



## MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL

59 COURT STREET  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS  
OCTOBER 11, 2022 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 Onyski.

The Clerk called the roll. Councilors Allie, Figy, Flaherty and Mello were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

Upon motion of Councilor Beltrandi, it was  
VOTED: That the record of the meeting of August 18, 2022 be accepted.

President Onyski requested a "Moment of Silence" in honor of Richard K. Sullivan, Sr., an active member of the City and a Governor appointed Commissioner, who passed away this past week.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - none.

### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was  
VOTED: That items 1., 2., 3., 4., 5. and 6. 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:

1. Requesting consideration of the acceptance of \$75,000.00 in ARPA funding from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs for the Little River Levee culvert repair construction and/or tree and root removal along the levee.
2. Requesting acceptance of a Grant in the amount of \$41,800.00 from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Shared Streets and Spaces Program to purchase equipment for Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons at two existing crosswalks.
3. Requesting acceptance of a Grant in the amount of \$20,000.00 from the Greening the Gateway Cities Program Partnership to assist the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Urban and Community Forestry division in planting trees.
4. Appropriation of \$655,960.00 from Stabilization Acct (8303-359000) to the Department of Public Works Stormwater Division Purchase of Service Account #68504550-520000 for sewer system modifications on the upper portion of West Silver Street.

5. Requesting a transfer of \$3,432.32 from FY 2023 Ambulance Account (21002310-519070) to FY 2022 Ambulance Account #21002310-519070 for a retroactive pay increase.
6. Submitting for approval, the recently signed International Brotherhood of Police Officers Local S 574 (Police Superior Officers Unit) Successor Agreement for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025.

Upon motion of Councilor Burns, it was

VOTED: That items 7., 8. and 9. under "Communications from the Mayor" be read by the Clerk and be REFERRED TO THE LEGISLATIVE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE LAW DEPARTMENT.

The Clerk read from the Agenda as follows:

7. Submitting a Resolution to extend the "Failure to Locate" clause in the RC Retail Westfield LLC Host Community Agreement (HCA) for an additional two years.
8. Submitting a Resolution authorizing an intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Southwick for Animal Control Services.
9. Submitting an Ordinance Amendment of Chapter 2, Article III, Division 4 Section 2-137 and 138: Office of the Treasurer/Collector for the City of Westfield.

Upon motion of Councilor Bean, it was

VOTED: That items 10. and 11. under "Communications from the Mayor" be read by the Clerk and be REFERRED TO THE PERSONNEL ACTION COMMITTEE.

The Clerk read from the Agenda as follows:

10. Submitting the appointment of Anne M. Larkham to the position of Personnel Director for a three (3) year term to expire November 14, 2025.
11. Submitting the appointment of Eric McDowell, 38 Lindbergh Blvd, as a member of the Cultural Council for a three (3) year term to expire in November of 2025.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### Finance Committee

12. Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, for the Finance Committee, it was

VOTED: That funds from the Reserve for Future Salary Increase from the General Fund, Ambulance Fund and the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds be transferred to fulfill the the salary increases as outlined in the Union Agreements for the Fire Supervisors, FD Local 1111, The Dispatchers, WMPEA and Personal Service Agreements.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Absent
Brent Bean II	Yes
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Absent
Dave Flaherty	Absent
Cindy Harris	Yes

Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Absent
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that these monies were reserved in the budget under Reserve for Future Salaries, set aside for salary increases for negotiations made by the administration and various unions. These are financial obligations the City Council has already approved.

13. Upon motion of Councilor Bean, for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That a Grant in the amount of \$213,722.72 from the Department of Homeland Security's Fiscal Year 2021 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to the Westfield Fire Department be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Bean informed the Council that the Finance Committee met with Fire Chief Egloff. The grant will go towards replacing 31 breathing apparatuses. All 84 members will also receive their own fitted face mask. The Grant requires a matching piece.

