

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2020

Webex Conferencing System

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; School Committee Chairperson Amy Proietti; DPW Director Marlo Warner; Police Chief Rob Heigh; Fire Chief Robert Strahan; Assistant Assessor Kimberly Mew; Frontier Community Access Television GM Chris Collins; GCTV-15 staff; and members of the public.

President Stempel presented the procedure and policies for conduct at the virtual meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was held.

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2020.

COMMUNICATIONS:

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE: School Committee Chairperson Amy Proietti reported the following:

- Superintendent Harper had been working long hours since the Schools were ordered to close to set teachers and students up with a remote learning plan.
- Acknowledged School Committee members Glenn Johnson and Susan Eckstrom for their work with the Greenfield Education Association and the Teachers' Union for putting an Impact Bargaining Agreement together for remote learning with the teachers and Unit C workers.
- Approximately 500 Chromebooks were assigned and handed out to students who needed them.
- GCET had offered packages to families who did not have access to the internet which included providing internet service at no charge until the end of the school year and \$10.00 a month after that.

Ms. Proietti answered the following questions:

- Was it known by the School Committee if the students would be returning to school to finish the 2019-2020 school year or would they not return until the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

MAYOR, CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES: Mayor Wedegartner, Police Chief Haigh and Fire Chief Strahan reported the following:

- The City began their COVID-19 pandemic response on March 6th, 2020.
- Acknowledged the staff at the Emergency Command Center for their efforts during this pandemic.
- Economic Development Director MJ Adams had collaborated with the CDC to set up a micro business loan program.
- Greenfield currently had 66 positive diagnoses of COVID-19: 45 had been improving and 22 deaths had been reported.

- The Health Department staff was in contact with health facilities and nursing homes twice a day and in contract with the hospitals on their planning efforts.
- Acknowledged the efforts of the Greenfield citizens that have adhered to the mandatory stay at home order and other regulations in the City’s effort to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Chief Haigh and Chief Strahan answered the following questions:

- Was Greenfield due to experience a surge in new COVID-19 cases or had that time frame subsided.
- Were there any reports in regards to long term care facilities.
- What was the status of the City’s personal protection equipment for first responders and had the residents and staff of the City’s nursing homes all been tested.

OTHER CITY EMPLOYEES: Finance Director Liz Gilman gave a presentation on the FY2021 Budget Overview to the full Council.

Ms. Gilman answered the following questions:

- Was there a plan in place to aid citizens and small businesses that were struggling during this pandemic.
- Should the Ways & Means Committee proceed with their deliberations on the current proposed FY2021 Capital and Operating budget that had been submitted by the Mayor and had there been any layoffs of City employees.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one from the public requested to speak.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

Order no. FY 20-149

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Guin, second by Councilor Gilmour, it was by roll call, 5 yes, 7 no, **DEFEATED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL TAKE FROM THE TABLE ORDER NO. FY 20-053 “TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GREENFIELD AS WRITTEN IN THE STRIKETHROUGH ATTACHED HERETO CHAPTER 56, ARTICLE VII:STIPEND FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS AND CITY COUNCILORS, SECTION 18: ANNUAL STIPEND, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025. 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.” WHICH WAS TABLED AT THE JANUARY 15, 2020, CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

Order no. FY 20-087

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Wheeler, second by Councilor Ricketts, 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 CHAPTER 56, ARTICLE VI MAYOR, SECTION 56-17, STRIKE “\$70,000” AND IN ITS PLACE INSERT “\$95,000” 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. CHAPTER 56, ARTICLE VI MAYOR, SECTION 56-17, STRIKE SECTION “C” IN ITS ENTIRETY.

