



MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL

59 COURT STREET

MUNICIPAL BUILDING, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

OCTOBER 19, 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 Clerk called the roll. Councilors Bean and Figy were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Beltrandi.

Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was

VOTED: That the reading of the record of the meeting of October 5, 2023 be ACCEPTED.

Under "PUBLIC PARTICIPATION" the Councilors were addressed by Thomas Irwin, 54 Center Ave, Dalton, MA. He informed the Council that he is an advocate for the Paint Stewardship Bills (H.823, S.542 and S.551) that are presently before the Legislature for the 7th time. Paint Stewardship is a program that allows residents to discard unwanted liquid latex and oil-based paints without cost at participating paint retail stores. They collect the returned paint in totes and when the totes are full, Paint-Care, a non-profit created by paint manufacturers to manage the discarded paint, picks up the totes and hauls them to a paint reprocessing plant where they are rebled and sold to entities like Restore and Habitat to Humanity. In addition to being a service to Westfield residents, it would decrease waste going to landfills, decrease greenhouse gases generated by the paint industry and be a model for future product stewardship legislation. He handed out pamphlets and literature to the Councilors. He emphasized the importance of having the support of local representatives and encouraged people to write letters and reach out to elected officials for their support.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was

VOTED: That items 1., 2., 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:

1. Submitting a Bond Order in the amount of \$5,200,000.00 to the Department of Public Works Water Division for the replacement of the Provin Mountain water tank.
2. Transfer of \$37,205.33 from the Reserve for Future Salary Account (19500000-519999) and \$1,049.89 from the Enterprise Fund (68004500-519999) to various department accounts to cover retroactive wages and overtime. Transfer of \$31,981.76 from the Reserve for Unforeseen Account (19500000 570900) to various department accounts to fund increases to the negotiated WMEA 40-hour unit contract.

3. Transfer of \$144.81 within the Police Department from FY24 Supplies Account (12100000-540000) to the FY21 Supplies Account (12100000-540000).
4. Transfer of \$31.34 within the Police Department from FY24 Supplies Account (12100000-540000) to FY23 Supplies Account (12100000-540000).

Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was

VOTED: That the rules of the City Council be SUSPENDED in order to act upon items received at tonight's meeting.

All in favor, voice vote.

5. Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was

VOTED: That a Resolution, entitled "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD FOR ACCEPTANCE OF A GIFT PURSUANT TO M.G.L 44, SEC. 53A TO WESTFIELD CITY HALL BUILDING DEPARTMENT" (Gift donation of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) from the Hampden County Registry of Deeds to the Building Department, to be hung in the first-floor corridor of City Hall) be ADOPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Onyski shared that Councilor Harris had raised a point that waiting two weeks to accept the gift donation of an AED from the Hampden County Registry of Deeds could make a difference. Rather than sending the Resolution to the Legislative and Ordinance Committee, he would like to vote under immediate consideration. He read the Resolution aloud in its entirety.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was

VOTED: That item 6. 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:

6. Submitting the reappointment of John E. Garber, Esq., to the position of part-time Assistant City Solicitor for a three-year term to expire in September, 2026.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES, AND OTHER PAPERS

7. Upon motion of Councilor Onyski, it was VOTED: That the CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING on a Special Permit application submitted by A.J. Virgilio Construction, Inc. pursuant to Zoning Ordinance Sec. 130.3(1) to allow the continued use of over the road trailer parking/storage on property be CONTINUED to the next City Council Meeting.

All in favor, voice vote. Councilors Matthews-Kane and Mello were OPPOSED.

Prior to the vote, President Beltrandi stated that the applicant had received the information from the Department of Environmental Protection and submitted responses to Councilor Mello’s questions to the City Clerk, earlier that day. They were requesting a continued public hearing to allow time for the Councilors to review the information. Councilor O’Connell voiced her concerns with the length of time since they had first come before the Council in July and stated she was inclined to not continue the Public Hearing. Councilor Mello echoed Councilor O’Connell, adding that she sent the applicant a statement about the special permit violating zoning regulations, not questions. Councilor Matthews-Kane stated that she wasn’t inclined to continue the Public Hearing the last time a continuance was requested and hoped as a body they could discuss what would happen if the applicant was not ready for the next meeting. Councilor Allie stated that regardless of what happened, the applicant deserved to have a Public Hearing. Councilor Mello stated if the body wanted two more weeks to review the letter, she would prepare her comments, but she was not inclined to give more leeway. Councilor Morganelli acknowledged that the item first went before the Council in July but noted Council has summer recess and that two Councilors were absent. For those reasons, he stated he would oppose not continuing the public hearing. Councilor Sullivan stated he would support continuing the hearing but if the applicant was not ready for the next meeting, he would not vote for another continuance. Councilor O’Connell stated that after hearing all of the other Councilors she would hold her motion.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Finance Committee

8. Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That a Grant in the amount of \$9,600,000.00 from the Massachusetts Governor's Military Taskforce to the Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport for the Taxiway B South project be ACCEPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan shared that as foreshadowed several meetings ago, with approval of the project, this Grant in the amount of \$9,600,000.00, is the third of five grants that the City will receive to fund the Taxiway B South project. The other two grants will come in quickly. Councilor Morganelli acknowledged that Airport Manager Chris Willenborg was present and gave him accolades for all of the grants the Airport brings into the City. Councilor Beltrandi echoed Councilor Morganelli noting his hard work was also reflected in the budget. Councilor Mello thanked Mr. Willenborg for his attention to safety measures.

9. Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$3,195.00 be transferred within the Department of Public Works, Land and Natural Resources Division, from the FY24 Purchase of Service Account #14990000-520000 to the FY23 Purchase of Service Account #14990000-520000.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that the transfer was for a prior year bill for tree work done on Atwater Street and Dana Ave. The final bill came in a

week after FY23 closed and was \$3,195.00 more than what was retained in the carryover.

10. Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$257.52 be transferred within the Department of Public Works Wastewater Division from FY24 Purchase of Service Account #67004400-520000 to FY23 Purchase of Service Account #67004400-520000.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that the transfer was to cover \$257.52 in sales tax from Connecticut for emergency air conditioning services. The delay was due to obtaining legal and purchasing opinions. If it was Massachusetts sales tax, it would not have needed to be paid.

11. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$47.38 be transferred within the Department of Public Works, Land and Natural Resources Division, from the FY24 Supplies Account #14990000-540000 to the FY23 Supplies Account #14990000-540000.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
Mary O'Connell	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that the transfer was for a \$47.38 bill from a small family-owned business for a purchase from the end of June, recently provided to the Department of Public Works.

12. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$100.00 be transferred within the Police Department from the FY24 Purchase of Service Account #12920000-520000 to the FY23 Purchase of Service Account #12920000-520000.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that this was a prior year bill for Animal Control, which falls under the Police Department. The bill for \$100.00 was for vehicle maintenance done mid-June. It was submitted while the position of Office Manager was vacant and not in time for FY23 carryovers.

13. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$71.50 be transferred within the Health Department from FY24 Purchase of Service Account #15100000-520000 to FY23 Purchase of Service Account #15100000-520000.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that when the collection point at the Police Department for sharps became full, they transferred a container to the Health Department. The Office Manager was unaware of the \$71.50 bill to cover the cost for the collection of sharps prior to the close of the Fiscal Year. They now have two kiosks, one at the Police Department and one at the Health Department to prevent that from happening again.

14. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That an appropriation in the amount of \$155,000.00 from the Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Engineering Department's Purchase of Service Account #14110000-520000 to fund design services for improvements at the Western Ave and Bates Road Intersection be REMOVED FROM COMMITTEE WITHOUT ACTION.
All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that City Engineer, Alison McMordie was okay with the item being removed from committee without action. The committee presented a list of the top 35 crash sites in Westfield and Western Ave/Bates Road intersection was not on the list.

Personnel Action Committee

15. Upon motion of Councilor Harris for the Personnel Action Committee, it was VOTED: That the appointment of Ethan Stec as a member of the Youth Commission for a term to expire in February, 2026 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	Absent
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes

Ralph Figy	Absent
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Abstain
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
Mary O'Connell	Yes

At this time, Councilor Matthews-Kane left the meeting.

16. Upon motion of Councilor Harris for the Personnel Action Committee, it was VOTED: That the appointment of Deirdre Matthews as a member of the Youth Commission for a term to expire in February, 2026 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	Absent
John Beltrandi III	Yes
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Absent
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Absent
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
Mary O'Connell	Yes

Councilor Matthews-Kane returned to the meeting.

