

Greenfield City Council
September 20, 2023
245th Regular Meeting
6:30 p.m.
John Zon Community Center/Zoom Hybrid

To join in person:

35 Pleasant Street, Greenfield

To join via Zoom:

<https://greenfield-ma-gov.zoom.us/j/92722775558?pwd=UFdyd1lLMGJwVkZ0c1gwZFdWN2xJUT09>

Meeting ID: 927 2277 5558

To join the meeting via phone:

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 719 359 4580 US

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Meeting ID: 927 2277 5558 Passcode: 700104

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[Click here to view the full agenda](#)

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

CHAIRS STATEMENT: This meeting is being recorded by the City Council and GCTV-17. If any other persons present are doing the same you must notify the chairperson at this time. In accordance with MGLc 30A SS 20(g) “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.”

2. Roll Call of Members
3. Pledge of Allegiance (voluntary)
4. Approve the July 19 & August 16, 2023, City Council meeting minutes **(Pg. 3)**
5. Communications from Superintendent of Schools and School Committee (10 minutes)
- 5a. Questions from the Council for Superintendent of Schools and School Committee
6. Communications from Mayor, City Officers and Employees (10 minutes)*:
 - Lunt Cleanup: Receipt of DEP Notice of Conditional Approval of Phase II Scope of Work.
 - Library Foundation Contribution.
 - Status of Immigrants at Days Inn.
 - Sidewalks – How work gets done.
 - Opioid Settlement Survey and Distribution/Grant Application for Library to facilitate oral history of those people locally who are impacted by opioid use and/or have “lived experience”.
 - Recycling Grant with possible presentation from DPW Director Marlo Warner.
 - Status of Wage/Class Study.
- *Topics added to agenda September 20, 2023 @ 8:59 am**
- 6a. Questions from the Council for Mayor
7. Communications from other City Employees as needed, by invitation:
Treasurer/Collector Kelly Varner; City Attorney for Tax Titles Iris Leahy and City Attorney Jesse Belcher-Timme to discuss the newly proposed Ordinance 279: Home Equity **(Pg. 28)**
8. Public Comment
9. Public Hearing(s) and Second Reading(s): **(Pg. 29)**
 - Interfund Transfer of \$7,650 from Executive Administration Salaries F/T to Accounting Salaries F/T.
10. Motions, Orders, and Resolutions
 - I. Assignment of Police Officers at 2023 Elections. **(Pg. 30)**
 - II. Interfund Transfer of \$7,650 from Executive Administration Salaries F/T to Accounting Salaries F/T. **(Pg. 31)**
 - III. Mayor’s Appointments – Human Rights Commission, Lance Smith **(Pg. 39)**
11. Presentation of Petitions and Similar Papers - At the time of posting, there were no topics reasonably anticipated by the Chair.
12. Report of Committees- At the time of posting, there were no topics reasonably anticipated by the Chair.
13. Unfinished Business- At the time of posting, there were no topics reasonably anticipated by the Chair.
14. Old Business- At the time of posting, there were no topics reasonably anticipated by the Chair.
15. New Business
 - Selection of a Council Attorney(s)
16. Motions for Reconsideration
17. Adjournment

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY BE CALLED

****Please note that the list of topics was comprehensive at the time of posting, however, the public body may consider and take action on unforeseen matters not specifically named in this notice. Posted in accordance with M.G.L.c 30A § 18-25.***

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2023

John Zon Community Center/Zoom Hybrid

6:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Guin.

CHAIRS STATEMENT: This meeting is being recorded by the City Council and GCTV-17. If any other persons present are doing the same you must notify the chairperson at this time. In accordance with MGLc 30A SS 20(g) “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.”

Due to technical difficulties, the meeting began at 6:44 pm. It was noted that the Council had a physical quorum at the John Zon Community Center in the event the Zoom feed was lost.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS: Roll Call was taken. Councilor Ricketts was absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Roxann Wedegartner; Assistant City Clerk Quinn Jacquins; Administrative Assistant to the City Council Tammy Marciel; Finance Director/City Auditor/City Accountant Diana Schindler; Police Chief Robert Haigh; Fire Chief Robert Strahan; GCTV-17 staff; Mary Byrne, *the Recorder* and members of the public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was held.

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

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF APRIL 19, MAY 17, MAY 18, JUNE 21, 2023.

COMMUNICATIONS:

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE: The Superintendent of Schools, Dr. DeBarge, submitted the communication in writing (see attached).

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

- The City recently hired Amy Cahillane as the new Community and Economic Development Director in place of MJ Adams, who retired this year. She would start her new position on July 31st, 2023.
- Alina Cecunjanin from GCC (Greenfield Community College), became an intern in the City's Finance Department this summer as part of the Massachusetts Municipal Finance Fellowship Program.
- The new library had its grand opening last week and thanked the Councilors who appeared at the ceremony. Anna Bognolo was recently hired as the new Library Director in place of Ellen Boyer, who retired this year.

Councilors asked the following questions:

- Update on the project to the building formally used by Wilson's Department Store and the situation with finding a space for Cleary Jewelers.

OTHER CITY EMPLOYEES AS NEEDED, BY INVITATION: Police Chief Haigh and Fire Chief Strahan discussed the Removal of the Chiefs' positions from Civil Service:

- All other departments in both police and fire had been removed from Civil Service, the Chiefs' positions remained.

- The City would require a hefty expense for the process to maintain a police Chief in Civil Service due to limited eligible candidates both within and outside the department.
- The police and fire chief positions for civil service were voted in by Town referendum; however, since Greenfield had become a City, the civil service positions were not required to be voted out by Town referendum.

Councilors asked the following questions:

- Original purpose for the adoption of Civil Service and why it was no longer relevant.
- Established process for promoting, hiring and merit for new employees.
- Effect of Chiefs in Civil Service as to complaints and other disciplinary issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The following members of the public spoke:

- Joan Marie Jackson, Chestnut Hill, read from a prepared statement in regards to recent Home Equity Surplus ruling and proposed ordinance. (See attached)
- Mitchell Speight, Chestnut Hill, continued to read prepared statement in regards to recent Home Equity Surplus ruling and proposed ordinance. (See attached)
- Al Norman, Grinnell Street, continued to read prepared statement in regards to recent Home Equity Surplus ruling and proposed ordinance. (See attached)
- Stephanie Duclos, Chapman Street, spoke to her proposed resolution, ordinance and charter change(s) regarding the opioid settlement funds. She also spoke to her opposition to the proposed banning of gas powered leaf blowers and requested the Council to table the vote on Civil Service and referred to a subcommittee.
- Jesus Leyva, Deerfield Street, spoke to his experience with, and other instances to, landlords that repeatedly fail to properly maintain their properties and the request an ordinance proposal to address and list landlords as “repeat offenders” and the importance of well funded building and health departments to address, inspect and enforce code violations on apartment and other rented properties.
- Pamela Goodwin, High Street, spoke to State Auditor Diana DiZoglio and her plans to audit many different agencies to address their transparency with other government officials in their Cities and Towns. She supported the proposed ordinances submitted for the ban on gas powered leaf blowers, opioid funds distribution and home equity surplus.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: Councilor Desorgher read the public hearing:

PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Home Rule Charter, the Greenfield City Council will hold a public hearing on Wed., July 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., and Zoom: <https://greenfield-ma.gov.zoom.us/j/95107374357?pwd=K2pzbUtnUzZUVnAzc3hVZ1YyU0h1QT09> Meeting ID 951 0737 4357, to receive public input on the following:

- Approve payment of \$24,509.88 for GTR Greenfield Millbrook Solar LLC FY 2022 invoice from FY24 WPCF Electricity Account.
- Approve FY2024 Community Preservation Fund Budget – Admin Costs and Reserves.
 - ❖ Appropriate FY24 CPC Administrative Expenses in the amount of \$13,225.00 (5%)
 - ❖ Reserve \$171,925 from the FY2024 Community Preservation Fund Revenues for Community Preservation Fund Purposes (FY24 Annual Budgeted Reserve – 65%)
 - ❖ Reserve \$26,450 from FY2024 Community Preservation Fund Revenues for Open Space (10%).
 - ❖ Reserve \$26,450 from FY2024 Community Preservation Fund Revenues for Historic Resources (10%).
 - ❖ Reserve \$26,450 from FY2024 Community Preservation Fund Revenues for Community Housing (10%).

The City Council may consider the same on Wed., July 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., and Zoom: <https://greenfield-ma.gov.zoom.us/j/95107374357?pwd=K2pzbUtnUzZUVnAzc3hVZ1YyU0h1QT09> Meeting ID 951 0737 4357.

Materials can be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 14 Court Sq. from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Mon. - Fri. or phone 413-772-1555, x. 6163.

Daniel Guin, Greenfield City Council President

President Guin opened the public hearing at 7:50 pm. The following members of the public spoke:

- Stephanie Duclos, Chapman Street, requested reconsideration to the 5% toward Administrative Expenses and could a different portion be used to supplement a salary.

