



MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL

59 COURT STREET

MUNICIPAL BUILDING, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

SEPTEMBER 07, 2023 AT 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chamber, Municipal Building, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA at 7:00 PM by President Beltrandi.

The Clerk called the roll. Councilor Adams was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Beltrandi.

Upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was

VOTED: That the reading of the record of the meeting of August 17, 2023 be ACCEPTED.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Under "Public Participation" the Councilors were addressed by Tina Gorman Director of Council on Aging (COA). She recommended approval of Michael Squindo for position of the Executive Director of the Council on Aging. She informed the Council that she got to know Mr. Squindo through regional COA director zooms during Covid, adding that he brings specialized training and experience necessary to run a successful senior center. Although she was not involved in the hiring process, she was thrilled to find out he was offered the position. After 18 years with the COA, she will be stepping down as director, but not away from the senior center. She stated that together they could elevate the Westfield Senior Center to the next level.

Under "Public Participation" the Councilors were addressed by Cheryl Collins, 95 Orange Street. In her full-time role at the Agawam Library, she is part of Pioneer Valley Library Collaborative. She informed the Council that they would be hosting a Clean Energy Incentives Forum at Westfield State University on September 27, 2023 at 5:45PM. The aim of the event is to get people thinking about the financial incentives to switching to more energy efficient items such as solar panels, appliances, and electric vehicles. The last week of September (24-30th) is climate preparedness week, designated to bringing education and action in the community to better respond to climate related events to help the move towards a more sustainable future.

Under "Public Participation" the Councilors were addressed by John Meiklejohn, 183 Silver Street, Granville, MA. He is also a part of the Pioneer Valley Library Collaborative and was present to represent Voices for Climate, a community-based group that addresses issues of climate education and awareness. He supported libraries being the hub of climate conversations, education, and collaboration. He spoke about the high level of financial incentives available in Massachusetts and the lack of awareness on how to access them. The Clean Energy Incentives Forum will present the facts and knowledge on how to access

incentives and rebates. He gave an example of how a homeowner could receive money back from the State for purchasing a heat pump and receive a tax credit from the Federal Government. If needed, Massachusetts will sometimes offer zero interest loans to cover up front costs.

Under "Public Participation" the Councilors were addressed by Ann Favereau, 189 Springfield Road. She stated that she heard people might be housed at the college, under direction of the Governor, and asked who would be funding the extra teachers and bus drivers.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was VOTED: That items 1. and 2. under "Communications from the Mayor" be read by the Clerk and be REFERRED TO THE LEGISLATIVE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE and that item 2. also be REFERRED TO THE ENGINEERING AND LAW DEPARTMENTS.

The Clerk read from the Agenda as follows:

1. Submitting a Resolution for the acceptance of a gift donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from David T. Plackias to the Animal Control Department to be used for improvements.
2. Submitting a Resolution authorizing the City to enter into Powdermill Brook Watershed Arm Brook Multipurpose Dam (MA00604) Supplemental Watershed Agreement No.101 with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service to begin design for works of improvement for the rehabilitation of Arm Brook Dam.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was VOTED: That items 3. and 4. under "Communications from the Mayor" be read by the Clerk and be REFERRED TO THE PERSONNEL ACTION COMMITTEE.

The Clerk read from the Agenda as follows:

3. Submitting the appointment of Trudy Knowles, 4 Noble Avenue as a member of the Council on Aging for a term to expire February, 2024, replacing the vacant position left by Kerry Ann Kielbasa.
4. Submitting the reappointment of Sarah Scott, 455 Falley Drive as a member of the Cultural Council for a term to expire in June, 2026.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

5. Upon motion of Councilor Allie, it was VOTED: That Deputy Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Scott Hathaway submitting a positive recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission for the consideration and approval to name the ballfield at Hampton Ponds Playground the Bruce W. Nielsen Field be REFERRED TO THE CITY PROPERTIES COMMITTEE and that the Clerk schedule a PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE CITY PROPERTIES COMMITTEE.

All in favor, voice vote.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was
VOTED: That item 6. under "Reports of City Officers" be read by the Clerk and be REFERRED TO THE PERSONNEL ACTION COMMITTEE.

The Clerk read from the Agenda as follows:

6. City Auditor Vicki Moro, 114 Pomeroy Meadow Road, Southampton, MA submitting a request for reappointment for a term to expire October 1, 2026.

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

All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote Councilor Figy informed the Council that the deadline for withdrawals and objections had to pass prior to the calling of the City Preliminary, which was the need for immediate consideration.

7. Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was
VOTED: Under immediate consideration that the Order calling the Early Voting dates, times and location for the City Preliminary and City Biennial Elections submitted by City Clerk Kaitlyn Bruce, be given first reading by title only.

The Order was given first reading by title only and upon motion of Councilor Figy it was

VOTED: That the Order be passed to second reading. It was further voted that the Order be given second reading.

The Order was given second reading by title only and PASSED TO BE ORDAINED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

8. Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was

VOTED: Under immediate consideration that the Order calling the City Preliminary Election to be held on September 19, 2023 (School Committee only) submitted by City Clerk Kaitlyn Bruce, be given first reading by title only.

The Order was given first reading by title only and upon motion of Councilor Figy it was

VOTED: That the Order be passed to second reading. It was further voted that the Order be given second reading.

The Order was given second reading by title only and PASSED TO BE ORDAINED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES, AND OTHER PAPERS

9. Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was

VOTED: That the CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING on a Special Permit application submitted by A.J. Virgilio Construction, Inc. pursuant to Zoning Ordinance Sec.130.3(1) to allow the continued use of over the road trailer parking/storage on property be CONTINUED to the September 21, 2023 City Council Meeting.

All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote Councilor Figy informed the Council that the applicant was waiting on information from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

10. A public hearing was held on a Zone Change Petition submitted by R Levesque Associates Inc. for RSP Realty, LLC c/o Mr. Ronald E. Schortmann, for 3 Fowler Street Extension (parcel 255-17) and 81 Union Street (parcel 223-59) from Residential C to Industrial A for a proposed parking lot expansion from abutting property. Rebecca Li, from R. Levesque Associates Inc. was present to represent the applicant for a zone change. She informed the Council that there was a tenant occupying a majority of the property who would like to expand the parking lot to provide for overflow parking and snow storage. She presented the council with a new map to give an overall view, outlining the property Mr. Schortmann was looking to make a contiguous Industrial A area and informed them that the application

received a positive recommendation from the Planning Board. President Beltrandi opened the Public Hearing up to the Councilors. Councilor O'Connell asked if the bottom parcel displayed on the diagram had frontage on Union Street. Ms. Li stated it did not, there was only frontage on Fowler Extension. Councilor Mello stated that this was an Environmental Justice Neighborhood and asked if the applicant was willing to comply with noise and light limitations. Ms. Li replied that the applicant was willing to maintain all buffer requirements between residential and industrial districts and was sensitive to the fact that there were residential abutters. Councilor Mello asked if the applicant was willing to conform to the lighting ordinance and replace dead arborvitaes to buffer the sound and pollution. Ms. Li noted that the application would have to go through the Site Plan Approval process through the Planning Board and will be required to adhere to buffer requirements. Councilor Allie questioned where the parcel was in relation to Union Street. Ms. Li confirmed it was inside the property and not along the outer edge. He further asked for the current zoning and if homes were on the parcels. Ms. Li stated the parcels were currently Residential C and the parcels were acquired by Mr. Schortmann. The homes were demolished. Councilor Matthews-Kane asked if a marijuana facility would be allowed by-right if the zoning was switched to Industrial A. Ms. Li was unsure. Councilor Harris stated that the Schortmann family had always been an excellent neighbor and was a good business for Westfield. Councilor Mello stated she was an abutter and was thrilled to hear the applicant would like to update the lighting. Ms. Li clarified that the parcels being brought into Industrial A would be brought into conformance, not the entire area. President Beltrandi opened the Public Hearing to the audience for questions of fact. Marget Jacobus, 91 Union Street, shared that she was an abutter. In her 39 years as a neighbor, Mr. Schortmann was always helpful if she ever had difficulties. President Beltrandi asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition. No one was present to speak in opposition. Councilor O'Connell stated that she received a phone call from an abutter who did not receive notification of the public hearing and made a motion to continue the Public Hearing. She noted that she did confirm with City Planner Jay Vinskey that abutter notifications were mailed out in August. President Beltrandi noted that public hearing notices are also posted on the property weeks before. Councilor Figy asked if there were any time constraints. Ms. Li replied that they would have liked a vote but understood if they needed to get additional opinions from neighbors. Councilor Harris stated that there was a legal ad and it was posted, noting the business might be trying to construct a parking lot during the good weather. Councilor Bean asked Councilor O'Connell if she knew who the abutter was. Councilor O'Connell replied Ann Mello. Councilor Allie stated that abutter notifications will go to the address on file and that it was probably not received because it was not her primary address. Councilor Mello stated that after she learned that her mother did not receive an abutter notification, she was worried other residents may not have received the notice as well and an extension would allow the residents to speak. With no others to be heard, and upon motion of Councilor O'Connell, it was

