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WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

## Personnel Action Committee

**Minutes for meeting date 11/05/20** at 6:15pm via Zoom as allowed by the Governor due to Pandemic  
Committee Members – Ralph Figy (present), William Onyski (present), Cindy Harris, chair (present)  
Roll call by individual name.

Chair stated Councilors, on the Reappointments, because they were holdovers, the terms expire in a couple of months, however, the Mayor will be sending in a letter with a date in line with a renewal term shortly.

We have 4 Agenda items.

### Agenda Item #1

Submitting the reappointment of Eleanor Meyer, 54 Llewellyn Drive as a member of the Off-Street Parking Commission for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2021.

Discussion: Ms. Meyer is the Chairperson for the Off-Street Parking Commission since her appointment in 2016. Her compassion and passion for helping Westfield is quite evident when she talks about wanting to be part of the revitalization of downtown and making visiting our small businesses easily accessible for all. She believes it is very important for the City to work with small businesses in town and her part is that this Commission makes sure there is parking downtown for those businesses, meshing with other organizations and Westfield State University.

She is the Secretary for the Westfield High School-Pathways Campus. Previously, she was the Lead Preschool Teacher at Roots Learning Center and their Summer Camp Director. She was Board member and President at Amelia Park Children's Museum, was Board Member and Secretary for the Foundation for Education, was a Co-Organizer of Westfield into the Arts and in past years was quite involved in Juniper Park Elementary School and the YMCA. Lastly, for over 10 years she cared for our Citizens in Long Term Care and Rehabilitation.

Any comments or motions from the Councilors -

Motion to reappoint made by Councilor Figy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Onyski.

Individual Vote – Chair/Councilor Harris – Yes

Councilor Figy – Yes

Councilor Onyski – Yes

### Agenda Item #2

Reappointment of John M. Regan, 83 Eastwood Drive as a member of the Off-Street Parking Commission for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2021.

Discussion: Mr. Regan is the General Manager for Ferguson Enterprises in Chicopee which includes day to day operations and scheduling. He is the asset an inventory Manager controlling all assets in the district which includes 20 branches in New England.

Prior to that he worked at F.W. Webb Company in Springfield in outside sales and inside commercial estimating which involved visiting customers on a day to day basis showing new products, taking orders and design, pipe and valve fitting quoting and at United Plumbing Supply in Springfield in Sales and as a Manager, involved in all aspects of the heating business. All these positions involve communication and negotiation skills.

Mr. Regan is a lifelong Westfield resident. He went to American International College in Springfield and New England Institute of Technology in Rhode Island and is an asset to this Commission.

Any comments or motions from the Councilors -

Motion to reappoint made by Councilor Figy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Onyski.

Individual Vote – Chair/Councilor Harris – Yes

Councilor Figy – Yes

Councilor Onyski – Yes

### **Agenda Item #3**

Reappointment of James R. Murphy, Jr. 6 Crawford Drive, as a member of the Conservation Commission for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2021.

Discussion: Mr. Murphy is an outstanding member and Vice-Chair of this important commission for over 25 years. He is an active participant on this Commission and at the meetings asks pertinent questions and offering suggestions to improve projects and get better protections of wetlands, when reviewing projects. He is an active participant on this Commission and at the meetings asks pertinent questions and offers suggestions to improve projects and get better protections of wetlands, when reviewing projects.

In the past, he had substantial paperwork responsibilities such as working to craft bonding language which would allow the commission to bond for projects, ensuring projects complied with their permits, wetlands are protected, and reducing lawsuits. This was in collaboration with the Mayor, Council and Law Department.

He attends ongoing education from the MA Association of Conservation Commissioners and has attained extensive knowledge on State, Local and Federal Laws, jurisdiction and permits, soil and erosion, rare and endangered species, impacts of laws on property owners, the City and environment, site inspections, wetland values and functions, and working with City Departments. As the City grows, this Commission strives to fairly administer the Mass Wetlands Act and City of Westfield Ordinance 1109.

Mr. Murphy is a Westfield Business owner specializing in engineered components to the original equipment manufacturing market place focusing on instrumentation, medical equipment, industrial devices and communication.

He also volunteers at the Westfield Soup Kitchen. His knowledge and experience is a huge asset to this commission, along with his compassion and realistic outlook.

Any comments or motions from the Councilors - Councilor Onyski stated he goes to many of these meetings and he is a great asset and the City is lucky to have him.

Councilor Figy made a motion to reappoint, Councilor Onyski 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Individual Vote – Chair/Councilor Harris – Yes

Councilor Figy – Yes

Councilor Onyski – Yes

### **Agenda Item #3**

Appointment of Alexander Gearing, 44 Hillcrest Circle, as a member of the Board of Public

Works for a term to expire the first Monday of February 2023, replacing Jack Capaniello, who chose not to renew his term.

Mr. Gearing attended the meeting. Mr. Gearing states that he is deeply passionate about local government. He believes his skills and work experience could contribute to this Board in a positive manner.

He has a B.S. in Finance from American University in Washington, D.C. and worked at Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation in Washington as a Financial Assistant in preparing company reports for federal case work and has experience as a marketing strategist for a tech-based company.

He is employed by Kurtz Incorporated of Westfield, operating heavy equipment in a fast-paced and often dangerous environment, in which personal composure is of the utmost importance, while working with skilled employees in the trades. He is OSHA 10 Certified and accomplished in computer programs.

His college degree in Finance and actual hands-on work for a variety of MA state and private jobs (no City conflicts) gives him a unique set of skills which gives him understanding of the jobs Public Works is involved in – both from the finances involved and the actual work of the Public Works personnel.

Here is additional information for the Councilors and public as follows: As we know City Hall has been closed due to the pandemic so in person attendance of meetings isn't possible. Mr. Gearing, since becoming interested in this Board has watched the meetings and reviewed their minutes.

Mr. Gearing states that the DPW should follow all laws governing their actions on all matters. In regards to projects involving the City and State Mr. Gearing believes the City and State should work together in a cost-efficient and cost-effective manner. Day to day functions like snow removal and maintenance process is the Superintendent's purview.

I (the chair) will provide the following information on the process of appointing a DPW Superintendent. In regards to finding and appointing a Superintendent, the Superintendent is determined by the joint Commission of the Board of Public Works and the Water Commission which have met and a screening Committee has been established. This position is posted for 30 days and then applicants are reviewed. The process now has produced 2 finalists.

The Board of Public Works and Water Commission will be asked to look at these resumes and charged with ultimately voting for whom they believe is in the best interest of Westfield.

The chair stated – Mr. Gearing, Thank you for offering to serve the City and it is because of citizens, like you, that we have great Commissions and Boards. Mr. Gearing, do you wish to make any comments – no additional information.

Councilors, any comments or motions?

Councilor Onyski stated he highly recommends Mr. Gearing and that he is a stand-up person and he is glad to see a younger person taking interest in this.

Councilor Figy stated he is glad to see a hands-on-experience person, as well as highly educated.

Motion made to appoint by Councilor Onyski, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Figy.

Individual Vote – Chair/Councilor Harris – Yes

Councilor Figy – Yes

Councilor Onyski – Yes

Chair stated – Mr. Gearing, we will present your appointment to the full Council this evening.

May I have a motion to adjourn -

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Figy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Onyski

Individual Vote – Chair/Councilor Harris – Yes

Councilor Figy – Yes

Councilor Onyski – Yes

Meeting adjourned 6:30pm

Minutes submitted by Chair/Councilor Harris 11/6/2020