

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2020

Webex Conferencing System

7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Stempel-Rae.

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. All Council members were present.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Roxann Wedegartner; City Clerk Kathryn J. Scott; Finance Director Elizabeth Gilman; Greenfield School Superintendent Jordana Harper; School Committee Chairperson Amy Proietti; WHAI staff; GCTV-15 staff and members of the public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was held.

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2020.

COMMUNICATIONS:

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Superintendent Jordana Harper and Chairperson Amy Proietti reported the following:

- The School Committee was in the process of reviewing the Governor's newly released budget.
- The School had been rejected for their request of the Chapter 70 State Aid.
- The net impact was significant from that of the Mayor's budget; with a reduction of over \$286,000 dollars.
- The Schools had taken several cost saving measures with the knowledge that the school budget could be reduced.
- The Schools were in negotiations with the Greenfield Education Association.
- The status of the Schools to resume their athletic programs.

Superintendent Harper and Chair Proietti were asked the following questions:

- Was the role of the Remote Plus plan to stagger students between remote and in physical classroom learning.
- Were the tents erected at the school currently being used by teachers and students and how long will they be in service.
- Status to the installment of the heating system in the Green River School.

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

- Early voting had begun at the Clerk's office and the turnout was very high.
- 75.1% of Greenfield residents had answered the 2020 Federal Census.
- Valerie Bird had recently retired as Director of the Health Department. Jennifer Hoffman had taken over as the interim Health Director.
- The Supreme Court decision on French King had come down in favor of the Planning Board's special permit.
- Negotiations were ongoing for the permanent site of the new Fire Station.
- City Clerk Kathryn Scott reported that approximately 45% of Greenfield voters have already cast their ballot.

Mayor Wedegartner was asked the following questions:

- Why was the Department of Public Work’s budget cut by about 40%.
- Response to letter received by Attorney Peter Lane in regards to property proposed to the City has a location for the new Fire Station.
- What measures, if any, could be done to move the line at the Clerk’s Office for early voting a little faster.

OTHER CITY EMPLOYEES AS NEEDED, BY INVITATION: - None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The following members of the public spoke:

- Pamela Goodwin, High St., spoke to the issues she experienced with early voting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

Order no. FY 21-024

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Bottomley, second by Councilor Mayo, it was by roll call, 13 yes, 0 no,

VOTED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE ATTACHED STATE ELECTION WARRANT FOR NOVEMBER 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 2020 STATE ELECTION

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 THIRD DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2020**, from 7:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the State Election for the candidates for the following offices:

ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTFOR THESE UNITED STATES
 SENATOR IN CONGRESSFOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
 REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESSSECOND DISTRICT
 COUNCILLOREIGHTH DISTRICT
 SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT..... HAMPSHIRE, FRANKLIN & WORCHESTER DISTRICT
 REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURTFRANKLIN DISTRICT
 REGISTER OF PROBATEFRANKLIN COUNTY
 FRANKLIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS.....FRANKLIN COUNTY

QUESTION 1: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 5, 2020?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would require that motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities be provided with expanded access to mechanical data related to vehicle maintenance and repair.

Starting with model year 2022, the proposed law would require manufacturers of motor vehicles sold in Massachusetts to equip any such vehicles that use telematics systems — systems that collect and wirelessly transmit mechanical data to a remote server — with a standardized open access data platform. Owners of motor vehicles with telematics systems would get access to mechanical data through a mobile device application. With vehicle owner authorization, independent repair facilities (those not affiliated with a manufacturer) and independent dealerships would be able to retrieve mechanical data from, and send commands to, the vehicle for repair, maintenance, and diagnostic testing.

Under the proposed law, manufacturers would not be allowed to require authorization before owners or repair facilities could access mechanical data stored in a motor vehicle’s on-board diagnostic system, except through an authorization process standardized across all makes and models and administered by an entity unaffiliated with the manufacturer.

The proposed law would require the Attorney General to prepare a notice for prospective motor vehicle owners and lessees explaining telematics systems and the proposed law’s requirements concerning access to the vehicle’s mechanical data. Under the proposed law, dealers would have to provide prospective owners with, and prospective owners would have to acknowledge receipt of, the notice before buying or leasing a vehicle. Failure to comply with these notice requirements would subject motor vehicle dealers to sanctions by the applicable licensing authority.

Motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities could enforce this law through state consumer protection laws and recover civil penalties of the greater of treble damages or \$10,000 per violation.

A YES VOTE would provide motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities with expanded access to wirelessly transmitted mechanical data related to their vehicles’ maintenance and repair.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law governing access to vehicles’ wirelessly transmitted mechanical data.

QUESTION 2: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 5, 2020?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would implement a voting system known as “ranked-choice voting,” in which voters rank one or more candidates by order of preference. Ranked-choice voting would be used in primary and general elections for all Massachusetts statewide offices, state legislative offices, federal congressional offices, and certain other offices beginning in 2022. Ranked-choice voting would not be used in elections for president, county commissioner, or regional district school committee member.

Under the proposed law, votes would be counted in a series of rounds. In the first round, if one candidate received more than 50 percent of the first-place votes, that candidate would be declared the winner and no other rounds would be necessary. If no candidate received more than 50 percent of the first-place votes, then the candidate or candidates who received the fewest first-place votes would be eliminated and, in the next round, each vote for an eliminated candidate would instead be counted toward the next highest-ranked candidate on that voter's ballot. Depending on the number of candidates, additional rounds of counting could occur, with the last-place candidate or candidates in each round being eliminated and the votes for an eliminated candidate going to the voter's next choice out of the remaining candidates. A tie for last place in any round would be broken by comparing the tied candidates' support in earlier rounds. Ultimately, the candidate who was, out of the remaining candidates, the preference of a majority of voters would be declared the winner.

