MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
59 COURT STREET
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
FEBRUARY 20, 2020 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.

The City Clerk called the roll. Councilor Flaherty was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

Upon motion of Councilor Beltrandi, it was VOTED: That record of the meeting of February 6, 2020 be ACCEPTED.

The President asked if anyone, other than Channel 15 was recording the meeting and if so to state whether it is an audio or video recording and whether the recording is being live streamed. Amanda Rivera from Western Mass News announced she was taping the meeting.

Under “Public Participation” the Councilors were addressed by Mr. Brian Hoose, 60 Arnold Street. He informed the Council that the road (Apremont Way) leading to the Animal Shelter is hazardous due to the many ruts and requested that it be fixed. He also requested that there be a ramp at the Westfield Technical Academy so the everyone would be able to attend the Tiger Pride lunches. He reminded everyone that March 3rd, 2020 is the President Primary and the Special State Senate Election and to go out and vote.

Under “Public Participation” the Councilors were addressed by Mr. Robert Pearson, 53 McKinley Terrace. He informed the Council there is an article in the WPI journal regarding the water.

Under “Public Participation” the Councilors were addressed by Ms. Tina Gorman, Executive Director of the Council on Aging. Ms. Gorman informed the Council that the reference made to “Senior Snoppers” is not an affiliate of the Council on Aging. She informed the Council that the “Retire the Fire” program will again be held this year from March 2nd to 7th, 2020. She thanked all involved in supporting this great event.

Under “Public Participation” the Councilors were addressed by Mr. Richard Salois, 220 Russellville Road. He spoke in support of the item on the Agenda relative to
the Resolution OPPOSING THE TCI GAS TAX AND THE TRANSPORTATION AND CLIMATE INITIATIVE.

Under “Public Participation” the Councilors were addressed by Mr. Steve Dondley, 10 Kane Brothers Circle. He informed the Council that PFAS action is in federal legislation which will help Westfield by giving federal dollars to help clean up the property.

Under “Public Participation” the Councilors were addressed by Mr. Dan Allie, 38 Union Street. He read a document relative to the Resolution OPPOSING THE TCI GAS TAX AND THE TRANSPORTATION AND CLIMATE INITIATIVE. He informed the Council this is no way to put money into roads and it needs to be opposed by the State Legislature and that they need to hear from the residents of Westfield.

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

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was VOTED: Under immediate consideration, that a gift donation of a scoreboard in the amount of $4,500.00 from Scott LaBombard, Westfield Little League President to the DPW/Park and Recreation Department be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was VOTED: That items 2., 3., 4., 5., 6., 7., 8., 9., 10., 11., 12., 13., 14. and 15. under “Communications from the Mayor” be read by the Clerk and REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.
The Clerk read from the Agenda as follows

2. Appropriation of $207,349.51 from Free Cash to Stabilization account #8303-392000 to return funds to Stabilization account that were used for the Cross Street Playground Renovation.

3. Transfer of $271.60 from DPW, Waste Collection Division, Fiscal Year 2020 Purchase of Services account #14330000-520000 to Waste Collection Division, Fiscal Year 2018 Purchase of Services account #14330000-520000 (prior year bill).

4. Transfer of $3,825.18 from DPW, Water Division, Fiscal Year 2020 Purchase of Services account #68004500-520000 to Water Division, Fiscal Year 2019 Purchase of Services account #68004500-520000 (prior year bill).

5. Transfer of $740.35 from DPW, Solid Waste Recycling Division, Fiscal Year 2020 In-State Travel account #14340000-571000 to Solid Waste Recycling Division, Fiscal Year 2018 In-State Travel account #14340000-571000 (prior year bill).

6. Transfer of $18,945.00 from DPW, Stormwater Division, Fiscal Year 2020 Construction account #68504550-589200 to Stormwater Division, Fiscal Year 2016 Construction account #68504550-589200 (prior year bill).

7. Transfer of $328.63 from DPW, Water Division, Fiscal Year 2020 Other Personal Services account #68004550-516000 to Water Division, Fiscal Year 2019 Other Personal Services account #68004550-516000 (prior year bill).

8. Transfer of $150.00 from DPW, Land and Natural Resources Division, Fiscal Year 2020 Purchase of Services account #14990000-520000 to Land and Natural Resources Division, Fiscal Year 2019 Purchase of Services account #14990000-520000 (prior year bill).

9. Transfer of $1,080.07 from the DPW, Wastewater Division Fiscal Year 2020 Purchase of Services account #67004400-520000 to Wastewater Division Fiscal Year 2019 Purchase of Services account #67004400-520000 (prior year bill).

