

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2021

John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street

7:00 pm

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

**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. Councilors Dolan and Wheeler were absent.

**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; Acting Chief Assessor Kimberly Mew; Greenfield Housing Authority Director Thomas Guerino; GCTV-15 staff; Mary Byrne, *the Recorder* and members of the public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was held.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Forgey, second by Councilor Mayo, it was, unanimously, **VOTED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL SUSPEND THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, CHAPTER 565; RULE 2: MEETINGS; SECTION A: REGULAR MEETINGS, TO HOLD THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 23, 2021.

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

**VOTED:** TO ACCEPT THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2021.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE:** School Chairperson Proietti reported:

- Thanked Mayor Wedegartner and Councilor Forgey and other members of the Ways & Means Committee for their clear and organized budget process for FY2022.
- Updated the school calendar for the upcoming 2021-2022 academic year to recognize the newly enacted Juneteenth holiday.
- The School had reached an agreement with Unit A Teacher's Union for a 2 (two) year contract that covered from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021. The School will resume contract negotiations for the upcoming school year(s).
- Greenfield High School Principal Karin Patenaude had been offered and accepted the assistant superintendant for teaching and learning position within the central office of the schools.
- Approved revised school budget for FY2022 to meet with the Mayor's proposed budget for the schools.
- The search for a new school superintendant had been narrowed down to four final candidates. Further meetings and interviews with student and faculty members would commence on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

- The City of Greenfield had been chosen by PBS (Public Broadcasting System) to be a featured City on a short 3 to 5 minute documentary segment titled, "Dennis Quaid Viewpoint" that would focus on cities across the country that were viewed as great to live, work and play. The filming would begin in September and not only run on PBS but would also be picked up by CNN, CNBC, Fox Business News, and other cable outlets.

- Explained to the Council how their decision to vote down the Police Department's \$1,350,000 FY2022 Capital Budget request to improve the conditions of their building would impact the upcoming capital improvement requests for the Police Department for FY2023.
  - Received notification from the State of Massachusetts that property they own on 67 Hope Street, also known as "the Armory", would be made available to any public agency for direct public use. The Mayor had expressed interest for the property to be used for market rate/low income housing. Housing Authority Director Thomas Guerino also spoke to the Council regarding the Housing Authority's interest in the property for similar reasons.
    - Councilor Mayo suggested the property should be used exclusively for low income housing.
    - Who would be responsible for the costs associated with the project of converting the building for the City's use.
  - Update on the current state of the City's parks and efforts of the City to maintain them. The Health Department was working with local healthcare providers to establish "pop up clinics" to aid people who were unable to obtain access to provide education, simple care and testing. The Parks and Recreation Department have hired young people to help with the cleanup of the parks and DPW have tried to upkeep with trash collection. The Police Department performs regular checks on day and night shifts and address illegal activity they have witnessed.
    - Appreciation was expressed for the City's efforts to address the conditions and health concerns that have occurred in the City's parks and public buildings.
    - Could additional staff be hired at the DPW, Health and other department to address these issues if funds were readily available.
    - Could the City install more port-a-potties for public use.
    - Does the Police Department continue to collect used discarded needles.
  - Union negotiations with the City were in progress with Chief of Staff Danielle Letourneau and Human Resources Director Dianne Letourneau.
  - Updates on legal matters the City was involved in.
  - Pilot program regarding the Court Square renovation project.
- Acting Chief Assessor Mew addressed the Council with a prepared written statement (attached).
- Status on the library construction project.

OTHER CITY EMPLOYEES AS NEEDED, BY INVITATION: None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No one from the public wished to speak.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

## **MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS**

### **Order no. FY 21-099**

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

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED, THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL APPROVES THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION TITLED "A RESOLUTION CONCERNING RACISM, INCLUSION, AND EQUITY IN THE CITY OF GREENFIELD."

