

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2020

John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street

7:00 pm

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Stempel.

President Stempel stated this meeting is being recorded and videotaped. 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. All Councilors were present.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor Roxann Wedegartner; City Clerk Kathryn J. Scott; Finance Director/City Auditor/City Accountant Elizabeth Gilman; Director of Administration Danielle Letourneau; Greenfield School Superintendent Jordana Harper; School Committee Chairperson Amy Proietti; School Committee Vice-Chairperson Susan Eckstrom; Police Chief Rob Haigh; Fire Chief Robert Strahan; DPW Director Marlo Warner; Central Maintenance Director George VanDelinder; GCTV-15 staff; Melina Bourdeau, *the Recorder*, and members of the public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was held.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** On a motion by Councilor Ricketts, second by Councilor Gilmour, it was unanimously,

**MOVED:** TO ACCEPT THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2019; JANUARY 2 & JANUARY 15, 2020.

**DISCUSSION:** The newly elected Councilors were not involved with the December 18, 2019, meeting and did not believe they should vote to approve the minutes.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Desorgher, second by Councilor Elmer, it was, unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO SEPARATE THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE DECEMBER 18, 2019 MINUTES FROM THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE JANUARY 2 & 15, 2020 MINUTES.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Ricketts, second by Councilor Gilmour, it was by show of hands, 8 yes, 0 no, 4 abstention,

**VOTED:** TO ACCEPT THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2019.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Ricketts, second by Councilor Mayo, it was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO ACCEPT THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF JANUARY 2 & JANUARY 15, 2020.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE:** Superintendent Harper and School Committee members, Chairperson Amy Proietti and Vice Chairperson Susan Eckstrom reported the following:

- The school continues to work on their proposed FY2021 budget.
- This week students and teachers are on their February vacation.
- Thanked everyone involved in preparing the Unit C Contract for the school's instructional assistants.
- Concerned education stabilization funds could be depleted by 2024.

MAYOR, CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES: Mayor Wedegartner, Finance Director Gilman and Administration Director Letourneau reported the following:

- The Capital budget for FY2021 had been completed and would be forwarded to the Councilors next week after final review.
- Continues to work on the Operating Budget for FY2021.
- All of the Department Heads had presented their proposed budgets to the Mayor.
- The Public Safety Building Committee would hold their first meeting on Thursday, February 20, 2020.
- The Library Building Committee would meet the end of next week.
- Worked continued with department heads to prepare written policy and procedures.
- How the City had used their stabilization funds and recurring costs.
- The Mayor's office would continue to have open communication with departments as well as the public so the processes would proceed smoothly.

OTHER CITY EMPLOYEES AS NEEDED, BY INVITATION: Fire Chief Strahan reported the following:

- The Fire Department experienced their busiest call volume in 2019.
- The Fire Department has been able to assist with the increased number of emergency calls with their own ambulance service.
- The Fire Department was currently working on their budget for Fiscal Year 2021.

Chief Strahan was asked the following questions from Councilors:

- What was the level of training the Fire Department received to perform emergency services and had American Medical Response received the same training.

Police Chief Haigh reported the following:

- The Police Department had received accreditation from the State.
- The Police Department had been removed from Civil Service by the Council; Legislation was pending at the State level.
- The Police Department was continually training their officers with mental health training.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** The following members of the public spoke:

- Susan Vos, 158 Log Plain Rd., spoke in support to the City funding the Greenfield Education Association Unit C Contract.
- Doug Selwyn, 38 Forest Ave., spoke in support to the City funding the Greenfield Education Association Unit C Contract funding.
- Garrett O'Brien, 72 High St. Apt. 2, spoke in support to the City funding the Greenfield Education Association Unit C Contract.
- Shannon Eaton, 31 Norwood St., spoke in support to the City funding the Greenfield Education Association Unit C Contract.
- Maria Burge, 29 Garfield St., spoke to the importance of the 2020 Federal Census and encouraging people to vote.
- Katarina Pavlo, 122 Montague St., Turners Falls, spoke in support to the City funding the Greenfield Education Association Unit C Contract.
- Karen Dodd, 99 4<sup>th</sup> St., Turners Falls, spoke in support to the City funding the Greenfield Education Association Unit C Contract.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** President Stempel opened the public hearing at 8:01 pm; she noted no one from the public spoke. The hearing would remain open.

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 Wed., February 19, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., to receive public input on the following:

- Approve payment of \$664.80 FY19 Invoice for Partek Solutions.
- Appropriate \$169,099 for Greenfield Education Association Unit C Contract.

The City Council may consider the same on Wed., February 19, 2020, 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.