10. Order authorizing the transfer of funds in the amount of $33,437.05 as follows:

   1. The amount of Twelve Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-One Dollars and Fifty-nine Cents ($12,321.59) be transferred from Reserve for Future Salary Increase Account (19500000-519999) and Five Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Six Dollars and Twenty-Five Cents ($5,926.25) from Free Cash as follows:
      a. Three Hundred Dollars and Fourteen Cents ($300.14) to Public Property and Buildings Part Time Hourly (11920000-511110)
      b. One Thousand One Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars and Two Cents ($1,195.02) to Airport Full Time Hourly (11990000-511100).
      c. Three Hundred Fifty Seven Dollars and Fourteen Cents ($357.14) to Police Full Time Hourly (12100000-511100).
      d. Three Thousand Seven Hundred Seventeen Dollars and Seventy-One Cents ($3717.71) to Highway Full Time Hourly (14210000-511100).
e. Two Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Dollars and Fifty Cents ($2,680.50) to Waste Collection Full Time Hourly (14330000-511100).

f. One Thousand Three Hundred Twelve Dollars and Forty-Eight Cents ($1,312.48) to Solid Waste Full Time Hourly (14340000-511100).

g. Four Hundred Seventy-Six Dollars and Eleven Cents ($476.11) to Sanitary Landfill Full Time Hourly (14390000-511100).

h. Five Thousand Nine Hundred Eighteen Dollars and Seventy-Four Cents ($5,918.74) to Land and Natural Resources Full Time Hourly (14990000-511100).

i. Three Hundred Ninety Dollars ($390.00) to Council on Aging Full Time Hourly (15410000-511100).

j. One Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars ($1,900.00) to Personnel Other Personal Services (11520000-516000).

2. The amount of Seven Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-One Dollars and Sixty Cents be transferred from Sewer Undesignated as follows:
   a. Three Thousand Four Hundred Four Dollars and Ninety-Six Cents ($3,404.96) to SWWT Full Time Hourly (67004400-511100).
   b. Four Hundred Dollars ($400.00) to SWWT Other Personal Services (67004400-516000).
   c. Three Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars and Sixty-Four Cents ($3,266.64) to Sewer Full Time Hourly (67004490-511100).
   d. Three Hundred Sixty Dollars ($360.00) to Sewer Other Personal Services (67004490-516000).

3. The amount of Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-Seven Dollars and Sixty-Two Cents ($7,757.62) be transferred from Water Undesignated as follows:
   a. Six Thousand Six Hundred Ninety-Six Dollars and Sixty-Two Cents ($6,696.62) to Water Full Time Hourly (68004500-511000).
   b. One Thousand Sixty-One Dollars ($1,061.00) to Water Other Personal Services (68004500-516000).

This order is to fully fund the collective bargaining successor agreement between the City of Westfield and the Westfield Municipal Employees Association (40-Hour Unit) for a term of three (3) years from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022.

11. Transfer of $34,395.00 from the City Towing and Storage account #2400-330210 to the Police Towing and Storage account #24210714-585001.

12. Appropriation of $510,000.00 from the DPW, Wastewater Division Undesignated Funds account #6700-359000 to the following DPW, Wastewater Division accounts as follows: $380,000.00 to Purchase of Services account #67004400-520000; $80,000.00 to Supplies account #67004400-540000; $25,000.00 to Overtime account #67004400-513000; $25,000.00 to Interest Long Term Debt account #67004400-519500.
13. Appropriation of $768,700.00 from Department of Public Works, Water Division Undesignated Funds account #6800-359000 to the following DPW Water Division accounts as follows: $545,700.00 to Purchase of Services account #68004500-520000; $48,000.00 to Supplies account #68004500-540000; $50,000.00 to Overtime account #68004500-513000; $30,000.00 to Health Insurance Benefits account #68004500-519400; $125,000.00 to Land account #68004500-581000.

14. Appropriation of $41,477.85 from Free Cash to Airport Capital Project account #11990000-580000-4870 to reconstruct runway 15/33 (reimbursable per Resolution, next item).

15. Submitting a Resolution to approve the acceptance of a non-federal reimbursable agreement between the Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration and the City of Westfield, Westfield-Barnes Airport (for the appropriation of $41,477.85).

