

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2020

Webex Conferencing System

7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice President Wheeler.

CHAIRS STATEMENT: This meeting is being recorded and videotaped by the City Council and GCTV-15. If any other persons present are doing the same you must notify the chairperson at this time.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS: Roll Call was taken. President Stempel was absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Roxann Wedegartner; City Clerk Kathryn J. Scott; Finance Director/City Auditor/City Accountant Elizabeth Gilman; Greenfield School Superintendent Jordana Harper; School Committee member Katie Caron; Fire Chief Robert Strahan; DPW Director Marlo Warner; GCET General Manager John Lunt; City Solicitor Jesse Belcher-Timme; GCTV-15 staff; Anita Fritz, *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 Hirschfeld, it was by roll call, 11 yes, 1 abstention,

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2020.

COMMUNICATIONS:

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Ms. Caron reported the following:

- There were three different plans in place to re-open the schools in September.
- Parents would be required to take their children's temperature and provide them with a mask before they can enter the schools.
- Attempts would be made to open the Green River School before the start of the semester.
- The Massachusetts Teacher's Association Union had released their proposed guidelines to re-open schools.
- The proposed plan to open the Greenfield schools would be released sometime in mid-August to update with any changes that occur in this evolving environment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Caron answered the following questions:

- Where could people send children sized masks donations to for use at the schools.
- Did the Council need to provide anything further to ensure that the heating system would be installed in the Green River School.

MAYOR, CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES: Mayor Wedegartner reported the following:

- The Public Safety Committee received five proposals on four separate properties.
- The new hours for the City Hall Treasurer/Collectors and City Clerk/Council offices open to the public had begun. The new schedule was Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Mayor Wedegartner answered the following questions:

- Would the Clerk's Office require more help with the mail in voting for September and November.
- What was the status of addressing the demands people had made in regards to the Police Department.

OTHER CITY EMPLOYEES AS NEEDED, BY INVITATION:

- Newly hired City Solicitor Jesse Belcher-Timme introduced himself to the Councilors.
- GCET General Manager John Lunt reported the following:
 - Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic GCET was unable to perform installations for approximately two and a half months.
 - Issues with Community Development Block Grant money.
 - Sales had doubled for the second year in a row.
 - GCET services about 1300 households.
 - Would start working in the Deerfield Street area.
 - Projection of approximately one thousand new customers by the end of the year was anticipated.
 - Introduced equity program which allowed low income families to use the internet while students were involved with remote learning at no cost.
- Mr. Lunt answered the following questions:
 - What programs did GCET offer to low income seniors to provide internet access.
- DPW Director Marlo Warner reported the following
 - Wisdom Way had been moved up on the State transportation improvement plan to next year.
 - Re-design of Main Street to include bike lanes, parallel parking and intersection at the head of High Street.
 - Contractor had requested to come in mid-August to begin the pavement program.
 - The Phillips Street water main project had laid almost one half of pipeline.
 - The second phase of the sewer Inflow & Infiltration (I & I) project was 75% completed.
 - Leydenwood's pump station was about 90% completed. Startup was expected by July 23rd.
 - The anaerobic digester was put on hold due to a higher projection as to cost.
- Mr. Warner answered the following questions:
 - Update for the heating system installation for the Green River School.
 - The repair of sidewalks on Arch Street.
 - Did the paving project include the parking lot at Newton Street School.
- Ms. Gilman reported the following:
 - FY20 local receipts.
 - Real Estate payments had come into the City at a slower rate.
 - Chapter 70 would be level funded.
- Ms. Gilman answered the following questions:
 - Explain what the State considered collectable revenues..
 - Clarification on where the funds in the Veteran Benefit's account come from.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The following members of the public spoke:

- Susan Worgaftik, Forest Ave., spoke to her support of the proposed Ordinance to establish rental dwelling units. She encouraged the Council to find ways to engage the young citizens during the summer.
- Ann Mayo, Wells St., spoke in support to the appointment of Deborah Richards to the Trustee for the Bascom Education Fund.
- Peg Hall, Pierce St., spoke in support of the proposed Ordinance to establish rental dwelling units.
- Dianna Wisty Rorabacher, Prospect Ave., spoke to her concerns of the current conditions at Energy Park and encouraged Councilors to find viable solutions for the park's upkeep.
- Molly Merrett, Solar Way, spoke in support to the demands of Greenfield citizens towards changes to the Police Department.
- Ilene Stahl, Chapman St., spoke on the use of prison labor in the school system.
- Jesus Leyva, High St., spoke in support of the proposed Ordinance to establish rental dwelling units.