President Guin closed the public hearing at 7:52 pm.

MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

Order no. FY 24-001

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL VOTES AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GREENFIELD TO EXEMPT THE POSITIONS OF CHIEF OF POLICE AND CHIEF OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM CIVIL SERVICE LAW.

SECTION 1. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY GENERAL OR SPECIAL LAW TO THE CONTRARY, THE POSITIONS OF CHIEF OF POLICE WITHIN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND CHIEF OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM COVERAGE BY CHAPTER 31 OF THE GENERAL LAWS.

SECTION 2. THIS ACT SHALL NOT IMPAIR THE CIVIL SERVICE STATUS OF A PERSON HOLDING A POSITION DESCRIBED IN SECTION 1 ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT.

SECTION 3. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON ITS PASSAGE

DISCUSSION: Inquiry was made if the Council could amend this order to have this made retroactive to the current chiefs.

- Issue should be referred to a subcommittee, most likely Appointments & Ordinances, to receive more discussion and answers to any further questions that may arise.
- Removing the positions of the police and fire chiefs had been an issue since the removal of the police and fire departments from civil service beginning in 2019.
- It would hinder the hiring process for the positions of the police and fire chief if they remained in Civil Service and the departments in which they supervise were not.

It was unanimously,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 24-001.

Councilor Terounzo noted that the second reading was not read at the time of the public hearing. It was suggested until further research was performed on this issue and to ensure the Council was in compliance a second reading should be read. President Guin would confer before the meeting adjourned for the night.

Order no. FY 24-002

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY CHARTER ARTICLE 6: ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION; SECTION 6-14 (A) & (C): BOARD OF ASSESSORS, BE AMENDED AS INDICATED BELOW, WITH THE BOLD TEXT TO BE ADDED AND STRIKETHROUGH TO BE REMOVED:

SECTION 6-14: BOARD OF ASSESSORS

(a) There shall be a Board of Assessors consisting of three (3) members, ~~one (1) appointed by the Mayor for an indefinite term, who would act as "chief assessor" and two (2)~~ **to be** elected at large by the voters, for staggered terms of 4 years.

(b) The Board of Assessors shall have all powers which are conferred on boards of assessors by the General Laws and such additional powers and duties as may be provided by this Charter, by ordinance or otherwise.

(c) ~~Unless otherwise provided by law, the Assessor appointed by the Mayor shall be a full-time employee of the City and entitled to all the benefits occasioned thereby. The compensation of each Assessor shall be determined by bylaw.~~

A Principal Assessor shall be a full-time employee of the city, hired by the Mayor and pursuant to the provisions of Charter section 6-3, the Department of Municipal Finances.

(d) Term of office. The term of office for all elected members of the Board of Assessors shall be four years each, with staggered terms, beginning on the first business day of January after the City election and until the member's successor has been qualified.

AND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL FURTHER INSTRUCTS THE CITY CLERK TO SUBMIT THE APPROVED VOTE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS AND REQUEST SAID LEGISLATURE TO AMEND THE CITY CHARTER.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Bullock noted the Appointments & Ordinances Committee did not meet this month and therefore no recommendation would be forwarded.

- Councilor Forgey, who submitted the proposed amendment, noted that a charter amendment on this section was sent to the State Legislature earlier for review; however, they had some questions in regards to the language that was submitted. This amendment was to provide clearer language for subsection (a).
- Clarification as to the number of elected officials on the Board of Assessors and the “staggered terms”.
- This amendment would not go into effect until it was reviewed, passed and returned from the State Legislature. Until then, the language currently in the Charter would need to be followed.

It was unanimously,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 24-002.

President Guin called for a 5 minutes recess at 8:26 pm.

President Guin resumed the meeting at 8:32 pm.

Order no. FY 24-003

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Bullock, second by Councilor Terounzo, it was unanimously,

VOTED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 2-10, AFFIRMS THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENT & RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR:

Appointments:

- Diana Schindler; Greenfield-Montague Transportation Area; Term to Expire June 30, 2024; (short term to finish out Danielle Letourneau’s term)

Reappointments

- George Gohl; Parking & Traffic Commission; June 30, 2026

Order no. FY 24-004

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THE CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN UNITED PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION (UPSEU) LOCAL 424M BE APPROVED.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Desorgher stated that the Ways & Means Committee did not meet for July and therefore no recommendation would be forwarded.

- Number of employees associated with this union.
- Rationale to why the Council was required to vote on a memorandum of understanding/union contracting.

- Adjustment of step increase calculation to reflect change in timeframe from January 1st to July 1st.
- Correction was made on section (b) of the main order for COLA. In accordance with the chart it should read FY24=2%, FY25=3% and FY26=3%.

It was unanimously,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 24-004.

Order no. FY 23-161

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THE CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, APPROVES THE PAYMENT OF THE PRIOR YEAR INVOICE FOR GTR GREENFIELD MILLBROOK SOLAR, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,509.88 TO BE PAID FROM FY24 WPCF ELECTRICITY ACCOUNT #6000449.5211.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Desorgher reread the order as part of the second reading and reported the Ways & Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation.

It was unanimously,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 23-161.

Councilor Desorgher read the following as a second reading:

- Approve FY2024 Community Preservation Fund Budget – Admin Costs and Reserves.
 - ❖ Appropriate FY24 CPC Administrative Expenses in the amount of \$13,225.00 (5%)
 - ❖ Reserve \$171,925 from the FY2024 Community Preservation Fund Revenues for Community Preservation Fund Purposes (FY24 Annual Budgeted Reserve – 65%)
 - ❖ Reserve \$26,450 from FY2024 Community Preservation Fund Revenues for Open Space (10%).
 - ❖ Reserve \$26,450 from FY2024 Community Preservation Fund Revenues for Historic Resources (10%).
 - ❖ Reserve \$26,450 from FY2024 Community Preservation Fund Revenues for Community Housing (10%).

Order no. FY 23-162

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THE CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, VOTE TO APPROPRIATE AND RESERVE FROM COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND ANNUAL REVENUES, THE SUMS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE FOR COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES AND RESERVES IN FISCAL YEAR 2024, WITH EACH ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED A SEPARATE APPROPRIATION.

APPROPRIATE FY24 CPC ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,225.00 (5%)

RESERVE \$171,925 FROM THE FY2024 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND REVENUES FOR COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND PURPOSES (FY24 ANNUAL BUDGETED RESERVE – 65%)

RESERVE \$26,450 FROM FY2024 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND REVENUES FOR OPEN SPACE (10%).

RESERVE \$26,450 FROM FY2024 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND REVENUES FOR HISTORIC RESOURCES (10%).

RESERVE \$26,450 FROM FY2024 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND REVENUES FOR COMMUNITY HOUSING (10%).

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

- Breakdown of administrative expenses paid with appropriated funds of \$13,225.00 (5%).

It was unanimously,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 23-162.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND SIMILAR PAPERS - None.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES – None

President Guin commented on the subcommittees not holding meetings, especially during summer when people were on vacation. In the future, the Chair of a subcommittee would need to consult with the Council President before cancelling a meeting.

President Guin noted that the Committee Chairs meeting scheduled for August 1st would be rescheduled to August 8th, 2023.

Councilor Golub informed the Council the ad-hoc committee to review Charter Chapters 7-7 & 7-8 had completed their last meeting and adjourned the process. She and Councilor Helie would prepare the agreed upon language and forward that to the full Council. President Guin made a correction that the report would be forwarded to Appointments & Ordinances Committee first.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Councilor Lapienski stated he had on several occasions proposed a discussion to establish a summer scheduled for the Council and could also include subcommittees. President Guin would review the proposal and respond at a later date.

OLD BUSINESS: Councilor Elmer stated a scriveners' error was discovered from the vote taken by the Council in June regarding the rezoning proposal for French King Highway so the Council would need to acknowledge, without objection, the scriveners' error and reaffirm the vote. Without objection, Councilor Elmer read into the record the corrected vote:

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF GREENFIELD AMEND THE ZONING MAP TO REZONE THE FOLLOWING PARCELS ON FRENCH KING HIGHWAY FROM GENERAL COMMERCIAL (GC) TO PLANNED INDUSTRY (PI): R04-31, R04-33, **R04-34**, R04-41, R04-44 AND R05-23. (SEE ATTACHED MAP) AND FURTHER AMENDS THE TABLE OF CONTENTS AND INDEX OF THE CODE. AND FURTHER THAT NONSUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO THE NUMBERING OF THE ORDINANCE BE PERMITTED IN ORDER THAT IT BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NUMBERING FORMAT OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GREENFIELD.

Administrative Assistant to the Council Marciel addressed a concern brought up by Councilor Gilmour at the June 21st Council meeting in regards to appointments to the GCET Board of Commissioners inability to serve on another Boards or Committees. It was discovered there was documentation stating a member of GCET Board of Commissioners could not hold public office. However, further clarification was needed to determine if that meant only elected officials and city employees or if it included other boards and committees. Once determination was made the Council would be notified.

