

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2020

Webex Conferencing System

7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Vice President Otis Wheeler.

CHAIRS STATEMENT: This meeting is being audio recorded and video recorded by the City Council and GCTV-15, respectively. 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-Rae was absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Roxann Wedegartner; City Clerk Kathryn J. Scott; Mayor's Chief of Staff Danielle Letourneau; Finance Director/City Auditor/City Accountant Elizabeth Gilman; School Committee Chairperson Amy Proietti; DPW Director Marlo Warner; Fire Chief Robert Strahan; 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 Guin, it was,

MOVED: TO ACCEPT THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2020.

The Councilors accepted a friendly amendment proposed by Vice President Wheeler to correct typo on name of re-appointment from "Lorene" Flockerzie to "Loreen" Flockerzie.

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2020 AS AMENDED.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

- The School Committee finalized remote learning and remote learning plus plans for the upcoming school year.
- The School Committee would meet every two weeks to review and discuss the phase-in plans to bring students back to in person classrooms.
- None of the conversations with the State had mentioned the estimated costs of the school's phase-in plan.
- The School Committee voted to reduce the tuition by 50% that was charged to some families for the academic year.
- Nancy Putnam, the Principal of the Federal Street School, retired this year. She accepted a part time position of Principal at the Academy School of Learning for two years. Michelle Fenimore would replace Ms. Putman as the Principal for Federal Street School.
- Negotiations would begin tomorrow with the Teacher's Union to bargain with the remote learning plan.
- Acknowledgement was given to Superintendent Harper for her work to facilitate the 3 phase in plans.

Ms. Proietti answered the following questions:

- Had there been difficulties to obtain and distribute Chromebooks for the students to use for remote learning.

- Explanation of home school pods.
- There were individuals who were interested in sponsoring a student to provide internet access for the school semester.
- Ms. Proietti would provide the Councilors with a link to a “Go Fund Me” site that raises money for the purchase of dry erase boards for students for remote learning.

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

- The Registry of Motor Vehicles would not be closing permanently; however, it had not been established when the RMV would reopen.
- The City Hall had been opened for limited hours to the public Monday through Friday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- Acknowledged the efforts of the offices that had been working through the shutdown of the City Hall for their continued efforts to help the public.

Mayor Wedegartner answered the following questions:

- What was the current situation with the Greenfield Post Office in terms of handling mail and the use of mail machinery.
- Had a location for the temporary fire station been established.

Finance Director Liza Gilman reported the following:

- Status of the FY2020 closeout revenues and expenditures.
- FY21 expected reductions.
- COVID-19 grants.

Director Gilman answered the following questions:

- How much had the City spent on COVID-19 preparation.
- Would the City need to take overage monies from one department to cover a deficit of another department.
- Was the City obligated to pay for the school transportation.

OTHER CITY EMPLOYEES AS NEEDED, BY INVITATION: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: The following members of the public spoke:

- Molly Merrett, Solar Way, spoke in favor of defunding the police department and reallocating the funds to community service programs and how the City deals with racism.
- Eve Bogdanove, Shattuck St., spoke to her concern of the militarization of the police department and her work with individuals who have mental health issues who had voiced concerns with racism.
- Pamela Goodwin, High St., spoke to her concern with the schools being underfunded and how people could contact their representatives in regards to the lack of funds for the schools.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: Vice President Wheeler held the following public hearing notice and read the second reading: In accordance with Home Rule Charter, the Greenfield City Council will hold a public hearing on Wed., August 19, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street, or Remote Access, if required: <https://greenfieldma.my.webex.com/greenfieldma.my/j.php?MTID=mdb3818425238bded989f0c250ee9894f> to receive public input on the following:

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

The City Council may consider the same on Wed., August 19, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street, or Remote Access, if required:

<https://greenfieldma.my.webex.com/greenfieldma.my/j.php?MTID=mdb3818425238bded989f0c250ee9894f>.

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-Rae, Greenfield City Council President

City Council – Second Reading- August 19, 2020

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

Vice President Wheeler opened the public hearing at 8:04 pm and asked if anyone wished to speak. Seeing that no one signed up to speak at the public hearing it was closed at 8:05 pm.

MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

Order no. FY 21-005

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THE CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH MASSACHUSETT’S GENERAL LAWS, MOVED THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL APPROVES REPURPOSING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$180,000 OF PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED FOR REPAIR OF THE MAPLEBROOK CULVERT FOR I & I (INFLOW AND INFILTRATION) EVALUATION AND REPAIRS.

DISCUSSION: Vice President Wheeler reported the Ways & Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation. DPW Director presented his rationale for repurposing the funds for I & I evaluation and repairs. Other comments included:

- Process for the individuals who did respond to the letters requesting consent with regard to the connections.

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY21-005.

