard the School Committee's vote, as they are representatives of the people for the schools. Mayor Humason informed the Council that a Capital Plan for assets and a schedule for those assets will be put together by departments. Mayor Humason thanked City Auditor Vicki Moro for all her hard work on the budget in her first her with the City and thanked the Council for hiring her. City Auditor Vicki Moro responded that she is happy to be here in Westfield.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was  
VOTED: That the Fiscal Year 2022 budget as presented by the Mayor be REFERRED TO THE  
FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Absent
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes

Upon motion of Councilor Flaherty, it was  
VOTED: That the Fiscal Year 2022 budget as presented by the Mayor be posted on the City's  
webpage.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Absent
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes

2. Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that the Communication from the Mayor  
requesting acceptance of two Grants for the Airport totaling \$296,300.00 be taken separately as  
follows.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was  
VOTED: That a Grant in the amount of \$176,200.00, with a City Share of 35,240.00, from the  
Massachusetts Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division to the Airport Department  
for the Avgas Self-Serve Facility project be REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Absent
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was

VOTED: Under immediate consideration that a Grant in the amount of \$120,100.00 from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division to the Airport Department for the Demolition of Two Buildings be ACCEPTED and it was further

VOTED: That the sum of \$24,020.00, for the local share of the Grant be appropriated from Free Cash account #1000-359000 to Capital Project - Demo Building account #11990000-580000-4885.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Absent
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that the need for immediate consideration of the acceptance of the grant is due to the fact that the project which is for the demolition of two buildings on the Airport property needs to be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. He thanked Airport Director for his work on obtaining the Grant. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that due to the fact the appropriation from Free Cash is over \$2,000.00 it

needs a second reading. President Bean and Councilor Sullivan did not believe that was necessary but they agreed to the second reading so as not to hold up the project.

Upon motion of Councilor Flaherty, it was

VOTED: That the sum of \$24,020.00, for the local share of the Grant, be appropriated from Free Cash account #1000-359000 to Capital Project - Demo Building account #11990000-580000-4885 be given a second reading and final passage.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Absent
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes

At 6:35 PM and upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was

VOTED: To ADJOURN.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Absent
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes

A true record, Attest:

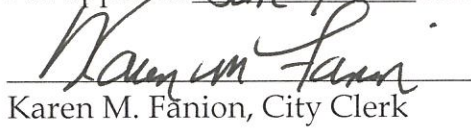


Karen M. Fanion

City Clerk/Clerk of the Council

Presented to the Mayor

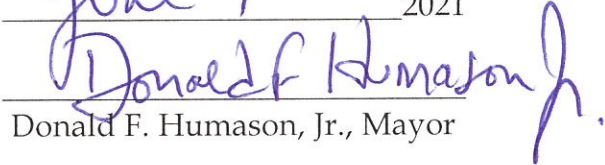
For approval June 7 2021



Karen M. Fanion, City Clerk

Approved by the Mayor

June 7 2021



Donald F. Humason, Jr., Mayor