



MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL

59 COURT STREET

MUNICIPAL BUILDING, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

FEBRUARY 16, 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 Figy 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 September 15, 2022 and February 2, 2023 be accepted.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Under "Public Participation" the Councilors were addressed by Julie Barnes, Director of Veterans Services to update them on happenings in her Department. She informed the Council that they have been hosting free lunches for Veterans and spouses the first Wednesday of each month at Westfield Tech Academy. To preregister for April, Veterans can stop by the Veterans Office, located in the Senior Center and show proof of Veterans status. Lunches are funded by sponsors through the Veterans Council. She confirmed they would continue next year and noted the great partnership between the Veterans and School Departments. She showcased a banner that was part of the Military Tribute Banners program. Thirty banners will be hung around the town green as well as down Elm Street towards the bridge. She informed the Council she is working on volunteer work-off programs for Veterans with Superintendent Czaporowski for the school safety attendant program and Gene Theroux for cemetery workers. Applications can be completed at the Senior Center. Veterans must complete 100 hours by December 31st to receive a \$1,500.00 tax abatement. Lastly, two grants were applied for and received for the installation of the Gulf War Memorial at Parkers Park.

Under "Public Participation" the Councilors were addressed by Michael Wood, 21 Ellsworth Street. He spoke in opposition of the Columbia Greenway Bike Trail that will be going through his neighborhood. He stated it was a neighborhood similar to the country with no shopping centers and he didn't see anything that would warrant a bike trail. He questioned how the City would be maintaining and policing it. He stated he's read horror stories on the Community Forums. He stated if the levee was mowed more often, people would use it more. He stated the levee is a few feet from his bedroom window and believed the bike trail would take away his privacy.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was VOTED to extend Mr. Wood's time for 30 seconds. Mr. Wood stated his City Councilor notified the residents that there was a revised plan but 39 residents signed a petition that they didn't want it. He asked the Councilors to reconsider the

plan, stating he loved his neighborhood and wanted to protect it.

Under "Public Participation" the Councilors were addressed by Carolyn Healy, Livingstone Avenue. She spoke in opposition of the Columbia Greenway Bike Trail. She stated she has lived in her home for 32 years and was disappointed at the way the plan panned out. The original plans abutted her street and she didn't receive notification. She stated it was a natural, peaceful area and she didn't want to see it paved with fencing.

Under "Public Participation" the Councilors were addressed by Janelle Wood, 21 Ellsworth Street. She stated that she has heard that everyone likes the bike trail so she went to Colony Circle and it was beautiful but added that it is in the woods. She emphasized the difference in the trail being 20 feet from her bedroom window.

Under "Public Participation" the Councilors were addressed by Suzanne Sequin, 15 Ellsworth Street. She informed the Council that her home was double effected by placing a bike path on Ellsworth Street. She stated she received a postcard in 2020 about a Public Hearing that was cancelled during Covid and depending on who you ask, they are not required. She referenced a City Council meeting in January where a Councilor stated that that they could move, and she stated for personal reasons moving would be a big problem adding that the bike path would leave no value in her home. She submitted several documents that indicated crime, a neighborhood concern, exists on the bike path. She stated that Councilor Matthews-Kane had it right when she blocked a Noble Hospital parking lot expansion to protect the neighborhood. She stated that is how they feel about their neighborhood. She believed everyone was blinded by wanting the bike trail, that they were losing sight of the effect on their constituents. She informed the Councilors that she submitted petitions to the City Clerk with over 50 signatures including abutters on the levee as well as a plan as a compromise.

Under "Public Participation" the Councilors were addressed by Councilor Matthews-Kane, 81 Court Street. She read the following from a letter submitted to the MassDOT from Al Giguere, dated 9/27/2020, into the record:

I am writing in support of the Multi-Use Trail atop the Westfield River Levee. This trail project would not only improve the quality of life for the residents and visitors of Westfield, but it will make several important upgrades to a major component of our City's Flood Control Infrastructure namely, "The Westfield River Levee". The project would include a paved surface roadway, capping the levee's crest. This would help prevent erosion from the current foot & bicycle traffic that already exists. This would also serve us well for emergency access along the riverfront, improve access for general levee maintenance. It could be used as a "levee stability indicator" during flooding events, such as telltale longitudinal shifting/cracking of the pavement. Another advantage is the widening the levee's footprint in some areas, while adding concrete reinforcements to others to support the roadway "Trail". These additions would help to strengthen the levee, & to a limited degree, reduce the risk of sloughing & outright deformations of the levee, during flooding conditions.