- Katherine Golub, Glenbrook Dr., spoke to her support for police reform and to the proposed Ordinance to establish rental dwelling units.
- Brianna Arsenaault, Briar Way, voiced frustration with her experience in the Greenfield School system and the lack of activities for the young citizens of this City. She encouraged the Councilors to consider appropriating more funds towards programs and workshops that addressed racial inequality in the school system.
- Bekki Craig, Davis St., spoke of police intimidation towards low income citizens, minorities and defunding the police department.
- Natascia Pica, Birch St., spoke in support to defund the police and redistribute the funds to community service programs.
- Margaret Youngberg, Highland Ave., spoke to her support to defund the police and to redistribute the funds to community service programs.
- Christian Youngberg, Highland Ave., spoke to his support to defund the police and to redistribute the funds to community service programs.
- Lucy Kahn, Highland Ave., spoke to her support to defund the police and to redistribute the funds to community service programs. She noted that the City needed to have an in depth conversation of how the funds should be distributed.
- Carol Letson, Allen St., spoke to the homeless residing in Energy Park.
- Andrew Ritchey, Beech St., spoke to his support to demands of Greenfield citizens towards changes to the Police Department and criticized the Mayor's lack of response and action towards those demands.
- Charity O'Connor, Linden Ave., spoke to her support to defund the Police Department and redistribute those funds to community service programs.
- Pamela Goodwin, High St., Inquired who she could contact in regards to businesses that were still closed including the Registry of Motor Vehicles, the Library and the Chamber of Commerce. She encouraged the Councilors to continue to reopen Greenfield.
- Rory Donohue, Burnham Rd., spoke in support to defund the Police Department and redistribute those funds to community service programs.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

Order no. FY 21-002

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 2-10, AFFIRMS THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR FOR A THREE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2023:

JOHN MACKIN – GREENFIELD HOUSING AUTHORITY

DEBORAH RICHARDS – TRUSTEE FOR THE BASCOM EDUCATION FUND

JENNIFER HOFFMAN – RECREATION COMMISSION

JULIA POPKIN – ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

ELIZABETH QUIRK – FRTA ADVISORY BOARD

L'AURA JORDAN – DISABILITY ACCESS COMMISSION

PETE MICHAEL SMITH – HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

CAROLYN MCDANIEL – HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

KAJ PRATT – HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

CELINE NADER – YOUTH COMMISSION

SHANNON PRESCOTT – YOUTH COMMISSION

ALYSSA GRACE VILLAREAL BAUER – GREENFIELD AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

TRAVIS MCKELVEY – GREENFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

DISCUSSION: Councilor Guin reported the Appointment & Ordinance Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation.

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 21-002.

Order no. FY 21-003

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 2-10, AFFIRMS THE FOLLOWING RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: LOREEN FLOCKERZIE, FOR A THREE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2023.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Guin reported the Appointment & Ordinance Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation.

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 21-003.

Order no. FY 21-006

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THE CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, ORDERED THAT THE SUM OF \$148,000 TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM FY20 PUBLIC WORKS AND ENERGY DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS AS FOLLOWS:

01004110.5111	DPW ADMIN SALARIES	\$30,000
01004380.5111	PARKS SALARIES	\$70,000
01004220.5111	HIGHWAY SALARIES	\$14,000
01004910.5460	CEMETERY SUPPLIES	\$4,000
01001970.521111	HS ELECTRIC	\$20,000
01001970.521103	GREEN RIVER ELECTRIC	\$10,000
	TOTAL:	\$148,000

TO THE FOLLOWING FY20 LEGAL ACCOUNTS AS FOLLOWS:

01001500.5200	LABOR RELATIONS	\$35,000
01001500.5305	LABOR SPECIAL LIT	\$58,000
01001510.5302	TOWN ATTORNEY	\$55,000
	TOTAL:	\$148,000

DISCUSSION: Councilor Forgey reported the Ways & Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation.

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 21-006.

Order no. FY 21-007

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THE CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, ORDERED THAT THE SUM OF \$50,000 TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM FY20 POLICE, PARKING AND DISPATCH DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS AS FOLLOWS:

01002100.5136	POLICE TRAINING OVERTIME	\$30,000
01002120.5112	PARKING PART-TIME WAGES	\$15,000
01002130.5112	DISPATCH PART-TIME WAGES	\$10,000
	TOTAL:	\$55,000

TO THE FOLLOWING FY20 FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS AS FOLLOWS:

01002200.5130	FIRE OVERTIME	\$18,000
01002200.5242	FIRE VEHICLE MAINT	\$21,000
01002200.5503	FIRE MEDICAL SUPPLIES	\$16,000
	TOTAL:	\$55,000

DISCUSSION: Councilor Forgey reported the Ways & Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation.

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 21-007.

Order no. FY 21-008

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Forgey, second by Councilor Jarvis, it was,

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THE CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, ORDERED THAT THE SUM OF \$15,780 TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM FY20 ENERGY DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT 01001970.521111 MS ELECTRIC TO THE FY20 WORKERS COMP ACCOUNT 01009120.5740

DISCUSSION: Councilor Forgey reported the Ways & Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation.

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 21-008.

