



MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL

59 COURT STREET
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
JUNE 01, 2023 AT 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chamber, Municipal Building, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA at 7:00 PM by President Beltrandi.

The Clerk called the roll. Councilors Adams and Morganelli were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Beltrandi.

Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was
VOTED: That the 2023 committee reassignments be accepted and placed on file.

Upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was
VOTED: That the reading of the record of the meeting of May 18, 2023 be ACCEPTED.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – During Public Participation there was a power outage that lasted the duration of the Council Meeting. Electronic documents and video recordings were not retained. The City Clerk began audio recording the meeting prior to Communications from the Mayor.

Under “Public Participation” the Councilors were addressed by a resident. Name unknown due to the power outage. He spoke in opposition of the motion to amend the Animal Control Ordinance at Section 4-31 to prohibit any domestic animal from running at large. He believed that cats shouldn’t be required to follow the leash law.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was
VOTED: Under immediate consideration that a Resolution entitled “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD” to authorize the Mayor to sign any documentation required to allow the Department of Public Works to apply for financial assistance through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was follows:

Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Absent
Mary O’Connell	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Absent



MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL

59 COURT STREET

MUNICIPAL BUILDING, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

JUNE 01, 2023 AT 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chamber, Municipal Building, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA at 7:00 PM by President Beltrandi.

The Clerk called the roll. Councilors Adams and Morganelli were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Beltrandi.

Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was

VOTED: That the 2023 committee reassignments be accepted and placed on file.

Upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was

VOTED: That the reading of the record of the meeting of May 18, 2023 be ACCEPTED.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – During Public Participation there was a power outage that lasted the duration of the Council Meeting. Electronic documents and video recordings were not retained. The City Clerk began audio recording the meeting prior to Communications from the Mayor.

Under “Public Participation” the Councilors were addressed by a resident. Name unknown due to the power outage. He spoke in opposition of the motion to amend the Animal Control Ordinance at Section 4-31 to prohibit any domestic animal from running at large. He believed that cats shouldn’t be required to follow the leash law.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was

VOTED: Under immediate consideration of a Resolution to authorize the Mayor to sign any documentation required to allow the Department of Public Works to apply for financial assistance through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

The vote on the foregoing was follows:

Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Absent
Mary O’Connell	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Absent

Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that the Bond for the project was approved in November, 2022. The City and the State have been going back and forth on the paperwork needed for the authority to sign for the SRF Funding. The Law Department worked on the Resolution to give the City the authority to apply for financial assistance through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: That items 2. and 3. under “Communications from the Mayor” be read by the Clerk and be REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Clerk read from the Agenda as follows:

2. Requesting acceptance of a Grant in the amount of \$12,975.00 from the MassDOT to the Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport for Environmental Impact Report for Three Future Airport Projects covered under the FAA AIP program.
3. Transfer of \$373.18 from the Department of Public Works Highway Division FY2023 Purchase of Service Account #14210000-520000 to the FY2021 Purchase of Service Account #14210000-520000 to cover the balance of a retainer for sidewalk repair/installation completed on Taylor Avenue.

Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was VOTED: That items 4. under “Communications from the Mayor” be read by the Clerk and be REFERRED TO THE LEGISLATIVE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE and LAW DEPARTMENT.

The Clerk read from the Agenda as follows:

4. Submitting a Resolution authorizing the acquisition of .53 acres of land known as 0 Westfield Industrial Park Road from Westfield Gas and Electric Light Department and authorizing the Mayor to execute any documents on behalf of the City.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was VOTED: That item 5. Under “Communications from the Mayor” be read by the Clerk and be REFERRED TO THE PERSONNEL ACTION COMMITTEE.

The Clerk read from the Agenda as follows:

5. Submitting the appointment of Zuzanna Hitchcock as a member of the Youth Commission for a term to expire in February, 2026.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES, AND OTHER PAPERS

6. Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was VOTED: That the petition for a Zoning Ordinance amendment at Section 4-30.4 to allow the keeping of certain domestic animals, including chickens, as a by-right accessory use be REFERRED TO THE PLANNING BOARD and ZONING, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE and that a Public Hearing be scheduled at the earliest practicable date. All in favor, voice vote.

7. Upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was VOTED: That the petition for Street Acceptance for Pineridge Drive be REFERRED TO THE PLANNING BOARD, THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, CITY ENGINEER AND THE LAW DEPARTMENT. All in favor, voice vote.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Finance Committee

8. Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the appropriation in the amount of \$155,000.00 from the Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Engineering Department's Purchase of Service Account #14110000-520000 to fund design services for improvements at the Western Ave and Bates Road Intersection REMAIN IN COMMITTEE. All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that Finance Committee tabled the item in committee. There was a long discussion in committee. A question was raised as to why this location was selected. The committee thought there were higher public safety issues such as Springdale Road and Holyoke Road or at the bottom of Pontoosic Road.

9. Upon motion of Councilor Bean for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$30,000.00 be appropriated from Free Cash (1000-359000) to Sanitary Landfill-Transfer Station Purchase of Service Account #14390000-520000 to cover unforeseen costs associated with a telephone system upgrade, scale repairs and increased rates in hauling costs.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Absent
William Onyski	Yes
Mary O'Connell	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Absent
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes

John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Bean informed the Council that there were needed scale repairs, necessary upgrades to the phone system to join the City phone system and increases to hauling costs.

10. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That an Order entitled "AN ORDER OF APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF FOURTY-NINE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY (\$39,760.00) DOLLARS FOR THE PURPOSE OF TAKING PERMANENT EASEMENTS, TEMPORARY (FIVE YEAR) EASEMENTS AND FEE TAKINGS BY RIGHT OF EMINENT DOMAIN FOR LEVEE AND MULTI-USE IMPROVEMENTS" be given first reading by title only.

The Order was given first reading by title and upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was

VOTED: That the Order be PASSED TO SECOND READING.

Voice vote, all in favor.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that the \$39,760.00 would prepare the City for the DOT bike trail on top of the levee, north and south of the Green River Bridges. This money would pay for temporary easements to allow workers to access land along the levee during construction. The permanent easements are currently owned by Westfield Gas and Electric and Western Mass Electric. The two takings are along Meadow Street. She stated that the Ward Councilors and the Engineering Department did not receive any complaints after the letters were sent to property owners. She informed the Council that the money would be coming out of the Flood Control budget and would be used to reimburse homeowners temporary easements, structures that need to be taken down and structures that need to be replaced on their property. She stated she was grateful for the process that had been taken. Councilor Figy echoed Councilor Matthews-Kane. Councilor Mello asked if it was a Flood Control Account under Engineering or the Flood Control Account that required a commission. Councilor Matthews-Kane replied that the Flood Control Account could be spent by Engineering. Councilor Sullivan stated the Engineer informed the Finance Committee that they were waiting for a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers to begin work. He stated there is expected to be a gift letter from Westfield Gas and Electric. Councilor Mello stated she believed she had information from the Engineer with more information about the commission's involvement. Due to the lack of power she was unable to access her email but would follow up prior to the second reading.

11. Upon motion of Councilor Onyski for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, it was

VOTED: That an Order entitled "AN ORDER OF TAKING BY RIGHT OF EMINENT DOMAIN" (Several parcels of land along the Westfield River Levee to acquire permanent easements, temporary (5-year) easements and fee takings in order to complete the Westfield River Levee Multi-Use Path project)der of Taking by right of eminent domain of several parcels of land along the Westfield River Levee to acquire permanent easements, temporary (5-year) easements and fee takings in order to complete the Westfield River Levee Multi-Use Path project be given first reading by title only.

The Order was given first reading by title and upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was VOTED: That the Order be PASSED TO SECOND READING.
Voice vote, all in favor.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Onyski informed the Council that the total cost of the easements was \$39,760.00. He stated there were 2 permanent easements and 28 temporary easements for up to 5 years for construction and maintenance. Councilor Figy gave his appreciation for the way the process was handled.

12. Upon motion of Councilor Onyski for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee it was

VOTED: That a Confirmatory Order of Taking entitled "A CONFIRMATORY ORDER OF TAKING OF REAL ESTATE BY RIGHT OF EMINENT DOMAIN" (Williams Riding Way for the purpose of constructing, installing, maintaining, replacing, and using a flood control levee and a multi-use trail.) be given first reading by title only.

