



MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
SEPTEMBER 03, 2020 AT 7:00 PM

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the City of Westfield CITY COUNCIL will be conducted via remote participation. Specific information can be found on the City of Westfield website at www.cityofwestfield.org. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting may do so by tuning into Channel 15 or online at westfieldtv.org. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the City's website an audio recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was
VOTED: That the rules of the City Council be SUSPENDED in order to act upon items received at tonight's meeting.

Upon motion of Councilor Beltrandi, it was
VOTED: That reading of the record of the meetings of August 10th, August 18th and August 20th, 2020 be ACCEPTED.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was
VOTED: That item 1. under "Communications from the Mayor" be read by the Clerk and REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Clerk read from the Agenda as follows:

1. Appropriation of \$350,000.00 from the Stabilization account #8303-397000 to Airport Department, 2-20 Concrete Repair Project account #11990000-580000-4890.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was
VOTED: That the rules of the City Council be SUSPENDED in order to act upon items received at tonight's meeting.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was

VOTED: Under immediate consideration, that a gift donation of a scoreboard for Bullens Field valued at \$32,900 from Westfield Babe Ruth be ACCEPTED. And further, the Westfield Babe Ruth is working with the Westfield Gas & Electric on the installation.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, President Bean allowed Mr. Dan Welch, President of the Babe Ruth League to address the Council. Mr. Welch informed the Council that the Babe Ruth World Series events in 2016 and 2019 were extremely successful that generated financial gains and with those financial gains the League is purchasing a scoreboard for Bullens Field to be used by all the high schools, Babe Ruth, the American Legion and Star Fires. Councilor Sullivan thanked Mr. Welch for all he has done for Babe Ruth and all the volunteers that made the World Series successful. Councilor Flaherty agreed and also thank Mr. Welch for providing these great events for the City. Councilor Morganelli concurred. Councilor Allie also thanked Mr. Welch for all he's done for baseball in Westfield.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was

VOTED: Under immediate consideration, that the appointment of Crystal Hollister, 110 Holyoke Road, as a member of the Historical Commission for a term to expire the first Monday of June, 2021, replacing Amanda Goodheart Parks, resigned be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris informed the Council that Ms. Hollister has participated in many community events including the Ghost Tours sponsored by the Historical Commission at the Old Burying Ground and the Holiday Home Tour sponsored by Westfield on weekends and served on the Westfield 350th Anniversary Historical/Educational Committee which included volunteering at several of the Lecture Series Events. She is a Social Studies Teacher at Westfield Middle School, teaching for 16 years, and in 2019 was selected as a recipient of the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award. She has been a Lead Teacher in the Social Studies Department and a longtime member of the Social Studies Curriculum Committee. She has chaperoned and been the program leader for the 8th grade trip to Washington DC for many years, coordinating the student's travel to historic sites. In addition she is the co-director of the Westfield Middle School Drama Club. She states she has a deep passion for history and historic preservation and participated in Teaching American History series through the Deerfield Teachers' Center which included location visits to many historical sites in Massachusetts to study preservation efforts and archeological digs.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was

VOTED: Under immediate consideration, that the reappointment of Debbie Oppermann, 15 Mountainview Street, as a member of the Historical Commission for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2023 be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris informed the Council that Ms. Oppermann has been a member of the Westfield Redevelopment Authority, President of the Westfield Community Development Corporation and President of the, then, South Middle School PTO. She has a background in Municipal work including community and economic development working for the City of Springfield and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission as well as nonprofits including the Great Barrington Historical Society. She has experience in managing CPA funds for preservation and restoration of buildings. She currently serves on the Development Events Committee at Girls Inc. for Holyoke, Chicopee and Springfield. She is a strong supporter of the Westfield Athenaeum. Chair of the Historical Commission states Ms. Oppermann is an active member supporting their endeavors and supports her reappointment.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was
VOTED: Under immediate consideration, that the reappointment of Cindy Gaylord, 25
Butternut Road, as a member of the Historical Commission for a term to expire the first
Monday of February, 2023, be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris informed the Council that Ms. Gaylord is Chair of the Commission and is passionate about preserving, restoring and promoting the education of Westfield's history. The list is long regarding this Commission's contribution to Westfield and Ms. Gaylord's contribution is long also. She has been involved in many activities including the following: she created the Historic walking tours on downtown; created an historic downtown field trip for 5th graders; created an historic Scavenger Hunt for Westfield School Department Administrators; creator and chairperson of the Historical Ghost Tours given annually from 2013 to the present; organized bi-annual gravestone cleanings and straightening days at the Old Burying Ground; participated as a guide in walking tours of downtown; was Westfield's 350th Celebration Historic/Education Committee co-chair; worked on the restoration efforts for the Old Burying Ground, Wyben One Room Schoolhouse and Whip Factory; member of the Community Preservation Commission; assisted in creating a list of historic sites on the Historical Commission website and preserves historical documents and supports the restoration of historic Westfield buildings are top priorities.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was
VOTED: Under immediate consideration, that the reappointment of Carlene Bannish, 72 Laro
Road as a member of the Historical Commission for a term to expire the first Monday of
February, 2023 be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris informed the Council that Ms. Bannish has been an active member of the Commission throughout her terms since 2014. She was Secretary of the Commission for 3 years and Treasurer for the past 2 years. She attends all functions and events. She created the Whipping Around Westfield app. She helped organize and run the Historic Burying Ground Ghost Tours and attended all of the stone cleaning days. She also participated as a guide in walking tours of downtown, was a Westfield 350th Anniversary sub-committee member and volunteer, and worked on the restoration of the Old Burying Ground and One Room Schoolhouse. As a teacher she has contributed much to this Commission and looks forward to continuing on these historic endeavors. Chairperson Cindy Gaylord highly recommends the reappointment.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was