Order no. FY 21-013

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Forgey, second by Councilor Ricketts, 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 FIVE (5) YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION, FOR THE LEASE OF THE PREMISES AT 284 MAIN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA, LOCATION OF THE VETERANS’ SERVICE OFFICE, BETWEEN THE CITY OF GREENFIELD AND HOLYOKE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, LLC.

DISCUSSION: Vice President Wheeler reported the Ways & Means Committee forwarded a majority positive recommendation, 3 yes, 1 no. Chief of Staff Letourneau presented rationale for the extension of the lease for the Veterans Services office. Other comments included:

- Was this the same property the City was in negotiations to have as a temporary location for the fire station.
- Encouraged Councilors to vote on this lease at tonight’s meeting so the Veteran’s office could receive HVAC repair at the expense of the landlord.

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

VOTED: THAT THE CITY COUNCIL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 27: FINANCES; ARTICLE I: CONTRACT REVIEW; SECTION 3: EXCEPTION OF THE CITY OF GREENFIELD CODE, WAIVES THE THIRTY DAY SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT.

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 21-013.

Order no. FY 21-011

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 CONSERVATION COMMISSION: RACHEL LINDSAY, FOR A THREE YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2023.

DISCUSSION: Chairperson 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 21-011.

Order no. FY 21-012

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE ATTACHED STATE PRIMARY ELECTION WARRANT FOR SEPTEMBER 1, 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 SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 STATE PRIMARY

SS.

To 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:

Precinct 1 - 9

Greenfield High School, Gymnasium

21 Barr Avenue

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

To cast their votes in the State Primaries for the candidates of political parties for the following offices:

SENATOR IN CONGRESS.
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS.
COUNCILLOR.

FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
SECOND DISTRICT
EIGHTH DISTRICT

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

HAMPSHIRE, FRANKLIN & WORCHESTER

DISTRICT

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

SECOND BERKSHIRE DISTRICT

REGISTER OF PROBATE.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

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 20th day of August, 2020.

City Council President Ashley Stempel
As authorized by vote of the Greenfield City Council

BY CONSTABLE POSTING

Constable August 20, 2020

DISCUSSION: Clerk Scott noted that there was a typo on the Warrant. The date on the line “Given under our hands this 20th day of August 2020”, should be “this 19th day of August 2020. Vice President Wheeler made the friendly amendment to correct the date.

It was by roll call, 12 yes, 0 no,
VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 21-012.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Jarvis, second by Councilor Gilmour, it was by roll call, 12 yes, 0 no,
VOTED: THAT IT BE ORDERED, THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL WAIVE THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, 8 ORDER AND DISPOSITION OF BUSINESS.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND SIMILAR PAPERS - None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE – None.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – None.

APPOINTMENTS AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE- None.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE – None.

TREASURER REPORT – None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - None.

OLD BUSINESS: - Councilor Desorgher inquired if all of the Councilors could receive copies of the Webex recordings for subcommittee meetings. Clerk Scott noted that the City Council’s Administrative Assistant does keep copies of the recordings and they can request them. It was noted that GCTV had been recording the subcommittees for broadcasting.

NEW BUSINESS: - None.

MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION: None.

Order no. FY 21-010

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

VOTED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAW, CHAPTER 30 A, SECTION 21 (3) TO DISCUSS STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO LITIGATION, WHERE AN OPEN SESSION WOULD HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT AND FUTURE DETAILS WOULD COMPROMISE THE REASON FOR GOING INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY LISTING OF THE ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- LITIGATION INVOLVING INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER COMPANY (ICC).
- LITIGATION INVOLVING E. BRACCIA
- LITIGATION INVOLVING D. KELLEY
- LITIGATION INVOLVING P. BUCHNAN
- LITIGATION INVOLVING T. DODGE

The Council entered executive session at 8:44pm. Vice President Wheeler stated that the Council would adjourn from executive session.

A true copy,

Attest: _____
Kathryn J. Scott, City Clerk

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Webex Conferencing System
 Regular Meeting
 August 19, 2020

	Attendance	FY21-005	Waiver Code 27-3 Art I	FY21-013 Main Motion	FY21-011	FY21-012	Suspend ROP	Enter Executive Session from reg meeting		
1. Jarvis, Edward	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
2. Guin, Daniel	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
3. Desorgher, Virginia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
4. Bottomley, John	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
5. Dolan, Timothy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
6. Gilmour, Sheila	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
7. Wheeler, Otis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
8. Mayo, Douglas	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
9. Hirschfeld, Norman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
10. Elmer, Philip	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
11. Forgey, Christine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
12. Ricketts, Penny	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
13. Stempel-Rae, Ashley	N	----	----	----	----	----	----	----		
		12 y 0 no	12 y 0 no	12 y 0 no	12 y 0 no	12 y 0 no	12 y 0 no	12 y 0 no		