



MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL

59 COURT STREET

MUNICIPAL BUILDING, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

JANUARY 19, 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 Morganelli 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 January 5, 2023 be ACCEPTED.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Under "Public Participation" the Councilors were addressed by Richard Roy, 55 St. James Avenue. He stated that he has been paying property taxes for 51 years. He stated his father passed away in 2012 and it felt like yesterday. He gave his condolences to a Councilor whose father recently passed away.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was
VOTED: Under immediate consideration, that a Grant in the amount of \$597,477.00 of additional funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, State 911 Department under the FY 23 State 911 Department Support and Incentive Program to cover costs of computer monitors and associated small equipment, as well as defray the costs of salaries and overtime for certified telecommunicator personnel be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes

Cindy Harris

Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that this reimbursable grant is part of Westfield Safety Communications Regionalization with the Town of Southwick. This grant of \$597,477.00 is in addition to \$164,488.00 that Westfield received in June of 2022. The money will be used for computer monitors, small equipment and personnel. The money must be spent by June of 2023 and will be mostly used for personnel which is the reason for immediate consideration.

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: That items 2., 3., 4., 5., 6. and 7. 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:

2. Appropriation of \$550,000.00 from the Department of Public Works, Stormwater Division's Undesignated Fund #6850-359000 to the Purchase of Service Account #68504550-520000 to fund a necessary sewer system modification on the upper portion of West Silver Street.
3. Appropriation of \$154,577.07 from Free Cash (1000-359000) to Engineering Purchase of Service Account #14110000-520000 to fund the purchase and implementation of StreetScan, a pavement and sidewalk asset management program.
4. Appropriation of \$120,000.00 from the Department of Public Works, Highway Division's FT Hourly Account #14210000-511100 to the Purchase of Service account #14210000-520000 to cover costs associated with vendor contracts.
5. Appropriation of \$100,000.00 from Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Department of Public Works, Highway Division Account #14210000-540000 to handle anticipated fuel expenses for the remainder of FY23.
6. Appropriation of \$33,325.18 from Free Cash (1000-359000) to Engineering Purchase of Service Account #14110000-520000 to fund a contract with Overland Engineering for the purpose of subsurface and utility investigations for the CSX underpass on East Mountain Road.
7. Appropriation of \$8,940.00 from Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Community Development Department Purchase of Service Account #11820000-520000 for unforeseen expenses related to an environmental assessment at a municipally owned property at 47 School Street.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Allie stated he believed item number three was a tremendous amount of money and asked if Finance would be requesting someone attend the meeting for further explanation. Councilor Matthews-Kane responded that they always have the requester attend the Finance Committee meetings.

8. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: Under immediate consideration, that a Grant in the amount of \$7,758.00 as outlined from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and the Department of Fire Services (DFS): \$5,481.00 for the Student Awareness Fire Education (SAFE) and \$2,277.00 for Senior

SAFE be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that Chief Egloff requested immediate consideration for this long standing grant. The student safety grant has been going on for twenty years. Firefighters are paid to teach fire education in the schools which has greatly improved fire safety. The senior safety grant has been going on for over five years and is administered by Tina Gorman. She uses it for things like lockboxes, house numbers and smoke detectors in senior's houses.

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was
VOTED: That item 9. under "Communications from the Mayor" be read by the Clerk and be REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Clerk read the Agenda as follows:

9. Appropriation of \$427.92 from Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Public Property Department Out of Grade Account #11920000-514200 to pay Chris Cesar out of grade salary for performing the job duties of Senior Building Custodian per Memorandum of Agreement.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was
VOTED: That items 10. through 32. under "Communications from the Mayor" be read by the Clerk and be REFERRED TO THE PERSONNEL ACTION COMMITTEE.

10. Submitting the appointment of Peter A. Velis, as a member of the Police Commission for a term to expire in February, 2026, replacing Felix Otero.
11. Submitting the appointment of Timothy Reynolds, 24 Woodland Road, as a member of the Board of Assessors for a term to expire in February, 2026, replacing Suzanne Bergeron.

12. Submitting the appointment of Alexander D. Fagnand, 187 Granville Road, as a member of the Board of Public Works for a term to expire in February, 2026, replacing Stephen White.
13. Submitting the appointment of Calaeb Vieweg as a member of the Youth Commission for a term to expire in February, 2026.
14. Submitting the reappointment of Ronald Cole, 71 Zephyr Drive as a member of the Water Commission for a term to expire in February, 2026.
15. Submitting the reappointment of Phillip McEwan, 153 Western Avenue as member of the Planning Board for a term to expire in February, 2027.
16. Submitting the reappointment of Robert Florek, 171 City View Road as a member of the Conservation Commission for a term to expire in February, 2026.
17. Submitting the reappointment of Sophia Bitzas, 354 Falley Drive as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire in February, 2026.
18. Submitting the reappointment of Jennifer Gilbert, 65 Prospect Street as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, moving from second to first alternate, for a term to expire in February, 2025.
19. Submitting the reappointment of Scott LaBombard, 626 Western Ave as a member of the Parks & Recreation Commission for a term to expire in February, 2026.
20. Submitting the reappointment of Peter Lurgio, 51 Overlook Drive as a member of the Parks & Recreation Commission for a term to expire in February, 2026.
21. Submitting the reappointment of Vincent Olinksi, 34 1/2 Noble Avenue as a member of the Parks & Recreation Commission for a term to expire in February, 2026.
22. Submitting the reappointment of Richard E. Clark, Jr., 456 Russellville Road as a member of the Traffic Commission for a term to expire in March, 2026.
23. Submitting the reappointment of Joseph Gadbois, 20 Deer Path Lane to the Traffic Commission for a term to expire March 20, 2024.
24. Submitting the reappointment of Elizabeth Boucher, 150 Hillside Road, Unit 6 as a member of the Council on Aging for a term to expire in February, 2026.
25. Submitting the reappointment of Alice M. Dawicki, 159 Holyoke Road as a member of the License Commission for a term to expire in February, 2029.
26. Submitting the reappointment of Cindy Gaylord, 35 Butternut Road as a member of the Historical Commission for a term to expire in February, 2026.
27. Submitting the reappointment of Carlene Bannish, 72 Laro Road as a member of the Historical Commission for a term to expire in February, 2026.
28. Submitting the reappointment of Kathleen Palmer, 608 Pochassic Road as a member of the Historical Commission for a term to expire in February, 2026.
29. Submitting the reappointment of Linda Saltus, 17 Hillside Road as a member of the Board of Registrars for a term to expire in February, 2026.
30. Submitting the reappointment of Daniel Smith, 15 Hamilton Way as a member of the Board of Registrars for a term to expire in February, 2026.