VOTED: Under immediate consideration, that the reappointment of Carl W. Grobe, 130 Hawks Circle, as a member of the Conservation Commission for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2022 be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris informed the Council that Mr. Grobe is a professor in the Biology Department at Westfield State University. He has been employed there since 1998. His research interests are teaching experience are in the environmental field. Having a PhD in Botany his research has included Algal physiology, Wetland plants and marsh community structure, including mapping of current and historical wetland areas. Experience in addressing local environmental and Conservation issues has been afforded him as a member of the Westfield River Watershed Association being on that Board of Directors also. Since being on this important Commission he has become familiar with local, state and federal regulations concerning wetlands and with local issues surrounding wetland areas in the City. He states it is always his goal to find an acceptable balance between protecting the wetland areas and the development needs of the City and its citizens. He has almost completed courses for certification through the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions. He is looking forward to continuing to serve the City through the Conservation Commission.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was VOTED: Under immediate consideration, that the reappointment of Alexander D. Fagnand, 187 Granville Road as a member of the Conservation Commission for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2023 be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris informed the Council that Mr. Fagnand is a Civil Engineer working with the Wetlands Protection Act and Stormwater Management Standards. He has also worked on FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program Grants from origin through implementation, developments of storm water best management practices including hydrologic and hydraulic studies, and general utility projects. He has involvement in several major projects include the Sampson's Mill Road Culvert Replacement Project in Mashpee, MA which included road widening, new storm drainage complying with stream crossing standards, working with geotechnical, hydraulic, structural, highway and civil engineers and wetland scientists. Storm Water Improvements on Route 140 worked with the Mass Dept of Conservation to eliminate direct storm water discharges in Wachusett Reservoir. Congamond Road Route 168 Reconstruction worked with the Southwick Conservation Commission. Holyoke Community College- designed an access road through an environmentally sensitive area to provide an emergency access route to the College. He belongs to several Professional

organizations including the American Society of the Civil Engineers, the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructures. He states he brings his experience blended with practicality to serve the residents of Westfield in his role as Commissioner.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was

VOTED: Under immediate consideration, that the reappointment of David A. Doe, 46 Tekoa Terrace as a member of the Conservation Commission for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2021 be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris informed the Council that Mr. Doe has served on the Conservation Commission since 2004 and has been Chair for many of those years. He states that the Commission members' work very well together using their combined many years of experience in understanding the importance of the Wetlands Protection Act for the City, yet balance it with the other considerations necessary for the City to thrive. Mr. Doe has a PHD, was Lieutenant in the Army and a long-time Professor at Westfield State University in the Biology Department. He authored many professional articles and was involved in many conferences and workshops including working with the Westfield Watershed Association. He was on the Westfield School Committee from 1992 to 2003, a member of the Board of Directors at Stanley Park and Grandmother's Garden. As wetland regulations can incite strong emotions from applicants or in enforcement cases, Mr. Doe is a calming yet strong voice for the Commission. His historical knowledge from his years on the Commission is invaluable. Councilor Sullivan thanked him for his decades of service since he appointed him in 2004. Councilor Beltrandi informed the Council that he has dealt with him from a contractor's level and he is level headed and willing to step up to do the job. Councilor Burns thanked all the Commissioners for their knowledge of the Commission and the time they dedicate to the Commission.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was

VOTED: That the meeting return to regular order.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was VOTED: That items 10 and 11. under "Communications from the Mayor" be read by the Clerk and REFERRED TO THE PERSONNEL ACTION COMMITTEE.