DISCUSSION: Chairperson Guin reported the Appointments & Ordinances Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation with amended language that the amount be determined by the Ways & Means Committee. Chairperson Wheeler reported the Ways & Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation to amend the amount to \$85,000. Other discussion included:

- Clarification was requested in regards to section B in Chapter 56 that the base shall never exceed \$100,000.
- Clarification was made that these amendments would affect the code of the City of Greenfield and not the Charter.
- Councilors debated on the interpretation of the word “base” throughout Chapter 56.
- Suggestion was made to have Legal review the language in the code.

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

MOVED: TO AMEND CHAPTER 56 SECTION A AS FOLLOWS: RESTORE THE WORD “BASE” IN THE FIRST SENTENCE OF SECTION A; TO REPLACE \$70,000 WITH \$85,000 AND TO REPLACE “HIS/HER” WITH “THEIR” IN THE SECOND SENTENCE.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Desorgher, second by Councilor Guin, it was by roll call, 12 yes, 0 no,

VOTED: TO CALL THE QUESTION.

It was by roll call, 12 yes, 0 no,

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE AMENDMENTS.

Order No. FY20-087 with accepted amendments was now on the floor: 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 CHAPTER 56, ARTICLE VI MAYOR, SECTION 56-17, STRIKE “\$70,000” AND IN ITS PLACE INSERT “~~“\$95,000”~~ **\$85,000** 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. CHAPTER 56, ARTICLE VI MAYOR, SECTION 56-17, STRIKE SECTION “C” IN ITS ENTIRETY.

Chapter 56. Officers and Employees

§ 56-17. Compensation.

- A. The Mayor shall receive an annual base salary of **\$85,000** ~~\$95,000~~ ~~\$70,000~~ ~~as set forth in Section 3-1 of the Greenfield Home Rule Charter~~. The Mayor may request in ~~his/her~~ **their** budget submission to the Town Council an increase in the base salary; however, the increase shall be the lesser of:

- (1) The average increase, including any COLA or step, in pay for the same fiscal year negotiated with all bargaining units within the Town of Greenfield; or

(2) Five percent of the Mayor's salary for the prior fiscal year.

B. Any increase voted by the Town Council in any year shall then become the new base for any future requests. The base shall never exceed \$100,000.

C. ~~The base salary shall reset to \$70,000 upon the election of a new Mayor.~~

It was by roll call, 13 yes, 0 no,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY20-087 AS AMENDED.

Order no. FY 20-148

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL AMENDS THE RULES OF PROCEDURE CHAPTER 565, RULE 5:DEBATE, SECTION B (1): LIMITS, TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

§ 565-5. Rule 5, Debate.

B. LIMITS

No member shall speak more than twice to the same question without leave from the Chair, nor more than once until all other members desiring to speak, have spoken.

(1) No member shall have, or hold the floor, for more than ~~five (5)~~ **three (3)** consecutive minutes of debate, unless extended by a majority vote of the Council.

DISCUSSION: Chairperson Guin reported the Appointments and Ordinances Committee forwarded a unanimous negative recommendation. Other discussion included:

- Five minutes was a fair amount for the Councilors to speak.
- Reducing the time to three minutes could encourage Councilors to stay on the issues and prevent “rambling” or going off the main issue.
- The Council President had the option to allow Councilors time to speak and also to inform them when they are beginning to ramble or repeat their argument.

It was by roll call, 4 yes, 8 no,

DEFEATED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY20-148.

Order no. FY 20-150

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Gilmour, second by Councilor Guin, it was by roll call, 12 yes, 0 no,

VOTED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST UNDER MGLc 268A, §20 (D) BY SPECIAL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE KELLY DIXON, WHO SEEKS TO PROVIDE PERSONAL SERVICES TO THE GREENFIELD HEALTH DEPARTMENT AS A PART-TIME PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE, IDENTIFIED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT A, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZE THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

Order no. FY 20-151

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Dolan, second by Councilor Guin, it was, by roll call, 11 yes, 1 no,