# Resolution concerning racism, inclusion, and equity in the city of Greenfield

*Adopted by a unanimous vote of the Greenfield Democratic Town Committee on January 27, 2021*

WHEREAS racism unfairly disadvantages specific individuals and communities, while unfairly giving advantages to other individuals and communities;

WHEREAS racism is a root cause of poverty, injustice and restricts economic mobility;

WHEREAS racism causes persistent discrimination and disparate outcomes in many areas of life, including housing, education, employment, and criminal justice, and is itself a social determinant of health;

WHEREAS police brutality against people of color is a lethal form of racism that devastates and destroys individuals, communities and families;

WHEREAS racism and segregation have exacerbated a health divide resulting in people of color in Massachusetts bearing a disproportionate burden of illness and mortality including COVID-19 infection and death, heart disease, diabetes, and infant mortality;

WHEREAS according to the Southern Poverty Law Center white nationalist hate groups have grown by 55% during the Trump era;

WHEREAS Black, Native American, Asian and Latino residents are more likely to experience poor health outcomes as a consequence of inequities in economic stability, education, physical environment, food, and access to health care and these inequities are, themselves, a result of racism;

WHEREAS the collective prosperity and wellbeing of Greenfield depends upon town leaders confronting racism while committing to policy and system changes;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, that the Greenfield Democratic Town Committee urge the Mayor, Greenfield City Council and School Committee to:

(1) Work to reimagine policing by initiating a review of department activity and community needs to include but not limited to review of revenues and spending, analysis of calls and response, engaging community input, and consider divestment from the police budget to investment in a mental health first responder program to increase the amount of non-police interventions;

(2) Promote equity through enhanced educational efforts aimed at understanding, addressing and dismantling racism and how it affects the delivery of human and social services, economic development and public safety;

(3) Examine, address, and remedy all practices and policies in Greenfield Public Schools, including but not limited to high-stakes testing and redistricting, to ensure Greenfield's students of color have the same opportunities to thrive as their white peers;

(4) Create a diverse citizen oversight review board that is tasked with analyzing and improving police officer conduct and relations with communities of color.

President Ricketts introduced her recommendations to amend the resolution as follows (proposed language highlighted in yellow):

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**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Guin, second by Councilor Stempel, it was, **MOVED:** TO AMEND RESOLUTION AS SUGGESTED BY PRESIDENT RICKETTS.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Guin reported the Appointments & Ordinances Committee forwarded this to City Council without a recommendation. It was noted that the language in the resolution contained requests the Council had no authority to impose on City departments or State agencies. A few of the issues mentioned in the resolution would be addressed through an ordinance amendment. The writer of the original resolution did not appear before the Council to present rational for submitting the resolution.

It was by majority, 10 yes, 1 abstention,  
**VOTED: TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS.**

Order No. FY21-099, as amended, was on the floor: **THAT IT BE ORDERED, THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL APPROVES THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION TITLED “A RESOLUTION CONCERNING RACISM, INCLUSION, AND EQUITY IN THE CITY OF GREENFIELD.”**

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(4) Create a diverse citizen oversight review board that is tasked with analyzing and improving police officer conduct and relations with communities of color.

It was by majority, 10 yes, 1 abstention,  
**VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY21-099, AS AMENDED.**

**Order no. FY 021-098**

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

**VOTED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED, THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH GREENFIELD HOME RULE CHARTER, SECTION 2-8(b) THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL RE-ELECTS KATHRYN J SCOTT AS CITY CLERK FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024.

**Order no. FY 21-104**

**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 AND RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR:

Conservation Commission – Christin Mcdonough – Term Expires December 31, 2022 (remaining portion of Johnathan Griffin’s term.)

Cemetery Commission – Erin Bohannon – Term Expires June 30, 2024

Council on Aging – Margot Peck – Term Expires December 31, 2022 (short term to maintain term schedule.)

Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee – MJ Adams – Term Expires June 30, 2024 (Re-Appointment.)

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Guin reported the Appointments and Ordinances Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY21-104.

**Order no. FY 21-109**

**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 GREENFIELD MONTAGUE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY: DANIELLE LETOURNEAU, FOR A TERM SUCCESSOR QUALIFIED.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Guin reported the Appointments and Ordinances Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY21-109.

**Order no. FY 21-106**

**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, THE SUM OF \$10,000 BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE FOLLOWING FY21 ACCOUNT:

01009160.5181	MEDICARE PAYROLL TAX	\$10,000
	TOTAL:	\$10,000

TO THE FOLLOWING FY21 ACCOUNTS AS FOLLOWS:

01001580.5318	TAX TITLE FILINGS	\$6,000
0100752.5925	SHORT TERM INTEREST	\$4,000
	TOTAL:	\$10,000

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Forgey noted this order was not forwarded to Ways & Means for a recommendation.

