

SPECIAL
MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
JUNE 12, 2019
6:00 PM

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

Upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was VOTED: That the rules of the City Council be SUSPENDED in order to accept a communication submitted after the Agenda deadline.

Upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was VOTED: That the "Communication from the Mayor" requesting acceptance of an in-lieu-of-taxes contribution from the Westfield Gas and Electric in the amount of \$589,115.00 for FY20, with payments to be made monthly in the amount of \$49,093.00 commencing after July 1, 2019; and also, requesting acceptance of a one-time payment of \$100,000.00 to the City to be paid over a twelve month period commencing July 1, 2019, this was per a vote of the Westfield Gas and Electric Municipal Light Board at their meeting held June 5th, 2019 be REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Mayor Sullivan presented the FY20 budget. He informed the Council that this is his 4th consecutive year budget. He thanked newly appointed City Auditor Christopher Caputo and newly appointed Treasurer/Collector Matt Barnes for their help in putting the budget together as well as all the department heads that submitted their departmental budgets. He explained that the process is that department heads submit their level funded budgets. Meetings are then held with each department head and the Mayor and Auditor and then necessary cuts are made. He explained that this was a difficult year because all unions are negotiating and at this time only four unions have ratified and there are six more to ratify. He explained that the health insurance fund was doing well until last month and that last year \$1 million was cut and this year it will be put back into the budget. He explained that as some employees have left they were not on the City's insurance and as the new employees come on board they are taking the City's insurance. He reviewed the one page summary sheet known as the "Adam Liptak sheet". He informed the Council that the Engineering Department and Department of Public Works are not in the red. And that the School Department has no increase from the City side. He explained the increase in the Overlay account is for abatements from the Assessor's office and also for anticipated litigation that may happen in FY20. He explained that he put an extra \$150,000.00 in the Reserve Fund in anticipation of contracts being ratified. There is \$800,000.00 in the OPEB account which needs to be there to keep the bond rating at AA+. The Mayor presented the Summary Sheet showing the estimated budgeted Revenue & Expenditures with a cushion of

\$14,379.61. He explained that there were trucks that were requested within the Public Works Department that were cut with the hopes of funding them in the next round of Free Cash. As well as six police cruisers which were requested and five will be purchased, two this fiscal year and the other three the next fiscal year. He explained that IT was cut which is the cost of fiber and that comes back in a grant or PEG money. Councilor Bean questioned the amount of money that was swept within this current budget (FY19). Mayor Sullivan deferred to City Auditor Chris Caputo and Mr. Caputo informed the Council that a total of approximately \$800,000.00 was swept from various accounts in the current FY19 budget that was transferred to other departments. Councilor Surprise questioned if the late communication relative to the additional ILOT payment from the Westfield Gas and Electric was the \$100,000.00 that usually comes from PEG money. Mayor Sullivan informed the Council that it was from the decrease in Comcast customers that are now on fiber from the Westfield Gas and Electric and that it was an additional payment, not part of the actual ILOT payment because there's no proof of correlation between loss of Comcast customers and those signing on to fiber. And that Comcast numbers may even go up in the future. He explained that cuts to Engineering Department were for projects that may not get done fiscal year 2020 and those projects will wait until the end of the fiscal year. He explained that the DPW Director will explain the trash truck rotation process during a Finance Committee budget hearing. Councilor Allie questioned what union contracts are still out there to be ratified. Mayor Sullivan informed the Council that there are five more City side contracts as well as all the School contracts to be ratified and he reiterated that there is \$150,000.00 in the budget for those anticipated contracts. Councilor Emmershay questioned if some of the Engineering construction projects for the rail trail could be used from CPA funds. Mayor Sullivan informed the Council that there may be grants coming and CPA money might be able to be used.

Upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was
VOTED: That the Mayor's FY20 Budget be accepted and REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was
VOTED: That the "Communication from the Mayor" submitting an appropriation in the amount of \$953,676.31 from Free Cash to Health Insurance Benefits account #19140000-519400 for remaining June obligation to the health insurance trust fund be REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE.

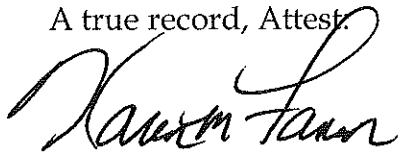
Upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was
VOTED: That the "Communication from the Mayor" submitting a transfer in the amount of \$537,036.28 from various swept accounts to the Health Insurance Benefits account #19140000-519400 to reduce the amount of Free Cash needed for the remaining June obligation to the health insurance trust fund be REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was VOTED: That the "Communication from the Mayor" submitting a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Westfield for the approval of the lease of Airport property over a term of 20 years pursuant to MGL c. 90 sec. 51F to include an additional 21.65 acres for the new entrance to the Air National Guard Facility be REFERRED TO LEGISLATIVE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE and LAW DEPARTMENT.

Councilor Bean announced that the Finance Committee will schedule budget hearings for four days from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM and a list will be sent as soon as it's developed.

At 6:32 PM and upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was VOTED: To ADJOURN.

A true record, Attest.

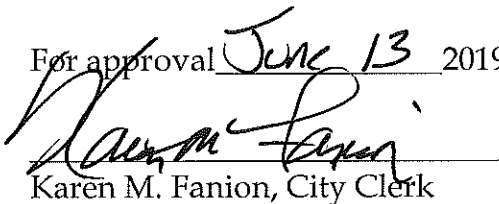


Karen M. Fanion
City Clerk/Clerk of the Council

Presented to the Mayor

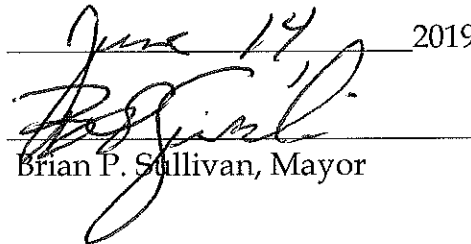
Approved by the Mayor

For approval June 13 2019



Karen M. Fanion, City Clerk

June 14 2019



Brian P. Sullivan, Mayor