

MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
JUNE 18, 2020 AT 7:00 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.

In the absence of the President, Councilor Figy nominated Councilor Beltrandi as President Pro Tempore and upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was
VOTED: That Councilor Beltrandi be President Pro Tempore for the meeting of June 18th, 2020.

The City Clerk called the roll. Councilor Bean was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was
VOTED: That record of the meeting of June 4th, 2020 be ACCEPTED.

Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that he has received many emails requesting that the School budget not be cut and he will forward to the City Clerk as part of the official record.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was
VOTED: Under immediate consideration, that a Grant in the amount of \$5,973.60 to the Police Department from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to be used to provide education and enforcement of crosswalk laws and pedestrian safety be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Absent

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was

VOTED: Under immediate consideration, that the job description of the Auditor be ACCEPTED, per voice vote.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris, informed the Council that per Ordinance, the City Council must approve the job description when there is a posting of a department head position. She also informed the Council that the job description is the same as the one used a year and a half ago.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was

VOTED: Under immediate consideration, that an order entitled "A BOND ORDER AUTHORIZING THE REFINANCING OF OUTSTANDING BONDS OF THE CITY TO ACHIEVE DEBT SERVICE SAVINGS" be ADOPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Absent

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the Council that the last time a consolidation of bond orders was done was in 2014. This consolidation will save the City \$1,665,000.00.

Councilor Allie questioned if it costs the City to reissue a new bond. Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that there are costs involved which may be negotiated. Councilor Flaherty applauded Treasurer/Collector Matt Barnes for his efforts in negotiating the refinancing.

At this point Councilor Bean joined the meeting.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was VOTED: That the rules of the City Council be SUSPENDED in order to act upon items received at tonight's meeting.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was VOTED: That the appointment of George Keefe, 150 Root Road, as a member of the Airport Commission for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2022, replacing Donald Nicoletti, resigned, be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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	Lost access to meeting
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris informed the Council that on Monday evening the Council and City heard Airport Manager Christopher Willenborg regarding budget requirements, explanations of same, and plans for an even more successful endeavor in the future. Manager Willenborg has known Mr. Keefe since 1999, knows of his Airport knowledge, both military and civilian, and highly recommends him for this Commission. Mr. Keefe just retired from Air Traffic Control with the Department of Defense and would be a great asset and perfect fit for this Commission. Air Traffic Control controls the Air Traffic on and within the vicinity of airport and movement of Air Traffic in radar control centers according to FAA and military established procedures and policies. His long and distinguished background includes employment with the Dept. of Defense, United States Air Force, at Westover Air Reserve Base from July 2002 until just recently 2020. Before that Mr. Keefe was at Barnes Municipal Airport from 1997-2002 being Air Traffic Tower Manager and with the Federal Aviation Administration at Barnes. He served in the United States in the United States Navy, and Councilor Harris thanked him for his service to our Country. The City will be very fortunate to have such a knowledgeable citizen serve on this commission.

Councilor Harris, on behalf of the City and Council thanked Mr. Nicoletti for his service to Westfield, his expertise, and passion, and dedication are noteworthy. Councilor Morganelli concurred with Councilor Harris in thanking Mr. Nicoletti for his past service on the Airport Commission.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was

VOTED: That the reappointment of Suzanne Bergeron, 86 Woodcliff Drive, as a member of the Board of Assessor's for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2023 be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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	Lost access to meeting
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris informed the Council that with both the reappointment of Suzanne Bergeron and Diane Snow, the facts are the same. Both are long-time on the Board. Both have been reappointed many times by the City Council who recognize their value. Both are highly recommended again by Westfield's Assessor Johnson who works closely with them and both are highly recommended by the Chair of the Board Grace Sullivan who is anxiously awaiting their reappointments so all members are current on term dates since she is very responsible and mindful of all the legalities regarding the Board. Specifically on Ms. Bergeron she has lived in Westfield over 30 years. She has been a Certified Residential Appraiser, and is a licensed realtor since 1999. She has been on this Board since March 2011 and her experience in the real estate community assists our Assessors in making decisions in regards to our City. Councilor Beltrandi informed the Council that Ms. Bergeron does a great job on the Board and recommends her reappointment.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was

VOTED: That the reappointment of Diane Snow, 13 Country Club Drive, as a member of the Board of Assessor's for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2022 be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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	Lost access to meeting
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris informed the Council that the same is true for Ms. Snow and Ms. Bergeron. Specifically on Ms. Snow, she has been on this Board since 1992. She was a Social Worker in the Dept. of Veterans Affairs and retired from the VA Vet Center in Springfield in 2008. She volunteers at the Hampshire County House of Correction and is on the Board of Directors for the non-profit Friends of the Springfield Vet Center. She is very interested in continuing on this Board, has dealt with many situations and issues with our Westfield citizens who have appeared before this Board, and has been involved in hiring Assessors over the years.