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, 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 Figy, it was VOTED: Under immediate consideration, That a Resolution authorizing the Superintendent of Schools to submit a Statement of Interest (SOI) with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for Westfield High School and Councilor Figy read the Resolution as follows: a Resolution entitled “Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on February 20, 2020, the City Council of the City of Westfield, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated prior to April 8, 2020 for the Westfield High School, 177 Montgomery Road, Westfield, Massachusetts which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future to address the priorities of preventing the loss of accreditation, and the replacement and addition to an obsolete building in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements; and, hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Westfield Public Schools to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.
The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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<td>John Beltrandi III</td>
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<td>Michael Burns</td>
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<td>Brent Bean II</td>
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Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was
VOTED: Under immediate consideration, That a Resolution authorizing the Superintendent of Schools to submit a Statement of Interest (SOI) with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for Westfield Technical Academy and Councilor Figy read the Resolution as follows: a Resolution entitled “Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on February 20, 2020, the City Council of the City of Westfield, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated prior to April 8, 2020 for the Westfield Technical Academy, 33 Smith Avenue, Westfield, Massachusetts which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority categories for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future to address the priorities of preventing the loss of accreditation, and the replacement and addition to an obsolete building in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements; and, hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Westfield Public Schools to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.
The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

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

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was
VOTED: That items 18., 19., 20. and 21. under “Communications from the Mayor” be read by the Clerk and REFERRED TO THE PERSONNEL ACTION COMMITTEE.
18. Submitting the reappointment of Scott LaBombard, 626 Western Avenue as an At-Large member of the Parks & Recreation Commission for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2023.
19. Submitting the reappointment of Robert Veronesi, 24 Heritage Lane as the Ward 4 member of the Parks & Recreation Commission for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2023.
20. Submitting the reappointment of Vincent Olinski, 34 1/2 Noble Avenue as the Ward 3 member of the Parks & Recreation Commission for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2023.

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was
VOTED: That the application submitted by Kantany, LLC (Big Y) for a gas storage license at 330 East Main Street for the storage of 20,000 gas in one tank underground, 12,000 gallons gas in one underground tank, 8,000 gallons diesel in one compartment tank and aboveground containers of 20# propane be REFERRED TO THE LICENSE COMMITTEE and that a Public Hearing be scheduled at the earliest practicable date.
Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was
VOTED: That the notification from PERAC (Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission) submitting required Fiscal Year 2021 appropriation of $11,705,851.00 be ACCEPTED AND PLACED ON FILE.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was
VOTED: That the minutes for May 22, 2018 joint meeting of Legislative and Ordinance Committee and Zoning, Planning and Development Committee be APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was
VOTED: That the minutes for the Charter and Rules meeting October 21, 2019 be APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was
VOTED: That the Attorney General's response to an Open Meeting Law Complaint submitted by Mr. David Flaherty relative to Westfield City Council Finance Committee subcommittee meeting held on June 19, 2019 be ACCEPTED AND PLACED ON FILE. Councilor Sullivan requested a copy of the complaint. President Bean informed the Council that the City Solicitor will address the Council on best practices of deliberation in subcommittee and that Councilors should submit their questions to the President.

Upon motion of Councilor Allie, for the Finance Committee, it was
VOTED: That a motion of Councilor Allie and Flaherty requesting that annual OPEB contributions based on gross payroll by department to be included in the Annual Budget REMAIN IN COMMITTEE. He informed the Council that he will talk to the current Mayor on the matter.

Upon motion of Councilor Allie, for the Finance Committee, it was
VOTED: That the sum of $31,200.00 be appropriated from Free Cash to Assessor's Office, Purchase of Services account #11410000-520000 for updated assessment software.
The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Allie informed the Council that the appropriation is needed for new software for the Assessors’ Office because the software they are using will no longer be supported.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of $97,700.00 be appropriated from Free Cash to the following: $40,000.00 to Police Department, Plants/Capital account #12100000-583000; $10,700.00 to Police Department, Purchase of Services account #12100000-520000; $47,000.00 to Police Department, Vehicle account #12100000-585001.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the Council that the appropriation will be used to seal the bay floor and fix the leaking ceiling at the Police Station and for the purchase of a new Ford Explorer.
Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of $69,667.21 be appropriated from Free Cash to Fire Department, Equipment Vehicles account #12200000-585001.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that the appropriation will be for the first year on a three year lease on three vehicles.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of $469,889.92 be appropriated from the Fire Department, Ambulance Designated Fund Balance, account #2100-340000 to Fire Department, Ambulance Vehicle account #21002310-585001.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that the appropriation will be to purchase two specialty vehicle ambulances. Councilor Sullivan recognized past Fire Chief Frank O’Brien for his vision in starting an ambulance account and its success.
Upon motion of Councilor Figy, for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of $1,624.74 be appropriated from Free Cash to City Council, Salary account #11110000-512300.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the Council that the item was cut from the budget in June but the Ordinance was not amended to meet that cut and that the MGL’s come into play which restricts the timing of implementation of increases or decreases to salaries of Council.