31. Submitting the reappointment of Stanley Strzempko, 31 Ridge Trail Road as a member of the Board of Health for a term to expire in February, 2026.

32. Submitting the reappointment of Juanita Carnes, 57 Holland Avenue as a member of the Board of Health for a term to expire in February, 2024.

All in favor - Councilor Allie OPPOSED.

Upon motion of Councilor Bean it was

VOTED: to extend time for Public Participation. A member of Behavioral Health Network was present to discuss their services and raise awareness for the community.

All in favor, voice vote.

Under "Public Participation" the Councilors were addressed by Katherine Cook, Senior Vice President and overseer of a new program at Behavioral Health Network (BHN), 77 Mill Street. She was present to announce the new program, 'Community Behavioral Health Centers' that launched January 3rd across the Commonwealth. BHN was designated as the Springfield and Westfield catch area. At the Mill Street location, they handle crisis evaluations, outpatient therapy and medication services for patients with psychiatric needs. She emphasized that mental health is a big crisis across the Country. This facility will expand access. At the Westfield location, people can walk in and receive services Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM and on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. The hope is behavioral health emergencies can be taken care of without going to the emergency room which is much better for youth and families. To access these services, call BHN-well or 301-well. The Councilors thanked Ms. Cook for the information.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES, AND OTHER PAPERS

Upon motion of Figy, it was

VOTED: That item 33. under "Petitions, Remonstrances, and Other Papers" be read by the Clerk and be REFERRED TO THE LICENSE COMMITTEE and a PUBLIC HEARING be scheduled at the earliest date.

The Clerk read from the Agenda as follows:

33. 415 North Road LLC, on an application for an amendment to their existing gas storage license at 415 North Road, Westfield MA.

34. A PUBLIC HEARING was held on the following Ad-Hoc Charter committee topics:

a. City Council may create an Annual budget process by ordinance.

b. Clarify that a job title is not necessarily a full-time job and that one person may have multiple roles.

c. Change language for appointments for terms of 'up to three years' not 'of three years'.

d. Establish regular expenses that shall be charged to enterprise (and similar) funds.

e. Review Civil Service list.

f. Clarify ability of council, or duly authorized committee thereof, to investigate matters (all departments without Public Records requests).

Councilor Bean for the Ad-Hoc Committee addressed the first item.

a. City Council may create an Annual budget process by ordinance.

Councilor Bean informed the Council that the committee was looking for input from the public. There are no established frameworks for the Finance Committee to follow on the Budget process. Throughout the years different processes have been followed. The Committee believes there should be a concrete process.

President Beltrandi opened the Public Hearing to the Council.

Councilor Onyski asked the Committee if they had determined a process. Councilor Bean responded that the Committee thought about setting dates and timelines for the Mayor to follow. Councilor Onyski stated that he believed going through each department as the Council has the last two years, worked well. Councilor Flaherty stated this was an empowerment section of the Charter that would make it clear that Council is allowed to create a process by Ordinance. He added it would not happen in this budget cycle and that it would go through the normal Legislative and Ordinance Committee process. Councilor Matthews-Kane asked for clarification if this was regarding how the Mayor handles the budget or how the Council handles the budget once it is received. Councilor Flaherty responded, that it would cover the entire City process: where it starts, how the department heads present budgets, how the Mayor processes the budget, how it gets to Council, processes for interviewing, timelines, etc. He stated Northampton and other communities have detailed processes that Westfield could use as a starting point. Councilor Mello questioned if the conversation on the floor was the process to have the option or what the actual ordinance would be. Councilor Flaherty stated that he believed Section 11 gives power to the Council but it's not clear to everyone. The Committee is looking to rephrase the wording and clarify that the Council has the ability to create an annual budget process by ordinance. Councilor Allie stated it needed to be clear to the Councilors and the public how each item is going to be handled. They were told this would be handled through a Home Rule Petition, it is now being done by a Special Act and he questioned what that was and where it was found in the law. Councilor Flaherty stated it was announced as a Special Act and that originating items in L&O before the Ad-Hoc committee was formed referenced Special Act. It's an Act that City Council requests from the House and the Senate. He stated the Council recently voted to allow a fireman to receive special benefits by a Special Act by requesting The House and Senate for approval. A Special Act process is essentially a resolution vote, a single vote by a simple majority. The Committee thinks changing the Charter should require 9 votes at each step of the process. This year, the process is Special Act and requires 7 votes. It is sent to the House and Senate and one of their steps is to run it through the Attorney General's office. If the House and Senate pass it, it becomes Law. The process can take between four to eight months. Councilor Allie stated that usually there would be preliminary and final reports so the body knows what they're voting on. He would like to see the process of how a Special Act differs. Councilor Bean stated the Committee is trying to put to rest different items from the last two decades that have been repeated conversations on the floor. He stated as chair of Finance for years he received a lot of criticism on how the budget process was handled. He believed they