It was unanimously,  
**VOTED:** TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY21-106.

**Order no. FY 21- 107**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Forgey, second by Councilor Gilmour, it was unanimously,  
**VOTED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED, THE CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, THE SUM OF \$10,000 TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM FY21 ENERGY DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT AS FOLLOWS:

01001970.521112	HIGH SCHOOL ELECTRIC	\$10,000
	TOTAL:	\$10,000

TO THE FOLLOWING FY21 LEGAL ACCOUNT AS FOLLOWS:

01001510.5302	TOWN (CITY) ATTORNEY	\$10,000
	TOTAL:	\$10,000

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Forgey noted this order was not forwarded to Ways & Means for a recommendation.

It was unanimously,  
**VOTED:** TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY21-107.

President Ricketts left the rail at 9:14 pm. Meeting commenced with Vice President Gilmour.

**Order no. FY 21-101**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Desorgher, second by Councilor Forgey, it was,  
**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED, THE CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, ACCEPT A GIFT OF LAND FROM EDYTHE D. HARRIS, TRUSTEE OF THE HARRIS LIVING TRUST OF GREENFIELD, PART OF R23-53 AS DESCRIBED IN THE PROPOSED BOUNDARY LINE AGREEMENT AND RELEASE BETWEEN THE CITY OF GREENFIELD AND EDYTHE D. HARRIS, TRUSTEE OF THE HARRIS LIVING TRUST OF GREENFIELD OWNER OF THE PREMISES KNOWN AS 24 ARBOR DRIVE, GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Desorgher reported the Economic Development Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation.

It was unanimously,  
**VOTED:** TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY21-101.

President Ricketts returned to the rail at 9:17 pm.

**Order no. FY 21-105A 1**

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

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED, THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL DECLARES REAL ESTATE AT 402 MAIN STREET, BEING SHOWN ON ASSESSORS MAP 56, LOT 2- 0, TO BE SURPLUS PROPERTY AND TRANSFERS SAID PROPERTY TO THE MAYOR FOR SALE.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Desorgher reported the Economic Development Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation. It was noted that the property was the old Public Library Building and therefore listed on the Historical Register. Concern was raised as to whether a stipulation would be included in the agreement with a potential buyer to maintain the building in accordance with historic preservation. Once the sale was complete and the funds from the sale received, the monies would be deposited into the City’s revolving fund for sale of real estate.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY21-105A1.

**Order no. FY 21-105A 2**

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

**MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED, THE CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO BEGIN SEEKING A BUYER FOR 402 MAIN ST., THE EXISTING GREENFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY PROPERTY, BASED ON CITY OF GREENFIELD STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE RE0001-03-M, POLICY ON SALE, LEASE, OR OPTION OF CITY OWNED LAND.

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Desorgher reported the Economic Development Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation.

It was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY21-105A2.

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

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE** – None

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** – Chairperson Desorgher reported the members of the Economic Development Committee were voluntarily introducing themselves to new business owners in Greenfield. She noted that the business owners expressed their appreciation for the Economic Development’s outreach to them.

**APPOINTMENTS AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE-** Chairperson Guin clarified the actions of the Committee accepting the Charter Review Committee report at their June meeting and the proper procedures to present this to the Council moving forward.

**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE** – None

**TREASURER REPORT** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.



**NEW BUSINESS:** Councilor Forgey held the following first reading:

**City Council – First Reading- June 23, 2021**

- Repurpose \$20, 431.92 from Previous Authorization FY19-122 from the Repair of Green River Road to Paving Mackin Avenue.

President Guin requested a page of the Council meeting minutes be dedicated to Michael Murphy, who was a major contributor in Greenfield and creator of Murphy Park.

**MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by Councilor Elmer, second by Councilor Mayo, it was unanimously, **VOTED:** TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:37 P.M.

A true copy,

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

**GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

John Zon Community Center  
Regular Meeting  
June 23, 2021

Attendance

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

# IN MEMORY OF

*MICHAEL MURPHY*

*APRIL 12, 1948 – JUNE 1, 2021*