She then read the following from a letter she submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, chief engineer at MassDOT, dated 8/27/2020, into the record:

I am the Ward 3 City Councilor of Westfield, and as such I represent the area around the western region of the Westfield River Levee Multi-Use Path. Overall, I am in favor of this upgrade to the trail as it will improve the overall stability of the levee, which will help protect Westfield in case of future flooding. The levee is old, and I have heard frequently from our flood control commissioner Albert Giguere that

the City of Westfield must address its aging and inadequate flood control system. I appreciate that this upgrade to the multiuse trail will enhance the stability of the levee and thus do a better job protecting the abutters on the landward side of the trail and indeed, the whole landward area of the ward. I'm grateful that the Commonwealth can help the City of Westfield with a levee stabilization that we could otherwise ill afford. However, I met with seven residents of the Ellsworth St. neighborhood who are opposed to the continuation of the western section of the Westfield River Levee Multi-Use path into their neighborhood. They would like the trail to end closer to the Franklin Avenue School, and they are concerned about increased traffic and loitering on the rail trail. The Wood family on the north side of the levee is particularly concerned. They worry about having a parking lot in their yard, people driving over the levee onto their property, and the dangerous gradient of the levee which makes it hard to see over the other side of the levee when approaching the river. I hope you will take the neighborhood's concerns into consideration as you develop your final plans for the Westfield River Levee Multi-Use Path. I am available if you have questions, and I appreciate your attention to my comments.

Under "Public Participation" the Councilors were addressed by Kevin LeClerc, 7 Free Street. He thanked everyone on the Council who has helped him since moving to Westfield.

Councilor Harris stated that she would like the City Engineer and Mayor to be made aware of the comments that were made from the residents and Councilor Matthews-Kane during Public Participation.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was
VOTED: That items 1., 2., 3. and 4. under "Communications from the Mayor" be read by the Clerk and be REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Clerk read the Agenda as follows:

1. Appropriation from Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Stabilization Account #8303-34000 in the amount of \$86,188.11 to replenish funds previously approved by Council for the initial payment of the John Deere 744 Loader for the Barnes-Westfield Airport.
2. Transfer from the General Fund Reserve for Unforeseen Account #19500000-570900 to the Audit Purchase of Service Account #11350000-520000 in the amount of \$9,000.00 to fund an increase in the Outside Audit Services Contract.
3. Transfer from Audit FT Salary Account #11350000-511000 to Continuing Ed Account #11350000-570700 for the Auditor and Assistant Auditor to attend the Massachusetts Municipal Accountants and Auditors School in March.
4. Requesting acceptance of a Gift donation in the amount of \$2,415.00 from Caitlin Costello to the Historical Commission to defer costs for the repair of the gate at the Old Burying Ground.

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.

Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, it was VOTED: That a Resolution entitled "A Petition to the Senate and House of Representatives of the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Relative to the Retirement of Greg Heath" be ADOPTED.

All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Onyski informed the Council that they voted on a Resolution for this on December 1, 2022. It was sent to the State House. Representative Pease, Senator Velis, PERAC and the Senate Council determined it needed amended language. He read the Resolution by title only.

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

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES, AND OTHER PAPERS

6. PUBLIC HEARING on an application submitted by 415 North Road, LLC for an amendment to their existing gas storage license at 415 North Road, Westfield MA.