Councilor Desorgher returned to the question she had asked Finance Director Schindler at the June Ways & Means meeting in which she requested a numerical figure for the longevity calculated incorrectly for all departments in favor of

the employees. Director Schindler noted she did not have it readily and would forward the information as soon as she was able.

NEW BUSINESS: A number of proposed ordinances and other issues had been submitted by non-Councilors that to date had not been supported by a Councilor.

- Proposed Creation of New Ordinance to Ban Gas Powered Leaf Blowers in Greenfield. – Councilor Lapienski stated that he would support this proposed ordinance and prepare something to present to Appointments & Ordinances Committee.
 - The City did not currently have a noise ordinance; however, there was a zoning regulation that listed times in which issues involving noise was posted.
- Proposed Ordinances for 1.) Disposition of surplus equity and 2.) Providing restitution for surplus home equity. – Councilor Gilmour stated she would support the proposed ordinance.
 - Councilor Desorgher was in contact with Senator Jo Comerford’s office regarding State Legislature on this issue and would forward information to clerk’s office for distribution that included the law as written currently and new language they were working on.
- Resolution to support amendment to MGL c. 44 §53: Deposit Statewide Opioid Settlement Funds into a Separate Fund (including proposed Ordinance and Charter Amendment). – It was noted that Councilor Bullock had mentioned at last month’s Councilor meeting she was working with the Mayor’s office on this issue. Councilor Bullock confirmed that she had been in contact with the Mayor who informed her of a meeting was scheduled with providers as well as a follow up meeting with peers.
- Ride for Hire Ordinance. – President Guin stated that he would support this proposed ordinance that originated with former Chief of Staff Danielle Letourneau.

MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Councilor Elmer, second by Councilor Gilmour, it was unanimously, **VOTED: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:24 P.M.**

A true copy,

Attest: _____
Kathryn J. Scott, City Clerk

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Zon Community Center/Zoom Hybrid
Regular Meeting
July 19, 2023

Attendance

1. Golub, Katherine	Y					
2. Guin, Daniel President	Y					
3. Desorgher, Virginia	Y					
4. Bottomley, John	Y					
5. Bullock, Marianne	Y					
6. Gilmour, Sheila	Y					
7. Lapienski, Jasper	Y					
8. Mayo, Douglas	Y					
9. Helie, Derek	Y					
10. Elmer, Philip	Y					
11. Forgey, Christine Vice - President	Y					
12. Ricketts, Penny	N					
13. Terounzo, Michael	Y					



GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

195 Federal Street, Suite 100, Greenfield, MA 01301

"Every Child's Success is Our Mission"

Ph: 413-772-1310 / Fax: 413-772-1379

Dr. Christine DeBarge, Superintendent of Schools

July 19, 2023

This Friday, Chair Proietti will speak on behalf of the Greenfield Public Schools at a press conference with Congressman McGovern. The Congressman will be at the Summer Eats Hillside Park location at 12:30 to celebrate the Summer Eats programs in his district.

The GPS Extended Year Program for students receiving Title I and Special Education summer services is in full swing. The program is running at the Academy of Early Learning for students in PK - 2 and at the Greenfield High School for students in grade 3-7 and high school credit recovery. We are providing summer services to approximately 150 students. Programs run through Aug 2 for most students and Aug 16 for several specialized, special education programs.

We are planning for the start of the 2023-2024 academic year. Professional development during our Convocation and one and a half days following are very busy with required training and additional work for staff regarding various curriculum and instructional topics.

We do ask that any student who will be attending GPS in the fall that has not been registered, contact our registrar at the Central Office as soon as possible. It is very important that students get registered in time to start school on the first day.

A Re-envisioning our School Facilities subcommittee meeting was held Monday July 17th. We are making progress toward Option 2b - a K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 model with the school boundary lines redrawn to better represent the City within each school. A staff survey showed that 85% of the staff who responded prefer Option 2b to the Option 1 of grade banded schools. A few more details related to staffing and schedules are being worked on, with the goal to address final points by the September School Committee meeting.

The Greenfield Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, marital status, race, color, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, ancestry, genetic information or military service. The Greenfield Public Schools maintain a commitment to ensuring that the school community is free from discrimination in education and employment.

Joan Marie Jackson Pubic Comments, July 19, 2023

Members of the Council, my name is Joan Marie Jackson. I live on Highland Avenue..Later this evening you will take up two motions to address our city's unconstitutional taking of surplus home equity. We submitted these motions on June in a memo to President Guin.

Last November 16th, the Greenfield City Council unanimously voted to send a resolution to the Massachusetts General Court urging adoption of legislation relative to tax deeds, amending Section 53 of Chapter 60, so that after a public auction of a foreclosed property, the distribution of proceeds would go first to "the tax title holder"--the City—and the property owner would receive any surplus equity in excess of what was owed—and after giving the city all collection costs it expended. We thank you for support that resolution to the General Court.

Five months later, on April 12, we, and Housing Greenfield, emailed the Council urging you to use the provisions of Chapter 60, s. 87 of our Massachusetts General Laws, to adopt a local ordinance in Greenfield directing the Tax Collector, using the language found in Chapter 60, section 87, to stop using the power of taking—but instead use the "power of sale" process used by banks dealing with foreclosed properties. You, the City Council, have the power to pass this ordinance now---and we urge you to do this as soon as you can.

On May 25, 2023, the earth shifted on this debate. The United States Supreme Court, in the case *Tyler v. Hennepin County* The Court ruled that the County had the power to sell a 94 year old woman's home to recover the unpaid property taxes---but it could not use the toehold of the tax debt to confiscate more property than was due. The Court noted that a government could not take more property than it was owed, because that violated the 14th Amendment right of the property owner to receive "just compensation" for any property taken by government.

The City of Greenfield should not be in the business of "unhousing" our citizens who are struggling to pay their property taxes. Now that the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that property owners who lose their home at auction should receive "just compensation" for that taking, we must change our ordinances to prevent this from ever happening to any other property owner.

Mitch Speight's comments will continue to explain the rest of our request. Thank you

MITCHELL SPEIGHT COMMENTS JULY 19 HOME EQUITY REFORMS

What we are doing today regarding home equity is unconstitutional, but there are ways to get back on a legal path.

We urge the City Council to adopt the following two motions to address our unconstitutional taking of surplus equity:

MOTION 1. The City Council should adopt an ordinance regarding the disposition of surplus equity: “Pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 60, section 87, the City directs the Collector of Taxes to use the “power of sale” to enforce a lien for taxes, not to exercise the “power of taking” under chapter 60, section 53. Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. 183, section 21 and 27(1), after an order of public sale of a foreclosed property, the distribution of proceeds shall treat the tax title holder [the city] like a mortgagee with the first priority interest in the proceeds from the property, and treating the delinquent debtor [the property owner] as a mortgagor, rendering the surplus, if any, to the mortgagor.”

MOTION 2. “Based upon the property auction records of the Tax Collector, the City shall make reasonable efforts to contact all property owners, who fall within the statute of limitations, and who were subject to unconstitutional surplus equity taking, to offer said property owners compensation for any excess equity taken, including all collection costs, legal fees and interest, plus interest calculated from the date of taking by the City up to the date of final restitution.”

This means that any property owner who was forced to pay not only their back taxes, but on top of that legal fees and court costs---should have that money returned to them, because the **whole process was unconstitutional**, and denied them just compensation. We need to make these people whole. One man lost roughly \$265,000, including the confiscation of 13 acres of wooded nature trails.

One of the lead attorneys at the Pacific Legal Foundation who participated in the *Supreme Court* case has written: “Hopefully, we get something passed soon that clearly lays out collection procedures consistent with *Tyler*. Otherwise, cities continuing to take equity can expect lawsuits and liability.” Greenfield faces litigation costs if we fail to proactively compensate property owners who can bring claims in court to recapture their lost equity, This proposed ordinance will protect the city from the legal costs of unnecessary lawsuits, because it compensates victims who lost equity, and pays for all their loss.

We ask you to adopt these two proposed ordinances, and to work as quickly as possible to ensure that Greenfield does not take excess equity in the future, and that the property owners we have already harmed are made whole.

Al Norman’s comments will conclude our testimony. Thank you.

Al Norman Comments, July 19th Home Equity Reform

My name is Al Norman, I live on Grinnell St.

Last week, the Mayor issued a policy statement on the subject of home equity reform. On June 7, Joan Marie Jackson, Mitch Speight and I sent her an email urging prompt action to make the home equity reforms we sent to President Guin. I wish to respond publicly to 4 statements by the Mayor:

THE MAYOR WROTE: “It is rare that the city carries out a tax sale. Rather, we try hard to assist the homeowner in paying their back taxes in order not to have to foreclose on the property. It’s even rarer that the city keeps the equity funds that may be involved in the sale.”

MY RESPONSE: Such equity theft should not be “rare,” it should NEVER happen. It’s unconstitutional. 5 property owners in Greenfield had excess home equity stolen by Greenfield in 2020 and 2021, including one man who lost around \$266,000.