The Order was given first reading by title and upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was VOTED: That the Order be PASSED TO SECOND READING.
Voice vote, all in favor.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Onyski informed the Council that the City owns the property. There is no deed record for the property. The Confirmatory Order meets the requirement of Mass DOT to show that Westfield owns the property.

Personnel Action Committee

13. Upon motion of Councilor Harris for the Personnel Action Committee, it was VOTED: That the changes to the job description for the Executive Director of the Council on Aging be APPROVED.
Voice vote, all in favor.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris informed the Council that the job description for the Council on Aging Executive Director has not been updated in over 10 years. The Director is responsible for the administrative, professional and overall management for planning, developing, implementing, directing and advocating of programs and services offered to the

City's older population. The position is appointed by the Mayor, and confirmed by the City Council for a 3-year term. The City's Personnel Director, Council on Aging Executive Director and the Mayor all recommend the changes to the job description.

License Committee

14. Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was

VOTED: That the applications for Junk Dealer and Junk Collector licenses for Camile Hannoush, Inc., 99 Springfield Road, Suite 2, Camile A. Hannoush (owner) be APPROVED.

Prior to the vote, he informed the Council that the item was coming out to the full Council for a vote. He stated that Camile Hannoush owns Camile Hannoush, Inc. and Richard's Jewelers in Massachusetts. He has a Junk Dealer and Junk Collector for Richard's Jewelers already and is looking to have Camile Hannoush, Inc. properly licensed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

15. Upon motion of Councilor Figy for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, it was VOTED: That an Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF WESTFIELD, ADOPTED JUNE 17, 1993" (Amending the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program to remove Section 11-94. Requirements, etc. by deleting subsection h.(1) income guidelines) be given second reading and be PASSED TO BE ORDAINED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the Council that the Council on Aging has had difficulty filling the slots for the Senior Citizens Property Tax Work-Off Program due to the income guidelines.

16. Upon motion of Councilor Figy for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, it was VOTED: That the SECOND READING and FINAL PASSAGE of an Ordinance entitled "AN

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF WESTFIELD, APPENDIX B-ZONING, ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 3, 1987" (Sec. 4-121 (1.c) to exempt certain fixtures from the exterior lighting standards) be TABLED until June 15, 2023.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Bridget Matthews-Kane	No
Kristen Mello	No
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Absent
Mary O'Connell	No
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Absent
Dan Allie	No
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes

MOTIONS, ORDERS OR RESOLUTIONS

17. Upon motion of Councilors Allie, it was

VOTED: That placing advanced green left arrow on Old County Road near Dunkin Donuts for traffic taking left toward Holyoke and adding a left turn signal from East Mountain Road be REFERRED TO THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Allie informed the Council that this location and others like it generate lots of traffic throughout the day. People trying to reenter the traffic flow are unable to take a left and back up traffic into the parking lot.

18. Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was

VOTED: That amending the Animal Control Ordinance at Section 4-31 to prohibit any domestic animal from running at large be REFERRED TO L&O AND THE LAW DEPARTMENT.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the Council that this was a recommendation of the Animal Control Officer. Councilor Mello stated that there is a good reason to take a dog to a park on a long lead and requested that the committee look into adding that.


19. Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was

VOTED: That adding the following to Section 15 of the City Charter, "No person shall be a candidate for nomination for more than one City office" be REFERRED TO L&O AND THE LAW DEPARTMENT.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the Council that unless stated otherwise in a

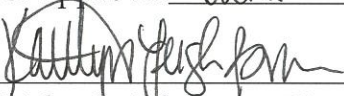
City Charter, you can run for more than one office at a time. He stated that the Council voted to amend the Charter to fill vacancies by Special Election. If a candidate ran for more than one City office and won, they could only hold one position, leaving a vacancy. The vacancy would then require a Special Election. Councilor Figy stated that the committee was working with the Law Department and would be presenting a packet to the Council in the near future.

At 7:38 PM, and upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was
VOTED: To ADJOURN.

A true record, Attest:

Kaitlyn Leigh Bruce
City Clerk/Clerk of the Council

Presented to the Mayor

For approval June 20, 2023


Kaitlyn Leigh Bruce, City Clerk

Approved by the Mayor

6-21 2023


Michael A. McCabe, Mayor