



MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL

59 COURT STREET

MUNICIPAL BUILDING, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

OCTOBER 05, 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. Councilors Figy, Matthews-Kane, Morganelli, and Sullivan were 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 October 5, 2023 be ACCEPTED.

President Beltrandi asked if anyone from the public would like to speak during public participation. There were no speakers for Public Participation.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was

VOTED: That items 1., 2., 3., 4., 5. and 6. under "Communications from the Mayor" be read by the Clerk and be REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Clerk read from the Agenda as follows:

1. Requesting acceptance of a Grant in the amount of \$9,600,000.00 from the Massachusetts Governor's Military Taskforce to the Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport for the Taxiway B South project.
2. Transfer of \$3,195.00 within the Department of Public Works, Land and Natural Resources Division, from the FY24 Purchase of Service Account #14990000-520000 to the FY23 Purchase of Service Account #14990000-520000.
3. Transfer of \$257.52 within the Department of Public Works Wastewater Division from FY24 Purchase of Service Account #67004400-520000 to FY23 Purchase of Service Account #67004400-520000.
4. Transfer of funds in the amount of \$47.38 within the Department of Public Works, Land and Natural Resources Division, from the FY24 Supplies Account #14990000-540000 to the FY23 Supplies Account #14990000-540000.
5. Transfer of \$100.00 within the Police Department from the FY24 Purchase of Service Account #12920000-520000 to the FY23 Purchase of Service Account #12920000-520000.
6. Transfer of \$71.50 within the Health Department from FY24 Purchase of Service Account #15100000-520000 to FY23 Purchase of Service Account #15100000-520000.

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

7. Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was
VOTED: That the request for the Youth Commission to collect donations at the Westfield on
Weekends PumpkinFest, Saturday, October 14, 2023, to be used for projects associated with
the commission's mission be APPROVED.
All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Onyski informed the Council that the event was taking
place prior to the next Council meeting, requiring immediate consideration.

Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was
VOTED: To take item 10. out of order.
All in favor, voice vote.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

10. Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was
VOTED: Under immediate consideration that the Order calling the City Biennial Election to be
held November 7, 2023, 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 Onyski 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:

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

Kristen Mello

Yes

Under motion of Councilor Onyski, it was
VOTED: That the meeting return to regular order.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was
VOTED: That items 9. and 10. 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:

8. Submitting the appointment of Ethan Stec as a member of the Youth Commission for a term to expire in February, 2026.
9. Submitting the appointment of Deirdre Matthews as a member of the Youth Commission for a term to expire in February, 2026.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Legislative and Ordinance Committee

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

VOTED: That a temporary staff increase for the Police Department from sixty-six (66) Patrol Officers to seventy-one (71) Patrol Officers to allow an additional five new hires to attend the upcoming Police Academy in November, in preparation of anticipated retirements from the Department be APPROVED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Burns informed the Council that Chief Valliere and Attorney Reed attended the Legislative and Ordinance Committee meeting. The City Council has the authority to increase staffing at any time. The temporary increase would allow five people to enter the academy in November. After the six-month academy, there are 14 weeks of required training. The increase will not require additional funding. O'Connell asked if they were hired prior to going to the academy. Councilor Burns confirmed, noting that they no

longer hired Reserve Officers. Councilor Adams stated that it would be a huge cost savings to the City, roughly six-months of savings in overtime.

12. Upon motion of Councilor Onyski 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 be REMOVED FROM COMMITTEE WITHOUT ACTION.

All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote Councilor Onyski informed the Council that both L&O and the Traffic Commission looked into this. The American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials stated that 320 feet of distance was needed between Day Ave and the driveway for a two-way left turn lane or an extended painted traffic island to be safe. There was a recommendation not to proceed as there is only 170 feet of distance.

13. Upon motion of Councilor Onyski for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, it was

VOTED: That a Resolution entitled " A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO THE 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) be ADOPTED.