Upon motion of Councilor Burns, for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, it was VOTED: That the matter that the law department map out a process to combine the Water Commission and the Board of Public Works be REMOVED FROM COMMITTEE.

Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, it was VOTED: That the motion of Councilor Figy to review and possibly increase the rate of compensation for the members of the Westfield School Committee according to Ordinance 1279, REMAIN IN COMMITTEE. Councilor Onyski informed the Council that he was reluctant to allow other Councilors to speak at the subcommittee meeting due to the Attorney General’s letter about an open meeting law violation relative to deliberation of Councilors at a subcommittee.

Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, it was VOTED: That the item to amend Chapter 11 Community Services, Article II Public Parks relative to the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail (5/1/14) REMAIN IN COMMITTEE. He informed the Council that there is still discussion going on whether
to call the Rail Trail a park or a rail trail and therefore the item will remain in committee.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, for the Personnel Action Committee, it was VOTED: That the reappointment of Elizabeth Boucher, 150 Hillside Road, Unit 6 as a member of the Council on Aging for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2023 be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Absent  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the Council that Ms. Boucher has been on the Board of Directors since March 2011 and last year assumed the role of Secretary, and Council on Aging Director Tina Gorman states Ms. Boucher completes the minutes for the monthly meetings in record time and are thorough and accurate. She was involved in writing the Senior Center’s Political Activity Policy and researched policies regarding smoking at the Senior Centers to provide information on this subject to the full Board for voting. She created the Seniors Novel Book Group, facilitating that group and coordinating local authors’ visits for the past nine years. Director Gorman states Ms. Boucher is thoughtful in her assessment of issues brought before the Board balancing practicality and empathy, and highly recommends her reappointment as she is a true asset to this Board. Lastly, she has lived her whole life in Westfield, except for 6 years for Air Force Deployment. She was on other City Commissions before being on the Council on Aging Board and was a Benefits Manager for the Westfield Public Schools. Councilor Figy states she has stepped up to being a great Secretary for this Board. Councilor Figy is one of the Liaisons to this Board along with Councilor Adams.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, for the Personnel Action Committee, it was VOTED: That the reappointment of Alan Sudentas, 108 Thomas Street as a member of the Council on Aging for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2023 be CONFIRMED.
The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the Council that Mr. Sudentas has been involved with the Council on Aging since 2008 and has volunteered at the Senior Center in just about every capacity possible. He has assisted with the Center’s Meal program, the monthly Brown Bag distribution program, the Annual Senior Options Health and Wellness Fair, special events and Friends of the Westfield Senior Center Activities, and helped with fundraisers for our Capital Campaign for our Center – along with being involved with the planning and Construction of the Center. He is the only Board member who has lived in two different Senior Housing situations and frequently assumes the role of advocate for his fellow tenants. Mr. Sudentas has served one term on the Council on Aging Board of Directors and Director Tina Gorman states he is very dependable, open-minded when considering Board issues listening to all perspectives and she highly recommends his reappointment. She states he brings diversity to the Board. Councilor Figy states he is a welcomed addition to this Board – a good addition. Councilor Figy is the Liaison to this Board along with Councilor Adams.

Upon motion of Councilor Allie, (Morganelli, Adams, Bean, Beltrandi, Burns, Figy, Flaherty and Onyski), it was

VOTED: That a request for approval of a Resolution OPPOSING THE TCI GAS TAX AND THE TRANSPORTATION AND CLIMATE INITIATIVE be REFERRED TO LEGISLATIVE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE and LAW DEPARTMENT.

Councilors Sullivan and Matthews-Kane were OPPOSED.

Councilor Allie gave a copy of the wording of the Resolution to all Councilors. He thanked those who were in support of the Resolution. He informed the Council that the consequences of the tax would have a big impact on the State especially western Mass. Councilor Mello questioned how to submit questions relative to the matter. President Bean informed the Council to submit questions to the Chair of L & O.
At 8:07 PM, and upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was VOTED: To ADJOURN.

A true record, Attest:

Karen M. Fanion
City Clerk/Clerk of the Council

Presented to the Mayor

For approval: March 2, 2020

Karen M. Fanion, City Clerk

Approved by the Mayor

March 2, 2020

Donald F. Humason, Jr., Mayor