Ryan Geeleher, manager of 415 North Road, LLC was present to represent the application. He informed the Council, a permit was issued in 2005 for a 10,000 gallon triple wall fuel storage tank. He hired a third party consultant to ensure everything was compliant and properly permitted. They took drawings and ran calculations. The math came out to 10,025 gallons. He hired another consultant to clean the tank and go inside the tank to verify measurements, it came out to 10,016 gallons. He stated he was requesting an amendment because anything over 10,000 gallons triggers a different permit with the State Fire Marshall. The State Fire Marshall is requiring that the license states that it is for 10,016 gallons of storage. He added that the Fire Marshall sent an email, suggesting to ask for a 110% so there is never an issue which is why the amendment is for 11,000 gallons. He stated the alternative is getting rid of the tank and purchasing a new 10,000 gallon tank. The amendment he is currently requesting would amend the current license and there would be no changes to the existing tank. Councilor Mello stated she had several questions of fact that she believed needed to go to the Law Department so she would be making a motion to keep the Public Hearing open. She was unsure on whether amending the license requires that the permit and license comply with the Water Resource Protection Ordinance from 2015. She stated that she has lots of questions about how the property is being used including the monitoring well in the diagram. Councilor Flaherty asked if there was there a containment vessel around the tank. Mr. Geeleher stated it was triple walled and there was a concrete pad around the triple wall with grooves. He stated that the full report was attached to the application. The Special Permit and license was updated in 2005. Councilor Allie asked for clarification that the difference was only .00016%. Mr. Geeleher responded, yes 16 gallons. He stated that he has drawings that were stamped by the manufacturer and the engineer stating it was a 10,000 gallon tank. Councilor Allie stated that although he's not an engineer, he would imagine it has to be able to expand/extract. Mr.

Geeleher stated that because of the size, it is not allowed to be filled to capacity and has never held 10,000 gallons. Mr. Geeleher stated he would have only asked for 16 gallons if the State Fire Marshall didn't suggest asking for the 110%. Councilor Flaherty asked if Council approving the extra space, triggers the extra State oversight. Mr. Geeleher responded that it has already been triggered, anything over 10,001 requires State oversight. He needs his license to match the actual size of the tank. If the amendment is denied, he will have to purchase a 10,000 gallon tank. A 10,000 gallon tank won't require State oversight, however will be very expensive. He stated that the tank was in operation until 2022 when he found out this was an issue. Councilor Mello voiced her concerns that she was unsure if City Council or someone else needs to say that the tank and the use conforms to all 2015 zoning laws. Councilor Matthews-Kane asked Mr. Geeleher if he would submit the email from the State Fire Marshall stating this was his preferred solution. Mr. Geeleher stated that he has a Special Permit that was approved in 2005 and questioned if increasing the storage to 10,016 would trigger a new Special Permit. Councilor Mello stated that in 2015 a Zoning Ordinance was put in place to protect the Aquifer recharge area, noting Westfield's PFAS problem. She was worried that amending the permit, could have repercussions and might require the City Council to say whether or not this meets the newest zoning standards. Councilor Mello offered a motion, which was duly seconded to leave the Public Hearing open to obtain information from the Law Department. Councilor Adams stated the Law Department could still look into this if the Public Hearing was closed and believed this was more of a technicality. Councilor Mello stated that if the amendment makes this fall under the new rules, she will have questions for the applicant. Councilor Burns clarified that this would be going to the License Committee. Councilor Flaherty stated that some of the questions Councilor Mello was raising would pertain to the Special Permit which would require a separate public hearing and separate votes. This Public Hearing was specifically for the fuel license. Councilor Mello stated she didn't want to close off avenues of communication. Councilor Allie echoed Councilor Flaherty that the questions being raised were not under the purview of the City Council. Councilor Sullivan stated he appreciated Councilor Mello's concerns and believes she's entitled to the answers. He noted that if the applicant puts in a smaller tank that he is licensed for, there won't be added State oversight. He stated that he thought it was more of a technicality but didn't see the harm in leaving it open.

With no others appearing to be heard and upon motion of Councilor Mello, it was VOTED: To leave the Public Hearing open.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	No
William Onyski	No
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	No
Dan Allie	No
Brent Bean II	No
John Beltrandi III	No
Michael Burns	No

Ralph Figy	Absent
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes

Upon motion of Councilor Burns, it was VOTED That the Public Hearing be CLOSED and the petition be REFERRED TO THE LICENSE COMMITTEE.