All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Onyski informed the Council that City Engineer McMordie attended Legislative and Ordinance. He stated this was a good step towards making floodways safer. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be funding 7.74 million dollars and through that, 2.3 million dollars will be paid through ARPA and the 4.4 through the NRCS Watershed Protection Flood Prevention Act. If approved, design work would take about a year. The money doesn't need to be spent but it does need to be allocated in 2024. The bid document and acceptance would hopefully happen by the end of 2024 with construction taking roughly two years. The extent of construction is unclear until the design phase is done. The operation and maintenance of the Powdermill Dam would still be under the City. There is a new map based on new climate change data that made it evident that this was necessary. Councilor Mello thanked the Committee for their work and Engineer McMordie for being responsive about repairing the City's flood control structures. She stated the Arm Brook Dam wasn't badly damaged, just not built to handle all of the development on the North side or the storms. Councilor Onyski read the Resolution aloud in its entirety.

City Properties Committee

14. Upon motion of Councilor Harris for the City Properties Committee, it was VOTED: That the ballfield at Hampton Ponds Playground be NAMED the Bruce W. Nielsen Field.

All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote Councilor Harris informed the Council that Mrs. Beverly Neilsen and her son, Dana Nielsen, were in the audience. She read aloud a narrative submitted by his son. Mr. Bruce W. Nielsen was actively involved in Little League in the 1980s. He realized Babe Ruth was the only option for boys 12 and older to play baseball with limited spots available, so he created a senior division of Little League for boys ages 13-15. With the financial support of Little League, he built a baseball field near Hampton Ponds during his free time in 1986-1987. The additional baseball field gave more children the opportunity to keep playing baseball. Dana Nielsen expressed how honored his family would be to have the Hampton Ponds field named the Bruce W. Nielsen baseball field. Councilor Harris stated that Barbara Rokosz spoke on behalf of Mr. Nielsen at the Public Hearing and shared the names of the 1985 winning team. She is donating two championship flags that she still has. Councilor Harris extended her gratitude for what the family had done. Councilor Burns stated he coached for many years at the senior league and that Bruce was a legend. The field wouldn't be there if it wasn't for Mr. Nielsen. Councilor Adams stated that Mr. Nielsen had a big heart and cared about the town, noting what a great thing it was to give children the opportunity to keep playing baseball. Councilor Bean shared that he grew up with Dana throughout high school. He echoed Councilors Burns and Adams that Bruce was a great guy who dedicated a lot of his time to the City.

All in favor, voice vote.

At 6:21 PM Councilor Matthews-Kane arrived at the meeting and was recorded as being present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

15. Upon motion of Councilor Onyski 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 17-116. 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 by title and upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was

VOTED: That the Ordinance be PASSED TO SECOND READING.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Absent
Mary O'Connell	Yes

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

16. Upon motion of Councilor Onyski 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 by title only.

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

VOTED: That the Ordinance be PASSED TO SECOND READING.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

17. Upon motion of Councilor Onyski 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 by title only.

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

VOTED: That the Ordinance be PASSED TO SECOND READING.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

MOTIONS, ORDERS OR RESOLUTIONS

18. Upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was

VOTED: That extending the hours of operation at the Senior Center to include Saturdays be REFERRED to THE MAYOR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING AND SENIOR CENTER.

All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Bean stated that opening the Senior Center on Saturdays had been talked about before and several seniors had recently approached him. He requested that the Mayor and Executive Director look into trying a pilot program. Councilor Burns agreed with Councilor Bean and informed the Council that he spoke with Veterans Director, Julie Barnes who stated she could work a few hours into her schedule. Councilor Allie suggested surveying the members, not only for feedback on hours, but for what they'd like to see offered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Burns informed the Council that the DPW & Water Advisory Ad-Hoc Committee met last week and had a round table discussion. They will be reaching out to surrounding communities prior to meeting again.

Councilor Bean wished City Clerk Kaitlyn Bruce a Happy Birthday.

At 7:29PM, and upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was

VOTED: To ADJOURN.

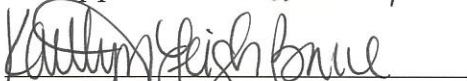
A true record, Attest:



Kaitlyn Leigh Bruce
City Clerk/Clerk of the Council


Presented to the Mayor

For approval October 20, 2023


Kaitlyn Leigh Bruce, City Clerk

Approved by the Mayor

10-20 2023


Michael A. McCabe, Mayor