Councilor Onyski regained access to the meeting.

Upon motion of Councilor Allie, it was
VOTED: To return to regular order.

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was
VOTED: That the petition for Street Acceptance for Sherman Street Ext. (certified by City Assessor Robin Johnson) submitted by City Clerk Karen Fanion be REFERRED TO LEGISLATIVE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE, PLANNING BOARD, BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, CITY ENGINEER and LAW DEPARTMENT.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, for the Finance Committee, it was
VOTED: That the June 1st, 2020 Finance Committee minutes be ACCEPTED.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was
VOTED: That the sum of \$410,662.47 be appropriated from Free Cash to Health Insurance Benefits account #19140000-519400.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the Council that the appropriation is for the overage cost on prescription drugs not covered by the Health Fund.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, for the Finance Committee, it was

VOTED: That the sum of \$569,719.57 be appropriated from Free Cash to the following Snow & Ice Budget: \$277,896.38 to Snow & Ice, Purchase of Services account #14230000-520000; \$291,823.19 to Snow & Ice Supplies account #14230000-540000.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes

Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was

VOTED: That an Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF WESTFIELD, ADOPTED JUNE 17, 1993" (to revise Ordinance No.1567, Article 2, section 37, "persons requesting appropriation, ordinances, etc. to make a statement.") be given second reading by title only.

The Ordinance was given second reading by title and upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was

VOTED: That the Ordinance be PASSED TO BE ORDAINED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that he is a no vote. He informed the Council that this is for immediate consideration of an appropriation, which should be a rare occasion, and that the requestor should be present to explain why immediate consideration is needed and that it should not be just a written communication. Councilors Morganelli and Matthews-Kane agreed with Councilor Flaherty. Councilor Adams informed the Council that this will allow for a written communication, which is the way it is being done now, but the Council could still ask the requestor to come in if needed. Councilor Bean echoed Councilor Adams. Councilor Mello agreed with Councilor Flaherty and informed the Council there may be questions the Council may have that are not addressed in the written communication. Councilor Figy informed the Council that the way it is being done now is only by written communication which does not follow the rule and this change would reflect the way it is actually being done and there were immediate considerations on tonight's agenda with only a written communication. Councilor Flaherty disagreed with Councilor Figy and informed the Council this change is only for appropriations to be done in immediate consideration, not grants or appointments. Councilor Allie informed the Council that if someone objects to immediate consideration they may object and then it will be sent to committee. Councilor Matthews-Kane questioned if at the last meeting was this item referred to committee. Councilor Adams informed the Council the item relative to Rule 27 was referred back to committee, not this one, this one is Rule 37.

Upon motion of Councilor Allie, it was

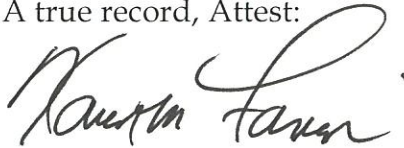
VOTED: That DPW Director Dave Billips be invited to the next regular City Council meeting (July 2nd, 2020) to give update on Wells 7 & 8 and upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was VOTED: That specific questions be submitted one week before in order that the Director be able to prepare the answers. Councilor Adams questioned if the request of a department head to appear at a Council meeting has to first go through the Mayor. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that per the Charter the Council may ask a department head to appear to investigate a matter. Councilor Morganelli questioned if questions may be asked at the meeting based on the presentation given at the meeting. Councilor Figy informed the Council

that the reason to submit the questions prior is so that the department head may properly prepare the answer. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that per Section 28 of the Charter it allows for a department head to come before the Council.

Councilor Onyski announced that the Legislative and Ordinance Committee did not have an opportunity to meet on the Outdoor Dining issue, but that the City is expediting the process to allow outdoor dining. The License Commission is expediting the process to serve alcohol outdoors and the City is waiving the tent fee. Councilor Sullivan applauded the License Commission and the Health Department for expediting this process. Councilor Flaherty encouraged everyone to visit local establishments and support them.

At 7:53 PM and upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was VOTED: To ADJOURN.

A true record, Attest:



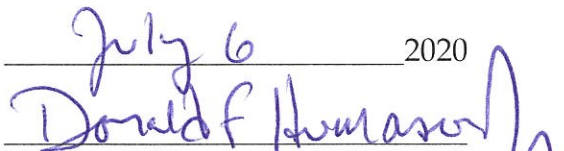
Karen M. Fanion
City Clerk/Clerk of the Council

Presented to the Mayor

For approval July 2 2020

Karen M. Fanion, City Clerk

Approved by the Mayor

July 6 2020

Donald F. Humason, Jr., Mayor