

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2021

Webex Conferencing System

6:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 6:32 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. Councilor Wheeler logged into meeting at 7:47 pm.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Roxann Wedegartner; City Clerk Kathryn J. Scott; Finance Director/City Auditor/City Accountant Elizabeth Gilman; Chief of Staff Danielle Letourneau; DPW Director Marlo Warner; Parliamentarian Wilson Roberts; GCTV-15 staff; Chris Collins, *FCAT & WHAI*; Melina Bourdeau, *the Recorder*; and members of the public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was held.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: On a motion by Councilor Stempel-Rae, second by Councilor Mayo, it was unanimously,

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2021.

COMMUNICATIONS:

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE: It was noted that neither the School Superintendent nor the School Committee Chair was able to attend the meeting. They forwarded written communication that was read into the record by President Ricketts, as attached.

MAYOR, CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES: Mayor Wedegartner & Chief of Staff Letourneau reported the following:

- Status of union negotiations and contracts.
- A public information session to receive comments and input in regards to the spending of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. The session would be scheduled in mid-September. The City was expected to receive \$5,158,534. The money would be received in two payments: the first was received in August of 2021 in the amount of \$2,579,267.02; the second payment was expected in the Spring of 2022.
- The groundbreaking for the new library construction would be held Thursday, August 19, 2021, 10:00 am, rain or shine. The parking lot where the ceremony's to be held would be closed from 6 am to approximately 1:00 pm.
- The Mayor's office had received numerous communications from citizens in regards to the pilot program in Court square and had begun to address the concerns some citizens had expressed, including the installation of a drive through drop box for citizens to submit payments or other City correspondence.
- Chief of Staff Letourneau made a brief power point presentation on the Court Square pilot program.

Councilors asked the following questions:

- Reason for contract negotiation with seven (7) unions.
- The Mayor's office receiving public comment on the Court Square pilot project.
- Handicap accessibility for the Court Square pilot project.
- Would Court Square be equipped with wi-fi capabilities.
- Would the City design a survey for citizens to submit their opinions on the project.

- Data collected by the Mayor's office on the volume of people who take advantage of the Court Square pilot program.
- Concern in regards to the email format sent to the Council by the Mayor's office that had a time frame as to how long the information presented could be easily accessed.
- Status to the removal of a small number of trees from the downtown area.
- Current COVID-19 number of infections and the possibility of another vaccine clinic.

OTHER CITY EMPLOYEES AS NEEDED, BY INVITATION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The following members of the public spoke:

- Sandy Thomas, Orchard Street, spoke to her opposition to change the amount of signatures needed on a Citizen's petition has described in Charter Chapter 7-8.
- David Lewis, High Street, spoke to the two petitions he submitted in the City Clerk's office in regards to the cording off the Court Square Street and the City Council and subcommittees' meetings be in person and available to the public, as well as the recordings of said meetings.
- Donna Festinger, Greenfield resident (verified), spoke to her opposition to change the amount of signatures needed on a Citizen's petition has described in Charter Chapter 7-8.
- Sandy Kosterman, Barton Road, spoke to her opposition to change the amount of signatures needed on a Citizen's petition has described in Charter Chapter 7-8. She also opposed the amendment to Charter 1-7 (o) to include "alien residents"
- Gary Hallowell, Maple Street, spoke to his opposition to change the amount of signatures needed on a Citizen's petition has described in Charter Chapter 7-8.
- Pamela Goodwin, High Street, made suggestions on how the City could spend the ARPA funding.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

Order no. FY 22-011

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Forgey, No, second, it was,

DEFEATED FOR LACK OF A SECOND: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL TAKE FROM THE TABLE ORDER NO. FY 22-001 "UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, THAT IT BE ORDERED THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE GREENFIELD MONTAGUE TRANSPORTATION AREA (GMTA) TO SELL 382 DEERFIELD STREET, ASSESSORS MAP 15-4-0, UNDER THEIR AUTHORITY AS THE OWNERS OF THE PROPERTY " WHICH WAS TABLED AT THE JULY 21, 2021, CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

Order no. FY22-001 remained on the table.

Order no. FY 22-004

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 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH MGL CH.30B §12B, APPROVE A THREE (20) YEAR CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GREENFIELD AND PAN AM RAILWAYS.

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

It was by roll call, 12 yes, 1 abstention,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY22-004.

Order no. FY 22-010

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 2-10, AFFIRMS THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR:

Susan White – Public Safety Commission – Term Expires June 30, 2023.

Ellie Mandell – Crossroads Cultural District Committee – Term Expires after completion of project.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Guin reported the Appointments & Ordinances Committee did not forward a recommendation due to the fact that the appointees’ resumes did not accompany the order and memo. Vice President Gilmour inquired if there was an approximate timeframe as to when the project(s) would be completed by the Crossroads Cultural District Committee.

It was by roll call, 12 yes, 1 abstention,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY22-010.