needed to put together a framework and establish a process. He was okay with ensuring the Special Act process was being followed. He noted the low turnout from residents at the meetings. Councilor Allie believed that was due to the vast majority of residents having no idea the meetings were going on. He reiterated that a Home Rule Petition would have a preliminary and final report and the final version would be required to be posted in the newspaper. He further stated that Councilors thought this was going to be voted on in one piece, not piecemealed. Councilor Flaherty informed Councilor Allie that they would be discussing this further under item #39 on the agenda. Councilor Mello informed the Council that the question is asked so often, that the State Library of Massachusetts has a blog post on it. She stated that acts in Massachusetts were either general and applied to everyone or special and only apply in some circumstances. Originally when everything was on paper, they would go into separate books (General Acts or Special Acts). In this situation the Home Rule Petition would be the Special Act which is why it is hard to find a distinction. Councilor Figy added that when Westfield's Charter was established and approved by the State Legislature, it was approved as a Special Act Charter. He noted that the term Home Rule Petition has been used when the language should have been Special Act. History has shown the Council hasn't been consistent and they're trying to change that. Changing the Charter would only require a simple Resolution vote. The Committee is holding public hearings, doing work in committee and on the Council floor to gather information and make intelligent decisions. He stated not everything is going to be a Charter change. The Council will have the option to vote yes or no on each item and then when the whole document is ready, there will be a vote just on that. Councilor Allie stated that his comment wasn't to criticize the Council but more as a statement of fact that it's hard to get information out to the public.

President Beltrandi opened to the Public Hearing to the audience.

The Council was addressed by Kevin LeClerc, 7 Free Street. He stated that he would be happy to share information about City meetings to the Westfield Community Forums.

The Council was addressed by William Chiba, 368 Steiger Drive. He stated that in the Ordinances under Auditor it states that the Auditor creates the budget, passes it on to the Mayor who passes it on to the Council. He stated that the Charter doesn't need to be changed. The budget is reviewed in the manner in which the Chair of Finance wants to do it. It then goes to the full City Council and they can do what they want to do. He suggested adding a section in the Ordinances on how Finance Committee and Council will handle the budget a certain way if they want to change the process. He added that most of the items in Ad-Hoc should be Ordinances or amendments of existing Ordinances, not Charter changes.

With no others to be heard and upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was VOTED: That the Public Hearing on Item a. (City Council may create an Annual budget process by ordinance) be CLOSED.

All in favor, voice vote.

Councilor Figy for the Ad-Hoc Committee addressed the following items:

b. Clarify that a job title is not necessarily a full-time job and that one person may have multiple roles.

Councilor Figy informed the Council that the Committee was trying to clarify that a job title doesn't necessarily guarantee a full time job. He believed it could be handled with a PSA and others felt that it needed to be in the Charter. Councilor Flaherty stated the Committee felt this was covered under Section 11 which gives Council the authority to reorganize and merge departments, like they did with Treasurer/Collector. He stated that someone might change their mind during Public Participation but the Committee Report after deliberation is most likely going to be to withdraw the motion.

President Beltrandi opened the Public Hearing up to the audience. There was no one to speak. With no others to be heard and upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was

VOTED: That the Public Hearing on Item b. (Clarify that a job title is not necessarily a full-time job and that one person may have multiple roles) be CLOSED.

All in favor, voice vote.

c. Change language for appointments for terms of 'up to three years' not 'of three years'.

Councilor Figy informed the Council that the Committee is looking for input on if the language for appointments should change to 'up to three years' to allow flexibility to the hiring authority. This topic has come up on the Council floor during the past 9 years. Councilor Sullivan questioned if this was pertaining to Boards and Commission appointments or Personal Service Agreements (PSA) for Department Heads. Councilor Figy responded PSAs and Department Heads only. Councilor Onyski stated that his vote would be to leave it for 3 years rather than have positions appointed for different terms depending on the position or the person being appointed. Councilor Burns agreed with Onyski and noted that it's hard enough to hire people for 3 year terms. Councilor Mello asked if the goal behind this was to create a probationary period and if so, suggested wording it that way. Councilor Figy explained to the Council that the discussion was related to how teachers are currently hired. They can be let go in the first one to three years, then they become tenure. The thought was sometimes the hiring authority might want flexibility. Councilor Matthews-Kane understood the probationary period but questioned if it would open the door for a new Mayor to come in and clear house. Councilor Figy responded that once a PSA is set, it is in place but if your term is up that could be a different story. Councilor Flaherty stated that the Committee was trying to give the Mayor or the hiring authority the ability to determine the length of the contract, only for jobs in Section 9 (PSAs). He added that they're not trying to set anything in stone through Council. Sometimes PSAs leave before their contract is up but it is rare that someone is ever let go in the middle of a three year contract. Councilor Harris stated that it can be very difficult to get employees in public service. She noted the City has seen Department Head openings that have taken a long time to fill. She believed three years was a fair term, one year would make it difficult for people to plan. Councilor Sullivan agreed with Councilor Harris. He added it is incumbent upon the Mayor to manage. In this hiring environment in particular, a significant probationary period it is going to make it tougher. Councilor Flaherty understood both sides. He stated that an applicant would know the longevity of the job when they were applying. Councilor Mello questioned how this topic reached the threshold of being put into the Charter. Councilor Flaherty responded that it is currently in Section 9 of the Charter, in

section 9. Councilor Mello acknowledged that but added the Council has the ability to remove with cause. Councilor Bean stated there was no conspiracy here and the Committee was just looking for flexibility. He stated it is very difficult to manage and an employee might be missing the tool to be successful. He agreed that right now it might be difficult to change terms to one or two years but he isn't a hiring authority and it might be a game time decision. President Beltrandi opened the Public Hearing to the audience.

