

SPECIAL
MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
JUNE 25, 2019

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chamber, Municipal Building, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA at 6:53 PM by Councilor Beltrandi.

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

Councilor Beltrandi asked if anyone, other than Channel 15, was recording the meeting and if so to state whether it is an audio or video recording and whether the recording is being live streamed. No one responded.

Councilor Beltrandi, a member of the Finance Committee, in the absence of the Finance Committee Chair, presided over the meeting. Councilor Beltrandi announced that the Council will convene as the Committee of the Whole to review FY20 Budget.

Councilor Flaherty requested a point of order. He informed the Council that the meeting was scheduled as a special City Council meeting of the Whole. It is not a Finance Committee meeting and the FY20 budget is in the Finance Committee and they have not referred it back to the City Council and they did not have a meeting after the budget meetings with the individual departments to make any recommendations to the full Council. He informed the Council that the Council does not have the right to discuss this because it has not be referred back the Council and that according to the Council rules an item has to be referred from Committee prior to being discussed by the whole Council. Councilor Beltrandi informed the Council that this is what this meeting is about is to discuss the budget as a Whole. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that it's the primary function of the Finance Committee to recommend cuts and passage of the budget and that he is waiting for that information before the whole Council discusses it and it is not right to pull an item out of Finance and discuss it without it first being referred back to the full Council. Councilor Figy informed the Council, as always in the past, the Agenda says it is a Budget Workshop/Committee of the Whole to review the FY20 budget. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that that is the Agenda item but it is a Special meeting of the City Council not a Finance Committee meeting.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was VOTED: That the rules of the City Council be SUSPENDED in order to bring the item of Review of the FY20 budget to the floor.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Dan Allie	No
Mary Ann Babinski	No
Brent Bean II	Absent
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Matt Emmershy	No
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	No
Cindy Harris	Yes
Leslie LeFebvre	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	No
William Onyski	Yes
Andrew Surprise	No

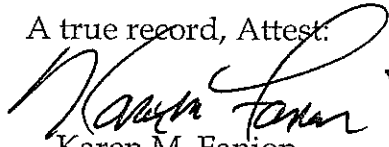
Councilor Beltrandi declared the tie vote a LOST vote.

Councilor Surprise informed the Council that the Finance Committee last year recommended \$2.2 million in cuts. Councilor Morganelli informed the Council that in the past the Finance Committee made recommended cuts to the Council and he expressed his concern that the Chair of the Finance was not present to speak on the budget. Councilor Onyski questioned why this issue was not brought up before the meeting. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that he did ask the Finance Committee schedule a meeting. He informed the Council that he did not go the department budget meetings due to the opinion from the Law Department that Councilors could not deliberate on items at subcommittee meetings. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that the Council does not have to vote on the budget by June 30th and that the City can have month by month budget and that the Finance Committee should take its time and do their job and go through the budget. Councilor Babinski informed the Council that this is not the time to start thinking about cuts and last year there were cuts that were recommended and if that is the protocol then there needs to be a recommendation from Finance Committee. Councilor Surprise informed the Council he came prepared with cuts and that if it wasn't posted correctly that would be violation. Councilor Harris informed the Council that it is extremely insulting to dismiss what the Finance Committee has done with all the department budget meetings. Councilor Morganelli thanked the Finance Committee for the work they did do and that the budget was delivered to the Council rather late and the department budget hearings were not given much notice and that the Finance Committee Chair is not present to discuss the departmental budget meetings. Councilor Surprise agreed with Councilor Morganelli and also expressed his concern the Finance Chair was not

present. Councilor Allie agreed that there was no meeting scheduled from Finance to make recommended cuts. He informed the Council that last year the Finance Committee had over \$2 million in cuts and that all department budget meetings were done by June 13th. Councilor Emmershly informed the Council that the Finance Committee went through everything last year and had details of where the money was to be spent and that this year's Finance Committee did not give any recommendations. He informed the Council that he is prepared to offer cuts to the current budget. Councilor Babinski informed the Council that to give its due to the public and departments it needs to find a way out of this mucky situation and move forward.

At 7:12 PM, and upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was
VOTED: To ADJOURN.

A true record, Attest:



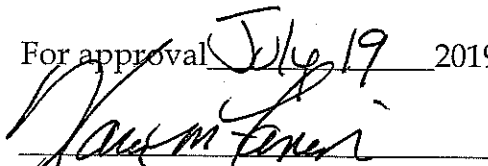
Karen M. Fanion

City Clerk/Clerk of the Council

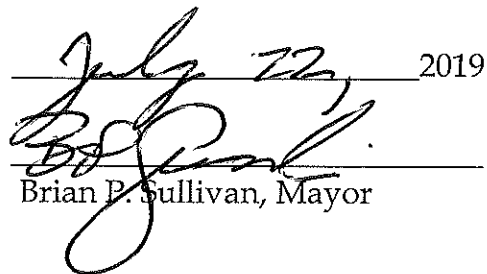
Presented to the Mayor

Approved by the Mayor

For approval July 19 2019


Karen M. Fanion, City Clerk

July 22, 2019


Brian P. Sullivan, Mayor