VOTED: That the Public Hearing be CONTINUED to the September 21, 2023 City Council

meeting.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Finance Committee

11. Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$654,393.67 be appropriated from the Stabilization Account (8303-340000) to the Westfield Barnes Airport Capital Project Taxiway B South Account #11990000-580000-4899 to cover the 2% local share of the \$32,054,500.00 Taxiway B South Project.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan stated that Airport Manager Chris Willenborg has been foreshadowing this project and that the City has funded the design and environmental permitting. He gave a breakdown of how the project would be funded: FAA (\$11,779,086.00), Air National Guard (\$9,000,329.00), Government Military Task Force (\$9,637,425.00) and DOT Aeronautics Division will contribute an equal number as the City (\$645,393.00). The City is leveraging 98% of the project with the City match (\$645,393.00). The project includes a total

reconstruction and widening of Taxiway South. It is currently operating under a waiver. In addition to addressing a safety issue, this work would need to be done to accommodate F15s and/or F35s. The request is to come out of Stabilization because Free Cash is not certified but the Mayor has promised to put the money back into Stabilization when it is. Mr. Willenborg stated there has been a lot of time, energy and coordination between Congressmen Neal, local State Delegations, and a number of Governor's Administrations. If one of the five funding sources do not come through, the money put in by the City will not be spent. The Taxiway South project has been on the capital project list for quite some time. He personally thanked Mr. Willenborg, and everyone involved. Councilor Figy asked if there was anything in writing regarding the return of the money to Stabilization. Councilor Morganelli asked why the City match was listed as 2% of the project when on the DOT sheet it was listed as 5%. Councilor Sullivan explained that they had that conversation in Finance. There is a requirement of a 5% match of the FAA money, which is 2% of the overall project. Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that she had something in writing from Mayor that he was willing to use Free Cash once it was certified.

12. Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That a Grant in the amount of \$1,040,343.00 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security State 911 Department Support & Incentive Grant to the Regional Public Safety Communications Department to cover equipment, annual licensing, maintenance contracts and to defray the costs of salaries & overtime for certified telecommunicator personnel be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that the Director, Nina Barszcz went before the Finance Committee to discuss all of the grants. This grant, which she received last year as well, covered 20% of her salaries. This year, it covers 100% of her salaries and almost all of the department's \$900,000.00 budget including operating expenses and new equipment. Some of the money will have to go back to the State because there are not enough

eligible expenses. The Council anticipated this when the regionalization took place. Councilor Morganelli noted it was one of four grants being accepted that evening and gave his appreciation to Mrs. Barszcz. Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that one of three is a competitive grant and echoed that she did a great job. Councilor Allie asked if it would impact next year's budget. Councilor Sullivan replied that it was a three-year grant, but the indication was that the State is trying to drive communities into regionalization. He noted that she had been very successful at securing money and although there are no guarantees she believed money would continue to be available for regional dispatch.

13. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That a Grant in the amount of \$106,313.00 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security State 911 Department Answering Point and Regional Emergency Communications Center Development Grant to the Regional Public Safety Communications Department for transition and equipment expenses for regionalization with the Town of Southwick be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that this was a competitive development grant. Last year this grant covered the cost of her salary and much of her equipment, which are now being covered in the grant that was previously voted on. This is a disburse grant, the money will come to Westfield to cover costs that Southwick will end up not paying. This includes roughly \$100,000.00 to their assessment fee and \$6,000.00 for a human avatar receptionist. Currently, if someone goes into Southwick, they press a button to speak to somebody, but it doesn't work if the person is deaf. The human avatar receptionist will be able to communicate with people and will move them towards ADA compliancy. Councilor Sullivan highlighted that this department would operate in the black for FY24.

14. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane for the Finance Committee, it was

VOTED: That a Grant in the amount of \$10,225.84 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety & Security State 911 Department Training Grant to the Regional Public Safety Communications Department to cover fees associated with 911 training courses, annual maintenance fees for CritiCall, the skill and ability testing software and licensing costs for the Emergency Fire Dispatch protocol card sets be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that this was a reimbursable grant for continuing education and training.

15. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That a Grant in the amount of \$848.00 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety & Security State 911 Department Emergency Medical Dispatch Grant to the Regional Public Safety Communications Center to be used for the current medical protocol system card sets and annual maintenance fee of the quality assurance software be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that this would go to the medical protocol systems and software for tracking.

