



MINUTES OF SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL
59 COURT STREET
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.
JUNE 22, 2023 AT 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chamber, Municipal Building, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA at 7:00 PM by President Beltrandi.

The City Clerk called the roll. All thirteen Councilors were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Beltrandi.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -

Under "Public Participation" the Councilors were addressed by Travis Lucia, Local 1111 President representing the firefighters and captains. He spoke in support of the compensation received by the members of the Westfield Fire Department (WFD) and against the cuts to the overtime account in the FY24 budget. He believed that often the Ambulance was looked at solely as a revenue generator. He informed the Council that they had 8,000 patient contacts last year. The WFD employees are mandated to follow 175 pages of state protocols that are updated yearly, and the number of procedures, medications and interventions continuously grow. He informed the Councilors that each interaction is followed up with detailed care reports, imperative for billing. He spoke in opposition of minimum manning and reduced numbers of crews; noting that is why they are frequently called upon to respond to neighboring communities. He spoke highly of the members of the department and welcomed the City Councilors to visit the station.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: Under immediate consideration that the sum of \$1,000,000.00 be appropriated from Free Cash (1000-359000) to reduce the Fiscal Year 2024 tax rate.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	No
Mary O'Connell	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes

Brent Bean II

No

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council this was done every year before Free Cash was swept. She stated that the \$1,000,000.00 would be used to reduce the FY24 tax rate. Councilor Mello questioned if it was already accounted for in the budget. Councilor Matthews-Kane confirmed. Councilor O'Connell questioned what would happen if Council didn't approve the appropriation. Councilor Matthews-Kane responded that they would have to increase taxes on the taxpayer or cut one million dollars in services. Councilor Bean spoke in opposition of using funds for this purpose and stated he would be a no vote. He believed rather than save an average of \$20.00 a quarter on taxes, one million dollars would be better spent on the 250+ miles of roads, the city sewer and water or planning for projects like a new Police Station and Comprehensive Highschool. Councilor Morganelli agreed with Councilor Bean. Councilor Harris appreciated what Councilor Bean stated but noted that taxes had increased \$500.00 over the last 5 years which was a lot of money for residents. Councilor Allie stated that he was the only one that voted against labor contracts. He voiced his concerns with Government spending and inflation. He stated he would vote for the appropriation but agreed that the city needed a police station and a high school. Councilor Mello stated that normally this vote would reduce the tax burden to the residents and voiced her concerns that it didn't bring down the 2.5% that was voted on in the budget. Councilor Figy stated that he would be voting yes because it would be beneficial to the residents in Ward 2 that are on a fixed income. He stated that he couldn't think of a better use of Free Cash than to give it back to the citizens and the community.

2. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: Under immediate consideration that the spending limits for the following revolving accounts for Fiscal Year 2024: Nursing, Division Supplies Account \$15,000.00; FD Equipment Permit Inspection \$20,000.00; Greenway Bike Trail Account Full Amount of Lease with G & E; Off Street Parking Maintenance Account \$30,000.00; Animal Control Spay and Neuter Account \$25,000.00; Tax Title \$20,000.00 be REAUTHORIZED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
Mary O'Connell	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that it was a state requirement to vote to reauthorize revolving accounts every fiscal year. The money comes in through fees and charges and is paid out for specific items that are relevant to that department.

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: That items 3. and 4. under "Communications from the Mayor" be read by the Clerk and be REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Clerk read from the Agenda as follows:

3. Requesting acceptance of a Grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 from the Massachusetts Governor's Military Taskforce to the Westfield Barnes Regional Airport to be used for the Taxiway B North intersection with runway 15-33.
4. Requesting acceptance of a Grant in the amount of \$48,400.15 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety & Security Military Division to the Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport to assist with costs associated with the re-painting of airfield markings.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

5. City Auditor Vicki Moro submitted the FY24 Orders of Appropriation. She read aloud the Orders in their entirety.

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: That an Order entitled "" AN ORDER OF APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR AS AMENDED" (\$149,576,475.14) be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: That an Order entitled "AN ORDER APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR THE WATER DEPARTMENT" (\$8,325,402.92) be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes

Ralph Figy	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
Mary O'Connell	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: That an Order entitled "AN ORDER APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR THE SEWERAGE AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT DEPARTMENT" (\$6,690,267.49) be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
Mary O'Connell	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: That an Order entitled "AN ORDER APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR THE AMBULANCE SERVICES IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT" (\$3,838,874.94) be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	No
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
Mary O'Connell	No
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes

James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: That an Order entitled "AN ORDER APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR THE GAS AND ELECTRIC DEPRECIATION ACCOUNT" (\$6,725,166.00) be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
Mary O'Connell	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: That an Order entitled "AN ORDER APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT" (\$538,375.00) be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
Mary O'Connell	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: That an Order entitled "AN ORDER APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR THE STORMWATER SERVICES IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT" (\$1,751,004.63) be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
Mary O'Connell	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: That an Order entitled "AN ORDER APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR PEG ACCESS & CABLE RELATED FUND" (\$348,115.00) be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: That an Order entitled "AN ORDER OF APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR, WORKERS COMPENSATION (\$200,000.00) AND UNEMPLOYMENT (\$50,000.00)" be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
Mary O'Connell	Yes

William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: That an Order entitled "AN ORDER OF APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR FOR OPEB" (\$500,000.00) be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: That an Order entitled "AN ORDER OF APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE FOR DEBT DECLINE" (\$500,000.00) be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Yes
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
Mary O'Connell	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Yes

MOTIONS, ORDERS OR RESOLUTIONS

6. Upon motion of Councilors Burns, it was

VOTED: That a motion to request the Mayor to appropriate funds to conduct a top to bottom review of the Westfield Fire Department and its four subdivisions be TABLED until the second City Council meeting in September.

All in favor, voice vote. Councilor O'Connell was OPPOSED.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Burns stated that as the liaison to the Fire Department he would meet with the Mayor and Chair of the Fire Commission.

7. Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was

VOTED: That the motion to require the Fire Commission meetings to be held at City Hall and not before 5:00 PM be WITHDRAWN WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

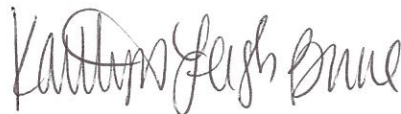
Prior to the vote, Councilor O'Connell gave her appreciation for the withdrawal, stating that although she was a no vote initially on holding Fire Commission meetings at the substation, it made it easy for on-duty personnel to attend the meetings. Councilor Bean questioned where the Police Commission meetings were held. Councilor Figy replied that they were held at City Hall. He added that limited evening meeting room space at City Hall was another reason for withdrawing the motion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Beltrandi thanked the Finance Committee and all the Councilors for their hard work on the budget.

At 7:32PM, and upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was
VOTED: To ADJOURN.

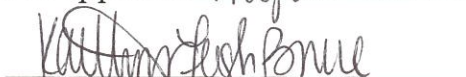
A true record, Attest:



Kaitlyn Leigh Bruce
City Clerk/Clerk of the Council

Presented to the Mayor

For approval August 10 2023


Kaitlyn Leigh Bruce, City Clerk

Approved by the Mayor

8-18 2023


Michael A. McCabe, Mayor