

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL
Special Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2022

City Hall Meeting Room 2nd Floor and Zoom/Hybrid

6:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Acting Chair Vice President Daniel Guin.

CHAIRS STATEMENT: This meeting is not being recorded by the City Council. If any other persons present are doing the same you must notify the chairperson at this time. Clerk Scott stated that the City Council would be recording this meeting for preparation of minutes. It was noted that Mary Byrne of the Recorder, Dawn Morin, Councilor Virginia Desorgher and GCTV were also recording this meeting. "No person shall address a meeting of a public body without permission of the Chair and all persons shall, at the request of the chair, be silent. No person shall disrupt the proceedings of a meeting of a public body. If, after clear warning from the chair, a person continues to disrupt the proceedings, the chair may order the person to withdraw from the meeting and if the person does not withdraw, the chair may authorize a constable or other officer to remove the person from the meeting."

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS: Roll Call was taken. Councilor Bottomley was absent. Councilor Jarvis logged into the meeting at 6:10 pm.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Roxann Wedegartner; City Clerk Kathryn J. Scott; GCTV-15 staff; Mary Byrne, *the Recorder*; and members of the public.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Terounzo, second by Councilor Ricketts, it was
MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL WAIVE THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, 8 ORDER AND DISPOSITION OF BUSINESS, TO ALLOW THE AGENDA ITEMS TO BE TAKEN OUT OF ORDER.

DISCUSSION: Objection was made to waive the rules of procedure due to the fact that it would not allow public comment.

It was by majority, 10 yes, 2 no,
VOTED: TO WAIVE THE RULES OF PROCEDURE.

MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

Order no. FY 22-145

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Bullock, second by Councilor Helie, it was,
MOVED: THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO ENTER TO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR REASON #3: TO DISCUSS STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OR LITIGATION IF AN OPEN MEETING MAY HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE BARGAINING OR LITIGATING POSITION OF THE PUBLIC BODY AND THE CHAIR SO DECLARES; PER M.G.L. C. 30A § 21 (A)(3).

DISCUSSION: Councilors provide rationale towards their opposition or support of the motion. Councilor Desorgher read a prepared statement (see attached).

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Gilmour, second by Councilor Ricketts, it was by roll call, 8 yes, 4 no,
VOTED: TO CALL THE QUESTION.

Order no. FY22-145 was on the floor for a vote.

It was by roll call, 8 yes, 4 no,

VOTED: TO ENTER TO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR REASON #3: TO DISCUSS STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OR LITIGATION IF AN OPEN MEETING MAY HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE BARGAINING OR LITIGATING POSITION OF THE PUBLIC BODY AND THE CHAIR SO DECLARES; PER M.G.L. C. 30A § 21 (A)(3).

Acting Chair/Vice President Guin made announcement that the special meeting would not reconvene after the closing of the executive session.

The Councilors exited from the meeting and into executive session at 6:37 P.M.

A true copy,

Attest: _____
 Kathryn J. Scott, City Clerk

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

City Hall Meeting Room, 2nd Floor/Zoom Hybrid
 Special Meeting
 May 16, 2022

	Attendance	Call the Question	FY22-145 Executive Session			
1. Jarvis, Edward	Y	Y	Y			
2. Guin, Daniel	Y	Y	Y			
3. Desorgher, Virginia	Y	N	N			
4. Bottomley, John	N	---	---			
5. Bullock, Marianne	Y	N	N			
6. Gilmour, Sheila	Y	Y	Y			
7. Lapienski, Jasper	Y	N	N			
8. Mayo, Douglas	Y	N	N			
9. Helie, Derek	Y	Y	Y			
10. Elmer, Philip	Y	Y	Y			
11. Forgey, Christine	Y	Y	Y			
12. Ricketts, Penny	Y	Y	Y			
13. Terounzo, Michael	Y	Y	Y			

8 y 8 y
 4 no 4 no

Statement read by Councilor Desorgher at the May 16, 2022 Special Council Meeting.

I'll Be voting

Against Going into executive session tonight.

I spent over 12 hours reading that entire docket. Every submission by both plaintiff and defendant . The jury found the city and the Chief guilty on 6 of the 7 questions.

If you have not read the court record and you think that you will be hearing both sides of the story in executive session, you are mistaken. The attorney and the mayor and the chief are the losing defendants and will lobby to convince you that the jury was incorrect.

Questions 6 and 7 are why we really should not enter executive session. The fact that the Chief and our current mayor bypassed a female officer and Patrick Buchanan for the 4th time, in 2021, **WHILE** final arguments for this discrimination case were being prepared is **SHOCKING**. The female officer and Buchanan were number two and number five on the sergeants list. The chief chose number #1, 3, 4 and 6. Mayor Wedegartner concurred. This decision was subsequently added to the plaintiffs claims and most likely clinched the verdict and added to the settlement.

EQUALLY SHOCKING, it was announced in December 2021, that the start date of the trial would be at the beginning of the new year. Then on on January 5, 2022 our mayor signed a three-year contract with the chief for \$170,000 a year. NOT a one year contract but a three-year contract just as the trial was about to start! Who does this?

I do not need to be in executive session with them explaining strategy to me or hearing how they will best handle our legal and fiduciary responsibilities.

I read enough!

You have lots of people outside who are not happy with how this has been handled. Is there even the tiniest shred of evidence that the culture here will change by us going into a private meeting **AFTER** which we will be bound to silence. If you sincerely want to be part of the solution, just say no. I'll bet money most of you know in your gut that this meeting is a very bad idea. I certainly didn't want it but I was pressured. Let's admit it, who in their right mind really wants to be viewed as being uncooperative with the Mayor and the Chief of police. Mark my words, we will be complicit from this day forward.

We don't have the national labor relations board to back us up. All we really have is each other.

I am voting no. It's time for a change. Not in our town.