The Council was addressed by William Chiba, 368 Steiger Drive. He agreed with the statements made by Councilors Sullivan and Mello. He explained to the Council that Personal Service Agreements are contracts. The City should put something in the PSA that states they have authority to review and remove if they do something that isn't right.

With no others to be heard and upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was

VOTED: That the Public Hearing on Item c. (Change language for appointments for terms of 'up to three years' not 'of three years'.) be CLOSED.

All in favor, voice vote.

Councilor Flaherty for the Ad-Hoc Committee addressed the following item:

d. Establish regular expenses that shall be charged to enterprise (and similar) funds.

Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that this topic was added to the list to make sure that all expenses were charged to the departments that produce income. Enterprise funds include Gas and Electric, Water, Stormwater, Sewer, Ambulance and Cable TV. Some of those departments charge for employees and benefits, some don't. Some allow expenses in the City to be run through the department even though they're unrelated to the service that is provided by the enterprise fund. The purpose was to have a clear list of expenses that were expected to be charged or associated with the income that's generated or given to those specific funds. He stated they wanted to hold this in Committee to review state laws between enterprise and similar funds. This item came up because there were questions about what could be charged and what is being charged. Councilor Sullivan stated that in theory he didn't have a problem with this item. He asked if full Council would get a list of all departments, expenses and how they operate today to avoid making a change that would cause unintended consequences.

Councilor Harris asked if the Committee has worked with the Auditor and Treasurer.

Councilor Flaherty stated yes but they haven't been to a meeting yet. He added that from the Department of Revenue standpoint, Enterprise Funds are already regulated and have best practices in place. Reserve receipts are not as clear. The Committee intends to make it all as clear as possible.

President Beltrandi opened the Public Hearing to the audience.

The Council was addressed by William Chiba, 368 Steiger Drive.

He informed the Council that on April 26, 2011, City Council petitioned Legislature for Special Law to accept funds. Under Sections 52, 56 and maybe 41 it dictates by State Law what can be paid into for maintenance of the fund and expenses of the fund. He added that the rules should have been made when you the fund was made.

With no others to be heard and upon motion of Councilor Flaherty, it was

VOTED: That the Public Hearing on Item d. (Establish regular expenses that shall be charged to enterprise (and similar) funds.) be CLOSED.

All in favor, voice vote.

Councilor Bean for the Ad-Hoc Committee addressed the following item:

e. Review Civil Service list.

Councilor Bean informed the Council that the Committee has decided to take the Chief of Fire out of Civil Service. Over 15 years ago most Department Heads were removed. President Beltrandi opened the Public Hearing to the audience.

The Council was addressed by William Chiba, 368 Steiger Drive. He informed the Council that Personnel has a list of positions that are on the Civil Service List and the Council could follow the Special Act process to remove from or add to the list. He didn't understand why it was being discussed as a Charter change. Councilor Flaherty stated that this was going to be part of the Special Act the Council would be submitting. There are several items they could do individually but they are going to bundle the items. Mr. Chiba questioned the process. He stated most of these things have been done before and they can be done by Ordinance.

With no others to be heard and upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was

VOTED: That the Public Hearing on Item e. (Review Civil Service list) be CLOSED.

All in favor, voice vote.

Councilor Flaherty for the Ad-Hoc Committee addressed the following item:

f. Clarify ability of council, or duly authorized committee thereof, to investigate matters (all departments without Public Records requests.

Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that this is addressed in Section 26 of the Charter but there has been some contention about the interpretation of how it reads. He read Section 26 – Investigations by Council

The city council may at any time request specific information on any municipal matter within the city council's jurisdiction from the mayor and may request the mayor's presence to answer written questions relating to such matter at a meeting to be held not earlier than 1 week after the mayor's receipt of such questions. The mayor shall personally, or through a head of a department or a member of a board, attend such meeting and publicly answer all such questions. The person so attending shall not be obligated to answer questions relating to any other matter. The mayor may attend and address the city council at any time, in person or through the head of a department or a member of a board, upon such subject as the mayor may desire.

The city council, or any committee thereof duly authorized by the city council, may investigate a financial transaction of any office or department of the city government, the official acts and conduct of any official and, by similar investigation, secure information upon any matter.

He stated that the contention over the years was that the second paragraph could only happen after running everything through the Mayor's office and that only things under the jurisdiction of the City Council could be requested or investigated. The first paragraph will be renamed 'Appearance before Council' and will be the same paragraph that is there now. The second paragraph will be a new section entitled 'Investigations by City Council' and it will start out

