



MINUTES OF LEGISLATIVE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
59 COURT ST, WESTFIELD, MA
ROOM 201
MAY 2 2022 at 5:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Figy at 5:32 PM.

Councilor Figy called the Roll. The following committee members were present: Chair, Ralph Figy, James Adams and Michael Burns. Also in attendance was Kaitlyn Bruce, Councilors Mello and Harris, Council on Aging Director Tina Gorman, First Assistant City Solicitor Shanna Reed, Mary O'Connell and Dawn Thomas

Upon Motion of Councilor Adams, it was
VOTED: That the L&O Minutes of the March 1st and March 29th meetings be accepted.
Motion seconded by Councilor Burns.

Approved by Roll Call 3-0

Councilor Figy opened the meeting for public participation.

Under "Public Participation" the Councilors were addressed by Council on Aging Director, Tina Gorman. She spoke in favor of Item #10 on the Agenda, a Resolution to recognize June 2022 as LGBTQIA + Pride Month. She wanted to clarify her points made during Public Participation at the last Council meeting. Councilor Allie had commented that her LGBTQIA+ event had gone off without a hitch. She stressed the importance of how differently she handled that event because of the guidance of her Steering Committee. There is a history in the community of people not being supportive. She believes that they didn't have any opposition because they publicized the event by word of mouth and invitations, rather than the standard newsletters, radio show highlights etc. She sees this Resolution as something that would support City Department Heads and local businesses.

5. Upon motion of Councilor Adams, it was
VOTED: that the motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane to add two additional handicapped spaces on the northeastern corner of Holland Avenue to accommodate the increased demand for said parking at the Westfield Women's Club REMAIN IN COMMITTEE.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

James Adams	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the committee that this has been in process since February and has gone before the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities and the

Traffic Commission. Sgt. Mejias, chair of the Traffic Commission confirmed it has been approved but because there is no Traffic Commission report, an Ordinance has not been drafted. Mary O’Connell, a member of the Westfield Women’s Club, stated that the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities was supposed to send a letter of approval. Councilor Figy shared a letter from the commission’s secretary, Jeff Gosselin (Appendix A). Mrs. O’Connell asked if the Chair of Traffic would be submitting a letter to Council. Ralph confirmed and stated L&O would discuss this item at their next meeting.

6. Upon motion of Councilor Adams, it was VOTED: to SUBMIT a job description for the City Engineer with a POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

James Adams	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the Committee that there is only one change, on page 3 under Education and Experience: “The City Engineer must possess a current and valid registration as a Professional Engineer (PE) by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the ability to obtain the same within 3 years of employment”. Currently the job description calls for a PE at the point of hire. This allows a new hire to obtain a PE within 3 years, the normal length of a contract. Councilor Burns asked for clarification of what obtaining a PE entails. Councilor Figy made the correlation to getting Board Certification as a Doctor; it is quite involved and can’t be acquired directly out of college. There is a small window of opportunity to take it each year and is a year long process. Councilor Adams emphasized the importance of the Engineering job and that it may be difficult to get the certification while working full time but understands giving it a try, to obtain a qualified person. Councilor Figy added that this expands the applicant pool. All Councilors agreed.

7. Upon motion of Councilor Adams, it was VOTED: to SUBMIT a proposed Ordinance change relative to the job description of the City Engineer. The change removes the job description language from the ordinance since it is covered by the job description which is subject to Council approval with a POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

James Adams	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the committee that this came in as one motion but was broken down into two parts. Now that the job description has been approved, the

Council can vote on the Ordinance change. Attorney Reed explained that they are taking out job requirements that are not applicable. In the future, if the job description is changed, it won't require an Ordinance change. There is another section of the Engineer Ordinance that specifies duties. This is just about job requirements; Appointed by the Mayor, confirmed by the Council for a 3 year term.

8. Upon motion of Councilor Adams, it was VOTED: that the Motion by Councilors Matthews-Kane and Figy to expand the demotion delay for properties of historical significance by extending the wait time for the issuance of a demolition permit from 90 days to 180 days REMAIN IN COMMITTEE.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

James Adams	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the committee that Councilor Matthews-Kane requested that the item remain in committee.

9. Upon motion of Councilor Adams, it was VOTED: that the motion by Councilor Matthews-Kane and Figy to allow homeowners to apply to have their property added to the Historical Registry maintained by the Historical Commission for Westfield's demolition delay. Houses would have to be over a hundred years old, requests must be initiated by the homeowner, and the Historical Commission must find the property to be historically significant following a public hearing at an annual meeting REMAIN IN COMMITTEE.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

James Adams	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the committee that Councilor Matthews-Kane requested that the item remain in committee.

10. Upon motion of Councilor Adams, it was VOTED: to SUBMIT a resolution submitted by Councilor's Mello, Mathews-Kane, Figy, and Sullivan, recognizing June 2022 as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month with a POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

James Adams	No
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes

The chair declared the motion PASSED.

Prior to the vote Councilor Adams informed the committee that he would not be supporting the Resolution, not because of what it stands for but for what it could turn into. He referenced the *Shurtleff v. Boston* Supreme Court decision that was made earlier that day (May 2nd). He gave his support to all groups and religions, but not the Resolution. Councilor Figy stated that he is a sponsor of this Resolution, and believes the Resolution shows support of the community and noted it is not asking for a flag raising, specific activity or event to be tied to it. It is no different than any other group, such as Little League, asking for support. He sees it as an example of Council supporting a specific group that has come forward with the request to Councilor Mello and thanked her for including him. He expressed his interest in putting this before the full Council for a vote.

At 5:52PM, and upon motion of Councilor Burns, it was VOTED to ADJOURN.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

James Adams	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes

Respectfully submitted,
Kaitlyn Bruce, Scribe for the Legislative and Ordinance Subcommittee