Order no. FY 22-018

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Guin, second by Councilor Elmer, 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 CITY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 2, 2021:

BALLOT QUESTION

“SHOULD THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL SEEK TO AMEND SECTION 7-8 OF THE CITY CHARTER TO CHANGE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF SIGNATURES FOR CITIZEN REFERENDUM PETITIONS BY CHANGING THE CURRENT CHARTER LANGUAGE FROM:

“A NUMBER OF VOTERS EQUAL TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTERS VOTING IN THE MOST RECENT BIENNIAL CITY ELECTION, BUT NOT LESS THAN TWO AND ONE HALF PERCENT (2 1/2 %) OF ALL REGISTERED VOTERS AS OF THE SAME DATE”

TO:

“A NUMBER OF VOTERS EQUAL TO SEVEN PERCENT (7%) OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTERS REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE MOST RECENT BIENNIAL CITY ELECTION THAT OCCURRED PRIOR TO THE DATE WHEN SAID SIGNATURES ARE FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK”?

YES _____

NO _____

DISCUSSION: Councilor Guin reported the Appointments & Ordinances forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation for the 7% of the total number of voters registered to vote.

- Although the Councilors could vote on this issue, it was the consensus that the voters of Greenfield should have a say on this issue since it addresses their right to petition the Council.
- Rationale was presented as how the Charter Review Committee and Appointment & Ordinance came to 7% for Charter Section 7-8.
- The Councilors looked at 7% as a compromise for the numbers of signatures needed on a petition.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Mayo, second by Councilor Jarvis, it was by roll call, 12 yes, 1 no,
VOTED: TO CALL THE QUESTION.

Order no. FY22-018 was on the floor for a vote.

It was by roll call, 13 yes, 0 no,
VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY22-018.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Wheeler, second by Councilor Elmer, it was by roll call, 13 yes, 0 no,
VOTED: FOR AGENDA ARTICLES V. THROUGH X. BE MOVED TO THE SEPTEMBER REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

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: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilor Forgey held the following first reading:

Order no. FY 22-009

**CITY of GREENFIELD
MASSACHUSETTS**

The City Council,

Upon recommendation of Mayor Wedegartner and in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws,
Reserve Fund Transfer Request

Moved that it be ordered,

Ordered, that:

The Sum of \$10,000 be transferred from 01001320.5781 Reserve Fund to DPW Parks 01004380.5433 Swim Area Materials to cover expenses associated with the unforeseen flooding at Nash Mill Road recreation area.

Reserve Fund Balance is \$75,000

Balance in 01004380-5433 Swim Area Materials is \$7,000

Majority vote required (7)

Councilor Desorgher held the following Notice of Zoning Amendment Proposals:

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

- Amend Zoning Map for the Property located at 28-34 Colorado Avenue (MP R42-4-0), submitted July 16, 2021, by Allan & Janet Keyes.

- Amendments to Chapter 200: Zoning, Section 7.17: Marijuana Establishments, submitted August 6, 2021, by the Planning Board

MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Councilor Mayo, second by Councilor Stempel, it was unanimously, **VOTED:** TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:56 P.M.

A true copy,

Attest: _____
 Kathryn J. Scott, City Clerk

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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	Attendance	FY22-004	FY22-010	Call the Question	FY22-018	Articles V-X to Sept Agenda
1. Jarvis, Edward	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2. Guin, Daniel	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
3. Desorgher, Virginia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4. Bottomley, John	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5. Dolan, Timothy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6. Gilmour, Sheila	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7. Wheeler, Otis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
8. Mayo, Douglas	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y
9. Hirschfeld, Norman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10. Elmer, Philip	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11. Forgey, Christine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
12. Ricketts, Penny	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
13. Stempel-Rae, Ashley	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y
		12 y 1 abs	12 y 1 abs	12 y 1 no	13 y 0 no	13 y 0 no

Read at the August 18, 2021 City Council meeting

8/18/21 Written Communication to the City Council

August 17, 2021

Amy Proietti

11:25 AM
(14
minutes
ago)

to me, Judy, Councilor, Susan, Christine

Councilor Ricketts and Sitting Members of the Council-

I appreciate the opportunity to address you by email this month, as certain deadlines necessitate that the School Committee also meets on the evening of 8/18.

We'd like to inform you of the following:

--Dr. Christine DeBarge ("Christine") will start as our new Superintendent on Monday 8/23.

--An impressive paving project is underway at Newton School and we are very grateful to Director Warner and the DPW for implementing this much needed improvement in time for the start of school.

--The first day of school is Wednesday September 1 for grades 1-12. Kindergarten screenings happen on September 2 and 3, with the first day of Pre-K and K being on Friday September 3.

--Communications went out last week to families with options and details for both before and after school care programs.

--The Face Coverings Policy for the district from Spring 2021 remains in effect and unchanged. The Superintendent and her leadership team continue to monitor guidance from the CDC, DPH, and DESE. There is no remote school option for 2021-2022. Students will attend full school days Monday-Friday.

Please contact us with questions:

amypro1@gpsk12.org

judhou1@gpsk12.org

chrdeb1@gpsk12.org

--Amy, Judy, and Christine