16. Upon motion of Councilor Bean for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$100,000.00 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security in Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds for the Police Department to upgrade cardio equipment, security doors and to purchase a small utility vehicle and sonar device for the boat be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Bean gave the breakdown of the list on the Council Share including cardio equipment, Polaris Ranger, drone equipment, security upgrades and a sonar for boat. Councilor Allie asked for clarification that this was from Coronavirus State Recovery Funds. Councilor Bean confirmed, adding that Senator Velis was able to put in an earmark for Westfield.

17. Upon motion of Councilor Bean for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$149.26 be transferred within the Police Department from the FY24 Purchase of Services Account #12100000-520000 to the FY22 Purchases of Service Account #12100000-585001 to cover a Massachusetts Turnpike Authority E-ZPass invoice for \$9.20 and seven outstanding Westfield Gas and Electric invoices, totaling \$140.06 for 12 Woodland Road which was seized by the Police Department.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
Mary O'Connell	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes

James Adams	Absent
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Bean informed the Council that this would require nine votes because it was a prior year bill, and that the City would get the \$140.06 back when 12 Woodland Road was sold.

Legislative and Ordinance Committee

18. Upon motion of Councilor Figy for the Legislative and Ordinance committee, it was That an Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF WESTFIELD, ADOPTED JUNE 17, 1993" (Section 17-116. Parking prohibited at certain times on certain streets by adding: Hamlin Place, West side; Monday - Friday 8:00 AM through 4:00 PM when school is in session) be given first reading by title only.

The Ordinance was given first reading and upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was VOTED: That the Ordinance be PASSED TO SECOND READING.
All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy stated that for several years, parents from Fort Meadow have used Hamlin Place as a parking lot, blocking residents from accessing their driveways. No Parking signs will be placed on the West side. Councilor Morganelli stated that there were lots of streets that would not allow emergency vehicles to get through if cars were parked on both sides. He suggested that all Councilors look in their own wards to see what other streets may need to be added to this Ordinance and thanked Councilor Figy for his work on the item. Councilor Figy read the Ordinance in its entirety.

19. Upon motion of Councilor Burns for the Legislative and Ordinance committee, it was VOTED: That an Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF WESTFIELD, ADOPTED JUNE 17, 1993" (Section 17-115. Parking Prohibited at all times on certain streets by adding Orange Street, Southerly side at Conner Avenue, 20 feet from corner; Conner Avenue, Easterly side at Orange Street, 20 feet from corner; Shepard Street, 52 feet from Franklin Street on the West side and 42 feet on the East side; Beckwith Avenue, Easterly side, 20 feet from Franklin Street.) be given first reading.

The Ordinance was given first reading and upon motion of Councilor Burns, it was VOTED: That the Ordinance be PASSED TO SECOND READING.
All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Burns stated that Sgt Mejias informed the committee that people were parking cars right up to the intersection, causing congestion and a concern for

emergency vehicles being able to pass through. Councilor Burns read the Ordinance in its entirety.

20. Upon motion of Councilor Burns for the Legislative and Ordinance committee, it was

VOTED: That an Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF WESTFIELD, ADOPTED JUNE 17, 1993" (Section 17-82. Speed limits (2) by adding to Thickly settled or Business District: Twenty-five miles per hour - No person shall operate a vehicle on any city public way within thickly settled or business districts at a rate of speed greater than 25 miles per hour and such speed limit shall be posted by the Department of Public Works) be given first reading.

The Ordinance was given first reading by title only and upon motion of Councilor Burns, it was

VOTED: That the Ordinance be PASSED TO SECOND READING.

All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Burns informed the Council that they would be lowering the speed limit from 30 to 25 throughout the City. Section 193 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016 allows cities or towns to opt-in to Chapter 90, Section 17C of the MGL. Mass DOT will be notified of the changes and the new speed limits will be posted by the Department of Public Works.

21. Upon motion of Councilor Burns for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, it was

VOTED: That lowering the speed limits in the Orange Street, Washington Street, Pearl Street, Brookline Avenue, Moseley Avenue, and Meadow Street neighborhoods to take advantage of the 2016 Municipal Modernization Act, which allows communities to reduce speed limits to 25 miles per hour on thickly settled roads and on roadways in business districts be REMOVED FROM COMMITTEE WITH NO ACTION.