Upon motion of Councilor Bean, for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$21,372.28 be appropriated from the Reserved for Unforeseen account (19500000-570900) to the Fire Department's Equipment Replacement Account #12200000-587000 for a required Grant contribution of 10% in non-Federal funds.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Absent
Brent Bean II	Yes

John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Absent
Dave Flaherty	Absent
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Absent
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Bean informed the Council that the \$21,372.28 will be appropriated from the Reserved for Unforeseen account to the Fire Department's Equipment Replacement Account. That amount is the 10% match requirement for the Grant. The Mayor and Chief Egloff were not able to pull this money from the Fire Department budget. When the Finance Committee met on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the Reserve for Unforeseen account had a balance around \$45,000. He noted this was an example of the benefits that a Grant Coordinator would bring to the City and suggested budgeting for a position next fiscal year.

14. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED That a Grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to the Department of Public Works and Recreation Division for park and recreational rehabilitation and reconstruction be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council this was State ARPA money that Senator Velis secured for Westfield. Scott Hathaway, Parks Superintendent and Mike Tirrell, Parks and Recreation Commission Chair, met and decided that Whitney Park was the area most in need of improvements. Projects will include laser grading for both fields, a

new infield mix for the infield portion, hydro seeding and new signage. With any leftover money, they hope to upgrade the electrical and lighting system. There is no match required for this grant.

Legislative and Ordinance Committee

15. Upon motion of Councilor Burns, for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, it was

VOTED: That a Resolution to accept MGL 59, Section 5N - Reduction of property tax obligation of veteran in exchange for volunteer services be ACCEPTED.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Burns informed the Council that Julie Barnes, Director of Veterans Services met with the Legislative and Ordinance Committee. The program will be similar to the senior work off program, however it cannot be used in conjunction with it. Veterans will have to complete 105 service hours and will be capped at \$1,500.00. The goal is to have a School Marshall program for security purposes at the main doors of schools. Councilor Bean asked if it was available to spouses. Councilor Burns replied that it was in the Mayor's letter but Mrs. Barnes would need to confirm. Councilor Sullivan asked if people would be chosen based on income requirements or if it would go through a lottery system. Councilor Burns stated the work off program is only for Veterans with 180 days of consecutive active leave. He added that the program would max out at \$24,000.00 a year. Councilor Bean asked if there was an income threshold. Councilor Burns stated there was no income threshold and it would be available to all Veterans. The hourly rate would be \$14.25 per hour for their services. President Onyski added that primary consideration would be given to first time applicants. Previously chosen applicants may make a reapplication in subsequent years. A lottery system may be used if there are applicants than available positions. All in favor by voice vote.

16. Upon motion of Councilor Adams, for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, it was

VOTED: That an Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF WESTFIELD, ADOPTED JUNE 17, 1993" (Chapter 12, Section 12-5, Administrative heads of municipal departments vacancy and qualifications) be given first reading by title only.

The Ordinance was given first reading by title and upon motion of Councilor Adams, it was

VOTED: That the Ordinance be PASSED TO SECOND READING.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Adams informed the Council, this was a request of the Mayor. If a job description has been reviewed prior to 5 years it wouldn't have to go before Council. He explained that the current Ordinance requires them to review the job description, even if they just did so within the past year. This amendment would change that requirement to 5 years. He noted there would still be a way for Council to make changes because it would go before them for final reading. Having to review the job description slows the process down, anywhere between 4-6 weeks. Councilor Bean asked if there was a way to discuss a job

description if the majority wanted an opportunity to review it. Councilor Adams stated he believed so because it would still need to be approved by Council. The change is it wouldn't be required to go before a committee for review if it had been previously reviewed within the past 5 years.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

17. Upon motion of Councilor Adams, it was

VOTED: That an Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF WESTFIELD, ADOPTED JUNE 17, 1993" Chapter 2, Administration, Article III, Officers & Employees, Division 5 - Public Safety Communications Department, be given second reading by title only.

The Ordinance was given second reading by title and upon motion of Councilor Adams, it was

VOTED: That the Ordinance be PASSED TO BE ORDAINED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

**MOTIONS, ORDERS OR RESOLUTIONS - None**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilor Sullivan, on behalf of his family, thanked the Council for the moment of silence that evening. He gave his colleagues and everyone who reached out with condolences, remembrances and positive thoughts about his father, a heartfelt thank you.

At 7:22PM, 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 October 17, 2022

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kaitlyn Leigh Bruce, City Clerk

Approved by the Mayor

10-24-2022  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael A. McCabe, Mayor