VOTED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST UNDER MGLc 268A, §20 (D) BY SPECIAL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE JENNIFER HOFFMAN, MPH, WHO SEEKS TO PROVIDE PERSONAL SERVICES TO THE CITY OF GREENFIELD AS A PART-TIME MEDICAL FACILITY LIASON FOR THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER, IDENTIFIED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT A, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZE THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

Order no. FY 20-163

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL AMENDS THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GREENFIELD BY AMENDING CHAPTER 213 – ANIMALS, SECTION 213-3, LICENSE FEES, D. BY DELETING THE CURRENT SECTION IN ITS ENTIRETY AND REPLACING IT WITH THE FOLLOWING:

Chapter 213 – Animals

D. Should any owner or keeper fail to license a dog by June 1, the owner or keeper shall pay a late charge of \$25 before obtaining said license, excepting:

(1) A dog brought into the Town as provided in MGL c. 140, § 138.

(2) When a State of Emergency has been declared by the State of Massachusetts.

This late fee shall be applicable after the 45th day after the arrival of such dog.

AND FURTHER AMENDS 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: It was noted this amendment was a result of the current pandemic to allow residents time to register their dogs without receiving a penalty. Other discussion included:

- Clerk Scott pointed out that there was an issue with the order of language. Number (2) should come after “This late fee shall be applicable after the 45th day after the arrival of such dog.”

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Elmer, second by Councilor Ricketts, it was by roll call, 12 yes, 0 no,

VOTED: TO MOVE THE SENTENCE “THIS LATE FEE SHALL BE APPLICABLE AFTER THE 45TH DAY AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF SUCH DOG.”, SO THAT IT FOLLOWS (1) A DOG BROUGHT INTO THE TOWN AS PROVIDED IN MGL c. 140, §138.

Order No. FY20-163 with accepted amendment was now on the floor: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL AMENDS THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GREENFIELD BY AMENDING CHAPTER 213 – ANIMALS, SECTION 213-3, LICENSE FEES, D. BY DELETING THE CURRENT SECTION IN ITS ENTIRETY AND REPLACING IT WITH THE FOLLOWING:

Chapter 213 – Animals

D. Should any owner or keeper fail to license a dog by June 1, the owner or keeper shall pay a late charge of \$25 before obtaining said license, excepting:

(1) A dog brought into the Town as provided in MGL c. 140, § 138.

This late fee shall be applicable after the 45th day after the arrival of such dog.

(2) When a State of Emergency has been declared by the State of Massachusetts.

AND FURTHER AMENDS 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.

It was by roll call, 11 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention,
VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY20-163.

Order no. FY 20-164

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Guin, second by Councilor Desorgher, it was,
MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THE CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, ORDERED THAT THE FEMA-APPROVED MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN ALONG WITH THE SUPPORTING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AS PRESENTED IN THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION ATTACHED TO THIS ORDER.

DISCUSSION: It was noted due to time constraints for the submission of the application for the grant, the plan was introduced to the Councilors for a vote at the April Council meeting instead of waiting for May. Other discussion included question regarding the status of the Maplebrook Culvert project that had been introduced in 2005.

It was by roll call, 12 yes, 0 no,
VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY20-164.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND SIMILAR PAPERS None.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Chairperson Gilmour reported the CRE meetings would be moved to the 3rd Monday of the Month at the City Hall.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – None.

APPOINTMENTS AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE- None

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE – Chairperson Wheeler reported on the FY21 Budget meetings that had been held as well as future meetings for the remainder of April. Ways & Means were hoping to begin deliberations on May 7th.

TREASURER REPORT None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Vice President Wheeler held the following first reading:

- Authorize payment of \$67.33 for FY15 Eversource Invoice outstanding balance.
- FY2021 Mayor Capital Budget
 - Appropriate \$230,000 to pay Fire Department Lease for Engine #2.
 - Appropriate \$75,000 to purchase Fire Department Brush Truck
 - Appropriate \$350,000 to purchase Fire Department Engine.
 - Appropriate \$10,000,000 for the construction of a New Fire Station.

