



# City of Westfield, Massachusetts

## MINUTES OF MEETING

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WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

**NAME OF COMMITTEE:** Legislative and Ordinance

**DATE:** May 19, 2020

**TIME:** 5:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Via Remote Access and Zoom

### AGENDA ITEMS

**Meeting started at 5:04PM**

**L & O members all attending: Chair Onyski, Member Adams, Member Burns**

**Other City Officials: Atty. Shanna Reed, City Engineer Mark Cressotti, City Auditor Chris Caputo, Superintendent of Schools Stefan Czaporowski**

1. Approval of minutes of March 3, 2020.  
Approved 3-0
2. Petitions for Street Acceptance for the following: Devon Terrace, Gloria Drive, Hillary Lane, Nancy Circle, Frank Circle, Rachel Terrace, Hillcrest Circle.
  - A. Layout Orders for Devon Terrace, Gloria Drive, Hillary Lane, Nancy Circle, Frank Circle, Rachel Terrace, Hillcrest Circle.
  - B. Resolution to Accept release deeds
  - C. An Order entitled "AN ORDER APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF NINETEEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY (\$19,750.00) DOLLARS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECORDING RELEASE DEEDS TO BE ABLE TO ACCEPT CERTAIN STREETS A PUBLIC WAYS" from Free Cash to Law Department, Intergovernmental account #11510000-560000

Overview of City Street acceptance as this process has been going on for over a year. Involves petition to start process and then recommendations from City Engineer, DPW Board, and Planning Board. All have given positive recommendations. Atty Reed confirmed the arduous process. All abutters have signed paperwork to transfer property from center of street to property line to city. \$19,750 covers the cost of deed transfers at Registry of Deeds at \$125 each. This money should be made up in a few years in additional taxes due to a new house being built that could only be built on public way. Adams asked about estimated repair costs – Cressotti answered that these repair costs don't need to

happen now and a positive recommendation doesn't commit city to any repairs. Onyski confirmed that street acceptance allows the streets to wait in the line like other city streets.

Vote for Layout Orders for Devon Terrace, Gloria Drive, Hillary Lane, Nancy Circle, Frank Circle, Rachel Terrace, Hillcrest Circle.

Roll call approved 3-0

Vote for Resolution to Accept release deeds.

Roll call approved 3-0

Vote for An Order entitled "AN ORDER APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF NINETEEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY (\$19,750.00) DOLLARS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECORDING RELEASE DEEDS TO BE ABLE TO ACCEPT CERTAIN STREETS A PUBLIC WAYS" from Free Cash to Law Department, Intergovernmental account #11510000-560000

Roll call approved 3-0

3. Submitting a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Westfield approving an agreement between the City of Westfield and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for work on the Route 20 (Springfield Road) Traffic Signal Improvement Project.

This is for Agway/Shortstop project. Resolution calls for the city to give to MASS DOT. The city acquired portions of property to complete the project and now need to give them to state because it is a state highway.

Roll call approved 3-0

4. Resolution to approve an agreement between the City and Mass DOT for the Safety Improvement Project on Southwick and Ordinance amendments related to the project.

This is the area of Cowles bridge on Mill Street. Resolution is to allow Mayor to sign agreement between City and MASS DOT which requires the city to create an ordinance for traffic flow at the south end of Mill Street creating right and left turn lanes as well as the city being in charge of maintenance for traffic signal being installed as part of bridge project.

Discussion between Atty. Reed and Cressotti indicated there is another resolution that may be coming that discusses the city maintaining lights on the bridge.

Roll call approved 3-0

5. Motion to establish a Special Purpose Schools of Westfield Stabilization Fund.

Originally introduced by Councilors Figy and Flaherty, this account would be set up to allow the Mayor to allocate funds to this account that could only be used for School Department.

Chris Caputo didn't recommend because all of the other departments would want their own special accounts to place leftover fiscal year funds into. Superintendent of Schools Stefan Czaporowski doesn't need the account and never asked for it. Indicated that Council has always been good to the Schools if they needed something out of the ordinary. Atty Reed indicated that setting up accounts is OK but are typically meant for very detailed special purposes such as a fire truck or sidewalks. A fund could be created for schools but it should be for school roof or other very detailed reason.

Adams indicated he was not in favor this proposal. It was not fair to other departments and would bring down morale.

Burns indicated he was not in favor this proposal. Any left over money should go back into free cash.

Onyski indicated he was not in favor this proposal. If the auditor and Superintendent are not in favor, why should anyone else be?

Onyski indicated that even though it appeared LO would not make a positive recommendation, it was only fair if LO provided a proposal for creation of the fund with details of what the fund should be used for. Council would then have something to vote on. Discussion about leaving in LO and there would be discussion on the floor indicating what appears to be LO recommendation and seek guidance on exactly what this would be used for. We do not want to waste Atty. Reed's time in researching details if this was going to be voted down.

Roll call to leave in Comm 3-0

6. Petition for a Zoning Amendment at Section 1-10.2 to give broader authority to the Building Department to require more detailed information (specifically site grading) as part of the building permit process submitted by the Planning Board (#C-256-20).

This was already voted on in CC out of ZPD Comm. No need to leave in LO.  
Roll call to remove from Comm without action 3-0

7. Petition for a Zoning Amendment petition submitted by the Planning Board to amend Section 4-90 to strengthen regulation of marijuana establishments by requiring special permit if within 500 feet of a park (#257-20)

This was already voted on in CC out of ZPD Comm. No need to leave in LO.  
Roll call to remove from Comm without action 3-0

8. Adjourned at 5:57 PM.  
Roll call to approve 3-0