Zoning, Planning and Development Committee

17. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane for the Zoning, Planning & Development Committee, it was

VOTED: That an Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF WESTFIELD, APPENDIX B-ZONING, ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 3, 1987" (Zone Change Petition at 3 Fowler Street Extension (parcel 255-17) and 81 Union Street (parcel 223-59) from Residential C to Industrial A) be given first reading by title only.

The Ordinance was given first reading by title and upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was

VOTED: That the Ordinance be PASSED TO SECOND READING.

All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane informed the Council that the Zone Change Petition at 3 Fowler Street Extension (parcel 255-17) and 81 Union Street (parcel 223-59) from Residential C to Industrial A was for a parking lot expansion. There was no neighborhood opposition and one neighbor spoke in favor of the project. The zone change was for two small properties and not a major change for the neighborhood.

MOTIONS, ORDERS OR RESOLUTIONS

18. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: That the naming of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail bridge over Orange Street, as the Jose Torres Bridge be REFERRED to CITY PROPERTIES and DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

All in favor, voice vote.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane stated that she was contacted by Gilbert Rodrigues in the Spring of 2020, with the idea to name this section of the rail trail in honor of Jose Torres. She began working with the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail on the project in 2020 and was asked to wait until the Rail Trail was completed. She informed the Council that she had five letters of support. A letter from the Chief of Police because it honors a fallen officer. A letter from the Westfield Puerto Rican Association because it honors a member of their community. A letter from the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail because it connects the bridge and the rail trail to that neighborhood. A letter from Gilbert Rodriguez who stated it honors the tight-knit community that was there when Jose was growing up. Most importantly, a letter from his widow. She also spoke with and received support from his family. She stated that it was fitting because of its prominent location and tied the rail trail bridge to the neighborhood. Councilor Onyski noted that the Rail Trail was now under the care, custody, and control of the Department of Public Works. Councilor Matthews-Kane stated that she did confirm with Attorney Reed that it only needed to go to City Properties but had no problem adding DPW to be thorough.

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane it was voted to amend the motion to add refer to the Department of Public Works.

All in favor.

19. Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was VOTED: That a Resolution entitled " A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE NATIONALIST SOCIAL CLUB" as amended, be ADOPTED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

William Onyski	Yes
Richard Sullivan, Jr.	Yes
James Adams	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes
Brent Bean II	Absent
John Beltrandi III	Yes

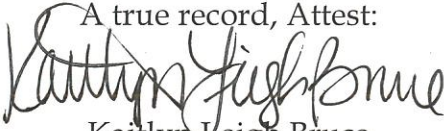
Michael Burns	Yes
Ralph Figy	Absent
Cindy Harris	Yes
Bridget Matthews-Kane	Yes
Kristen Mello	Yes
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
Mary O'Connell	Yes

Prior to the vote, Councilor Matthews-Kane stated that although she appreciates that the Council doesn't get involved in international geopolitical conflicts or statewide issues, she believed it was important to have Resolutions when things were directly a Westfield issue. Flyers by a neo-Nazi white supremacist group were dropped around Westfield State University, some within her Ward and constituents reached out to her. She stated that silence makes people unsure of where they stand, and that they needed to be clear that they completely opposed it. City Clerk Kaitlyn Bruce read the Resolution aloud in its entirety.

Upon motion of Councilor Matthews-Kane, it was
 VOTED: To amend language in the Resolution by striking through September and inserting October.
 All in favor.

20. Councilor Sullivan informed the Councilors he would be speaking on behalf of Councilor Figy, who was absent due to the passing of his brother-in-law and gave his condolences to the Marceau, Figy, and Hatch families. He further informed the Council that Councilor Figy wanted to correct the record of September 21, 2023. He had stated that he spoke to the two unions in regard to the top to bottom review of the Fire Department. He had spoken to personnel from the two unions, but they were not the union presidents, and he did not have the endorsements of the two unions.

At 7:37PM, 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

Approved by the Mayor

For approval November 6, 2023

11-7 2023


 Kaitlyn Leigh Bruce, City Clerk


 Michael A. McCabe, Mayor