

MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

59 COURT STREET
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
NOVEMBER 04, 2021 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 Bean.

The Clerk called the roll. Councilor Matthews-Kane was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

Under "Public Participation" the Councilors were addressed by C. Lee Bennett, Chair of the Fire Commission and Fire Commission members Albert Masciadrelli and Jeffrey Siegel. Chair Bennett read a letter that all Fire Fighters/Paramedics individually received for their unselfish, dedicated work of this past year and half during the COVID pandemic. They presented a plaque to the City Council for display in City Hall.

Under "Public Participation" the Councilors were addressed by Mr. Keith Supinski, 69 Michael Drive, Firefighter/Paramedic and President of Local 1111. He thanked the Fire Commissioners and Chief for the recognition of all the firefighters/paramedics of Westfield.

Under "Public Participation" the Councilors were addressed by Mary Ann Babinski, 114 Rogers Avenue. She read a statement and submitted it, relative to Councilor Figy's motion on tonight's agenda relative to what an Environmental Justice Community is, where they are in the City and how it effects Westfield. She informed the Council that she has been an advocate for Environmental Justice communities and is happy to that the Council wants to educate themselves as to what they are.

Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was

VOTED: That items 1. and 2. under "Communications from the Mayor" be REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

1. Appropriation of \$65,000.00 from Free Cash (1000-359000) to the Fire Department, Medical Testing account #12200000-530006 for a prior year bill.
2. Transfer of \$589.00 from DPW Waste Water Division, Supplies account #67004400-540000 FY22 to DPW Waste Water Division, Supplies account #67004400-540000 FY21, for a prior year bill.

Upon motion of Councilor Flaherty, it was

VOTED: That item 3. under "Communications from the Mayor" be REFERRED TO THE LONG RANGE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

3. Submitting a Bond Order in the amount of \$61,259,139.00 to be used for the construction of the new Franklin Avenue School building to replace the existing

Franklin Avenue School and Abner Gibbs Elementary School. The Massachusetts School Building Authority has awarded the City \$30,562,787.00.

Upon motion of Councilor Mello, it was

VOTED: That item 4. under "Communications from the Mayor" be REFERRED TO NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

4. Submitting a Sewer rate increase as voted on by the Water Commission.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was

VOTED: That the rules of the City Council be SUSPENDED in order to act upon 5. that was received at tonight's meeting.

5. Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was

VOTED: Under immediate consideration, that the appointment of Kathleen Palmer, 608 Pochassic Road, as a member of the Historical Commission, for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2023, replacing Debbie Oppermann, resigned be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris informed the Council that Kathleen Palmer has a vast knowledge of the History of Westfield and she has over the many years shared with the citizens in many ways. She has brought Historical productions into the Public Schools. During Westfield's 350th celebration, she also presented Historical Productions to the public. She already has been involved with the Historical Commission by helping out with the Ghost Tour Productions and other programs sharing her extensive historical knowledge of Westfield from researching that history for years. She would be a definite asset to the Commission involving future decisions they have to make as Chair Gaylord is pursuing a more active role for this Commission throughout Westfield. She is a lifelong resident of Westfield, a teacher for 40 years, conducted theater for the Park and Recreation department and is Vice President of the Westfield Woman's Club and their productions. She is truly interested in protecting, preserving and promoting Westfield's history for generations to come, and hopes be on this Commission to contribute to their mission of doing just that. Councilor Flaherty informed the

Council that Kathleen Palmer is a great person and she does so much for the Commission that he thought she was already on the commission. Councilor Allie informed the Council that Kathleen Palmer gives truly 100% and is very involved.

6. Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was VOTED: That the request of City Treasurer/Collector Matt Barnes requesting reappointment of his position for a term to expire December 20, 2024 be REFERRED TO PERSONNEL ACTION COMMITTEE.

7. Upon motion of Councilor Figy for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$3,955.51 be transferred from FY22 Public Works Department, Highway Division, Supply account #14210000-540000 to FY21 Public Works Department, Highway Division, Supply account #14210000-540000 for a prior year bill.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the Council that a discussion with City Auditor Vicki Moro was held and that there are steps being taken to eliminate all of these prior year bills. Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that one thing that is being looked at is to contact the department head prior to closing the PO's to see if there are any bills still out there. Councilor Figy informed the Council that the prior year bill was for Robert's Energy for fuel drops at various City locations during the June 2021 fuel station upgrades and that a purchase order was in place but was closed in error.

8. Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$3,678.58 be transferred from FY22 Public Works Department, Sewerage Waste Water Treatment Division, Purchase of Services account #67004400-520000 to FY21 Public Works Department, Sewerage Waste Water Treatment Division, Purchase of Services account #67004400-520000 for a prior year bill.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that the prior year bill was for a vendor on call service for a pumping station issue.

9. Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$1,317.58 be transferred from FY22 Public Works Department, Water Division, Purchase of Services account #68004500-520000 to FY21 Public Works Department, Water Division, Purchase of Services account #68004500-520000 for a prior year bill.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that the prior year bill was to pay for electrical services provided to the Granville Tower dating back to 2018 and that Eversource was forwarding the bills to the property address rather than the Water Department.

10. Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$416.00 be transferred from FY22 Public Works Department, Highway Division, Purchase of Services account #14210000-520000 to FY21 Public Works Department, Highway Division, Purchase of Services account #14210000-520000 for a prior year bill.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that the prior year bill was for police off duty detail from early June 2021.

11. Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$72.00 be transferred from FY22 Sewerage Waste Water Treatment, Out-of-Grade account #67004400-514200 to FY21 Sewerage Waste Water Treatment, Out-of-Grade account #67004400-514200 for a prior year bill.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Sullivan informed the Council that the prior year bill was for a miscalculation on an employee paid out of grade.

Upon motion of Councilor Sullivan, for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That items 12., 13., 14., 15., and 16. be taken together as all of them are prior year bills relative to EZ pass invoices.

12. That the sum of \$23.00 be transferred from FY22 Public Works Department, Highway Division, In-State Travel account #14210000-5710000 to FY21 Public Works Department, Highway Division, In-State Travel account #14210000-5710000 for a prior year bill.
13. That the sum of \$28.40 be transferred from FY22 Public Works Department, Sewer Division, In-State Travel account #67004490-571000 to FY21 Public Works Department, Sewer Division, In-State Travel account #67004490-571000 for a prior year bill.
14. That the sum of \$26.45 be transferred from FY22 Public Works Department, Sewerage Waste Water Treatment Division, In-State Travel account #67004400-571000 to FY21 Public Works Department, Sewerage Waste Water Treatment Division, In-State Travel account #67004400-571000 for a prior year bill.
15. That the sum of \$109.05 be transferred from FY22 Public Works Department, Water Division, In-State Travel account #68004500-571000 to FY21 Public Works Department, Water Division, In-State Travel account #68004500-571000 for a prior year bill.
16. That the sum of \$139.55 be transferred from FY22 Public Works Department, Waste Collection Division, In-State Travel account #14330000-571000 to FY21 Public Works Department, Waste Collection Division, In-State Travel account #14330000-571000 for a prior year bill.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that Public Works department has been promising for the last 10 years that prior year bills will never happen again and they continue to happen and there needs to be a better way to deal with them and therefore he is voting no on all of them.

17. Upon motion of Councilor Figy, for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum \$85,000.00 be appropriated from Free Cash (1000-359000) to Stabilization (8303-392000) to return funds that were used for a feasibility study for the police station.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the Council that the appropriation is from Free Cash to Stabilization as promised because at the time of the appropriation for the feasibility study the Free Cash was not certified therefore Stabilization was used and now that Free Cash is certified it is being returned to the Stabilization account. Councilor Mello informed the Council that she added a document to the share file which is the 2015 feasibility study of the Police station.

18. Upon motion of Councilor Figy, for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$555.65 be appropriated from Free Cash (#1000-359000) to FY21 Sanitary Landfill, Purchase of Services account #14390000-520000, for a prior year bill.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the Council that the appropriation is for a gas and electric bill that was lost at the transfer station.

19. Upon motion of Councilor Figy, for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$466.91 be appropriated from Free Cash (#1000-359000) to FY21 Sanitary Landfill, Recycling Collections account #14390000-531004, for a prior year bill.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the Council that the appropriation is for a payment for single stream recycling.

20. Upon motion of Councilor Figy, for the Finance Committee, it was VOTED: That the sum of \$75.00 be appropriated from Free Cash (#1000-359000) to FY21 Sanitary Landfill, Purchase of Services account #14390000-520000, for a prior year bill.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Figy informed the Council that the appropriation is for an electric permit that was taken out in June.

21. Upon motion of Councilor Harris, for the Personnel Action Committee, it was VOTED: That the appointment of Jay Ducharme, 265 Western Avenue, as a member of the Cultural Council for a term to expire the first Monday of October 2024 be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris informed the Council that Jay Ducharme attended the meeting. He believes he would be a good addition to the Cultural Council and is looking forward to giving back to our Community in this way. He has an extensive background in the Arts. Academically, he has a B.A. from UMASS and an M.F.A in Theater Directing from the University of Mississippi. He has composed volumes of music, write music scores for theater productions, produced nine albums of original music and has written soundtracks for videos for local filmmakers. He was on the Board of the Westfield Theater Group for years and been part of ArtWorks of Westfield. He designed and maintained websites for the Greater Westfield choral Association of which he is currently the President. He is creating a scale model of Mountain Park for Holyoke's Heritage Park being a member of the Board of Directors of the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round. In addition he was a Professor of Electronic Media at Holyoke Community College for 20 year teaching digital image production, multimedia design, audio production, video production and animation. His years of critiquing student work and his years in the Arts arena would be of benefit to our Cultural Council when determining applicants' suitability in receiving Grant Money. Councilor Allie spoke in favor of the appointment. He informed the Council that he raised a million dollars to restore the merry-go-round at Heritage Park.