Order no. FY 21-009

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Forgey, second by Councilor Jarvis, it was,

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THE CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, ORDERED THAT THE SUM OF \$14,275 BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE FOLLOWING FY20 ACCOUNTS:

01005430.5771	VETERANS ORDINARY BENEFITS	\$8,000
01001970.521303	NATURAL GAS GREEN RIVER	\$6,275
	TOTAL:	\$14,275

TO THE FOLLOWING FY20 ACCOUNTS AS FOLLOWS:

01001580.5317	TAX TITLE LEGAL	\$12,000
01001580.5318	TAX TITLE FILINGS	\$2,000
01001230.5111	EXEC ADM SALARIES	\$275
	TOTAL:	\$14,275

DISCUSSION: Councilor Forgey reported the Ways & Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation. Other comments included:

- Rationale was presented for the funds taken from the Veterans Ordinary Benefits line items would not deprive the veterans of any services and this was a necessary transfer to balance the budget.
- Veterans should receive every benefit available and any overage of funds in their budget should remain in their line item.

It was by roll call, 11 yes 1 no,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 21-009.

Order no. FY 21-001

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THE CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER, ORDERED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THAT THE CITY OF GREENFIELD JOIN THE PIONEER VALLEY MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT.

DISCUSSION: It was noted that this issue was not forwarded to a Committee for recommendation. This request was a Purchase and Service line item from the FY21 budget.

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 21-001.

Order no. FY 21-004

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL DIRECTS THE FOLLOWING QUESTION BE PLACED UPON THE OFFICIAL BALLOT AT THE GENERAL STATE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020:

BALLOT QUESTION

Shall the City of Greenfield accept sections 3 to 7, inclusive of chapter 44B of the General Laws, as approved by its legislative body, a summary of which appears below:

SUMMARY

Sections 3 to 7 of Chapter 44B of the General Laws of Massachusetts, also known as the Community Preservation Act (Act), establishes a dedicated funding source to enable cities and towns to (1) acquire, create and preserve open space, which includes land for park and recreational uses and the protection of public drinking water well fields, aquifers and recharge areas, wetlands, farm land, forests, marshes, scenic areas, wildlife preserves and other conservation areas, (2) acquire, preserve and restore historic buildings and sites, and (3) create, preserve and restore affordable housing.

In the City of Greenfield, the funding source for these community preservation purposes will be a surcharge of 1% on the annual property tax levy assessed on real property commencing in Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022). If approved, the following will be exempt from the surcharge: (1) property owned and occupied as a domicile by any person who qualifies for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in Greenfield as defined in Section 2 of said Act; (2) for \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property; (3) 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. A taxpayer receiving a regular property tax abatement or exemption will also receive a pro rata reduction in surcharge.

A Community Preservation Committee will be established by Ordinance to study community preservation resources, possibilities and needs and to make annual recommendations to the Greenfield City Council on spending the funds. Upon recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, at least 10% of the funds for each fiscal year will be spent or reserved for later spending on each of the Act's three community preservation purposes: (1) open space; (2) historic resources; and (3) affordable housing.

The question is approved and the statute accepted if a majority of the voters voting on the ballot question vote “yes.”

YES _____

(Summary – A YES vote would UPHOLD the City Council vote above and ALLOW the Community Preservation act to go into effect.)

NO _____

(Summary – A NO vote would RESCIND the City Council vote and NOT ALLOW the Community Preservation act to go into effect.

DISCUSSION: It was noted that this issue was not forwarded to a Committee for recommendation. Clerk Scott explained that the State’s Election Division requested the ballot question’s language and form had to be prepared by the City’s Attorney. Clarification was made that the Councilors were voting on the language of the ballot question as written.

It was by roll call, 7 yes, 4 no, 1 abstention,
VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 21-004.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND SIMILAR PAPERS - None.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES None.

TREASURER REPORT None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: Vice President Wheeler addressed the demands that were made by the citizens in regards to the Police Department and Justice System as follows:

- Spoke to District Attorney Sullivan in regards to the cash bail system. At this time the cash bail system would continue; he would welcome a forum to further discuss this matter.
- Spoke to Police Chief Haigh and Deputy Chief Williams. This was a very involved matter that would not be rectified overnight; it will continue to be discussed.
- Many discussions were held with a number of people to create a Civilian Review Board.
- There was a bill in the State Senate that addressed many of the demands.
- Have not yet spoken to the School Committee or the Superintendent in regards to the permanent removal of the School Resource Officer; there was a bill in the State Senate that may address this issue.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilor Guin held the following first reading:

- Repurpose \$180,000 from the Maplebrook Culvert to I & I for evaluation and repairs.

MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Councilor Ricketts, second by Councilor Guin, it was unanimously **VOTED:** TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:41 P.M.

A true copy,

Attest: _____
Kathryn J. Scott, City Clerk

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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 Regular Meeting
 July 15, 2020

	Attendance	Minutes	FY21-002	FY21-003	FY21-006	FY21-007	FY21-008	FY21-009	FY21-001	FY21-004
1. Jarvis, Edward	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
2. Guin, Daniel	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
3. Desorgher, Virginia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
4. Bottomley, John	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5. Dolan, Timothy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6. Gilmour, Sheila	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
7. Wheeler, Otis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
8. Mayo, Douglas	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
9. Hirschfeld, Norman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10. Elmer, Philip	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11. Forgey, Christine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
12. Ricketts, Penny	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
13. Stempel - Rae, Ashley	N	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
		11 y 0 no 1 abs	12 y 0 no	11 y 0 no	11 y 0 no	7 yes 4 no 1 abs				