

MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ROOM 201, MUNICIPAL BUILDING
59 COURT STREET
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
JUNE 15, 2021 AT 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order in Room 201, Municipal Building, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA at 6:00 PM by Finance Committee Chair Councilor Figy.

The Clerk called the roll. Councilors Morganelli and Adams were absent.

Fiscal Year 2022 Budgets

June 15, 2021 6:00PM

City Council	Vote
City Clerk/Licensing	Vote
Mayor	Vote
Auditor	Vote
Flood Control	Vote
Engineering	Vote
Fire/ Ambulance	Vote

The first budget hearing was for the City Council. City Clerk/Clerk of the Council Karen Fanion was present to represent the department. The City Clerk informed the Council that the budget is made up of the salaries of the City Councilors and the Clerk of the Council. The purchase of services account is for Council photos, desk name plates or plaques and mostly legal ads for bond orders, ordinances or public hearings for the Council.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was
VOTED: That the City Council Department budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	No
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Absent
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Absent

The next budget hearing was for the City Clerk/Licensing department. City Clerk Karen Fanion was present to represent the department. The City Clerk informed the Council that the budget is made up of salaries which are contractual for the employees of the City Clerk's Office and the Licensing Division of the City Clerk's office. The Election Personnel account has a decrease for FY22 because there are no special elections scheduled at this time and the requirement for early voting for municipal elections is still being debated in the Legislature. The purchase of services account has an increase because the elections in September and November of 2021 (FY22) are City elections, therefore the City is responsible for the cost of the printing of the ballots, and the coding of the memory cards for six different wards. And the supplies account is for the usual office supplies to run the office and the elections. City Clerk Karen Fanion informed the Council that included in the City Clerk's department is the Board of Registrars which includes the salaries of the board members and also the License Commission members' salaries are included in the Licensing Division. Councilor Flaherty questioned if the dog licensing is on track this year. City Clerk Karen Fanion responded that residents are licensing their dogs using the mail in form.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was
VOTED: That the City Clerk/Licensing Division and Board of Registrars Department budgets, as submitted, be APPROVED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	No
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Absent
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Absent

The next budget hearing was for the Mayor's department. Mayor Humason was present to represent the department. He informed the Council that his budget includes the salaries of Mayor, Administrative Assistants and Director of Facilities which are all contractual. Also included in the budget are supplies, purchase of services, travel, ceremonial and general expenses which are similar to last year. The City Advancement position which is vacant at this time has been put back into budget for FY22. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that he will be offering a motion to cut the \$60,000.00 for the City Advancement Officer position because it is co-terminus with the Mayor's position and there may or may not be a change in Mayor after November's election and it would not be fair to an applicant to take a job that could essentially be over in December when the Mayor's term ends. Councilor Sullivan agreed with that rationale and informed the Council that he would make a motion to cut \$30,000.00 because the position could be filled in January once the Mayor was in place.

Councilor Flaherty offered a motion, which was duly seconded, to cut \$60,000.00 from the Mayor's budget, Full Time Salary account #11210000-511000. Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was

VOTED: That the above motion be amended to CUT \$30,000.00 from the Mayor's budget, Full Time Salary account #11210000-511000.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	No
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Absent
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Absent

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was

VOTED: That Mayor's Department budget, as amended, be APPROVED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	No
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Absent
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Absent

The next budget hearing was for the Auditor's department. City Auditor Vicki Moro was present to represent the department. She informed the Council that her budget includes salaries of those in the department, which are contractual, overtime to cover when someone is out and the work has to be completed by another person on overtime, also there will be a retirement of someone in her office in September and overtime will be needed at that time. Purchase of services is for Scanlon Associates for required audits. And small equipment for dual monitors that are needed for auditing.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was

VOTED: That the Auditor's Department budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	No
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Absent
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Absent

The next budget hearing was for the Flood Control Commission. Albert Giguere, Chair of the Commission was present to represent the department. He informed the Council that the budget he submitted to the Mayor had substantial increases in it in order to take care of flood control projects that have been neglected for decades, but it was reduced drastically by the Mayor. He informed the Council that the projects that need to be done have been identified by several different agencies as to be in need and that most of the projects need engineering studies therefore are costly, especially costs for the Little River levee. But with the cuts to the budget, the Commission will need to make difficult choices as to what will get done. The \$90,000.00 that is left in the budget will be used for the basic things of mowing and grooming that has to be done as well as animal control to prevent animals from burrowing into the dams. There was a request of \$120,000.00 for the purchase of parcels at the Little River levee that was supposed to have been purchased years ago. The other item that was cut was for a part time employee. He informed the Council that the a part time employee is needed because he is the only one there is to keep track of all the work that needs to be done and any other paperwork the Commission needs to be completed and that he spends many nights working on Flood Control issues. Councilor Flaherty expressed his disappointment in the cuts to the Commission and informed him he will keep pushing to get the cuts restored. Councilor Allie informed the Council that he toured the Little River levee and there are a lot of sizeable trees that need to be removed and there are a lot that are down and need to be removed. Councilor Bean questioned the process of the Flood Control Commission to spend the money. The Chair replied it is the vote of the Board and that Engineering Department has funded some projects which would not need the Boards approval. Councilor Mello questioned how many other commissions have no staff and why the City is not prioritizing Flood Control projects that will protect the construction at the Boys and Girls club. She informed the Council she will not support the Flood

