



MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

TELEPHONE CONFERENCE
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
JUNE 10, 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. 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 westfieldtv.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.

<https://cityofwestfield-org.zoom.us/j/89643145047?pwd=MIBLOTRiYjU5dzV3UzZ5djJGcjkwdz09>

Meeting ID: 896 4314 5047
Passcode: ij3j=APU

Dial by your location
1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 896 4314 5047
Passcode: 41077091

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

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

1. Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was VOTED: That the communication from the Mayor submitting an amendment to FY22 Budget relative to the Assessor's Department, Building Department and Health Insurance be IMMEDIATELY REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. The net effect to the already presented FY22 budget is zero.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Absent
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
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
William Onyski	Yes

2. President Bean called the Public Hearing to order for the following purpose:

To conduct a public hearing on the annual budget as submitted by the Mayor, at which all interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard for or against the proposed expenditures or any item thereof. There was no one present from the public on the Zoom meeting or on the phone line. Councilor Morganelli questioned how the public hearing was advertised. The Clerk informed the Council that it was advertised in the paper on two different days. Councilor Morganelli expressed his disappointment that there was no one present from the public. He informed the Council that he did post it on social media. Councilor Sullivan requested that the Clerk list the dates and where it was published in the record of the meeting. Per request of Councilor Sullivan, the Public Hearing was advertised in the Westfield Evening News on May 29th and June 5th, 2021. It has been posted on the City's webpage calendar at www.cityofwestfield.org since May 27th, 2021. Councilor Flaherty read a letter from Lisa Okscin from the Taxpayers Association. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that he has heard from the public that they do not feel welcome to speak at the public hearing and that when someone did speak their suggestions were ignored. He informed the Council that he does not like the forum of the budget hearings. It should be just the Finance Committee doing the budget hearings and then make recommendations back to the Council. That there should be priorities of the Council relative to what the budget should look like that include Capital projects and long term plans. He informed the Council that he will make motions to table the voting to approve budgets on the same night and if that does not happen he will vote no on the budgets. Councilor Morganelli concurred with most of that from Councilor Flaherty. And that the past process in being in the Council Chamber until 2:45 AM was not good either. He did not like the process of voting on budget tonight because it did not give the public a chance to hear the department head and then read the budget and then give suggestions back to the Council. Councilor Figy offered a motion to close the public hearing. Councilor Flaherty questioned if a member of the public comes home at 6:30 PM and thinks they have until 7:00 PM to participate. Councilor Beltrandi informed the Council that this is

done every year and every year no one shows up. It was advertised so the public was made aware of it. He addressed Councilor Morganelli, since he has been around for a while, that even in the Chamber, people do not show up. He informed the Council that Councilor Figy does a phenomenal job with the process. Councilor Morganelli informed the Council that he is surprised that with the ease of Zoom that people did not participate. He questioned if the people that wanted to participate were not computer savvy and did not know how to log into the meeting. Councilor Harris informed the Council that there is a phone in option for anyone not wanting to use the computer to join in. Councilor Figy informed the Council that this was the process that was used last year and it was well received, therefore, it was repeated this year. And with this process of the Committee of the Whole it gives all Councilors the opportunity to ask questions.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was
VOTED: To CLOSE the Public Hearing.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

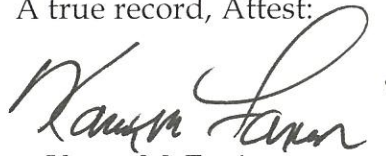
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Absent
Dan Allie	Absent
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
William Onyski	Yes

At 6:21 PM, and upon motion of Councilor Flaherty, it was VOTED: To ADJOURN.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Absent
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
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
William Onyski	Yes

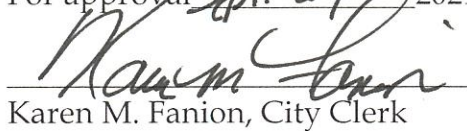
A true record, Attest:



Karen M. Fanion
City Clerk/Clerk of the Council

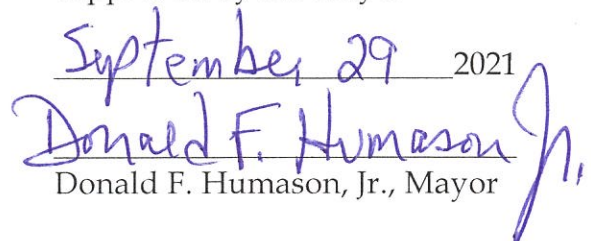
Presented to the Mayor

For approval Sept. 29 2021



Karen M. Fanion, City Clerk

Approved by the Mayor

September 29 2021

Donald F. Humason, Jr., Mayor