22. Upon motion of Councilor Burns for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, it was

VOTED: That an Ordinance amendment as requested by Sergeant Mejias, Chair of the Traffic Commission: Section 17-82. Speed Limits (2) Thickly settled or Business District: Twenty-five miles per hour by adding Alice Burke Avenue, Alice Street, Allen Avenue, Arnold Street, Ashley Street, Avery Street, Bartlett Street, Bates Street, Beckwith Avenue, Belmont Street, Belvedere Gardens, Benham Street, Berkshire Drive, Birge Avenue, Bliss Street, Bowdoin Street, Brookline Avenue, Bush Street, Butler Street, Carroll Drive, Casimir Street, Central Street, Chapel Street, Charles Street, Cherry Street, Chestnut Street, Church Street, Claremont Street, Clark Street, Cleveland Avenue, Clinton Avenue, Coleman Avenue, Congress Street, Conner Avenue, Coolidge Avenue, Cortez Street, Court Street, Cowles Court, Crane Avenue, Cross Street, Cycles Street, Dana Street, Danek Drive, Day Avenue, Dewey Avenue, Duane

Street, Dubois Street, Dudley Avenue, Dwight Street, Dzuris Avenue, East Silver Street, East Bartlett Street, Ellis Street, Ellsworth Street, Emery Street, Exchange Street, Fairfield Avenue, Fairview Street, Floral Avenue, Ford Avenue, Fowler Avenue, Fowler Street, Franklin Avenue, Franklin Street, Frederick Street, Free Street, Fremont Street, George Street, Gillett Avenue, Gold Street, Grand Street, Green Avenue, Greylock Street, Hamilton Way, Hamlin Place, Hampden Street, Hancock Street, Hanover Street, Harold Avenue, Harrison Avenue, Hassler Street, Hayre Street, Hedges Avenue, High Street, Highland Avenue, Highland View Street, Holcomb Street, Holland Avenue, Howard Street, Hubbard Street, Jefferson Avenue, Jefferson Street, Kasper Drive, Kellogg Street, Kelsey Terrace, Kenwood Street, King Avenue, King Place King Street, King Street Extension, Laflin Street, Lawton Street, Leonard Avenue, Lewis Street, Lincoln Street, Lindbergh Boulevard, Linden Avenue, Littles Court, Livingstone Avenue, Logan Avenue, Lois Street, Loomis Avenue, Lozier Avenue, Madison Street, Main Street, Malone Avenue, Maple Court, Maple Street, Maple Terrace, Maplewood Avenue, Margerie Street, Mather Street, May Street, Mcklinley Terrace, Meadow Street, Mechanic Street, Mill Street, Miller Street, Monroe Street, Morris Avenue, Morris Street, Morse Avenue, Murphey Circle, Myrtle Avenue, Noble Avenue, Noble Street, North Cherry Street, Oak Avenue, Oak Avenue Extension, Oak Street, Oak Terrace, Old Town Ford Way, Orange Street, Otis Street, Palmar Avenue, Paper Street, Park Street, Parkside Avenue, Pearl Street, Perkins Street, Phelps Avenue, Pleasant Street, Ponders Hollow Road, Provin Terrace, Putnam Drive, Ridgeway Street, Riverside Drive, Sackett Street, School Street, Sheldon Avenue, Shepard Street, Sherman Street, Sherman Street Extension, Sibley Avenue, Smith Avenue, South Ashley Street, South Broad Street, South Maple Street, South Meadow Road, South Street, Spring Street, Squawfield Road, ST. Dennis Street, ST. James Avenue, ST. Paul Street, State Street, Sterling Street, Stratfield Avenue, Summer Street, Sycamore Street, Taylor Avenue, Thomas Street, Toledo Avenue, Union Avenue, (up to south side of bridge), Vadnais Street, Walnut Street, Washington Street, Webster Avenue, West Gate Avenue, West School Street, West Silver Street, West Street, White Avenue, White Street, William Street, Williams Riding Way, Wilson Avenue, Woodbridge Lane, Woodland Avenue, Woronoco Avenue and Yale Street be REMOVED FROM COMMITTEE WITHOUT ACTION.

23. Upon motion of Councilor Burns for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, it was VOTED: That having the Traffic Commission investigate changing the left-hand turn in front of 52 Court Street to either a two-way left turn lane or an extended painted traffic island REMAIN IN COMMITTEE

Prior to the vote, Councilor Burns informed the Council that they were leaving the item in committee, to discuss with Engineering.