Ranked-choice voting would be used only in races where a single candidate is to be declared the winner and not in races where more than one person is to be elected.

Under the proposed law, if no candidate received more than 50 percent of first-place votes in the first round, the rounds of ballot-counting necessary for ranked-choice voting would be conducted at a central tabulation facility. At the facility, voters' rankings would be entered into a computer, which would then be used to calculate the results of each round of the counting process. The proposed law provides that candidates in a statewide or district election would have at least three days to request a recount.

The Secretary of State would be required to issue regulations to implement the proposed law and conduct a voter education campaign about the ranked-choice voting process. The proposed law would take effect on January 1, 2022.

A YES VOTE would create a system of ranked-choice voting in which voters would have the option to rank candidates in order of preference and votes would be counted in rounds, eliminating candidates with the lowest votes until one candidate has received a majority.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the laws governing voting and how votes are counted.

QUESTION 3

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.

In the City of 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 21st day of October, 2020.

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

BY CONSTABLE POSTING

October 22, 2020

Constable

Order no. FY 21-028

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 WEDEGARTNER, ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF PRIOR YEAR FY20 INVOICE FOR EQUIFAX IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75.00 TO BE PAID FROM THE FY21 PARKING HUMAN RESOURCES BUDGET.

DISCUSSION: Vice President Wheeler reported the Ways & Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation.

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY21-028.

Order no. FY 21-033

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 2-10, AFFIRMS THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH: ALYSSA VALBONA, FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022.

DISCUSSION: It was noted that because the order was submitted late, it was not discussed at the Appointments and Ordinances Committee meeting.

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

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY21-033.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND SIMILAR PAPERS None.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE – None.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – None.

APPOINTMENTS AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE- Chairperson Guin reported that it was established at the Committee Chairs meeting if anyone had an issues or concerns with a Mayoral appointment to notify the Chairperson, who would get in touch with the Mayor’s office to obtain more information before the appointment comes before the subcommittee meeting and later to the full Council.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE – Chairperson Wheeler thanked the Councilors who attended the Ways & Means meeting last night for the discussion on the additional funding requested for the new Fire Station. The vote would be in November or, most likely, December.

Councilor Jarvis reported the following on behalf of the Fire Station Building Committee:

- Architect Dennis Ross received his finalized contract with the City.
- Estimated cost for the temporary Fire Station was \$1.9 million.
- The DPW would be able to perform a good amount of the utility work.
- Once the scope and conceptual drawings were completed, request for proposals could be out by December.
- Eversource announced that they could install poles and drops without charge to the City.
- Because the buildings for the temporary Fire Station were not to be attached, they do not have to be sprinklered per Massachusetts General Law.

Councilor Dolan reported the following on behalf of the Library Building Committee:

- Progress was made in terms of the utilities for the building.
- Vote was taken at the last meeting to pursue LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environments Design) Silver certification. This could aid the library in obtaining grant money from the State.
- Currently the project was on schedule and on budget.

TREASURER REPORT None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilor Wheeler held the following first reading:

- Reduce the FY21 General Fund Operating Budget appropriation of \$53,879,442 by the amount of \$370,000; for a revised FY21 Operating Budget Total of \$53,509.442.
- Authorizes increase Fund 1585 Ambulance Revolving Fund Spending limit \$40,000 for a revised spending limit of \$120,000 for the Fiscal Year 2021.
- Appropriate \$32,423 for GCET Fiber & Equipment.
- Appropriate \$42,900 from the General Stabilization Fund for the appraisal of right of ways along Wisdom Way.

Councilor Dolan held the following notice of zoning amendment proposals:

The following zoning amendment proposals have been submitted to the Greenfield City Council for consideration:

- Amend Chapter 200: Zoning, Section 4.2 (C19) Rural Residential (RC) by removing the Tier 1 limitation and amend Section 4.2 (C), RC District, by adding a new number 21 under Subsection C to permit marijuana product manufacturing and marijuana retailer as accessory uses to the use “Marijuana Cultivator pursuant to 7.17”, submitted September 29, 2020, by Jeff Coulson & Emily Seelman.
- Amendments to Chapter 200: Zoning, Section 4.13 Floodplain District (F), submitted October 13, 2020, by the Planning Board.
- Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance relative to Low Impact Development (LID) techniques to include amendment to Section 6.11, driveways and entrances, of the Zoning Ordinance, submitted October 13, 2020, by the Planning Board.

MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Councilor Ricketts, second by Councilor Guin, it was unanimously **VOTED:** TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:21 P.M.

A true copy,

Attest: _____
Kathryn J. Scott, City Clerk

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Webex Conference System
 Regular Meeting
 October 21, 2020

	Attendance	FY21-024	FY21-028	FY21-033		
1. Jarvis, Edward	Y	Y	Y	Y		
2. Guin, Daniel	Y	Y	Y	Y		
3. Desorgher, Virginia	Y	Y	Y	Y		
4. Bottomley, John	Y	Y	Y	Y		
5. Dolan, Timothy	Y	Y	Y	Y		
6. Gilmour, Sheila	Y	Y	Y	Y		
7. Wheeler, Otis	Y	Y	Y	Y		
8. Mayo, Douglas	Y	Y	Y	Y		
9. Hirschfeld, Norman	Y	Y	Y	Y		
10. Elmer, Philip	Y	Y	Y	Y		
11. Forgey, Christine	Y	Y	Y	Y		
12. Ricketts, Penny	Y	Y	Y	Y		
13. Stempel-Rae, Ashley	Y	Y	Y	Y		
		13 y 0 no	13 y 0 no	13 y 0 no		