THE MAYOR: “We are allowed under the law to utilize the sale proceeds to cover legal costs and other expenses associated with a foreclosure process, and we will do that.”

MY Response: Current law in Massachusetts is unconstitutional. If a city in the course of an unconstitutional tax taking charged the homeowner with court fees, legal costs and other collection costs, the homeowner should be compensated for those losses as well.

MAYOR: “Currently, there is no legal path for the city to pay back any equity retained by the city from foreclosures that happened in the past.”

MY RESPONSE: There are 5 former property owners in Greenfield who had their homes sold at auction, and who lost home equity over the past 3 years. The city can meet with those former property owners, and enter into settlement agreements, or face potential litigation in state or federal court. We should avoid litigation, and proactively begin discussions with these injured parties.

THE MAYOR: “The City of Greenfield shall publish an annual report prepared by the Treasurer/Collector’s office showing all tax title activity in the city by street address, all proceeds from tax title sales and the net equity revenue collected by sale that is in

excess of tax debt and all collection costs...and state any expenses paid towards tax title.”

MY RESPONSE: An annual report of all tax title taking was one of 10 reforms we presented to the Mayor 14 months ago. We are pleased the Mayor is now promising this report to all taxpayers.

Thank you.

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2023

John Zon Community Center/Zoom Hybrid

6:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by President Guin.

CHAIRS STATEMENT: This meeting is being recorded by the City Council and GCTV-17. If any other persons present are doing the same you must notify the chairperson at this time. In accordance with MGLc 30A SS 20(g) “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. Councilors Gilmour and Mayo were absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Roxann Wedegartner; City Clerk Kathryn J. Scott; Assistant City Clerk Quinn Jacquins; Interim Chief of Staff/Finance Director Diana Schindler; City Attorneys Jesse Belcher-Timme, Gordon Quinn and Robert Quinn; O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun Assoc Inc Licensed Site Professional Bruce Nickelsen; Fire Chief Robert Strahan; Library Director Ann Bognolo; Community Development Director Amy Cahillane; Health Director Jennifer Hoffman; DPW Director Marlo Warner; GCTV-17 staff; Mary Byrne, *the Recorder* and members of the public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was held.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: None.

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

MOVED: 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: Councilor Lapienski requested that once the vote to waive the rules of procedure was taken and passed, the Council should take public comment before the vote to go into executive session to avoid the public from waiting on the Council to exit the session.

- It was noted the Executive Session item was listed on the Agenda after the Approval of Minutes as discussed ahead of time; secondly, the invited attorneys were charging for their time to appear so the Council did not want them to wait any longer than was necessary.

It was by roll call, 10 yes, 1 no,

VOTED: TO WAIVE THE RULES OF PROCEDURE.

Order no. FY 24-008

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Bullock, second by Councilor Ricketts, it was,

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED 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.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Golub noted that she would hold any objections on the Executive Session until the Council voted and passed the motion to enter into the session.

- It was explained the reason for entering into executive session was to receive any updates in litigation the City was involved in.

It was by roll call, 11 yes, 0 no,

VOTED: TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

President Guin stated that having the discussion in open session would have a detrimental effect on the public body's negotiating position, bargaining position, litigating position, or the ability to obtain qualified applicants.

The Council left the main meeting room to enter into Executive Session at 6:41 pm.

The Council returned from Executive Session and resumed the regular meeting at 7:18 pm.

COMMUNICATIONS:

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Superintendent Dr. Christine DeBarge; School Committee Chairperson Amy Proietti submitted the communication in writing (see attached).

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

- Introduced the new Library Director, Anna Bognolo and new Community Development Director Amy Cahillane to the Council.
- DPW Director Marlo Warner provided a storm damage update:
 - In the month of July, Greenfield saw some of the heaviest rainfall in some time.
 - The rainfall over capacitated the drain system.
 - The City had a total of eight (8) damaged roads, with Newel Pond Place receiving the worst of the damage.
 - Previous damage to the capped landfill accumulated with the heavy rainfall.
 - The DPW spent approximately \$162,000 from the current operating budget to repair the roads to a operational state and was expected to spend upwards of \$200,000 to repair the capped landfill in the liner areas.
- Received a Digital Literacy Grant in the amount of \$99,773 from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs to aid older adults to use modern technology.
- Received approximately \$250,000 grant to go towards the replacement of a four (4) inch water main at the west end of Main Street.
- Updates on the construction of the new Fire Station:
 - Underground utilities to municipal services were completed.
 - The exterior walls were being constructed and the face brick was in the process on the west elevation and would progress counterclockwise around the building.
 - Roofing membrane on the flat roof was installed.
 - Window installation was anticipated to begin at the end of the month.
 - Interior partitions were completed
 - Rough inspections for plumbing and electrical were in process.
 - The drywall closure on the interiors was scheduled for later this month.
 - Interior finishes and final equipment installation would continue through the fall.
 - Supply chain pressures were affecting some equipment on the project.

Councilors asked the following questions:

- Status of receiving reimbursement from the State for monies used to repair storm damage.
- Future plans on repairing extreme weather damage.
- Approximate number of residents who would be able to participate in the Digital Literacy for Seniors program based on the amount of the grant.

- Indication of receiving a temporary certificate of occupancy regardless of electrical issue with the switch gear.
- Did the GMTA (Greenfield Montague Transit Authority) property on Deerfield Street go out to bid; was there an appraisal, and if it went out to bid along with general procurement regulations.

Explanation was provided to Councilors on new recommendations from Open Meeting Law regarding the listing of agenda items that were considered vague and less detailed. The introduction of topics not listed on the agenda was discouraged. Councilors argued these recommendations would hinder the Council from speaking to topics that were presented after the agenda was published and needed to be addressed in a timely manner. Councilors continued to ask the following questions:

- GMTA property was appraised for \$880,000; however, according to an article in the newspaper, that property would be sold for \$400,000.
- Next steps in the sale process and who had the authority regarding oversight of the sale, determination of the property evaluation and if GMTA notified the Department of Transportation of the dissolution of this entity.
- The Mayor's involvement in the sale of the property and the Town of Montague's Select Board's vote to sell this property.
- Placement of funds received by Greenfield from the sale.
- The property was assessed at \$580,000; in accordance with the news article, there was an estimate of approximately \$800,000 towards repairing the property.

OTHER CITY EMPLOYEES AS NEEDED, BY INVITATION: LSP (Licensed Site Professional) Bruce Nickelsen reported the following:

- Presented a brief history on the use of the Lunt property located on Federal Street and when the City took possession of the property.
- OTO (O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun Assoc Inc) worked for the Lunt Company prior to bankruptcy and was involved in the notification of the release condition for "chlorinated volatile organic compounds, primarily trichloroethylene (TCE), a solvent used in metal degreasing.
- Towards the rear of the property there's about 30 feet to bedrock with some glacial till over it and fine sand up to the surface. The rock was believed to have risen towards Federal Street. Ground water was fairly shallow, with groundwater flow towards Kenwood Street.
- A Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) was prepared by OTO as a Phase One initial site assessment report in 2014, which included soil testing, groundwater testing, soil gas testing, indoor air in the building and storm sewer on Kenwood Street and towards the Green River where it discharged. Indoor air testing of the residences across Kenwood Street and some on Forest Avenue.
- Both the Massachusetts DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) and the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), were involved in the indoor air testing.
- The Phase One report found that dissolved TCE in groundwater and had discharged to the storm sewer in Kenwood Street. The US EPA testing resulted in no further action letters to the residences that were tested.
- In 2014 the City received a Brownfields grant to perform soil investigation, seeking areas of contamination.
- In 2015, with the Brownfields grant, the EPA had a removal program for a number of unsecured hazardous material containers and drums in the building. The EPA excavated two (2) areas of soil they found in the previous years' investigation program; one at the west portion of the building, and one along Kenwood Street. Soils with metals below the site were cyclonic concentrators.
- In 2016, the reconstruction of the building began, with portions of the original Lunt building. The remediation entail included installation of two (2) passive or two sub-slab systems that would inhibit any TCE vapors from entering the building.
- Additional soil was removed from the Mallory building due to a vapor degreaser once housed in there and also an elevator shaft added to the building.
- In April 2020, Phase Two, comprehensive site assessment, was produced. Request was made to meet with DEP and individual from Brownfields and asked for their input on the findings. The Phase Two report described the

dissolved TCE in groundwater, the testing of the sub slab systems indoor air testing, which found the concentrations in indoor air met residential standards.

- In the winter of 2022, DEP notified the City that an audit would be performed and the PIP (Public Involvement Plan). In March 2022, an initial findings from the DEP audit requested that a conceptual phase two scope of work for items to be addressed. The conceptual scope of work was submitted to the DEP in October of 2022.
- In November of 2022 the City received an interim deadlines letter required a sampling of indoor air in nine (9), One commercial and eight residential areas along Kenwood Street and Forest Avenue. Testing was done from November 2022 thru April 2023, with each building sampled twice in the basement and first floor. The data would indicate no exceedances of residential standards or significant risk.
- In March of 2023 the City received a second interim deadlines letter from DEP requesting a revised phase two scope of work.
- In May of 2023 the revised phase scope of work was submitted following a 50 day PIP review period and awaiting DEP's response to the revised phase two.
- The scope of work included installation of additional monitoring wells and evaluation and one year of groundwater monitoring.
- The phase two comprehensive site assessment would likely commence approximately 1 ½ years once DEP responded to the revised phase scope of work.

