

MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL  
FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
59 COURT STREET  
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS  
JUNE 21, 2021 AT 5:30 PM

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chamber, Municipal Building, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA at 5:30 PM by Finance Committee Chair Councilor Figy.

The Clerk called the roll. Councilors Morganelli, Bean and Beltrandi were absent.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was  
VOTED: Under immediate consideration, that the sum of \$125,000.00 be appropriated from Free Cash (10000-359000) to Planning (Community Development), Purchase of Services account #11750000-520000 for the Master Plan Study for the City of Westfield.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy, Chair of Finance informed the Council that there was confusion on this vote at the previous meeting and that the Master Plan is not the same as an economic development plan. Councilor Flaherty explained that a Master Plan is a long term plan for the City that involves zoning, demographic trends, how land is used, how to expand things like roads, schools, may involve modifying ordinances to reflect the master plan and it could be anything else that may be decided. There needs to be an ad hoc committee named that can spend time on the master plan to develop goals on the direction of the master plan. He encouraged all Councilors to support it. Councilor Allie informed the Council that no contractor came forward to do the economic plan for the downtown that was recently advertised because it was not cost effective. Councilor Figy informed the Council that the master plan needs to be useable and practicable and there hasn't been one done in more than 15 years. There have been economic development plans and vision plans, but no master plan. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that the master plan will be about whatever people

drive it to be. Councilor Harris informed the Council that she will support it as long as it does not make taxes go up. Councilor Flaherty responded that it's free cash so it will not affect taxes.

Budget Hearings

|               |                                      |      |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| June 21, 2021 | Emergency Mgt                        | Vote |
|               | Conservation Comm                    | Vote |
|               | Police Department/<br>Animal Control | Vote |

The first budget hearing was for the Emergency Management Department. Emergency Management Director Steve Malochleb was present to represent the department. He informed the Council that he took over in 2020 after Jim Wiggs retired. He informed the Council that the department's budget may come up short this year, but he's working with the Auditor to get it resolved. Councilor Flaherty questioned the telephone system that is used for notifications and why does the City not use what the schools use. The Director replied that it's one system with two different lists. Councilor Burns questioned if this budget is legitimate for what the department needs. The Director replied no and that this budget does not support if anything serious was to happen. He reviewed and submitted a document relative to the responsibilities of the Emergency Management Director, the operation of Emergency Management department and a report of the local dams. The Director reiterated the need for money to be appropriated to the dams and levees in Westfield.

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: That the Emergency Management Department budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

The next budget hearing was for the Conservation Department. Meredith Borenstein, the Conservation Coordinator, was present to represent the department. She informed the Council that there are not many changes to the budget, only salary increases which are contractual, small increase in mileage and purchase of services. Councilor Flaherty asked what

the Conservation Commission does. The Conservation Coordinator replied that it implements the Wetlands Ordinances and state statutes pertaining to conservation such as approving permits for buffer zones and manage conservation lands. Councilor Allie questioned the endangered species and vines on the property of the former Golf Acres (Union Street). She replied that the new owner came before the commission and the necessary permits were granted. Councilor Sullivan reminded the Council that this is budget hearing, not an overview of the Conservation Commission's projects and to get back to budget questions. Councilor Onyski applauded the Conservation Coordinator for doing a great job at the Conservation Commission meetings. Councilor Burns questioned what the mileage item was for. She replied it is the reimbursement for using her own car to drive to the different sites to be inspected.

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was  
VOTED: That the Conservation Commission budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

The next budget to be reviewed was for the Police Department. Chief Valliere and Captain Pitoniak were present to represent the department. He informed the Council that the biggest area that went up was the overtime because there are six people going to the academy, there are officers out due to military responsibilities and officers out sick. There is an increase in training due to the new police reform act. Councilor Harris spoke in support of the entire Police budget and that she would never vote against a cut in Police personal protection such as protective gear. The Chief thanked her for her support. Council Onyski whole heartedly agreed with Councilor Harris' comments. Councilor Adams questioned the training for the police reform act. The Chief replied that there is 200 hour training in all aspects and it will be a big challenge. Councilor Adams questioned if the Police budget would need to be increased for this training. The Chief replied that the department should be good for this year but may need more money in future fiscal years. He expressed his disappointment that the hopes for a new police station are dim due to the increase in building costs because of COVID. Councilor Flaherty echoed Councilor Harris' comments. He expressed his concern that the State is requiring the increased training and will not be funding it and that the State Senator and Representative need to get involved and fund the mandate. Councilor Allie agreed to get the

Legislators involved. Councilor Mello questioned if there are AED's in response vehicles. The Chief replied that yes every vehicle is equipped.

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was

VOTED: That the Police Department budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

The next budget to be reviewed was for Animal Control. Margaret Terkelsen, Animal Control Officer was present to represent the department. She informed the Council that there were increases due to contractual obligations and an increase for a new vehicle lease with the installation of equipment and lettering.

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was

VOTED: That the Animal Control budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

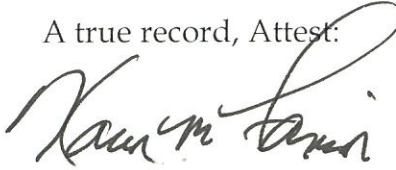
Upon motion of Councilor Flaherty, it was

VOTED: That the Mayor be requested to send in a communication either for the Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 budget reconciliation meeting or for the Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 vote on the budget meeting to have remaining Free Cash transferred to Stabilization or somewhere else.

Upon motion of Councilor Flaherty, it was  
VOTED: That the Mayor be requested to send in a communication either for the Thursday,  
June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 budget reconciliation meeting or for the Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 vote on the  
budget meeting to move \$2 million, or whatever is left, from Free Cash to the FY22 budget.

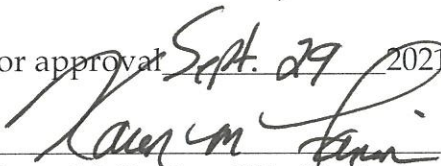
At 6:32 PM, and upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was  
VOTED: To ADJOURN.

A true record, Attest:

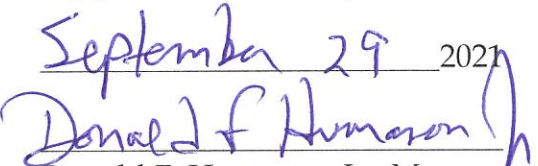


Karen M. Fanion  
City Clerk/Clerk of the Council

Presented to the Mayor

For approval Sept. 29 2021  
  
Karen M. Fanion, City Clerk

Approved by the Mayor

September 29 2021  
  
Donald F. Humason, Jr., Mayor