24. Upon motion of Councilor Figy for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, it was VOTED: To to allow the Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail to install a sign on a section of the multiuse path along Shaker Road that that starts on Country Club Lane, in honor

of Bob Pac.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the Council that Bob Pac is a member of the Rail Trail organization. Every day he walks the trail to attack graffiti and uses his own equipment to clear brush and trees. The vote was to accept the sign from the Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail. Councilor Bean stated that he was under the impression that a person had to be deceased to have City property named after them. Councilor Sullivan echoed Councilor Bean, stating that he was okay with the sign but noted that it was inconsistent with the written policy. He believed the Council should be consistent because they will continue to receive requests as there are a lot of people who contribute time, money, effort, and talent to the City. Councilor Onyski called the request to hang a Bob's Way sign, a gray area. The trail wasn't being named after Mr. Pac and it was not a park. He agreed that the naming of a school or field should follow the written policy. Councilor Matthews-Kane echoed Councilor Onyski. Councilor Mello asked if DPW would be doing the jobs that Bob Pac was doing. Councilor Figy stated that the care, custody, and control is currently under City Council. It was the understanding that it would then be sent to a City Department once the trail was completed. Councilor Bean suggested discussing the policy moving forward. He didn't believe someone should have to be deceased to have a City property named after them.

25. Upon motion of Councilor Figy for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, it was VOTED: That an Order entitled "AN ORDER TRANSFERRING CARE, CUSTODY, MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF A CERTAIN PARCEL IN THE CITY OF WESTFIELD" (Columbia Greenway Rail Trail to the Westfield Department of Public Works) be given first reading by title only.

The Order was given first reading by title and upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was VOTED: That the Order be PASSED TO SECOND READING.

All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the Council that the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail had been under the City Council for the last ten years. The trail has been completed to the point that the Council no longer needs to have care, custody, and control. The Department of Public Works was in favor of the transfer, and they will decide if it goes to Parks and Rec or Land and Natural Resources. Councilor Sullivan stated the DPW will need to be properly funded to keep the Rail Trail well maintained. Councilor Onyski noted that the item initially came into Council as a Resolution and was changed to an Order during subcommittee.

26. Upon motion of Councilor Onyski for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, it was VOTED: That a Resolution entitled "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD FOR ACCEPTANCE OF A GIFT PURSUANT TO M.G.L 44, SEC. 53A TO ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT" (gift donation in the amount of \$1,787.00 from CrossFit Swarm and Run Westfield, LLC. to the Animal Shelter) be ADOPTED. All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Onyski thanked CrossFit Swarm and Run Westfield, LLC for the \$1,787.00 donation to the Animal Control and informed the Council it would be used for improvements for the animals in the shelter. Councilor Onyski read the Resolution in its entirety.

27. Upon motion of Councilor Figy, for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, it was VOTED: That a Resolution entitled "A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE AND WASTEWATER WITH THE TOWN OF SOUTHWICK" be ADOPTED. All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the Council that the current 25-year agreement was due to expire in the near future. Statute requires Council approval due to the length of the lease and the Resolution gives the Mayor the authorization to sign the agreement. He reviewed the commercial rates Southwick would pay and informed the Council that historically Southwick has deposited between 100-150 gallons of sewage. Every three years, a new rate discussion will take place but it will always be a commercial rate plus the base. Councilor Sullivan noted that the commercial rate was higher than the residential rate, which was initially negotiated 25 years ago at the time regionalization. Westfield received favorable financing to be able to do the expansion on the existing facility at that time because it regionalized. Councilor Allie asked if the rates were per month or year. Councilor Figy replied that they monitored the gallon usage for the year and then billed Southwick. Councilor Mello asked if the agreement was flexible enough that Westfield would have the authority to

mitigate any unexpected additional commercial level PFAS discharges in the system if the City was federally required to clean them out. She wanted to ensure Westfield would have the ability to raise rates, so the burden didn't fall on Westfield residents. Councilor Burns stated, it would be Westfield's sewerage once it was received. Councilor Figy stated that Fran Cain informed the Committee that Southwick was not allowed to take anyone else's sewage and what comes through would be periodically tested for higher levels of certain minerals. Councilor Onyski stated that if the EPA was to change anything or lower different parameters, Westfield would have the right to go back to Southwick. He stated that the rate could change. Figy referred to section 2.1 of the agreement under the section entitled Treatment, Control and Characteristics of Sewage Discharge. Councilor Figy read the Resolution in its entirety.

28. Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was VOTED: That a Resolution entitled "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE LEASE OF AIRPORT PROPERTY OVER A TERM OF 20 YEARS PURSUANT TO M.G.L. c.90 sec.51F" (approval for the Airport Commission to enter into a real estate lease agreement with James Labrie for a term of 30 years) be ADOPTED.
All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Onyski informed the Council that anything over a term of 20 years, requires Council approval. Mr. Labrie has an existing hangar and will build another hanger on the property. The cost for the land lease is \$8,000.00 a year. In addition, the City will receive property tax on the building itself. Every three years there will be a CPI adjustment to the rent. Councilor Onyski read the Resolution in its entirety.

Personnel Action Committee

29. Upon motion of Councilor Harris for the Personnel Action Committee, it was VOTED: That the appointment of Jeffrey J. Trant, 61 Yankee Circle, as a member of the Fire Commission for a term to expire February, 2026, replacing Albert Masciadrelli, be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
Mary O'Connell	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Absent
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes

Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris informed the Councilors that Jeffrey Trant has been a longtime resident of Westfield. At the Personnel Action Committee meeting he stated it was a privilege to live in a community with esteemed first responders among them, our Firefighters who selflessly protect the lives and property of those in our community. He has a PH.D. in Social Work from University at Albany State University of New York and a Masters' Degree from Boston College. His professional affiliations include National Association of Social Workers, Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association, and Society for Social Work and Research. His service to the community includes being a member of the Community Advisory Board for the Hampden County Sheriff's Department, Western MA Regional Women's Correctional Center, and he was on the Board of Directors for the Children's Advocacy Center of Franklin County and North Quabbin for 6 years before he took over as its Executive Director where he currently is employed. His past employment situations include being the Director, Office of Safe Environment and Victim Assistance for the Springfield Diocese, Quality Coordinator for Behavioral Health Network, Director for Adult Mental Health Center for Human Development and involved in Multicultural Community Service. He has been a professor and lecturer at many colleges and extensively published in subjects including opioid abuse and employment, psychological distress and closing the gap in mandated reporting laws. Mr. Trant told PAC that he was honored to follow in the steps of long-time Commissioner, Albert Masciadrelli and looking forward to helping the City. President Beltrandi thanked Mr. Masciadrelli for his longtime dedication to the City of Westfield and Westfield Fire Commission. He will be missed.

30. Upon motion of Councilor Harris for the Personnel Action Committee, it was VOTED: That Michael Squindo for the position of Executive Director for Council on Aging for a term of three years from the date of appointment be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris informed the Council that Tina Gorman, the long-time Executive Director for the Council on Aging has decided to step away from being the Director and will pursue another open position within the Senior Center which will allow her to have more time for personal endeavors. That position will go through proper posting and interviewing requirements. The search for a new Executive Director was conducted by the City's Personnel Department. Michael Squindo has approximately six years as Council on Aging Director for Agawam, with the same responsibilities as those at our Westfield Senior Center and nearly 10 years of various experiences working directly with local Senior Centers. He has a master's degree in social work. Since 2018 to present he has also been on the Advisory Board of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority and currently serves as a member of the ADA Paratransit Appeals Committee. Tina Gorman informed PAC that she was very enthusiastic about Mr. Squindo's appointment and added that he is excellent with technology. The Director of Personnel stated that he will be an asset to the elder community of Westfield. Councilor Harris stated that all City Councilors received his resume which listed his ability to work as a team with the staff, his extensive knowledge of elder issues, services and resources including his certifications in Senior Bullying Intervention, SHINE, Alzheimer's and Dementia, and Behavioral Health and Aging.

Councilor Burns informed the Council he would be abstaining from the next agenda item (#31) due to a professional relationship with the commission member.

31. Upon motion of Councilor Harris for the Personnel Action Committee, it was

VOTED: That the reappointment of Jeffrey Siegel, 56 Wilson Avenue, as a member of the Fire Commission for a term to expire February, 2025 be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote Councilor Harris informed the Council that Mr. Siegel has over 30 years' experience in security, compliance, and legal matters. He has been an adjunct faculty

and lecturer for Clark University, Westfield State University, AIC, University of Pheonix, Yale and other institutions. He is admitted to the Massachusetts and Connecticut Bar and to practice before the U.S. Tax Court and U. S. Supreme Court. He has authored may Law articles. He shared with PAC that he wants to be involved in Community Service, thus his continued interest in serving on the Fire Commission. The difficulties that the Department experienced was completed before he was sworn in and he believes that the has represented the city fairly, with professionalism and is highly aware of the legalities and parameters he must adhere to while being a Fire Commissioner.