Councilors asked the following questions:

- Anticipate installation of deep ground water and monitoring wells down to the bedrock.
- Source of payment for LSP Nickelsen's services.
- Rationale for why an active system was not installed for TCE vapor intrusion in the air as was ordered by the DEP. (Attorney Robert Quinn inserted that Mr. Nickelsen was asked to provide the Councilors with an update of the cleanup to date and noted Councilor Bottomley provided some incorrect information and was basically the point of view of the Councilor through the introduction of another LSP.)
- Cost for the installation of an active system.
- Connection between the detox facility closing and the environmental issues found at the property.
- Handling of the condition of a building with different levels of contamination.
- Grant money expended on demolishing the site or entire amount designated for cleanup.
- Air quality samples collected by LSP were sent to independent third party laboratories.
- Shared information to PIP according to their regulations.
- Research on the relationship between the plume and leaking storm sewer pipes to establish the direction of the plume.
- Date of most recent comprehensive air testing for the buildings on site was performed.
- Confirmation on any work performed on actual remediation within the last year to two (2) years.
- The installation of an active system would require the continuation of indoor air testing.
- Willingness of Mayor to communicate with BHN (Behavioral Health Network) to discuss the closing of the detox facility.
- Current role of Diana Schindler's employment with the City of Greenfield.
- Any efforts made to hire a new permanent Chief of Staff.

President Guin called for recess at 9:19pm.

President Guin resumed meeting at 9:27pm.

Councilor Ricketts left the meeting at 9:20 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The following members of the public spoke:

- Marion Griswold, Hastings Street, read from a prepared statement (see attached).

- Susan Worgaftik, Forest Avenue, spoke to the lack of communication and information provided to the PIP Group regarding the Lunt Property cleanup.
- Pamela Goodwin, High Street, spoke to her involvement with the PIP Group and her experience with health and safety concerns and improvements at her residential building.
- Wahab Minhus, Davis Street, spoke to his support of the appointment of Maria Burge to the Public Safety Commission. He also thanked the Council for their efforts to address the contamination and cleanup process at the Lunt property.
- Dorothea Melnicuff, Norwood Street, spoke to her experience residing across from the Lunt property and her continued concern with the contamination and cleanup.
- Glen Ayers, Davis Street, spoke to his involvement with the PIP Group and thanked the Council for addressing this issue. He commented on the presentation of Bruce Nickelsen and frustration with lack of communication and information provided to the PIP Group.
- Rachel Gordon, Eastern Avenue, spoke her support on the establishment of an opioid settlement stabilization fund and proper distribution of funds. She supported the efforts of the Council to address the Lunt Property contamination and cleanup.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

Order no. FY 24-005

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Bullock, 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 APPOINTMENTS & RE-APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR:

Appointments:

- Community Preservation Commission - David Brock, Term to Expire June 30, 2024; (short term to finish out John Passiglia's term)
- Greenfield Local Cultural Council - Marcel LaFlamme, Term to Expire December 31, 2025 (short term to maintain staggered terms)
- Human Rights Commission - Kathleen Kenny, Term to Expire December 31, 2024 (short term to finish out Irene Woods' term)
- Human Rights Commission - Quinn Mass, Term to Expire December 31, 2025 (short term to maintain staggered terms)
- Planning Board - Charles Roberts, Term to Expire June 30, 2026
- Public Safety Commission - Maria Burge, Term to Expire June 30, 2026

Reappointments:

- Board of Health - John Romano, Term to Expire June 30, 2026
- Zoning Board of Appeals - Peter Wozniak, Term to Expire June 30, 2026
- Commission on Disability Access - Virginia Desorgher, Term to Expire June 30, 2026 (Councilor Desorgher recused herself from this portion only)
- Historical Commission – David Brock, Term to Expire June 30, 2026

DISCUSSION: Councilor Bullock reported the Appointments & Ordinances Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation.

- Maria Burge, appointee to the Public Safety Commission, addressed the Council and thanked everyone for the opportunity.

- Appreciation to the Mayor for the appointment of Ms. Burge to the Commission and would be a real asset to the Commission and the community.

Councilor Desorgher recused herself from the vote regarding her appointment to the Commission on Disability Access only. She was allowed to vote on the other appointments/re-appointments.

It was unanimously,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 24-005.

Order no. FY 24-006

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THE CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, CREATE A SPECIAL PURPOSE OPIOID SETTLEMENT STABILIZATION FUND, PURSUANT TO M.G.L. CHAPTER 40, §53B LOCAL OPTION PARAGRAPH, WITH RECEIPTS FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE-SUBDIVISION FOR STATEWIDE OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS TO BE DEPOSITED, AND THEN APPROPRIATED ANNUALLY TO BE USED TO SUPPLEMENT AND STRENGTHEN RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PREVENTION, HARM REDUCTION, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY. DISBURSEMENT OF SAID FUNDS WOULD BE MADE AT THE REQUEST OF THE MAYOR, AND BY VOTE OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

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

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Bullock, second by Councilor Helie, it was,

MOVED: TO AMEND ORDER BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE TO THE END OF THE PARAGRAPH: “UPON COMPLETION OF A PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS.”

DISCUSSION: It was noted that although a public engagement process was part of the procedure with the disbursement of funds it would be clearer and more beneficial to include that as part of the order.

- It was noted the disbursement of funds were required to be made after the public engagement process; however, it was the discretion of the Council to make that amendment.
- In accordance with the abatement terms for Massachusetts, Section 1, statewide commitment to abatement, there was language that mentioned “the input of communities of people who had personal experience with the opioid crisis.”
- A public engagement process may not be funded through opioid settlement stabilization. Concern was also raised that adding this language to the order could affect the timeliness and possible delay in the distribution of funds.

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

VOTED: TO CALL THE QUESTION.

The proposed amendment was now on the floor for vote: TO AMEND ORDER BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE TO THE END OF THE PARAGRAPH: “UPON COMPLETION OF A PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS.”

It was by roll call, 9 yes, 1 abstention,

VOTED: TO AMEND ORDER BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE TO THE END OF THE PARAGRAPH: “UPON COMPLETION OF A PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS.”

Order No. FY24-006, as amended, was now on the floor: THE CITY CREATE A SPECIAL PURPOSE OPIOID SETTLEMENT STABILIZATION FUND, PURSUANT TO M.G.L. CHAPTER 40, §53B LOCAL OPTION

PARAGRAPH, WITH RECEIPTS FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE-SUBDIVISION FOR STATEWIDE OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS TO BE DEPOSITED, AND THEN APPROPRIATED ANNUALLY TO BE USED TO SUPPLEMENT AND STRENGTHEN RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PREVENTION, HARM REDUCTION, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY. DISBURSEMENT OF SAID FUNDS WOULD BE MADE AT THE REQUEST OF THE MAYOR, AND BY VOTE OF THE CITY COUNCIL **UPON COMPLETION OF A PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS.**

It was by roll call, 10 yes, 0 no,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 24-006, AS AMENDED.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND SIMILAR PAPERS - None.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES – None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilor Desorgher held the following first reading:

City Council – First Reading- August 16, 2023

- Interfund Transfer of \$7,650 from Executive Administration Salaries F/T to Accounting Salaries F/T.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Lapienski, second by Councilor Bottomley, it was,

MOVED: THE CITY COUNCIL CENSURE ATTORNEY ROB QUINN FOR INTERFERING WITH COUNCIL BUSINESS.

DISCUSSION: Rationale was provided that although the attorney was present to remind the Council not to go outside the bounds of what was permitted in open session, he made the decision to insert himself in an attempt to hinder the Councilors to debate regarding an issue he had an alternative interest in representing the Executive Branch on and could be determined as obstructing an official proceeding.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Forgey, second by Councilor Helie, it was by roll call, 6 yes, 4 no, (Majority of 7 needed to pass motion)

DEFEATED: TO CALL THE QUESTION.

DISCUSSION: It was noted the major frustration with the Council was the lack of communication and information provided to them in order to ask the appropriate questions and make educated and well informed decisions.

It was by roll call, 9 no, 1 yes,

DEFEATED: TO CENSURE ATTORNEY ROB QUINN FOR INTERFERING WITH COUNCIL BUSINESS.

MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Councilor Desorgher, second by Councilor Lapienski, it was unanimously,

VOTED: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:34 P.M.