Control budget because it needs to have more money in it to do the necessary projects as identified by Chairman Giguere and that it does not have funds for a staff person. Councilor Figy replied that he is not sure how many other Boards/Commissions do not have staff. Chair Giguere informed the Council that the Flood Control Commission is under Chapter 13-Planning and Development in the Code of Ordinances. Councilor Flaherty agreed the Flood Control Commission should have a staff member and it should come from either Engineering or DPW because they are operational departments. Councilor Harris agreed that it makes sense to have the staff person from Engineering department. Councilor Figy encouraged the Mayor to look at a way to staff the Flood Control Commission. Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that wherever the staff person goes there needs to be resources to fund it. Mayor Humason addressed the Council and informed them that he has developed a list of priorities of dams and levees that could be supported by ARPA (America Rescue Plan Act) money, if granted.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was

VOTED: That the Flood Control Commission budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Dan Allie	No
Brent Bean II	No
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	No
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	No
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Absent
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Absent

The next budget hearing was for the Engineering Department. City Engineer Mark Cressotti was present to represent the department. He informed the Council that the budget is level funded from last year, except for the Construction account which was increased so as to allow the Mayor and Council the discretion as for the use of the funds. He informed the Council that he submitted a budget of almost \$3 million in Construction and the Mayor used his discretion to cut about \$1.5 million with the idea that the ARPA may be able to be used for some of the projects. Councilor Flaherty questioned if the projects could be capital projects. The City Engineer informed the Council that the projects are infrastructure projects and should be appropriated each year and should not be financed through a bond which would cost more. Councilor Mello questioned what the Old Town Meadows is. The City Engineer informed the

Council that it was a project that looked at the infrastructure and paving issues in the Ashley Street area when there was a proposal for a new school and with the new school not becoming a reality only the paving issues are being addressed at this time. Councilor Bean questioned if there is a list of pocket projects for federal money. The City Engineer informed the Council that the Westfield River levee and the Interchange at exit 3 are high priority.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was VOTED: That the Engineering Department budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	No
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Absent
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Absent

The next budget hearing was for the Fire and Ambulance Departments. Fire Chief Pat Egloff was present to represent the departments. He informed the Council that he is extremely proud of the men and women from the Fire/ Ambulance departments for their work during COVID. The Fire Department is level funded, expect for contractual increases. He explained that the ambulance department had five people from the Fire side added to the ambulance last year due to COVID and that the plan for FY22 was to return those five people back to the fire side, but that in speaking with the Mayor and Auditor it was advised to kept those five people on the ambulance side. Councilor Sullivan questioned if any others were moved into the ambulance. Chief Egloff informed him that no others had been moved in and he added that there are a total of 25 people in the ambulance side and years ago there were the same amount of people on the ambulance side when there was no ambulance fund. Councilor Sullivan thanked former Chief O'Brien for having the insight to develop the ambulance fund that was a self-revenue generating department so as to take the burden off the taxpayers. Chief Egloff informed the Council that the ambulance fund is healthy and can support the requested budget. Councilor Bean expressed his concern with using the ambulance fund for the budget because it won't last long. Councilor Flaherty agreed

with Councilor Bean. Chief Egloff reviewed the status of the vehicle and fire apparatus status.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was
VOTED: That the Fire Department budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	No
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Absent
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Absent

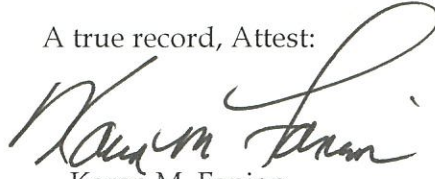
Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was
VOTED: That the Ambulance Department budget, as submitted, be APPROVED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Dave Flaherty	No
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Absent
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Absent

At 7:20 PM, and upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was
VOTED: To ADJOURN.

A true record, Attest:



Karen M. Fanion

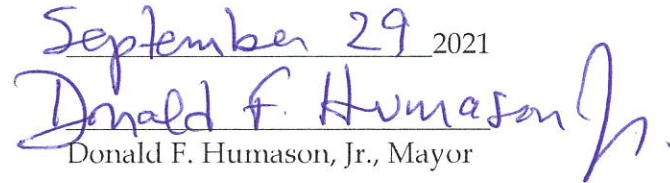
City Clerk/Clerk of the Council

Presented to the Mayor

For approval Sept. 29 2021


Karen M. Fanion, City Clerk

Approved by the Mayor

September 29 2021

Donald F. Humason, Jr., Mayor