

SPECIAL
MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 31, 2018

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chamber, Municipal Building, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA at 6:00 PM by President Beltrandi.

The City Clerk called the roll. Councilors Bean, Emmershy and Onyski were absent.

President Beltrandi 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. No one responded.

Mayor Sullivan presented the FY19 budget. He informed the Councilors that documents relative to the budget are on the Council share file. He thanked City Auditor Mary Daley and her entire staff for getting all the information together for the budget. He thanked his staff, Leanne and Geri for all their work on preparing the budget. And he especially thanked Sonia, for being his sounding board at home. He informed the Council that all department heads came in with a balanced budget and some had mandated increases out of their control. He informed the Council that it is not an extravagant budget. There are some decreases in personnel by taking advantage of attrition. He explained that he is still waiting for numbers from the State and that the numbers within the budget are estimates. He informed the Council that on the school side the special ed is being maintained within rather than sending students out of district. He explained that with the Russell school will be closing there will be redistricting of grades 5, 6, 7 and 8. He informed the Council that 71 students are going to Charter schools which is a tough economic hit for Westfield relative to deductions of Chapter 70 money. He informed the Council that the Superintendent cut \$250,000.00 from the School budget prior to submitting it to the School Committee and then the School Committee cut a total of \$250,000.00 and thereby leaving an increase of 1.8% in the school budget which is the lowest it's been in a long time. Mayor Sullivan next addressed the highway department. He informed the Council there will be an increase for vehicles and for people in order to do more projects in house. The refuse vehicle has been added into the budget in order to get the bulk pickup program back and running. Engineering department construction costs are up about \$500,000.00 relative to the Western Ave project and levy and other projects. Councilor Flaherty questioned if the light at Springdale and Union Streets is in the budget. Mayor Sullivan informed the Council that it is in the budget for this year. He informed the Council that IT is budgeted is less than last year. The dispatch department has had a lot of changes and it's getting closer to doing dispatch with other communities. Cell phone numbers that come into 911 come to Westfield instead of going to Northampton State Police.

Councilor Paul questioned if more money could be added to the DPW for more people to operate the equipment so as to not have to hire as many outside contractors. Mayor Sullivan informed him that more in house work is the goal and that this would need to be discussed more in committee because there may be issues with contracts. The Mayor informed the Council that there are three police vehicles budgeted for FY19 out of the six vehicles that were requested and that two vehicles may be able to be purchased in the current FY18. Councilor Flaherty questioned why the Water Department is a lot lower than last year. Mayor Sullivan informed the Council that the Water Department can only budget the amount of revenues from the previous year. Mayor Sullivan informed the Council that for the first time ever \$20,000.00 has been budgeted to the OPEB account bringing that account to a balance of \$700,000.00. He acknowledged it isn't a huge amount but as long as something is budgeted it goes a long way in the financial world. Councilor Morganelli questioned if there would be an increase in police resource officers. Mayor Sullivan informed the Council that that number remains the same. Councilor Morganelli questioned if there were any new fees incorporated into this budget. The Mayor informed the Council that the budget does not contain any new fees but that is something that is that needs to be discussed. Councilor Surprise questioned if there would be a savings within the budget with the upcoming retirements of the Fire Chief and Police Chief. Mayor Sullivan informed the Council that the salaries for new Fire Chief and Police Chief will not be at the same level as the retiring Chiefs but with the severance packages the net amount in the budget will be the same. Councilor Paul questioned where the break out of bond payments are in the budget. Mayor Sullivan informed the Council that it's in long term and short term debt. Councilor Paul questioned if there could be a report for revenue. Mayor Sullivan, through the City Auditor, informed the Council that a revenue report can be generated.

Upon motion of Councilor Flaherty, it was
VOTED: That the FY19 budget be REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Upon motion of Councilor Allie, it was
VOTED: Under immediate consideration, that the sum of \$41,000.00 be appropriated from Free Cash to the City Clerk's Department, item, Additional/Capital Equipment #11610000-585000 to cover the cost of the nine remaining ImageCast voting machines.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Mary Ann Babinski	Yes
Brent Bean II	Absent
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Matt Emmershay	Absent
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
William Onyski	Absent
Robert Paul, Sr.	Yes
Andrew Surprise	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes

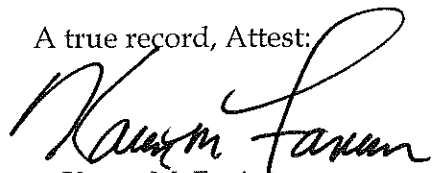
Prior to the vote, Councilor Allie informed the Council that the appropriation for the remainder nine ImageCast voting machines. This amount was originally to be budgeted in FY19 but the Free Cash available at this time the machines will be purchased in this fiscal year and have been removed from FY19 budget.

Upon motion of Councilor Surprise, it was VOTED: That the "Communication from the Mayor" requesting acceptance of the in-lieu-of-taxes contribution from the Westfield Gas and Electric in the amount of \$559,497.00 for FY19. Payments are to be made monthly in the amount of \$46,625.00 commencing on or after July 1, 2018 be REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Upon motion of Councilor Flaherty, for the Zoning Planning and Development Committee, it was VOTED: That the Public Hearing on the proposed zoning changes for retail sales of marijuana be SCHEDULED for the June 21, 2018 City Council meeting and also be REFERRED TO PLANNING BOARD.

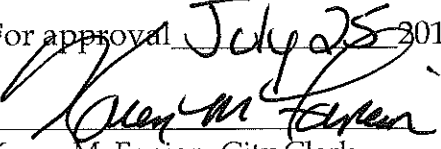
At 6:48 PM, and upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was VOTED: To ADJOURN.

A true record, Attest:



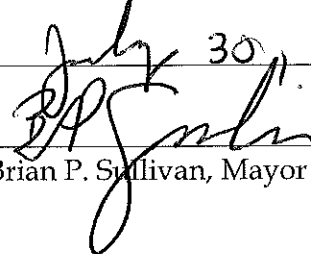
Karen M. Fanion
City Clerk/Clerk of the Council

Presented to the Mayor

For approval July 25 2018


Karen M. Fanion, City Clerk

Approved by the Mayor

July 30 2018


Brian P. Sullivan, Mayor