A true copy,

Attest: _____
 Kathryn J. Scott, City Clerk

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Zon Community Center/Zoom
 Regular Meeting
 August 16, 2023

	Attendance	Waive ROP	Executive Session In	Executive Session Out	FY24-006 Amendment	FY24-006 Amended	Call R Quinn Esq Censure	Censure Robert Quinn Esq
14. Golub, Katherine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
15. Guin, Daniel President	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
16. Desorgher, Virginia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
17. Bottomley, John	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
18. Bullock, Marianne	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
19. Gilmour, Sheila	N	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
20. Lapienski, Jasper	Y	N	Y	Y	A	Y	N	Y
21. Mayo, Douglas	N	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
22. Helie, Derek	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
23. Elmer, Philip	Y	Y	Y	---	Y	Y	Y	N
24. Forgey, Christine Vice - President	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
25. Ricketts, Penny	Y	Y	Y	Y	---	---	---	---
26. Terounzo, Michael	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
		10 y 1 no	11 y 0 no	10 y 0 no	9 y 0 no 1 abs	10 y 0 no	6 y 4 no	1 y 9 no



GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

95 Federal Street, Suite 100, Greenfield, MA 01301

"Every Child's Success is Our Mission"

Ph: 413-772-1326 / Fax: 413-772-1379

Christine DeBarge Ed. D, Superintendent of Schools

School Committee Chair and Superintendent Update to City Council August 11, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to update you on news and events from the Greenfield Public Schools.

As you likely have heard, Superintendent DeBarge has announced plans to retire from the Greenfield Public Schools and public education, at the conclusion of her current three-year contract, on June 30, 2024. The School Committee is incredibly grateful for her wholistic approach to leading the district, as well as a planful timeline for the transition to a new Superintendent. The Committee will work with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) on next steps, with an initial public meeting on options and process at some point in September. We will keep the Council informed as we move forward.

We are gearing up for the start of the 23-24 academic year, with the following upcoming events:

- Convocation for District Staff - Aug 28
- Professional Development for District Staff - Aug 29 & afternoon of Aug 30
- First Day of School Grades 1-12 – Aug 30 (half-day)
- First Day of School for Kindergarten – Sept 1 (half-day)
- First Day of School for PreK – Sept 5
- Meet & Greet Events at all schools – Aug 28
 - Academy of Early Learning - 4-5pm
 - Newton, Federal Street, and Four Corners - 5-6pm
 - Greenfield Middle - 6-7pm
 - Greenfield High - 7-8pm

The Superintendent is planning a Tour of the school buildings for Councilors and School Committee on January 26, 2024, which is a district professional development day. This is after the election of new members of both bodies. Further information will be provided as we get closer to the date.

With the signing of Governor Healey's FY24 budget, Universal School Meals is fully funded for our students, entitling all PreK-12 students to free lunch, continuing an initiative begun with federal funds, during the COVID pandemic.

See you in September!

--Amy P.

Amy L. Proietti
Greenfield School Committee, Chair

The Greenfield Public Schools is committed to maintaining a discrimination-free environment for all students, families, and employees. Greenfield Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

August 16, 2023

Marion Griswold, 46 Hastings St. My house is across the street from a building that is grandfathered for commercial use in a residential zone. The building is owned by Todd and Kimberly Green, and is occupied by their business, Aromatic Fillers, which manufactures scented candles. I believe the business started in 2018.

The facility emits chemical scents into the air from the production of the candles. The smell from these chemicals often pervades my front and back yards and sometimes indoors as well. I find the odor extremely unpleasant and it affects my ability to enjoy the full use of my property. As a person with impaired lungs, I am also concerned about the health effects of these emissions.

Complaints from neighbors of the building to the Greenfield Health Department and the Building Department about the emissions from the facility began in 2018.

I first called the Health Department in September 2022 to complain about the smell. Since then I have had numerous conversations with the Health Department, the Board of Health, and the DEP about fixing this problem. The DEP and the Board of Health report that they have been working to solve the problem for some years. It's not clear to me what this "work" consists of, since the problem has not been resolved. I understand that Mr. Green has installed filters, yet the smell persists.

I have no objection to the presence of the building in a residential neighborhood and I have no objection to Mr. Green's business. I simply want to be able to breath fresh, unscented air, as is my and my neighbors' right. Many of us in the neighborhood choose not to bring scented candles into our homes yet we are being forced to breathe in this chemically-scented air. I and other neighbors have asked simply that the business stop exposing us to these chemicals.

I don't have time this evening to tell you about Aromatic Fillers not being required by the City to apply for a special permit to use the building even though their operation clearly constituted a change of use from previous uses of the building; nor about the fact that Aromatic Fillers operated without a business certificate from 2018 to January 2023; nor about my entering the building on two occasions when the garage door facing Hastings Street was open, to ask that the door be closed; nor Mr. Green's subsequently sending a state policeman to my home to serve me with Notice of Trespass, with the threat of being taken into custody if I were to go on the property or have any contact with Mr or Mrs Green. I am an 80 year old woman with bad lungs, and it seems Mr. Green has a wildly exaggerated notion of the threat I pose to him and his business.

I will tell you only that I was invited to attend the July 26 Board of Health meeting to state my complaint. Mr. Green and his lawyer attended as well, the lawyer claiming that she has not experienced the smell when she has visited the site - I wonder if she believes that I and the other complaining neighbors are just lying? She also said "There are no other real options in terms of mitigating a n y possible minimal smell in the environment." If that is indeed the case, then the business does not belong in a residential neighborhood.

Interestingly, on the date of this same meeting, July 26, a \$1,000 contribution from Aromatic Fillers was made to Mayor Weidegartner's campaign. The contribution was returned because it was illegal, and was replaced that same day by a personal \$1,000 contribution from the Greens.

Thank you.

PROPOSED NEW ORDINANCE CHAPTER 279: HOME EQUITY

Article I: Disposition of Surplus - Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 60, Section 87, the City directs the Collector of Taxes to use the power of sale to enforce a lien for taxes, not to exercise the power of taking under chapter 60, section 53. Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. 183, Section 21 and 27(1), after an order of public sale of a foreclosed property, the distribution of proceeds shall treat the tax title holder [the City] like a mortgagee with the first priority interest in the proceeds from the property, and treating the delinquent debtor [the property owner] as a mortgagor, rendering the surplus, if any, to the mortgagor, and,

Article II: Provision of Restitution - Based upon the property auction records of the Tax Collector, the City shall make reasonable efforts to contact all property owners, who fall within the statute of limitations, and who were subject to unconstitutional surplus equity taking, to offer said property owners compensation for any excess equity taken, plus interest calculated from the date of taking by the city up to the date of final restitution.

PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Home Rule Charter, the Greenfield City Council will hold a public hearing on Wed., September 20, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., and Zoom: <https://greenfield-ma.gov.zoom.us/j/92722775558?pwd=UFdyd1lMGJwVkZ0c1gwZFdWN2xJUT09> Meeting ID: 927 2277 5558 to receive public input on the following:

- Interfund Transfer of \$7,650 from Executive Administration Salaries F/T to Accounting Salaries F/T.

The City Council may consider the same on Wed., September 20, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., and Zoom: <https://greenfield-ma.gov.zoom.us/j/92722775558?pwd=UFdyd1lMGJwVkZ0c1gwZFdWN2xJUT09> Meeting ID: 927 2277 5558. Materials can be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 14 Court Sq. from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Mon. - Fri. or phone 413-772-1555, x. 6163.

Daniel Guin, Greenfield City Council President

City Council – Second Reading- September 20, 2023

- Interfund Transfer of \$7,650 from Executive Administration Salaries F/T to Accounting Salaries F/T.

CITY COUNCIL ORDER
City of GREENFIELD
MASSACHUSETTS

Councilor _____ :

Second by Councilor _____ :

The City Council,

Moved that it be ordered,

THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL, AS REQUIRED BY THE VOTES ACT, SECTION 72, ASSIGN A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS (UP TO TWO) TO OUR POLLING LOCATION, GREENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM, FOR ALL ELECTIONS AND PRIMARIES HELD IN THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023 AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY CLERK, IN COORDINATION WITH THE POLICE CHIEF OR A POLICE DEPARTMENT DESIGNEE, TO ASSIGN SPECIFIC OFFICERS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

Majority vote required

VOTE:

Explanation:

Police at Polls

July 31, 2023

Kathy Scott

Council President and Vice-President,

I request the following order be put on the September Committee Chairs agenda for discussion and disbursement to a subcommittee or Council during September.

THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL, AS REQUIRED BY THE VOTES ACT, SECTION 72, ASSIGN A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS (UP TO TWO) TO OUR POLLING LOCATION, GREENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM, FOR ALL ELECTIONS AND PRIMARIES HELD IN THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023 AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY CLERK, IN COORDINATION WITH THE POLICE CHIEF OR A POLICE DEPARTMENT DESIGNEE, TO ASSIGN SPECIFIC OFFICERS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Kathy

Kathryn J. Scott,
Greenfield City Clerk,

CITY COUNCIL ORDER

City of Greenfield

MASSACHUSETTS

Councilor :

Second by Councilor :

The City Council

Upon recommendation of Mayor Wedegartner

An Order for Interfund Transfer of \$7,650

Move that it be Ordered, that

The sum of \$7,650.00 be transferred from Executive Administration Salaries F/T to Accounting Salaries F/T to adjust compensation of Finance Director for FY24.

