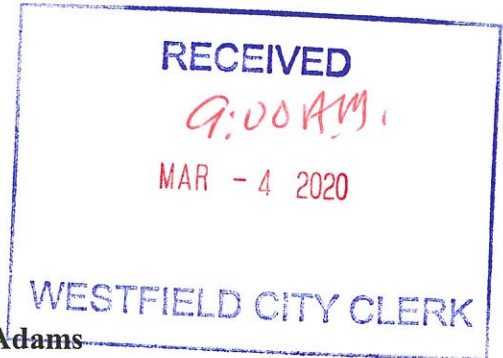




# City of Westfield, Massachusetts

## MINUTES OF MEETING

**NAME OF COMMITTEE:** Legislative and Ordinance  
**DATE:** February 19, 2020  
**TIME:** 5:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** Municipal Building, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA  
**ROOM NO:** 201



**Attending:** Chair Councilor Onyski, Councilor Burns, Councilor Adams  
**Meeting Started promptly at 5:30 PM**

### AGENDA ITEMS

1. Anyone taping or recording the meeting?  
--Jill Adams, 171 Debbie Lane, Westfield, MA
2. Public Participation.  
--None
3. Approval of minutes of January 29, 2020.  
--Approved 3-0
4. That the law department map out a process to combine the Water Commission and the Board of Public Works.  
--Atty. Shanna Reed helped explaining the process which included a Charter change and ordinance change.  
-- Currently DPW Director reports to both Water Comm. And DPW Comm. And they hold joint meetings when it comes to choosing a new director.  
--Councilor Burns explained that he checked with Mayor and he didn't have any real preference and it wasn't on his radar.  
--Burns check with Board members who were generally OK with leaving as is.  
-- Burns suggested that having an odd number of people on combined committee would help to eliminate ties  
-- LO agreed that there was no real necessity to move forward with this at this time.  
--Voted 3-0 to remove from committee without action
5. A motion by Councilor Figy to review and possibly increase the rate of compensation for the members of the Westfield School Committee according to Ordinance 1279, and refer to L&O and Legal.5/1/14  
--Atty. Reed presented that the School Comm last raise was from \$3K to \$5K annually in 2002.

--Councilor Figy was in the audience but Chair Onyski did not allow participation from Councilors in the audience until clarification of Open Meeting Laws were formally presented by Law Department and discussed with Chair.

-- Voted 3-0 to bring out to full Council so there could be discussion and send back to LO if needed.

6. That the proper steps be taken to amend Chapter 11 Community Services, Article II Public Parks relative to the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail.

-- Onyski informed that this has been in LO for some time and recently came to the forefront now that ZPD has a proposed ordinance that ties marijuana facilities to be a certain distance from a park.

--If the rail trail had park designation, the marijuana facilities may need to be a certain distance from the rail trail.

--Atty Shanna Reed explained that rail trail now falls under care and custody of the City Council.

--The rail trail was funded by many sources – Atty Reed requires more time to determine exactly which funds

-- Atty. Reed also will check to see if funding ties rail trail to be classified as anything special.

-- All indications are that leaving the rail trail as it's own entity is best until completions so the city may use multiple funding sources.

-- City Engineer Mark Cressotti offered that it is technically not solely a park or solely a transportation entity and may require a completely new category.

--For the purposes of proposed ordinance in ZPD, Onyski informed the Chair of ZPD that he may want to simply refer to the rail trail as a rail trail for the ordinance in his committee.

-- Voted 3-0 to leave in committee

7. That a City Ordinance dealing with rental properties within the City of Westfield be reviewed and/or created.

-- Atty. Reed spoke that this ordinance would provide greater scrutiny for rental properties

-- This started in 2018 with meetings between Building, Health, Police, Fire departments and Councilors Burns and Figy. Started with College group.

--Results of the meeting helped craft the proposed ordinance.

-- Additional scrutiny may require additional workers

--Discussed and agreed that reconvening the working group was the best solution for now to confirm ordinance is OK or there might be beneficial changes.

--Someone from working group will report back to LO and if additional resources are required, requestor will also discuss at LO

--If the rail trail had park designation, the marijuana facilities may need to be a certain distance from the rail trail

--Voted 3-0 to leave in committee.

8. Adjourned at 6:10 PM