22. Upon motion of Councilor Harris, for the Personnel Action Committee, it was VOTED: That the reappointment of William Porter, 11 Lowell Avenue, as a member of the Community Preservation Committee, for a term to expire the first Monday of July, 2023 be CONFIRMED.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

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

Prior to the vote, Councilor Harris informed the Council that he was first appointed to this important Committee in October 2010. He is looking forward to continuing to serve our Citizens in this capacity. His expertise in all things involving Preservation is reflected in his very relevant background. Since 2004 he has been employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Hadley, MA as the Branch Chief, Realty Management, National Wildlife Refuge System, Division of Realty. He is responsible for staff supervision and management of the Land Acquisition Program Regions. He assists in the Budget preparation, developing and maintaining partner relations and matters relating to real property administration. Prior to that he was still involved in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Lead Appraiser, Division of Realty responsible for real estate appraisals for Land Acquisition then directing the Regional Appraisal Section to include real estate appraisal contracting and appraisal review, and also was the Lead Appraiser responsible for Appraisal contracting and appraisal review in support of the U.S. Department of Interior Land Acquisition Programs. He has a B.S. in Plant and Soil Science from UMASS and is an active

23. Upon motion of Councilor Beltrandi, for the License Committee, it was VOTED: That the application for a license for the storage of 26,000 gallons of gasoline (underground) and 30,000 gallons of diesel (underground) and 100 gallons of LP gas (aboveground) at 21-33 Southampton Road submitted by Mr. Robert Bolduc, Pride Limited Partnership, 246 Cottage Street, Springfield, MA be WITHDRAWN WITHOUT PREJUDICE as requested by the applicant.

Councilors Sullivan and Beltrandi abstained. There were no oppositions in the voice vote.

Upon motion of Councilor Morganelli, it was voted that Item 24. Be REMOVED FROM THE TABLE.

24. Upon motion of Councilor Morganelli, it was VOTED: That the First Reading of an Ordinance for flag flying on City properties be WITHDRAWN WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

Councilor Morganelli informed the Council that the Law Department needs more time to work on another draft and that the draft that was previously submitted has been withdrawn. The matter will be reintroduced at another time.

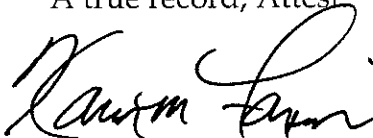
25. Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was VOTED: That a training from the Law Department be requested at the first meeting in February, 2022 and the Planning Board be invited, regarding Environmental Justice Community/zone, what is it, how does this effect Westfield, and where are these zones in the city and that the motion be REFERRED TO THE LAW DEPARTMENT

Upon motion of Councilor Flaherty, it was VOTED: That items 26., 27., and 28. Be WITHDRAWN WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

26. Motion of Councilor Flaherty to dedicate 100% of the 121A Revenues to the OPEB Liability account as allowed under MGL Chapter 40 Section 5B (according to the 10/21/21 Fund Balance Reports, the City is currently showing a \$356 million unfunded liability). This will help the City prepare to honor the commitments made to employees regarding retiree Healthcare. Refer to Long Range Finance and the Mayor's Office.
27. Motion of Councilor Flaherty requesting the Mayor to allocate \$2 million of certified Free Cash to the OPEB Liability account. This will help the City prepare to honor the retiree Healthcare commitments made to employees. Refer to Mayor's Office.
28. Motion of Councilor Flaherty requesting the Mayor to allocate \$7 million of certified Free Cash to special purpose Stabilization accounts for the new Elementary School and Police Station projects. These funds will be used to reduce the amount of debt the city must incur to fund these two projects. Refer to Long Range Finance and the Mayor's Office.

At 7:49 PM, and upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was VOTED: To ADJOURN.

A true record, Attest:

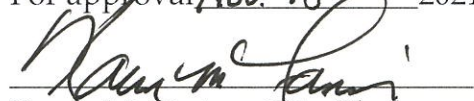


Karen M. Fanion

City Clerk/Clerk of the Council

Presented to the Mayor

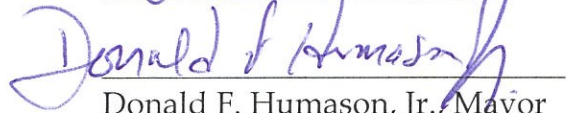
For approval Nov. 18 2021



Karen M. Fanion, City Clerk

Approved by the Mayor

Nov. 18. 2021



Donald F. Humason, Jr., Mayor