with the same language and the following sentence will be added: *This authority to investigate shall apply to all offices and departments of the city including, but not limited to: departments that receive appropriations as part of the annual city budget process, Enterprise Funds, receipt reserved funds, revolving funds, trustee funds, business units, those that receive state or federal funding or grants, or those that are managed or supervised by elected or appointed boards or commissions.* He stated he believed this only clarifies what is already written in the Charter. He added that they can't control all those things but they can do research and work with Boards and Commissions in charge. Councilor Mello asked how the School Department would fit into this. Councilor Flaherty responded that the School Finances run through Auditor and that the Auditor works for the City Council so they should be able to get information. He noted that City Council can't change how the School Department spends their money. He believed they should be able to investigate claims and get the raw information to explain to constituents if needed. Councilor Burns stated he requested information from a department head and was told he needed to make a public records request. He questioned if that would fall under this category. Councilor Bean confirmed and added that Councilors are not supposed to act on their own but if they're looking for Committee work or for full Council there shouldn't be any problems. Councilors shouldn't be told they need to follow the Freedom of Information Act. If this is stated in this Charter, there is no question. He believed Councilors were voted in to represent the public and should be able to obtain information to make educated votes Councilor Adams noted if there was a Councilor that wanted to go on a hunt, it could get crazy. He didn't believe it was Council's job to look into all of the departments, most of them have boards and commissions. Councilor Bean agreed but argued that if City Council voted to request information, it shouldn't be hard to obtain. Councilor Flaherty noted that the first sentence states the Council must approve the request for information before the request is made. Councilor Matthews-Kane asked Councilor Flaherty to reread the list. She voiced her concerns about being able to investigate specific departments. Councilor Allie stated the City's Law Department has a different opinion. He believed Councilors should be able to have a conversation with a Department Head and agreed with Councilor Flaherty on how it currently reads. Councilor Mello questioned if the Law Department had reviewed the current wording of the Resolution. Councilor Flaherty stated that Public Record Requests slow down the process and puts a filter on the information that is given to the City Council. He further stated that sometimes the Mayor puts a filter on information Department Heads can give to the Council. He stated that Law had read the draft and will be attending their next meeting. Councilor Burns clarified that he had gone to a department as the liaison for a general question. The Law Department had also told him to do a Public Records Request. He agreed that certain Councilors could take advantage if given the chance but liaisons should have access to the information. President Beltrandi opened to the Public Hearing to the audience.

The Council was addressed by Richard Roy, 55 St. James Avenue. He strongly agreed that individual City Councilors should be able to investigate any issue if they had a reasonable reason for doing so.

The Council was addressed by William Chiba, 368 Steiger Drive. He stated that during his time on Council, they never used Section 26 for investigations or rumors. It was meant to

be used for something important that required an investigation. He suggested looking into the first paragraph. He believed that should not be required to ask for information through a Public Records Request as the body that runs the government. The public should be required to, but the Council should have the right to look at things.

The Council was addressed again by Richard Roy, 55 St James Avenue. He spoke in favor of the item. He believed it was a worthy measure and it wouldn't have happened if Mayor McCabe had not won the Election.

The Council was addressed Kevin LeClerc, 7 Free Street. He stated that City Council members are elected by the public and should have whatever options they need. He thanked them for all the do for the City.

With no others to be heard and upon motion of Councilor Flaherty, it was

VOTED: That the Public Hearing on Item f. (Clarify ability of council, or duly authorized committee thereof, to investigate matters all departments without Public Records requests) be CLOSED.

All in favor, voice vote.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Ad Hoc Charter Review Committee

35. Upon motion of Councilor Figy for the Ad-Hoc Committee, it was

VOTED: That the item 'clarify that a job title is not necessarily a full-time job and that one person may have multiple roles' REMAIN IN COMMITTEE.

All in favor, voice vote.

36. Upon motion of Councilor Figy for the Ad-Hoc Committee it was

VOTED: to change language for appointments for terms of 'up to three years' not 'of three years'.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

The President declared the motion LOST.

Prior to the vote Councilor Allie questioned if the Ad-Hoc Committee voted on this item prior to the Public Hearing. President Beltrandi stated the Committee voted on a recommendation. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that there were draft Resolutions on the Share Drive. He stated that the public was given the opportunity to speak at the Committee meetings and that there was information brought up during the Public Hearing that would change his vote on another item. Councilor Sullivan reiterated that he would be a no vote for reasons stated during the Public Hearing. Councilor Figy read the Resolution in its entirety.

37. Upon motion of Councilor Flaherty for the Ad-Hoc Committee, it was VOTED: That the item 'establish regular expenses that shall be charged to enterprise (and similar) funds' REMAIN IN COMMITTEE.
All in favor, voice vote.

38. To change the term of Mayor to four years beginning January 2026 (review doc for motion to be put on ballot)

Councilor Figy for the Ad-Hoc Committee, offered a motion to approve the change to the term of Mayor to four years beginning January 2026. He read the Resolution aloud in its entirety. Councilor Matthews-Kane questioned if it was a binding vote. Councilor Figy responded that it didn't state binding but the Committee voted on a binding referendum. Councilor Adams asked what the next step would be after the Resolution was voted on tonight. Councilor Figy responded that it would go to the Law Department for the proper wording and then go to the City Clerk to be placed on the ballot. Councilor Adams asked how many times the Council can go back to this question. Councilor Figy responded that it could be brought up any number of times. The last time it was placed on the ballot, it was non-binding. Councilor Adams asked why it is a binding question this time. Councilor Figy stated that by making it binding, it gets put to rest. Councilor Sullivan stated that the question would be worded to read that it is binding. Councilor Adams questioned why the Council is voting for this and it wasn't coming from the residents in a form of a petition. Councilor Allie agreed. Councilor Flaherty stated that this originally came as a Special Act request. He noted that a citizen initiative is a good way to get it on the ballot and that the Council also has the authority to put an item on the ballot at any time. The question is directly from the state Massachusetts General Law. The City Clerk will confirm. Councilor Allie stated that every person in Ad-Hoc Committee meetings and on City Council spoke against this item and that Mayor was only one who spoke in favor. He added that there are a number of reasons to have regularly scheduled elections. Councilor Mello stated that the Resolution on the share drive did not state that it was a binding question. She added that if it didn't come from the residents, she didn't feel right about a binding referendum question on a non-presidential election year. Councilor Flaherty stated that as far as the Committee knows right now, the question in quotes can't be changed. It is the exact language from the state ballot guide. The ability to put that on the ballot is going to be determined by the Law Department and the City Clerk's Office.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was
VOTED: to amend the motion, to include the words 'as a binding referendum' in the title.
ALL in favor