The Clerk read from the Agenda as follows:

10. Submitting the reappointment of Adam Edward Roman, 73 Glenwood Drive as a member of the G & E Commission (Municipal Light Board) for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2022.
11. Submitting the job description for the Director of Public Works.

Councilor Figy, for the Auditor's Search Committee, informed the Council that there will be a Special Teleconference Meeting of the City Council on September 10, 2020 at 8:00 PM for the final interviews for the two finalists as follows: Tiana Steffenhagen and Vicki Leigh Moro for the position of City Auditor. Councilor Flaherty questioned if the resumes will be posted. Councilor Figy informed the Council that he will do whatever is allowable by law. Councilor Adams questioned how the second interviewee will be kept from the meeting during the first interview. Media Specialist Peter Cowles informed the Council that the second interviewee will be kept in the waiting room of the Zoom meeting.

Mayor Humason was present at the meeting and updated the Council on the following:

a. Hiring of a Personnel Director & City Solicitor

Mayor Humason informed the Council that the Personnel Director position has been vacant for some time now and there have been numerous applications that are being reviewed by the screening committee to get it down to a manageable group.

Mayor Humason informed the Council that he has no intentions of hiring a City Solicitor at this time and that Attorney Shanna Reed is the Acting City Solicitor at this time.

b. Plans and procedures to open City Hall to the public

Mayor Humason informed the Council that he is working with Health Director Joe Rouse and a committee of employees and at this time a member of the public may make an appointment for service. He informed the Council that the Assessor's Office is conducting business outside, as well as other departments such as the Clerk's office doing marriage intentions outside. He informed the Council that keeping City Hall closed to the public is for the protection of the employees and when City Hall does reopen there are safety measures in place such as glass partitions in the busy customer offices such as the Collector's Office and City Clerk's Office. He informed the Council that the public is being served adequately either by phone, email, on-line, mail or in-person outside and there is not a large outcry from the public to come into City Hall because their needs are being met. Councilor Beltrandi informed the Council that most inquiries he has received are relative to Twiss Street being open and the Mayor informed the Council that Twiss Street is open. Mayor Humason informed the Council that the next issue is when to reopen the Council Chambers for meetings. President Bean informed the Council that the main issue to have meetings again in the Chamber is so that public participation can be allowed. Mayor Humason informed the

Council that due to technology issues having public participation is difficult and at this time he remembered Mr. Brian Hoose, former Ward 3 Councilor and a frequent member of public participation, who recently passed away.

- c. Request to create a "grant writer's" position for the City of Westfield, including job description, posting and funding source.

Mayor Humason informed the Council that he has tossed around the idea of a grant writer and that he spoke with Councilor Harris who is in opposition of the position and since that time he may have changed his mind about the position. He informed the Council that it may be worthy to look into and that once there is a Personnel Director, that person will be tasked with the project.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan it was

VOTED: That an Order entitled "AN ORDER APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$52,000.00) FOR THE PURPOSE OF TAKING LAND (47.5 Shepard Street) FOR THE PURPOSES OF MAINTENANCE OF A FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURE AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS" (appropriated from the Flood Control, Judgments account #12990000-576000) be given second reading by title only.

The Order was given second reading by title and upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was

VOTED: That the Order be PASSED TO BE ORDAINED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, it was

VOTED: That an Order entitled "AN ORDER OF TAKING OF REAL ESTATE BY RIGHT OF EMINENT DOMAIN" (47.5 Shepard Street) be given second reading by title only.

The Order was given second reading by title and upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was

VOTED: That the Order be PASSED TO BE ORDAINED.

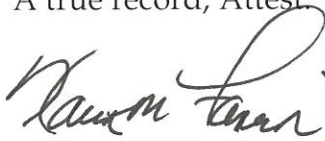
The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

At this time, Councilor Sullivan requested a Moment of Silence be dedicated to former Ward 3 Councilor Brian Hoose who passed away recently. He loved his community and loved serving as a City Councilor.

At 7:56 PM, and upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was VOTED: To ADJOURN.

A true record, Attest:

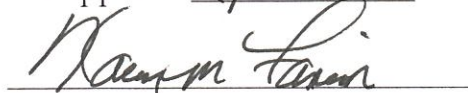


Karen M. Fanion
City Clerk/Clerk of the Council


Presented to the Mayor

Approved by the Mayor

For approval Sept. 10 2020


Karen M. Fanion, City Clerk

9/15/2020 2020


Donald F. Humason, Jr., Mayor