

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

10 y 11 y 10 y 9 y 10 y 6 y 1 y
 1 no 0 no 0 no 0 no 0 no 4 no 9 no
 1 abs



GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

195 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.*

Read at the August 16, 2023, City Council Meeting

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 breathe 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.