

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Special Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2019

Greenfield High School, 21 Barr Avenue

6:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by President Renaud.

President Renaud stated this meeting is being recorded. If any other person present was doing the same, they must notify the chairperson at this time. It was noted the City Council was audio recording and GCTV-15 was video recording the meeting for future broadcast.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS: Roll Call was taken. Councilors Allis, Pyfrom, Dolan, Mass and Stempel were absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor William Martin; City Clerk Kathryn J. Scott; Finance Director/City Auditor/City Accountant Elizabeth Gilman; Director of Administration Mark Smith; Fire Chief Rob Strahan; DPW Deputy Director Paul Raskevitz; Assessor Kimberly Mew; Assessor Joe Ruggeri; Mayor-Elect Roxann Wedegartner; School Committee Vice Chairperson Katie Caron; GCTV-15 staff; Melina Bourdeau, *the Recorder*, and members of the public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was held.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: None.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Berson, second by Councilor Gilmour, it was unanimously, **VOTED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED, THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL WAIVE THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, 8 ORDER AND DISPOSITION OF BUSINESS.

COMMUNICATIONS:

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Vice Chairperson Caron reported the following:

- The School Committee ratified the Unit C contract with majority support and was submitted to the Mayor's office. Documentation would be made available to the Councilors for their meeting.
- A majority vote was cast in Capital Improvement with a focus on student safety.
- Excited to work with the newly elected members of the School Committee next year.
- The Green River School was not discussed at the last School Committee meeting. The original plans would be resubmitted to the Councilors; there were no changes.

Ms. Caron answered the following from Councilors:

- What were the plans for the Green River School.
- Was there a time frame for installing a heating system at the school.
- How many students would be enrolled in the proposed High School program at the Green River School.
- Were the negotiated wages in the Instructional Assistance contract under \$15.00.
- Had the School Committee discussed a possible alternative if the Council voted not to appropriate the money to the Green River School.

MAYOR, CITY OFFICIERS AND EMPLOYEES: Finance Director Gilman reported the following:

- Thanked the Councilors who were leaving the Council for their service with Greenfield.
- Update on the retirement assessment schedule and request for the establishment of a pension reserve fund.
- Schedule a time for BlumShapiro to appear before the Council to discuss the FY2019 Audit.

Ms. Gilman answered the following from Councilors:

- Were there plans to consolidate any pensions in the County or establish a pension fund that was not restricted to just the City of Greenfield.
- Without a graduated income tax the pension system would fail.
- Should the City have concern with the heating system in the Green River School.

DPW Deputy Director Raskevitz reported the following:

- Update for the repurposed funds from the Maplebrook Fund for the I & I study.

Mr. Raskevitz answered the following from Councilors:

- Was the I & I study for the DEP consent order a priority for the City.
- What would occur if the study was not submitted to the DEP after the extension date of November 30, 2019.

Assessor Mew reported the following:

- Submitted an updated FY20 Tax Classification report to the Councilors for review.
- The DOR certified our growth and acceptance for this hearing. The approval was received by the Assessor's office this morning.
- This hearing would establish if the City would have a split tax rate or a single rate.
- Presented rationale for changes in the Tax Classification report.

Ms. Mew answered the following from Councilors:

- Was there a preference for the Councilors to vote for a single rate to allow time for businesses to respond and then next year to vote for a split tax.
- How many buildings were currently in TIFs.

Mayor Martin and Fire Chief Strahan reported the following:

- Rationale for the rescission of \$6,608,609.
- Encouraged the Council take the \$550,000 for the fire station and the \$460,000 for the hearing system at the Green River School from the table and vote to appropriate the funds.
- The requested fire station funds were the third phase of the study for the new fire station that began in 2012.

Mayor Martin and Chief Strahan answered the following from Councilors:

- Would the study deal with the skate park as well as the public safety complex.
- What would be the size of the public safety complex that would best suit the City.
- Would the water drainage issue on the proposed property need to be addressed while the new complex was designed.
- Could some of the funds from the rescission order be appropriated to contracts that could not funded.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: President Renaud opened public hearing at 6:15 pm.

Councilor Wheeler held the following public hearing notice:

PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Home Rule Charter, the Greenfield City Council will hold a public hearing on Tues., November 19, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at Greenfield High School cafeteria, to receive public input on the following:

- Approve payment of prior year FY19 invoice for Partek Solutions in the amount of \$2,167.64 to be paid from the FY20 Parking Department Budget.

The City Council may consider the same on Wed., November 20, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St. Materials can be obtained from the City Clerk’s Office, 14 Court Sq. from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Mon. - Fri. or phone 413-772-1555, x. 6163.
Karen Renaud, Greenfield City Council President

President Renaud noted no one had signed up to speak at the Public Hearing.

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- Approve payment of prior year FY19 invoice for Partek Solutions in the amount of \$2,167.64 to be paid from the FY20 Parking Department Budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The following members of the public spoke:

- Joan Milnes, 42 Silvercrest Ln., spoke to her request to have Eversource allow GCET provide TV and Internet services to Silvercrest residents.
- Marianne Snow, 182 Briar Way, spoke to her request to have access to GCET services on Briar Way.
- Arlene Bensch, 124 Briar Way, spoke to her request to be kept up to date with GCET services on Briar Way.
- Susan Voss, 158 Log Plain Rd., spoke to her support for the Councilors to fund the new ratified Instructional Assistance (IA) contract.
- Virginia DeSorgher, 43 Silvercrest Ln., spoke to her support of the new ratified IA contract; take from the table for the new fire station and I & I study; continue to fund GCET; the FY20 tax rate and the CPA.
- Linda Gilcreast, 61 Briar Way, spoke to her support to have access to GCET services on Briar Way.
- Betty Guetti, 251 Briar Way, spoke to her support to have access to GCET services on Briar Way.
- Garth Brody, 60 Avenue A, Apt 4, Turners Falls, spoke to his support for the Councilors to fund the new ratified IA contract.
- Paula Rigano-Murray, 45 Finn St., Northampton, spoke to her support for the Councilors to fund the new ratified IA contract.
- Julie Letendre, 370 Montague Rd. Unit F, Sunderland, spoke to her support for the Councilors to fund the new ratified IA contract.
- Garrett O’Brian, 72 High St., spoke to his support for the Councilors to fund the new ratified IA contract.
- Joseph Ruggeri, 643 Bernardston Rd., spoke to his support of the new ratified IA contract; take from the table for the new fire station and I & I study and the FY20 tax rate.
- Maria Burge, 29 Garfield St., thanked the outgoing Councilors for their work and welcomed the newly elected Mayor and Councilors.

President Renaud closed the public hearing at 7:22 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Councilor Ricketts, second by Councilor Gilmour, it was unanimously

VOTED: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:25 P.M.

A true copy,

Attest: _____
 Kathryn J. Scott, City Clerk

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Greenfield High School Cafeteria
 Special Meeting
 November 19, 2019

Attendance

1. Sund, Verne	Y					
2. Berson, Mark	Y					
3. Allis, Brickett	N					
4. Muzyka-Pyfrom, Wanda	N					
5. Dolan, Timothy	N					
6. Gilmour, Sheila	Y					
7. Wheeler, Otis	Y					
8. Mayo, Douglas	Y					
9. Hirschfeld, Norman	Y					
10. Mass, Isaac	N					
11. Renaud, Karen	Y					
12. Ricketts, Penny	Y					
13. Stempel, Ashley	N					