- Appropriate \$76,000 to purchase Security Upgrades for 14 Court Square, 20 Sanderson St., Energy Park and Waste & Water Pumping Stations.
- Appropriate \$150,000 to purchase a Police Mobile Command Post.
- Appropriate \$20,000 to purchase a Police Mobile Message Board.
- Appropriate \$115,000 for the design and reconstruction of Sanderson Street.
- Appropriate \$48,000 for Traffic Safety Improvements.
- Appropriate \$40,000 for the Sidewalk Replacement Program.
- Appropriate \$15,000 to replace Guardrail.
- Appropriate \$211,000 to purchase Road Treatment Truck.
- Appropriate \$75,000 to purchase Mini-Excavator.
- Appropriate \$44,000 to replace Fiske Avenue Parking Lot Retaining Wall.
- Appropriate \$82,000 to replace Four Corners Playground Equipment with Aces Components.
- Appropriate \$203,000 to pave Newton and Federal Street Schools and construct Walkway at North Parish School.
- Appropriate \$20,500 for painting at the North Parish School.
- Appropriate \$157,500 to replace Flooring at the Middle School and Federal Street School.
- Appropriate \$45,000 to replace and repair School Fencing.
- Appropriate \$100,000 to replace Windows at North Parish School.
- Appropriate \$38,500 to replace Newton and North Parish Schools Exterior Doors.
- Appropriate \$185,000 for Equipment and Related cost of GCET Expansion and Customer Installation.
- Appropriate \$1,000,000 for repairs and replacement of Sewer Inflow and Infiltration.
- Appropriate \$940,000 for dredging Leyden Glen.
- Appropriate \$50,000 to be transferred from 1627 Bond Premiums to replace Green River Pump Station Roof.
- Appropriate \$45,000 for the Millbrook Well Reconditioning.
- Appropriate \$710,000 to Authorize Lease Purchase for a Combination Fire Engine/Rescue Truck.
- FY2021 Operating Budget
 - Establish Spending Limits on Revolving Funds not to exceed \$489,000.
 - Appropriate \$1,430,399 for the FY2021 Water Enterprise Fund.
 - Appropriate \$2,280,353 for the FY2021 Sewer Enterprise Fund.
 - Appropriate \$1,529,684 for the FY2021 GCET Enterprise Fund.
 - Appropriate \$53,879,617 for the FY2021 General Fund Budget.
 - Appropriate \$450,000 from Water Retained Earnings to FY20 Water Enterprise Operating Budget.
 - Appropriate \$222,000 from Sewer Retained Earnings to FY20 Sewer Enterprise Operating Budget.

MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION: None.

President Stempel warned Councilors and members of the public to be diligent of phone and text scams in regards to financial help or stimulus payments. Don't click on a text or link if you were not familiar with the number or check with family and friends if you received a text through their phone numbers.

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

VOTED: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:17 P.M.

A true copy,

Attest: _____
Kathryn J. Scott, City Clerk

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Webex Conferencing System
 Regular Meeting
 April 15, 2020

	Attendance	Take from Table 149	Call the Question 087	Amendments 087	Final Vote 087	148	150	151	Amendment 163	Final Vote 163	Final Vote 163	164
1. Jarvis, Edward	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2. Guin, Daniel	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3. Desorgher, Virginia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4. Bottomley, John	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5. Dolan, Timothy	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6. Gilmour, Sheila	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7. Wheeler, Otis	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
8. Mayo, Douglas	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
9. Hirschfeld, Norman	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10. Elmer, Philip	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11. Forgey, Christine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
12. Ricketts, Penny	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
13. Stempel, Ashley	Y	----	----	----	Y	----	----	----	----	----	Y	----
		5 yes 7 no	12 y 0 no	12 y 0 no	13 y 0 no	4 yes 8 no	12 y 0 no	11 y 1 no	12 y 0 no	12 y 0 no	13 y 0 no	12 y 0 no