Current Balance in account is \$77,492.46

Majority Vote Required

VOTE:

Explanation:

Compensation Adjustment for the Finance Director, who in the absence of the Chief of Staff is taking on position's essential functions.

Attachments:

1. Memo to Mayor.
2. Position Description for Finance Director



City of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS



FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Diana M. Schindler
Finance Director

City Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301
Phone 413-772-1504 • Fax 413-772-1519
diana.schindler@greenfield-ma.gov • www.greenfield-ma.gov

July 24, 2023

To: Mayor Roxann Wedegartner
cc: Council President Guin, Council Vice-President Forgey
Fr: Diana M. Schindler, Finance Director
Re: Interim Chief of Staff Essential Functions

Dear Mayor,

Thank you for your confidence in my abilities to perform the Chief of Staff functions while the position is vacant – I'm excited to assist and believe I can be an asset during this period. Accordingly, I contacted the State Ethics Division for advice relative to Chapter 268A, §20, which addresses appointed officials holding multiple municipal positions. I spoke with Attorney John McDonald and he advised that while there is no exemption under Section 20 for the Finance Director position, meaning I cannot have two separate contracts with the City, the Finance Director position description can be amended to include a line that states "In the absence of the Chief Administrative Officer or Chief of Staff, the Finance Director assumes that role until it is filled." I've attached the current Finance Director job description and would suggest the paragraph be added after "Performs other similar or related work as required, or as situations dictate". Along with that change, the Finance Director salary can be adjusted accordingly to account for the additional time spent working on Chief of Staff duties. An interfund line-item transfer is needed from the Executive Administration Salaries to the Accounting Salaries. I've calculated approximately 18 weeks starting July 31 through December 1, 2023, for a total transfer of \$7,650.

Sincerely,

Diana Schindler

Diana M. Schindler
Finance Director

*The City of Greenfield is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer,
a designated Green Community and a recipient of the "Leading by Example" Award*

DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL FINANCE

Department: Municipal Finance

Division: N/A

Appointing Authority: Mayor

Grade: 13

Revision Date: 12/21

Bargaining Unit: NR

Definition:

Responsible for administrative, supervisory, technical and professional work in planning, organizing, directing, coordinating, monitoring and supervising all the municipal financial management operations for the City including the Treasurer/Collector, Accounting, Procurement and Assessing Divisions; for development of financial policies and practices as set forth in Charter Section 6-3 and the General Laws; for maintenance of municipal accounting systems, for financial reporting, for central procurement system; and for compliance with all legal and contractual obligations; all other work as required that is logical to the position.

Supervision:

Reports directly to and works under the policy direction of the Mayor who sets policy guidelines and financial planning and program goals; Exercises authority over financial operations in conformance with directives and objectives set forth by the Mayor, the City Council, and any other city, state and federal governing bodies.

Performs highly responsible work, requiring the exercise of considerable independent judgment in the planning, direction and control of the Financial and Fiscal operations for the City.

Directly supervises three division heads, and has direct responsibility for all employees of the Municipal Finance Department.

Environment:

Varied work in a multi-task environment. Work is generally performed under typical office conditions. Noise levels are usually quiet to moderate. Frequently required to work outside of normal business hours. May be required to work on weekends and may be contacted at home at any time to respond to important situations and emergencies.

Maintains contact, which requires perceptiveness and discretion, with other city officials, particularly the Director of the DPW, School Superintendent, School Business Manager, State and Federal agencies, attorneys, auditors, local businesses, community leaders, city employees, department heads, city councilors and the general public.

Duties require considerable persuasiveness, resourcefulness, discretion, and negotiating skills to address the decisions and behaviors of others.

Has access to city wide confidential information regarding the formulation of city-side policy, financial management, collective bargaining negotiations, procurement, personnel information, bid documents and legal matters(exclusive of medical records).

Errors in judgment and administrative decisions could result in lower standards of service, may adversely impact operations, result in inadequate project and operational funding, have legal repercussions, cause confusion or delay and cause an adverse impact on public opinion.

Essential Functions: (The essential functions or duties listed below are intended only as illustration of the various types of work that may be performed and are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of the job. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment to the position.)

Plans, controls and directs all aspects of the Finance Department including the activities of the Treasurer/Collector, Accounting, Assessing and Procurement Divisions ; develops and recommends departmental policies, projects, procedures and practices; confers with division heads concerning ongoing and future projects. Monitors and coordinates the authorizing and financing of major capital projects emanating from all departments. Coordinates financial activities between the City and the Schools; advises the Mayor, City Council Ways and Means Committee and City Council of all financial matters.

Advises Mayor on revenue projections and budget targets on departmental budgets and management; Establishes, controls and directs the City's annual Budgeting and Financial Planning process; Oversees the development and implementation of the city's Annual operating budget and capital improvement plan.

Plans, controls and directs the development of a financial plan and proposed operational and capital improvement budget for the ensuing fiscal year. Presents city budgets and plans to the Mayor and City Council. Structures the annual agenda, and provides information the City Council may request or would benefit from in order to make spending decisions and carry out evaluations of departments and department head performance for which they hold authority.

Provides professional financial management advice to the Mayor, to the City Council, and to all department heads as needed to ensure sound short-term and long-term fiscal health for the City. Advises both the Mayor and City Council on technical aspects of financial and fiscal operations.

Develops and implements schedule(s) that meet deadlines; prepares and oversees capital debt borrowing strategies, including preparation of official statements of analysis of activities and effective centralized purchasing practices and procedures and consultation with the City's outside financial advisor, as well as the City Treasurer.

Leads management team to ensure accountability and planning in the organizing, delivering and funding for city services and departments; including as delegated by the Mayor to formulate or coordinate policies, programs, or organizational capability in major functions such as public safety, regional services, energy policies, public utilities and departmental realignments.

Plans, controls and directs Finance department personnel including training, staffing, and evaluation of employees for which they hold authority; reviews and approves departmental expenditures including payroll, procurement, and contracts for outside services; administers all short and long-term planning; maintains department records and correspondence.

Oversees the preparation of the department's operating and capital budgets, which includes the budgets for the Treasurer/Collector, Accounting, Procurement and Assessing Divisions. Presents the department's annual budget to the Mayor and the City Council; implements various programs and projects according to authorized budget appropriations.

In compliance with MGL Chapter 41, serves as Chief Procurement Officer, establishes, plans and directs the City's purchasing function through coordination with and delegation to payroll and procurement staff.

Works with the City Auditor on all financial matters before the City Council.

Represents the department at a variety of different meetings both within and outside of the city; develops and maintains effective working relationships with municipal, county, state, and federal officials and agencies to ensure compliance with all laws and regulations affecting the City's Financial Operations.

Establishes systems to ensure that all invoices, expenditures and payments are made in accordance with approved budgets and applicable laws. Coordinates for all city offices the purchase, lease or disposal of all goods and supplies.

Has primary responsibility for municipal policies on revenues, and for projecting revenue trends and monitoring performance.

Develops and manages cost and pricing models for specific services as needed; maintains revenue/expenditure general fund forecasting model and rate setting enterprise models; reviews all revenues and make recommendations concerning fees, charges, and Enterprise Fund rates. Ensures that all revenues and expenses relevant to the development of the municipal budget are accurately and promptly tracked; develops annual projections and multiple-year forecasts of such revenues and expenses; advises the Mayor and City Council Finance Committee of all matters on a regular basis.

Establishes systems for receiving and recording all cash receipts. Ensure a proper and timely turnover, proper recording, and develop a standard receipt form for all cash receipts from many varied sources. Establish controls that provide the timely reconciliation of the Treasurer's receipts to the City Accountant and the sending departments.

Plans and coordinates the City's interaction with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Bureau of Accounts, and Division of Local Services. Including but not limited to the annual Schedule A, Balance Sheet, Free cash, Cash reconciliations, Receivable Reconciliation, Debt Statement, CPA report, Snow and Ice Report and the Annual Tax Rate Certification process.

Plans and coordinates the Annual audit and Federal Single Audit. Coordinate the issuance of the City of Greenfield's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), a nationally recognized award issued by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

Ensures financial officers develop reports and procedures and communicate accurate information to each other, department heads, the Mayor and City Council, as required for policy decisions or by local ordinance and regulations of the Commonwealth. Establishes the schedule for the departments' preparation of such reports monthly, quarterly and annually.

Oversight of the city's bonding activity involving the public markets, bond rating agencies in conjunction with the Mayor, Treasurer, Accountant, Assessor, Procurement, City Solicitor, Bond Council and Financial Advisor.

Reviews appointment forms for city personnel for compliance with the city's budget; monitors and adjusts staffing levels with the Human Resources Director; works with Mayor, Human Resources Director,

Director of General Administration and Chief of Staff in confidential preparations for negotiations with multiple collective bargaining units; acts as leader in modernizing all data processing and information services with various department heads, and tracking IS plan for the city.

