

SPECIAL
MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
AUGUST 5, 2019

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chamber, Municipal Building, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA at 6:00 PM by President Figy.

The City Clerk called the roll. Councilors LeFebvre and Morganelli were absent.

The first item for the special meeting was the submission of the Mayor's supplemental budget for FY20.

Councilor Bean offered a motion, which was duly seconded, to refer the supplemental budget to Finance Committee. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that he would like to make a motion for an amendment to Councilor Bean's motion above, but before that motion he would like to ask the Auditor some questions. Councilor Bean objected. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that per the newspaper it said that the City Auditor would be present to answer questions and he requested to ask the City Auditor, who was present, questions. Councilor Bean informed the Council that the plan is to have the supplemental budget referred to Finance Committee, have a Finance meeting either August 13th or 15th and then bring it out of committee at the City Council meeting of August 15th, 2019. Councilor Flaherty requested that he be allowed to ask questions now because he is not a member of the Finance Committee and he won't be allowed to ask questions at the Finance Committee meeting. President Figy informed the Council that nonmembers of a committee can ask questions but cannot deliberate. Councilor Flaherty requested to amend Councilor Bean's motion to refer the health care and pension items of the supplemental budget to Long Range Financial Committee and everything else to the Finance Committee, but prior to that motion he would like to ask the City Auditor some questions. Councilor Surprise reviewed the levy ceiling information that he received from the City Auditor and informed the Council that cuts were made to the budget to avoid reaching levy ceiling. Councilor Emmershay expressed his concern that after a nine hour budget meeting in June where cuts were made that there is now a supplemental budget to restore a lot of those cuts. He expressed his concern that contracts have not been presented to the Council and the funds were put into the budget and there was an account for future salary increases included in the budget. He informed the Council that he is opposed to referring this budget to Finance Committee. Councilor Flaherty expressed his understanding of both sides but requested the Council not kill the opportunity to talk more about the Mayor's supplemental budget in committee. Councilor Bean informed the Council that the Finance Committee will do its due diligence in reviewing the supplemental budget and moving it forward. He informed the Council that he did allow Councilors, who were not members of the Finance Committee, to speak at the Finance Committee budget meetings and because of that he

has an Open Meeting Law violation filed against him from Councilor Flaherty. Councilor Surprise informed the Council that the cuts that were made at the June meeting were not willy nilly, they were well-thought-out cuts. Councilor Emmershy informed the Council that cuts made to salaries were never cut below the FY19 amounts. Councilor Onyski questioned how many times Long Range Financial Committee met this past year. Councilor Flaherty answered that they did not meet at all. Councilor Onyski then requested to have the supplemental budget just referred to Finance Committee. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that he has legitimate reasons why he wants to ask questions. Mayor Sullivan addressed the Council. He informed them that his job is to work for the citizens and that statutorily there are items that cannot be cut. He gave for example the Mayor's salary, it is set by Ordinance at \$100,000.00 and cannot be cut. He informed the Council that they cannot negotiate contracts. They can either accept them or reject them when they are presented to them. He informed them that the settled contracts that had increases to salaries were put into the budget and if the contracts are rejected that money would be taken out of the line items. He informed them that they cannot cut some salaries and not others because they are part of a negotiated contract. He informed them that sending the supplemental budget to two committees is a Council issue. He informed the Council that the supplemental budget is asking for \$700,000.00 to be restored in cuts for items that are statutorily required. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that there is an implication that the Council did something wrong relative to cutting the pension account but that per Chapter 44 section 32 it allows the Council to reduce or reject any amount recommended in the annual budget, but that the City is still responsible to pay the obligation. Mayor Sullivan informed the Council that the phrase "subject to appropriation" is for him when setting the budget. He informed the Council that his budget was set with appropriations that could be handled.

Upon motion of Councilor Flaherty, it was
VOTED: That the health care item and pension item of the supplemental budget be REFERRED TO LONG RANGE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE and everything else be REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

The President declared the motion LOST.

Upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was

VOTED: That the supplemental budget be REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

The President declared the motion PASSED.

The second item on the special meeting Agenda was CPA funding for Abner Gibbs playground.

At this point President Bean relinquished the Chair to Councilor Bean.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was

VOTED: That the rules of the City Council be SUSPENDED in order to act upon an item received at tonight's meeting and upon motion of Councilor Allie, it was further VOTED: that the item be given immediate consideration.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was
VOTED: Under immediate consideration, that the sum of \$10,000.00 be appropriated
from the Community Preservation Undesignated (FY20) account #24101770-580000 to
CPA Abner Gibbs Playground (Recreation) account #24101770-580400-5307.

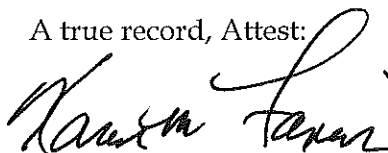
The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Matt Emmershay	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Leslie LeFebvre	Absent
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Absent
William Onyski	Yes
Andrew Surprise	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes
Mary Ann Babinski	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes

Councilor Figy resumed the Chair.

At 6:43 PM, and upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was
VOTED: To ADJOURN.

A true record, Attest:

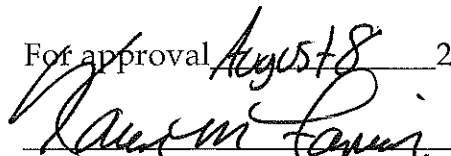


Karen M. Fanion
City Clerk/Clerk of the Council

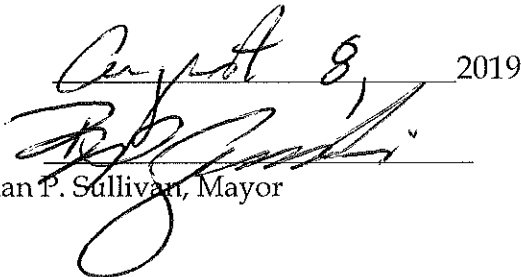
Presented to the Mayor

Approved by the Mayor

For approval August 8 2019



Karen M. Fanion, City Clerk

August 8, 2019

Brian P. Sullivan, Mayor