Upon motion of Councilor Allie, it was
VOTED: to amend the amended motion, and that the item 'To change the term of Mayor to four years beginning January 2026 (review doc for motion to be put on ballot)' REMAIN IN COMMITTEE and be REFERRED TO THE LAW DEPARTMENT.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that the verbiage comes directly for the guide for ballot questions. He stated the goal is to give the people the right to say whether or not the term should be four years.

39. Upon motion of Flaherty for the Ad-Hoc Committee, it was
VOTED: That the procedure for future Special Act Charter Amendments REMAIN IN COMMITTEE.

All in favor, voice vote

Prior to the vote, Councilor Flaherty stated that there was no defined process for Special Act Charter Amendments as of now. He read aloud the draft Resolution entitled 'Charter Amendment Process'. He stated that they are going to hold this item in Committee and run it by the Law Department but they wanted to open it up for discussion tonight. Councilor Allie stated that a lot of the process is good but shared that he thought it should be publicly posted in the newspaper. Councilor Adams asked how many of these items actually have to go to Boston and questioned if they could be handled in house. Councilor Flaherty responded that anything that amends the process or organization of government is in our Charter. The process to amend a Charter isn't specified and there can't be an Ordinance that overrules the Charter. He added that the Charter has job titles, terms of office and empowers certain departments to do certain things. Anything the Council wants to adjust, should be adjusted through the

Charter except for organizational things that can be done through Ordinances. Councilor Matthews-Kane stated she didn't like the idea of the Mayor being able to veto without a way for the City Council to override. She asked if the proposed process was based on another community. Councilor Flaherty responded no and gave the reasons behind the suggestions. Councilor Matthews-Kane requested that the Committee do some research and add the information to the Council Share.

40. Upon motion of Councilor Bean for the Ad-Hoc Review Committee, it was VOTED: That a Resolution amending the proposed 2023 version of the Charter of the City of Westfield, entitled "Civil Service" be ADOPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Bean informed the Council that they were removing the Fire Chief from the Civil Service List. Councilor Flaherty read the Resolution aloud in its entirety. Councilor Sullivan questioned if this was the same process followed when the other positions were removed from the Civil Service list and if not, why not do it the same way. If it was done incorrectly last time, he wanted to make sure they were all done right this time. Councilor Flaherty stated that the Committee ran this by Law and it can be done this way. They also said if Council makes a change now, it won't take effect until the current person changes. The people in positions now have a waiver clause that states when Council votes on a new Charter, it doesn't override the existing agreements. Councilor Matthews-Kane reiterated that the Law Department said Council could do it this way but asked if they must do it this way. Councilor Sullivan stated he believed the others were removed with a straight up vote from City Council. He will vote for this either way but was unsure a Charter change was needed. Councilor Allie asked if this would take effect when the Fire Chief renews his contract. Councilors confirmed. Councilor Sullivan stated he hopes there is a fair and open process for hiring a Chief.

41. Upon motion of Councilor Bean for the Ad-Hoc Review Committee, it was VOTED: That City Council may create Annual Budget process by Ordinance.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

The President declared the motion LOST.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy read the Resolution entitled 'Financial Management' aloud in its entirety. Councilor Matthews-Kane asked if Council is voting to change the Charter when there is not a process in place. Councilor Bean stated they have not developed what will be put in place. Councilor Flaherty stated they would follow the Ordinance process.

42. Upon motion of Councilor Flaherty for the Ad-Hoc Committee, it was VOTED: That the item 'Ability of City Council, or duly authorized committee thereof, to investigate matters.' REMAIN IN COMMITTEE.

All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote Councilor Flaherty stated the Committee had voted 3-0 to recommend passage of a Resolution entitled 'City Council Investigations' however based on feedback from the Public Hearing they could leave in Committee to rework a couple sentences.

43. Upon motion of Councilor Bean for the Ad-Hoc Committee, it was VOTED: That the item 'Water Commission / Board of Public Works' REMAIN IN COMMITTEE.

All in favor, voice vote.

Finance Committee

44. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That a Grant in the amount of \$137,045.00 from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Jail/ Arrest Diversion Program, Mental Health Clinician Co-Response Grant to the Police Department for the salaries of one full-time and one part-time Mental Health

Clinician as well as 4 hours a week of police overtime to respond and follow up on police calls that are better handled by mental health care professionals be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews Kane informed the Council this is a competitive grant with no City match. The Westfield Police Department currently has clinicians from BHN that serve with the department. The Grant will change the funding source for the current program. They plan to make this an annual grant so the clinician can be covered by this funding source in the future.

45. Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That a Grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Administration and Finance, Massachusetts Community Compact Best Practices Grant to the Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport to develop a study to evaluate airport infrastructure be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that this started because there is a company that does organ transports and Barnes has been singled out as a transport hub on the East Coast. In order to do that they will be installing an electric charger for the Aircraft. They're looking at a charger that will be able to charge 4 planes at the same time. He shared that at the same time, the Airport is looking at solar concepts, different paver and power designs, power storage capabilities, project costing and project technology which is all included in this contract. There is no construction under this \$50,000.00 grant. The bid in hand is for \$52,800.00 and the Airport has the remaining \$2,800.00 in their current budget. The company doing the work will be working with the FAA who has National funding under the ARPA program. There are no guarantees but there will be a large look at infrastructure at the Airport with the goal of being able to line up with Federal funding down the road.