Serves as media contact on budgetary and financial matters; researches and presents public reports on operations, costs and revenue patterns; seeks federal and state grants and other sources of revenue; assumes a strong role in reviewing purchasing practices by either acting as or supervising the Chief Procurement Officer for the City pursuant to charter.

Works with department heads to develop and promote a "customer focused" approach, including the development of user friendly systems for taxpayers and other city departments; actively works with school business office to seek ways of sharing tasks and cutting costs.

Represents the Mayor in examining and signing warrants related to the expenditure of City funds, namely vendor and payroll warrants.

Performs other similar or related work as required, or as situations dictate.

Regular and predictable attendance.

Minimum Qualifications:

Education and Experience: Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university in Public or Business Administration, Finance, Accounting or closely related field; five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in public or municipal finance, three (3) years in a management capacity (experience may be concurrent); strong public administration background highly desirable; Master's degree preferred; or, a any combination of education and experience that enables performance of all aspects of the position.

Must demonstrate track record of high level responsibility with supervisory experience. Must demonstrate leadership skills in the context of formal organizations.

Knowledge, Ability and Skill: Strong leadership abilities to communicate effectively and in a courteous manner; be able to work cooperatively with peers, subordinates, committees, and the general public. Ability to develop sound financial policies and practices; ability to effectively motivate and supervise staff and department managers. Knowledge and competency with Massachusetts Uniform Accounting System (MAS), GASB and Division of Local Services reporting requirements. Aptitude for numbers and details. Excellent organizational skills.

Comprehensive knowledge of general laws and administrative policies governing municipal financial practices and procedure, principles, methods and laws relating to municipal bond financing. Thorough knowledge of municipal finance, budget management, investment markets, business principles, personnel management, information technology, intergovernmental relations and the laws which affect local government; extensive knowledge of MGL Chapter 6A, 41, 44, 30B, 60, 61, 61A, 61B, 149 and associative general laws relating to municipal taxes and charges; the ability to perform various accounting functions such as balancing, recording, and reporting over a broad range of accounts and funds.

Thorough working knowledge of departmental functions and operations; of standard office practices and procedures; of use and operation of standard office equipment; ability to operate a personal computer in a windows environment with proficiency in MS Office and G-Suite required; familiarity with MUNIS, other

database programs and computer hardware and financial software applications.

Planning and delegation skills; ability to plan, manage others, analyze and interpret financial data and to clearly communicate key findings to decision-makers and concisely, carry out projects, consult and offer advice, supervise subordinates and facilitate groups; Ability to develop effective working relationships with subordinates and other city departments, both staff and boards; requires highly effective written and oral communication skills to facilitate change and promote strategic thinking and ability to represent the City before an array of organizations. Strong organizational skills and the ability to manage a large number of projects and tasks at any given time. Must perform all aspects of job responsibilities with honesty and integrity.

Knowledge of public records law regarding the public's right to inspect and copy records in the custody of the office, including knowledge of retention periods for all records and the process and requirements for disposition.

Ability to lead and direct Division Heads to ensure foresight and accountability in organizing, delivering and funding all City services.

Ability to establish and maintain cooperative relationships with city officials and governmental representatives. Ability to communicate effectively.

Knowledge of technological developments for the purpose of investigating the possibility of how they potentially may be utilized to increase operating efficiencies or service level to the public.

Ability to negotiate contracts, agreements and appropriate working arrangements with vendors and consultants, community organizations and the business community.

Ability to analyze and synthesize a wide range of material from inside and outside municipal operations to formulate policies on behalf of the city and to make needed recommendations to the Mayor and City Council for the short and long-term benefit of the people of the City.

Ability to develop city wide plans, policies, programs, procedures, and organizational capability in major areas like public safety, regional services, energy policies, departmental realignments, and the like relative to the City's fiscal and financial operations. Ability to maintain confidential information. Ability to evaluate complex financial systems and efficiently formulate and install accounting methods, procedures, forms and records. Prepare informative financial reports.

Physical Requirements: Minimal physical effort generally required in performing duties under typical office conditions include regular sitting, talking, walking, hearing and mental concentration for extended periods; intermittent moderate effort required for tasks such as moving files or related office equipment. Position requires the ability to operate a keyboard and view computer screens for an extended period of time. Specific vision requirements include close vision, distance vision, and the ability to adjust focus; hearing ability requirements include ability to interact with subordinates, the public, elected or appointed officials and outside organizations.

Special Conditions: Must be bondable. Must successfully pass CORI, SORI and reference checks.

(This job description does not constitute an employment agreement between the employer and employee. It is used as a guide for personnel actions and is subject to change by the employer as the needs of the employer and requirements of the job change.)

Approved:

EXECUTED 12/28/2021 AND ON FILE IN THE HR DEPARTMENT

Human Resources Director

Date

Revision History: Initial 4/04, 7/18, 2/19, 12/21

Mayor

CITY COUNCIL ORDER
City of GREENFIELD
MASSACHUSETTS

Councilor _____ :
Second by Councilor _____ :

The City Council,

Moved that it be ordered,

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

Human Rights Commission - Lance Smith, Term to Expire December 31, 2026

Majority Vote Required.

VOTE:

Explanation of supporting rationale: Charter Section 2-10 does not call for a formal vote to affirm the appointees but does say that “at least nine (9) members shall be necessary to reject an appointment proposed by the Mayor”

ROXANN WEDEGARTNER
Mayor



City Hall
14 Court Square
Greenfield, MA 01301
Phone 413-772-1560 • Fax 413-772-1519
mayor@greenfield-ma.gov
www.greenfield-ma.gov

City of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

MEMO

TO: Dan Guin, City Council President

Chris Forgey, City Council Vice President

FROM: Mayor Roxann Wedegartner

DATE: August 29, 2023

RE: September Appointments to City Boards and Commissions -

I submit the following names for appointments and reappointments to these City Boards and Commissions:

Appointments:

- Lance Smith; Human Rights Commission; December 31, 2026
- ~~David Chichester; Planning Board; June 30, 2026~~ (Appointee requested name be withdrawn per email September 7, 2023)

Mayor Roxann Wedegartner

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "roxann wedegartner".



Re: Appointment to Human Rights Commission

1 message

Lance Smith <thishazymoon@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 9, 2023 at 1:47 PM

To: Roxanne Wedegartner <mayor@greenfield-ma.gov>

Dear Mayor Wedegartner, Council President Guin, and Greenfield City Councilors,

Thank you for your consideration of my becoming a member of Greenfield's Human Relations Commission. It would be an honor to serve the residents of Greenfield in this capacity.

As I read Chapter 136 of the Town Code, the ordinance that created the HRC in 2011, I felt a deep resonance with the stated mission. I consider the values expressed to be at the heart of the American Dream. To me, that Dream was not about material possessions, it was about actualizing the vision *of our fundamental equality* as human beings endowed with inherent rights -- and essential responsibilities toward one another.

As a child growing up in an integrated low-income neighborhood on the periphery of the University of Chicago campus, it was self-evident to me that the barriers of fear and ignorance that operate to divide us because of our differences do not serve any of us. They stand in the way of achieving the liberty, happiness, peace of mind, and fulfillment that is our birthright as human beings.

As we face a climate of increasing polarization and violence in the world today, I would like to believe that the Human Rights Commission can assist in fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect, and in engaging in the type of dialogue that would help us to move forward together in Greenfield, embracing our unity, and celebrating our diversity, to help create a more just world.

At age 77, retired, I believe that my service as Executive Director of the Center for Conflict Resolution (a non-profit collective in Madison, WI that existed for 20 years before merging with the Federation for Egalitarian Communities in 1992), as well my time spent as a factory worker, farmworker, retail coop worker, union steward, high school teacher, citizen's assistance officer in county government, and non-profit administrator provide me with the varied life experience and skill set to make a contribution to the work of the Human Relations Commission as a member.

Sincerely,
Lance Smith

Fwd: Planning Board

September 8, 2023

Roxann Wedegartner

to Kathy, me

FYI...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <davechi@comcast.net>

Date: Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 9:44 AM

Subject: Planning Board

To: Roxann Wedegartner <roxann.wedegartner@greenfield-ma.gov>

Cc: Eric Twarog <eric.twarog@greenfield-ma.gov>

Dear Mayor,

As you know, several weeks ago I raised my hand and asked to be appointed to the Planning Board. You kindly supported that, and I have been looking forward to joining the Board again.

I regret to tell you that personal health and family issues have occurred since that time and have caused me to change my priorities. I don't feel that I could move forward and carry out my responsibilities adequately. Consequently, I very much regret that I have to ask that my appointment be withdrawn.

I am so very sorry to let you down as well as my colleagues on the Planning Board. As one wise person once said, "Age comes at a very inconvenient time."

Dave Chichester
(413) 475-3169

--

Roxann Wedegartner

Mayor

City of Greenfield

14 Court Square

Greenfield, MA 01301

(she, her)

413-772-1562

413-834-1813