All in favor, voice vote. Councilor Mello was OPPOSED.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Finance Committee

7. Upon motion of Council Bean for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That a Bond Order entitled "A BOND ORDER FOR DEWATERING EQUIPMENT UPGRADES AT THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY." (in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 to Department of Public Works Wastewater Division) be given first reading by title only.

The order was given first reading by title only and upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was

VOTED: That the Order be PASSED TO SECOND READING.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
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	Absent
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Bean informed the Council that Wastewater Superintendent Jeff Gamelli did a fantastic job giving a thorough presentation to the Finance Committee, the power point was on the Share Drive. He stated that Council has discussed this project and as noted, this project is 43 million in Capital Improvements. This is a small piece as the City moves forward. The money is for new dewatering equipment, demolition and removal. The system that is in place now is 26 years old. The life expectancy of the new equipment is 30

years and payback will take 18 years. Massachusetts has an issue with disposing sludge. In the last two years the City only seen one bid. This dewatering equipment will help with the weight of the sludge that correlates with the cost of removal. The Water Commission approved this unanimously. He acknowledged Mr. Gamelli for his hard work and added that this will result in a \$200,000 savings per year.

8. Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$500,000.00 be appropriated from Free Cash #1000-359000 to the Department of Public Works, Waste Collection Division Purchase of Services Account #14330000-520000 to fund anticipated waste disposal expenses for the remainder of FY23.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
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	Absent
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that only one vendor bid on this. Disposal costs have increased 16%. He added that there are trash compactors that are offline. Vehicles have been ordered and are expected to be delivered sometime soon. There have been truck rentals to meet obligations of daily pickups. He stated more than likely there will be continued expenses on rentals. The Department looked at backup plans including renting trucks as well as employees because the Department is significantly understaffed and it's a significant expense. Similar to sludge, trash and recycling costs are increasing. Councilor Flaherty asked if there was any discussion about potentially raising the annual \$88.00 fee that hasn't been raised in a long time. Councilor Sullivan stated that it was discussed. Councilor Morganelli questioned if this portion of the budget would be increased in due to rising costs. Councilor Sullivan responded yes, it would be increased in the FY24 budget.

9. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$203,310.00 be appropriated from Free Cash #1000-359000 to Technology Center Replacement Equipment Account #11550000-587000 to replace the original power and battery backup rack component located at the Technology Center, installed in 2007.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
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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	Absent
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that this system provides power to multiple racks that service the technology equipment for all Municipal data and phone systems. In 2017 the Department performed a 10 year power revitalization to extend the life of the power unit for an additional five to seven years. In late fall of 2022, the Information Technology Manager reached out to this city support vendor for capital planning, anticipating a similar refresh. They informed her the life expectancy would be up in 2 years. Lead time for the replacement system is 40-60 weeks, once in line for the replacement. If this is not approved, it will be added to the FY24 budget. If this is not completed by end of life expectancy, the City risks losing the entire infrastructure, being unable to provide power to municipal data or phone systems including Public Safety, CAD software and Radio Systems. Councilor Bean pointed out this department has been underfunded for years.

10. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$60,000.00 from the Community Preservation Open Space Reserved Balance Account #2410-340100 and \$50,000.00 from the Community Preservation Open Space FY23 Account #24101770-580100 for a total sum of \$110,000.00 be appropriated to the CPA Tekoa Narrows Conservation Area account #24101770-580100-5014 to acquire approximately 17 acres of riverfront land along Russell Road for the proposed "Tekoa Narrows Conservation Area".

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	No
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Absent

Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that this was a friendly purchase of a plot of land along Westfield River near the Russell boarder. To the East is 19 acres of State conservation land and to the West is another 2.5 acre parcel that the City will be obtaining through a tax taking. The City is trying to increase its focus on land preservation and the specific parcel fits in with many of the City's land use planning objectives. The appropriation includes the \$60,000.00 needed to buy the land but also the \$50,000.00 for expenses such as appraisal, survey, signage improvements and the land trust stewardship fee. There is currently 2.2 million in CPA funds with roughly \$185,000.00 in CPA reserve for open space funds. The City also plans to apply for an Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Grant which is a reimbursable grant that could potentially reimburse about 70% of the costs, which would go back into the Open Space Account. The land will be managed by the Westfield Conservation Commission with the goal of having a public parking lot to access fishing, kayaking and general river access. The CPA voted unanimously to approve the request. She spoke in favor of this, noting this would be a great recreational asset for the City. Councilor Allie spoke in support of the appropriation of \$60,000.00 for buying the land, noting for 17 acres equated to \$3,000.00 an acre. He voiced his concerns with the additional \$51,000.00, stating that it was wooded land, unable to be developed and boarded by State and City property that was already in Conservation. He read through the breakdown of itemized costs. He stated that Westfield already owned and controlled the land around it, and believed it was a tremendous amount of money. Councilor Matthews-Kane stated that similar to when you buy or sell a house, when you buy land there are certain associated costs. She noted that the money was coming out of CPA funds that are only allowed to be spent on limited things. Councilor Adams agreed that this was a great thing. He was pleased to see that this land would be open to the public. He questioned the stewardship fee. He has seen complaints in the past of horses or junk on posted land. He thought they should look into keeping it within the City. Councilor Flaherty echoed that this was a perfect use for CPA funds but questioned why the City wouldn't make it a park, owned and managed by the City. He asked who the land trust company would be. Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that she asked City Planner Jay Vinskey about the stewardship fee when she saw that it was \$15,000.00. He stated that it was a State requirement, to ensure Westfield doesn't take CPA funds to purchase land and then build something there. Councilor Onyski shared that according to the letter from the Mayor, the property will be under custody and management of the Conservation Commission. Councilor Sullivan answered Councilor Flaherty that it would be the Frank Land Trust. Councilor Flaherty questioned if there is a reason this property had to be treated like conservation space versus recreational open space.

Councilor Matthews-Kane stated that she did not ask that specific question but believed it was because it was open space, a natural preserve opposed to a park.

11. Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$77,190.00 be appropriated from Free Cash (1000-359000) to Purchasing Repair Maintenance Fund Account #11380000-524001 for tank removal and clean-up services for the following property addresses: 129 Southampton Road, 34 Broad Street, and 15 Washington Street.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that one of the tanks will be removed from the Police Station and one will be removed from each of the two Fire Stations. Tighe and Bond is the consultant. The tanks at all three locations have been monitored and are empty. Whenever a tank removal takes place, a contingency is built in. If the money is not needed, it will revert to Free Cash.

12. Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$7,000.00 be transferred from the Conservation PT Hourly Employee Account #11710000-511110 as follows: \$5,000.00 to Purchase of Service Account #11710000-520000 and \$2,000.00 to Supplies Account #11710000-540000 for services and supplies related to the annual Earth Day Clean-Up.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
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	Absent
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Bean informed the Council that the Conservation Coordinator is bringing back Earth Day Clean-Up, after a hiatus due to Covid. The funds will be used for safety vests, supplies, tools etc. There are three properties being looked at, Pitoniak property, Wyben property and property off of Honey Pot Road. It will be volunteer based and they stated they would be looking for donations. Any money left over will go back into the General Fund at the end of the year. Councilor Sullivan stated that Acting DPW Superintendent Fran Cain was able to have vests donated by a supplier. He believed that they would be able to get a significant amount of the items donated.

13. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That a Grant in the amount of \$3,662.50 from Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board to the Department of Veteran Affairs to fund the installation of a Gulf War/War on Terror Monument at Parker Park be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
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	Absent
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that the monument would be produced by Smith Monument in Westfield and will be placed near the Desert Storm Memorial near the flagpole at Parker Park.

14. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$3,700.00 be appropriated from FY23 Community Preservation Committee Undesignated account #24101770-580000 to the CPA Gulf War Monument account #24101770-580400-5314 to install a Gulf War/Global War on Terror Monument at Parker Park.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
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	Absent
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes

Legislative and Ordinance Committee

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

VOTED: That an amendment to the Code of Ordinances removing Chapter 13, Planning and Development, Article III, Flood Control Commission, Sections 51-59 and transferring the duties and responsibilities of the Flood Control Commission to the Engineering Department REMAIN IN COMMITTEE.

All in favor, voice vote.