46. Upon motion of Councilor Bean for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That a Grant in the amount of \$24,920.00 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and the Department of Fire Services (DSF) to the Fire Department to purchase seven sets of structural firefighting gear be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Bean informed the Council this was the third year the Chief has applied and that Westfield has received the grant. There is no City match and the amount received is based off the population. They're going to purchase structural firefighting gear including boots, jackets and helmets.

47. Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$104,512.43 be transferred from Reserve for Future Salary Increases Fund Account #19500000-51999 to the following: \$14,286.41 to the WPMEA Account #11550000-511000 and \$90,226.02 to the Police (Supervisors/ Patrol) Accounts #12100000-514300 and #12100000-514200 to cover increases that have been negotiated.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that the contractual increases were previously approved by the Mayor and Council. The money was budgeted and held in the Future Salary Increases Fund.

48. Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$1,263.25 be transferred from the Reserve for Future Salary Increases Account #19500000-519999 to the Parks and Recreations FT Salary Account #16300000-511000 for a 2% increase in a PSA.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan added that the Committee asked if in the future, Council could vote on the money the same night they vote on the contracts rather than bifurcate the votes.

49. Appropriation of \$65,000.00 from Free Cash Account #1000-3590000 to Health Department FT Salary #15100000-511000 to cover the annual salary of a new position of Substance Use Outreach Coordinator.

Councilor Matthews-Kane offered a motion that was duly seconded to approve the appropriation. She informed the Council that this amount was to fund half year salary for a full time Substance Abuse Coordinator and money for programming and support. Westfield will be receiving 1.3 million dollars from the Attorney General as part of an opioid settlement over the next seventeen years, averaging \$80,000.00 a year. The City plans to use these funds for opioid addiction issues. A Special Revenue Account will be set up for the proceeds. The appropriation of funds will allow the program to start while Westfield waits for the settlement funds.

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: To amend the motion from \$65,000.00 to \$40,000.00. All in favor, voice vote. Councilor Flaherty OPPOSED.

Councilor Matthews-Kane explained that the initial request was for \$65,000.00, the top of the salary range for the full year. The amendment reflects the cost to fund this position and programming for the remaining half of the Fiscal Year. Half of the salary is \$32,500.00. A full year of programming is \$15,000.00, half of that is \$7,000.00 for a total of \$40,000.00. Councilor Flaherty questioned if the Grant could cover the total costs of the employee, including benefits such as health care and retirement. Councilor Sullivan stated they did not ask that question in Finance. He stated that typically charging fringe benefits is allowed but he was unsure because this was not a typical Grant, it was a legal settlement.

Councilor Adams emphasized that the City was moving in the right direction with all of these changes. He noted that every City has this problem but with three moves on the floor tonight, Westfield is trying to do something to address opioid addiction.

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, for the Finance Committee it was VOTED: That the sum of \$40,000.00 be appropriated from Free Cash Account #1000-3590000 to Health Department FT Salary #15100000-511000 to cover the annual salary of a new position of Substance Use Outreach Coordinator.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes

50. Upon motion of Councilor Bean for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$32,255.24 be appropriated from Free Cash Account #1000-3590000 to the Assessors Purchase of Services Account #11410000-520000 to purchase Mobile Assessor.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Bean informed the Council that Mobile Assessor is software and equipment that will allow the Assessors Department to assess homes. They have three people in the Department that do a hundred assessments a month for ten years. Mobile Assessor will speed up the process for them, help with errors, as well as provide safety for the Assessors through equipment tracking. There will be a yearly reoccurring cost of \$5,500.00 to keep the software updated. Councilor Sullivan highlighted that the right now the Assessors' are double entering the information and this system will allow them to enter it into once, saving a significant amount of staff time.

51. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: that the sum of \$13,202.25 from Free Cash Account #1000-3590000 be appropriated to Weights and Measures Accounts as follows: \$10,202.25 to Vehicle Account #12440000-585001, \$2,500.00 to Supplies Account #12440000-540000 and \$500.00 to Purchase of Services Account #12440000-520000 for purchasing a new truck for the Department as well as gas and maintenance fees that were not originally budgeted.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that in 2022, the City allocated \$45,000.00 to Weights and Measures Department to purchase a new vehicle. The City signed a contract with Ford but the dealership was unable to deliver. Weights and Measures has a new contract for a new truck on lot. The Department could only carry over the contract for the original deal in the amount of \$33,796.75 which was not the total amount of the original appropriation. The price for the second truck at \$43,999.00 has increased over the price of the original truck. Weights and Measures is asking for \$10,202.00 to cover the difference. The remainder of the money is for gas and maintenance that was not originally budgeted.

52. Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$6,480.13 be appropriated from Free Cash Account #10000-3590000 to City Clerks Purchase of Service Account #11160000-520000 to reinstall a window between the Clerk's office and Licensing office.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that there is currently a piece

of glass that will be replaced with a window. It will serve multiple purposes, mainly providing the ability for communication between staff in the City Clerk and Licensing Departments. Originally they looked at installing a door but it was going to be significantly more expensive in construction so they opted for a window. He added that it was necessary for convenience of the public, better operation of the staff and added personal safety.

53. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That a Bond Order entitled 'A BOND ORDER FOR HVAC UPGRADES TO THE BLOWER SLUDGE PROCESSING BUILDING AT THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY" (in the amount of \$2,500,000.00) be given first reading by title only.