Ashley Stempel, Greenfield City Council President

**City Council –Second Reading- February 19, 2020**

- Approve payment of \$664.80 FY19 Invoice for Partek Solutions.
- Appropriate \$169,099 for Greenfield Education Association Unit C Contract.

**MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Order no. FY 20-108**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Wheeler, second by Councilor Desorgher, it was,

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THE CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH MGL CH.30B §12B, ORDERED THAT, THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE A THREE (3) YEAR CONTRACT, WITH THE OPTION OF TWO (2) INDIVIDUAL, ONE (1) YEAR RENEWAL OPTIONS, FOR THE DISPOSAL OF TRASH, BETWEEN THE CITY OF GREENFIELD AND WM COMMUNITY ECO POWER, LLC.

**DISCUSSION:** Chairperson Wheeler reported the Ways & Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY20-108.

**Order no. FY 20-088**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Guin, second by Councilor Gilmour, it was,

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THE CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR MARTIN , MOVED THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GREENFIELD AS WRITTEN IN THE STRIKETHROUGH ATTACHED HERETO AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: ARTICLE 45-1. CREATION; PURPOSE; ORGANIZATION, STRIKE “DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL MAINTENANCE” AND IN ITS PLACE INSERT “DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS”, STRIKE ARTICLE 45-2 IN ITS ENTIRETY AND FURTHER AMEND THE INDEX OF THE CODE, AND FURTHER THAT NONSUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO THE NUMBERING OF THE ORDINANCE BE PERMITTED IN ORDER THAT IT BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NUMBERING FORMAT OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GREENFIELD.

**DISCUSSION:** Chairperson Guin reported the Appointments & Ordinances Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY20-088.

**Order no. FY 20-109**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Wheeler, second by Councilor Ricketts, it was,  
**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH MGL CH.30B §12B, APPROVE A TWENTY (20) YEAR TERM FOR UP TO FIVE (5) MUNICIPAL ROOFTOP SOLAR PROJECTS WITH SOLECT ENERGY, LLC.

**DISCUSSION:** Chairperson Wheeler reported the Ways & Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY20-109.

President Stempel noted that no one from the public had signed up to speak on the issues for the public hearing; the public hearing was closed at 8:09 pm.

**Order no. FY20-074**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Wheeler, second by Councilor Mayo, it was,  
**MOVED:** THE CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAYOR, ORDERED THAT THE SUM OF \$169,099 BE APPROPRIATED FROM THE SPECIAL EDUCATION STABILIZATION ACCOUNT TO ASSIST IN FUNDING WAGE PROVISIONS OF A NEW CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH THE GREENFIELD EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, UNIT C.

**DISCUSSION:** Chairperson Wheeler reported the Ways & Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation. Councilor Ricketts announced she had a conflict of interest and recused herself from the rail. Other discussion included:

- The Councilors had no authority to increase the amount of funds or to change the source of where the requested funds would be taken from.
- Concerns were raised in regards to future school contracts and if requested funds would be appropriated from school funds.
- The City would work with the Schools and other departments to ensure that funds are located for contracts or other emergency funding.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Gilmour, second by Councilor Mayo, it was by majority, 9 yes, 3 no,  
**VOTED:** TO CALL THE QUESTION.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY20-074.

Councilor Ricketts returned to the rail.

**Order no. FY 20-116**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Wheeler, second by Councilor Mayo, it was by majority, 9 yes, 3 no,  
**VOTED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL TAKE FROM THE TABLE ORDER NO. FY 20-048 “ACCEPTS SECTIONS 3 TO 7, INCLUSIVE, OF CHAPTER 44B OF THE GENERAL LAWS, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT, BY APPROVING A SURCHARGE ON REAL PROPERTY FOR THE PURPOSES PERMITTED BY SAID ACT, INCLUDING THE ACQUISITION, CREATION AND PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE, THE ACQUISITION, PRESERVATION,

REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES, THE ACQUISITION, CREATION, PRESERVATION, REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION OF LAND FOR RECREATIONAL USE, THE ACQUISITION, CREATION, PRESERVATION AND SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY HOUSING, AND THE REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION OF SUCH OPEN SPACE AND COMMUNITY HOUSING THAT IS ACQUIRED OR CREATED AS PROVIDED UNDER SAID ACT; THAT THE AMOUNT OF SUCH SURCHARGE ON REAL PROPERTY SHALL BE ~~3%~~ 1% OF THE ANNUAL REAL ESTATE TAX LEVY AGAINST REAL PROPERTY COMMENCING IN FISCAL YEAR ~~2020~~ 2022; AND THAT THE CITY HEREBY ACCEPTS THE [FOLLOWING] EXEMPTION[S] FROM SUCH SURCHARGE PERMITTED UNDER SECTION 3(E) OF SAID ACT: PROPERTY OWNED AND OCCUPIED AS A DOMICILE BY ANY PERSON WHO QUALIFIES FOR LOW INCOME HOUSING OR LOW OR MODERATE INCOME SENIOR HOUSING IN THE CITY, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 2 OF SAID ACT; FOR \$100,000 OF THE VALUE OF EACH TAXABLE PARCEL OF RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY; AND FOR \$100,000 OF THE VALUE OF EACH TAXABLE PARCEL OF CLASS THREE, COMMERCIAL PROPERTY, AND CLASS FOUR, INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 2A OF SAID CHAPTER 59.” WHICH WAS TABLED AT THE DECEMBER 18, 2019, CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

Order No. FY20-048 was now on the floor.

**DISCUSSION:** Chairperson Wheeler reported the Ways & Means Committee forwarded a mixed positive recommendation vote, 3 yes, 2 no. Chairperson Wheeler was asked to explain the rationale for the vote made by Ways & Means.

Other discussion included:

- The Council vote on this measure would decide if this measure would be presented to the voters on the November ballot.
- Concerns were raised that this measure would further burden the taxpayers, as well as some City Departments.

It was by roll call, 7 yes, 5 no,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY20-048.

**Order no. FY20-073**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Wheeler, second by Councilor Mayo, it was,

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THE CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR MARTIN ORDERED THAT: THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF PRIOR YEAR FY19 INVOICE FOR PARTEK SOLUTIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$664.80 TO BE PAID FROM THE FY20 PARKING DEPARTMENT BUDGET.

**DISCUSSION:** Chairperson Wheeler reported the Ways & Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY20-073.

**Order no. FY 20-110**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Gilmour, second by Councilor Mayo, it was unanimously,

**VOTED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE ATTACHED PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION WARRANT FOR MARCH 3, 2020 AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO SIGN SAID WARRANT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
WARRANT FOR PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY  
CITY OF GREENFIELD**

**FRANKLIN SS.**

To either of the Constables of the City of Greenfield

**GREETINGS:**

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said city who are qualified to vote in Primaries to vote at:

GREENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL, GYMNASIUM, 21 BARR AVENUE,  
PRECINCTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, AND 9

on **TUESDAY, THE THIRD DAY OF MARCH, 2020**, from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the Presidential Primary for the candidates of political parties for the following offices:

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE. ----- FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH  
STATE COMMITTEE MAN --- HAMPSHIRE, FRANKLIN & WORCHESTER DISTRICT  
STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN-HAMPSHIRE, FRANKLIN & WORCHESTER DISTRICT  
TOWN COMMITTEE.------ FOR GREENFIELD

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hands this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.

President Stempel signed the prepared warrant.

**Order no. FY 20-117**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Guin, second by Councilor Ricketts, it was unanimously, **VOTED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 2-10, ACCEPTS THE FOLLOWING TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR TO THE BOARD OF REGISTRARS: DORIS COWDREY, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE MARCH 31, 2020.

**PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND SIMILAR PAPERS** None.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES** – None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:** Vice President Wheeler requested that Councilors be mindful of Councilors who wish to speak on an issue be allowed to do so before a motion to call the question was presented. President Stempel also made a statement in regards to Councilors use of abstentions when voting on issues.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Councilor Ricketts requested a page of the February 19, 2020, minutes be dedicated to Howard Barnard, who passed away yesterday. He was a Council President and sat on many of the City of Greenfield’s Committees and Boards. It was the consensus of the Council to approve the request.

**MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION:** None.

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

**VOTED:** TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:05 P.M.

A true copy,

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathryn J. Scott, City Clerk

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Zon Community Center  
Regular Meeting  
February 19, 2020

Attendance

FY20-048

1. Jarvis, Edward	Y	N				
2. Guin, Daniel	Y	N				
3. Desorgher, Virginia	Y	N				
4. Bottomley, John	Y	Y				
5. Dolan, Timothy	Y	Y				
6. Gilmour, Sheila	Y	Y				
7. Wheeler, Otis	Y	Y				
8. Mayo, Douglas	Y	Y				
9. Hirschfeld, Norman	Y	Y				
10. Elmer, Philip	Y	Y				
11. Forgey, Christine	Y	N				
12. Ricketts, Penny	Y	N				
13. Stempel, Ashley	Y	----				

7 Yes  
5 No

# IN MEMORY OF

*HOWARD J BARNARD*

*JULY 17, 1942 – FEBRUARY 18, 2020*