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

Voted: That a Resolution entitled "AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF APPROXIMATELY 13.25 ACRES OF LAND FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ANY DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY" be ADOPTED.

All in favor, voice vote. Councilors Allie and Flaherty were OPPOSED.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Onyski informed the Council that there were no costs associated with the acquisition. It is a group of 20 parcels along the Westfield River, off of side streets of Meadow Street. It's going to be used for open recreational purposes. It is part of

upgrades for Flood Control as well as a bike path. Councilor Mello asked if the land from the Finance Committee was required to stay as Article 97. Councilors Sullivan and Flaherty confirmed. Councilor Flaherty was against the conversion of the levee system into thoroughfare for recreation. He stated it allowed the DCR to convey parcels for recreation and conservation purposes, thus changing the use. He believed the dike should be repaired, separately from adding recreation facilities to the City. Councilor Matthews-Kane asked everyone to look at the maps on Council Share. She stated that they were odd parcels that were once under State Department of Flood Control. Councilor Mello stated there was already a trail in that location being used by people on bicycles, walking dogs etc. She stated there were ways to have multi-use trails that don't necessarily have to have pavement and suggested a conversation should be had. Councilor Onyski read the Resolution in its entirety.

17. Upon motion of Councilor O for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, it was VOTED: That acceptance of a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Westfield and City of Northampton regarding the integrated bike share system, ValleyBike REMAIN IN COMMITTEE.

All in favor, voice vote.

Personnel Action Committee

18. Upon motion of Councilor Harris for the Personnel Action Committee it was VOTED: That the reappointment of Jane DeBarbieri of 54 Lindbergh Boulevard to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term to expire February 2024 be APPROVED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
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	Absent
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris informed the Council that Mrs. DeBarbieri was first appointed on in 2019 as the Ward 2 representative for the Parks and Rec Commission. She has a Master's Degree from Boston University and was a Library Media Specialist in the school system. The Parks and Recreation Commission chair recommends her. She looks forward to

staying on the Commission and helping the community. Councilor Flaherty stated at her initial appointment that she was a wonderful asset to the City and Ward 2 Councilor, Councilor Figy supports her.

MOTIONS, ORDERS OR RESOLUTIONS

19. Upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was

VOTED: to discuss abandoning a piece of city owned property between 137 & 147 Berkshire Drive, Westfield be **WITHDRAWN**.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Bean stated he was going to rework this motion, stating it was more process not project based. He voiced his frustration on trying to get information for residents from within City Hall. Councilor Flaherty encouraged everyone to look at the parcel on GIS.

20. Upon motion of Councilors Matthews-Kane and Figy, it was

VOTED: to have the traffic commission investigate changing the left hand turn in front of 52 Court St to either a two-way left turn lane or an extended painted traffic island be **REFERRED TO: TRAFFIC, L&O, AND LAW DEPARTMENT**.

Prior to the vote, she informed the Council that a business reached out to her regarding a concern they had about customers having a hard time turning into their parking lot. She has attached pictures and proposals including two other ways it was handled in other areas of the City.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Flaherty shared that the Boy Scouts would be holding their annual bottle and can drive on the first Saturday in March, in front of the Dunkin Donuts in the plaza. He also raised the issue of the nip problem in Westfield. He stated that in the near future he would be trying to organize a clean-up day. He added that they should seriously consider banning them. Councilor Onyski added that he received a call from a resident complaining about liter and nip bottles throughout the City. He offered to help and suggested that the Councilors work together to try and reduce the problem.

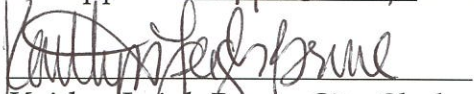
At 8:28PM, and upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was
VOTED: To **ADJOURN**.

A true record, Attest:

Kaitlyn Leigh Bruce
City Clerk/Clerk of the Council

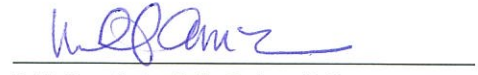
Presented to the Mayor

For approval March 3, 2023


Kaitlyn Leigh Bruce, City Clerk

Approved by the Mayor

3-3 2023


Michael A. McCabe, Mayor