The Order was given first reading by title and upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was

VOTED: That the Order be PASSED TO SECOND READING.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane stated that the bond was to provide new rooftop HVAC equipment including air handling units and exhaust fans, replacement of exhaust fans for the sludge storage system, replacement of cabinet unit heaters, integration of Siemen's building management systems into the building, replacement of generator room motorized damper, installation of heat trace system at the fire protection service piping, replacement of the existing membrane roof and rood insulation and structural engineering for the roof replacement and new rooftop HVAC equipment. Deputy Superintendent Jeff Gamelli emphasized this building is not only staffed but also has millions of dollars of electrical equipment that will be better protected with these new upgrades. Much of the equipment that is to be replaced is no longer supported by the manufacturer. The 20 year old roof on which most of the equipment rests will be replaced at same time for convenience and long term maintenance. Most importantly this Bond Order was anticipated and will be covered by rate height that has already been approved. Councilor Allie asked what the length of the term on the Bond was. Councilor Matthews-Kane responded that Mr. Gamelli stated 18-20 months.

Councilor Mello asked if this would satisfy everything Mass DEP stated they needed to fix. Councilor Sullivan asked Mr. Gamelli if they were directed or encouraged by DEP or any regulatory agencies to make these repairs and do this construction. His response was no, he believed they were ahead of the curve. Councilor Flaherty asked if it was a general obligation bond or tied to Water and Sewer. Councilor Matthews-Kane responded that it was tied to the Enterprise Fund.

54. Upon motion of Councilor Bean for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$1,239,100.00 be appropriated from the Department of Public Works, Water Division's Undesignated Fund account #6800-359000 to the Department of Public Works, Water Division, as follows:

- \$583,000 to Purchase of Service account #68004500-520000
- \$409,500 to Supplies account #68004500-540000
- \$235,000 to Equipment/Vehicles account #68004500-585001
- \$ 6,000 to Additional Small Equipment account #68004500-585500
- \$ 5,600 to Replacement Equipment account #68004500-587000

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Bean informed the Council that the extensive list was on the Council Share. Some of the highlights included a 2024 Freightliner M2 plow truck which will replace an existing truck. Small equipment is from Home Depot and Granger for some rental and some small items as well as a replacement plotter printer from Amazon. He added that it is standard practice for the Department to expend this kind of money around this time of year.

55. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$1,200,000.00 be appropriated from the Department of Public Works, Wastewater Division's Undesignated Fund account #6700-359000 to the Department of Public Works, Wastewater Division, as follows:

- \$975,000 to Purchase of Service account #67004400-520000

\$175,000 to Supplies account #67004400-540000

\$ 50,000 to Replacement Equipment account #67004400-587000

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council there was an itemized list on the Council Share with a breakdown of Purchase of Service and Supplies. The Committee questioned why road paving was coming out of Wastewater. The answer that was given was that there was sewer work done there and this was the only road where this has happened. Councilor Bean added there was a major sewer project that happened in Ward 5 on Pineridge Drive that exhausted all the funds in that timeframe. President Beltrandi added that the street isn't an accepted street so it didn't qualify for Chapter 90 funds. One of the residents there is circling a petition for Street acceptance.

56. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$91,500.00 be appropriated from Free Cash (#1000-3590000) to the City Engineer Department Purchase of Service account #14110000-520000 to fund a field review for the Franklin Avenue Elementary School Project.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes

Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that the field review was for the new school being built on Franklin Street that was previously approved by the Council. Currently the main entrance is on Franklin Avenue. The new entrance will be on Franklin Street and will have three entrances: one for buses, one for people driving in and one exit for everyone. In addition the new school will also include Abner Gibbs, increasing traffic. This appropriation will fund the studies needed for crosswalks, streetlights and overall safety.

57. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That a letter regarding the request of the Mayor to transfer \$1.1 Million from Free Cash, CDBG, ARPA, or other appropriate funding source to Westfield G&E to establish a one-time voucher program for low income households be PLACED ON FILE.
All in favor, voice vote.

Personnel Action Committee

58. Upon motion of Councilor Harris for the Personnel Action Committee, it was VOTED: That the appointment of Carrie Hildreth-Fiordalice, 57 Wildflower Circle, as a member of the Board of Health for a term to expire February, 2025, replacing Margaret Doody be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris informed the Council that Mrs. Hildreth-Fiordalice is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has a Massachusetts School Adjustment Counselor/Social Worker (all levels) Professional License. Her background in mental health and substance abuse will bring an important perspective to our City's Board of Health. For over 20 years she has worked in the Westfield Public School System as an Adjustment Counselor and Social Worker, responsible for assessment, case management and counseling.

She has been a Member of The District Crisis Response Team, Member of Student Assistance Team, WHS Crisis Team and Mentor, and a member of Westfield's Drug Task Force/CORE. Her education background is a Master of Social Work from UConn, and a Bachelor's Degree from UMass in Psychology, and a Certificate in Addiction Studies from Eastern Washington University. The Mayor thinks a professional in Mental Health issues will strengthen the Board of Health to be versed in all health related issues. Councilor Harris stated that Mrs. Hildreth-Fiordalice received a Disclosure Form and it will be placed on the next Council Agenda. Councilor Figy added that this diversity of the Board will be an asset to our community. Councilor Harris stated that she and Councilor Adams agreed with that and believe that Mrs. Hildreth-Fiordalice is an excellent appointment.

At 9:37 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

Approved by the Mayor

For approval February 3, 2023

2-3 2023


Kaitlyn Leigh Bruce, City Clerk


Michael A. McCabe, Mayor