32. Upon motion of Councilor Harris for the Personnel Action Committee, it was VOTED: That the appointment of Rebecca Blackburn, 555 Russell Road #A1, as a member of the Cultural Council for a term to expire in September, 2026, replacing a vacancy, be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris informed the Council that this was more like a reappointment because she served on the Cultural Council beginning in February 2016, for two terms ending in May 2022. The State's Regulations regarding serving on the City's Cultural Council states that only two terms can be served consecutively, then after one year, one can reapply for appointment to that Council. The State provides the funding for the grants that the City's Cultural Council awards to individuals, businesses, and groups, for their Arts and Cultural events or endeavors. Ms. Blackburn shared with PAC that she had a great experience serving on the Cultural Council which gave her the opportunity to serve the Community at large as well as advancing the Athenaeum's mission by forging new connections between organizations and she looks forward to returning. She is an accomplished Librarian at the Westfield Athenaeum for 17 years. She has volunteered for Westfield on Weekends and was both Scribe and Chair when on the Cultural Council. The group is looking forward to her rejoining them.

33. Upon motion of Councilor Figy for the Zoning, Planning and Development Committee, it was

VOTED: That the application for a Special Permit, Site Plan Approval and Stormwater Permit submitted by BEK REALTY, LLC c/o Mr. Muradbek Usmonov for a Truck Terminal with associated site improvements pursuant to Sections 3-130.3(1), 4-110 and 6-10 to be located at 70 Lockhouse Road, Westfield MA be APPROVED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

The President declared the motion PASSED.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the Council that the Zoning, Planning & Development Committee voted to approve the Special Permit on a 2-1 vote. After giving due consideration to the application and testimony at the public hearing, including study in the Zoning, Planning and Development subcommittee, the Council found that, (1) site is an appropriate location for a truck terminal, for primarily trailer storage use, (2) the use as developed will not adversely affect the non-residential neighborhood, (3) adequate and appropriate facilities will be provided for the proper operation of the use, and (4) the plan, as approved, conforms to all other zoning rules and regulations. He stated that ZPD took two full meetings to go through and discuss the concerns raised at the public hearings before voting. He read aloud the conditions and findings attached to the Special Permit, noting that the Conservation Commission had 88 additional conditions. Councilor Mello thanked the committee for their hardwork. She stated that the Council could not take a recommendation for a hard pack gravel, and that Westfield has high levels of PFAS. She voiced her concerns with the letter from the Conservation Coordinator. Councilor Morganelli stated that he appreciated and respected new businesses, but that he was the 'no' vote in ZPD. Due to the additional truck traffic, it was not an ideal business for Ward 1. Councilor Figy shared that the experts have stated the difference between asphalt and hard pack is a .02 infiltration difference. Councilor Burns ensured that there would be no snow plowing. He believed with the 12 conditions from City Council and 88 from Conservation, it would be okay. The property is currently classified as undeveloped. City Assessor Ashlie Brown stated the business would

increase property value, noting that every increase will help in November when it comes to the tax shift. Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that the committee was also concerned about the hard pack and doubled the requirement from 4 to 8 inches to address the concerns.

MOTIONS, ORDERS OR RESOLUTIONS

34. Upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was

VOTED: to have the School Department and the City compile a list of all athletic fields and their ownership by September 21, 2023. Refer to the Superintendent's Office, School Athletic Department, Parks & Recreation Department and Department of Public Works.

Amend this to add City Properties.

All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Bean stated there needed to be improvements to athletic fields and to do so, they needed a clear list of ownership of properties throughout the city.

35. Upon motion of President Beltrandi, it was

VOTED: to CREATE a Water & DPW Ad-Hoc Committee.

Voice vote, all in favor.

Prior to the vote, President Beltrandi informed the Council that the committee members would be Councilor Burns (chair), Councilor Bean and himself.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Beltrandi reminded everyone that in-person early voting for the City Preliminary would be in the Council Chambers on Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

Councilor Morganelli reminded everyone of the 9/11 memorials taking place on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 9:45AM at the Fire Station on Broad Street.

Councilor Burns informed the Council that City Hall would be lit up purple throughout the month, for Chiari Malformation awareness, a neurological disease.

Councilor Beltrandi thanked all the Councilors for their time this evening.

Councilor Figy remembered his late father, James Figy, and thanked everyone for their condolences and support.

At 9:11 PM, and upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was

VOTED: To ADJOURN.


A true record, Attest:



Kaitlyn Leigh Bruce
City Clerk/Clerk of the Council

Presented to the Mayor

For approval Sept 22 2023


Kaitlyn Leigh Bruce, City Clerk

Approved by the Mayor

Sept 26 2023


Michael A. McCabe, Mayor