



City of Westfield, Massachusetts

MINUTES OF MEETING

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WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Legislative and Ordinance

DATE: June 3, 2020

TIME: 5:30 PM

LOCATION: Municipal Building, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA

ROOM NO: Remote

AGENDA ITEMS

Meeting started promptly at 5:30 PM.

In attendance: Councilor Member Adams, Councilor Member Burns, Councilor Chair Onyski, City Engineer Mark Cressotti

1. Approval of Minutes of May 19, 2020 meeting.
Approved 3-0
2. Submitting a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Westfield authorizing the Mayor to execute a development with Wal-Mart for extension of sidewalks.
--Resolution that would allow the Mayor to sign a development agreement with Walmart to extend a sidewalk onto WM property.
--Mark Cressotti provided details
--\$400K grant money left over from Rt 20 project near Walmart
--Any work needed to be completed in corridor
--Sidewalks in front of WM on state property are part of extra \$\$ but sidewalk extends 3' onto WM property so agreement is needed.
--Milling and paving to WM also included
--About \$10K left over now.
-- No cost to Westfield
--Approved 3-0
3. Ordinance No 1567, Article 2, section 37, "persons requesting appropriation, ordinances, etc. to make a statement"
--Trying to change council rules to meet what is really done at CC meetings
--Now, Mayor or Department head is supposed to personally present at CC if there is an immediate consideration requesting appropriation of money.

--In reality, a letter is typically provided or a CC member speaks on the request with detail.

--The revised ordinance will allow the written request from Mayor or Department head as long as request is read aloud.

-- Discussion on whether this Council rule is actually an ordinance or an ordinance is required to change the rule. Onyski to confirm before CC meeting but we all agree on end product.

--Approved 3-0

4. Ordinance No. 1567 Article I, Section 27(a)(2) be revised.

--This would change Council Rule such that all resolutions, orders, and ordinances go through L&O

--The change would add "except financial" so financial orders would not necessarily, by rule, go to L&O. By rule, they would be excluded from L&O.

--Discussion whether this was necessary since there is some crossover, such as contract leases for copiers.

--90%(?) of the financial work goes to finance.

-- Onyski feels discussions at council meetings have, and can continue to take place, to determine whether something should go to Finance or L&O

--Approved 2-1. Adams Yes Burns Yes Onyski No

5. That a Special Purpose Schools of Westfield Stabilization Fund be established and be REFERRED TO LEGISLATIVE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE and it was further voted, upon motion of Councilor Onyski to be also REFERRED TO LAW DEPARTMENT

--This was left in LO

--Councilor Flaherty emailed in his recommendation on what the stabilization fund should cover and it was a broad range of items with the school including School Department Repairs, School Department building and grounds infrastructure, investments in educational technology, or investments in vocational educational machinery and technology.

--Atty. Reed opined that guidance the DOR regulations does not allow for creation for broad services, as was stated last meeting

--It appears that there was resistance at last LO meeting because it was not fair for all other departments.

--School Superintendent did not agree with stabilization fund and was happy the way it is with extra funding going to free cash.

--Voted disapproval 3-0

6 Adjourned at 6:06 PM.