

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 20, 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-9. 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.”

COUNCILORS PRESENT IN PERSON: Councilors Golub, Guin, Desorgher, Bottomley, Bullock, Lapienski, Helie, Elmer, Forgey, Ricketts and Terounzo.

COUNCILORS PRESENT REMOTELY: Councilor Gilmour

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Roxann Wedegartner; City Clerk Kathryn J. Scott; Assistant City Clerk Quinn Jaquins; Finance Director/Interim Chief of Staff Diana Schindler; Greenfield School Superintendent Dr. Christine DeBarge; Assistant School Superintendent Karin Patenaude; DPW Director Marlo Warner; Grant Writer/Manager Athena Bradley; GCTV-17 staff and members of the public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was held.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Ricketts, second by Councilor Forgey, it was by majority, 11 yes, 1 abstention,

VOTED: 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.

Order no. FY 24-032

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

VOTED: THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 2-11, APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF LORA WONDOLOWSKI TO FILL THE PRECINCT 8 CITY COUNCIL SEAT, VACATED BY DOUGLAS W. MAYO, UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2025.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS: 1) Candidate Lora Wondolowski's letter of interest dated October 11, 2023.

City Clerk Kathy Scott administered the oath of office to Lora Wondolowski as the new Precinct 8 Councilor. Councilor Wondolowski joined the rail.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: On a motion by Councilor Ricketts, second by Councilor Lapienski, it was by majority, 11 yes, 2 abstentions,

VOTED: TO ACCEPT THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, OCTOBER 18 AND NOVEMBER 29, 2023.

COMMUNICATIONS:

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Superintendent DeBarge and Assistant Superintendent Patenaude reported the following:

- Ellis Benitez was named as the recipient of this year's Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence.
- Votes had been taken by the School Committee in regards to their redistricting plan. There were 3 parts involved in their decision: First was a previous practice allowing students to request schools outside of their neighborhood school within the district would end effective the beginning of the 24-25 school year. In the past two years, only incoming kindergartners who had siblings in the choice school. Second was the School Committee voted to allow students who had already been allowed to choice into a non neighborhood school would be allowed to age out. Third was the new school lines and the reconfiguration of three Elementary Schools to a K through 5, Greenfield Middle School would move to a 6 through 8, and Greenfield High School would be 9 through 12; which would be effected for the 25-26 school year. The schools would be working on the logistics that would need to be worked out, with one of the biggest pieces would be allowing the students to age out of their intra-district choice spots. The date the change occurred was related due to delaying one year, there was one less grade level at 4 Corners that was believed to have 3 classes. This would free up space at 4 Corners.
- The budget process for Fiscal Year 2025 had begun. A public hearing was scheduled for Wednesday, February 28th, 2024.
- Updated status of Green River School.
- Anticipated year in which all intra-district students would be relocated to the middle school.
- Pay back of grant for one million dollars that was received for the Green River School.

MAYOR, CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES: Mayor Wedegartner noted that she would not be addressing the Council tonight but would be available for any questions they may have regarding the agenda items.

- Councilor Lapienski thanked the Mayor for her attendance and speaking at the Hanukkah Ceremony last week. Numerous people had conveyed their appreciation on the Mayor's comments and he looked forward to watching the videos.

OTHER CITY EMPLOYEES AS NEEDED, BY INVITATION: DPW Director Warner reported the following:

- The information requested by the Council regarding automated single stream versus the dual stream recycling comparisons in costs was not available at the time of this meeting and would be forwarded to the Council by the next meeting in January.
- Due to the inclement weather that began on Sunday into Monday there was indication that a large water main break had occurred. He thanked the public safety departments for their efforts in locating the break so it could be repaired immediately.

Councilors asked the following questions:

- Update for a second wheelie for trash pickup.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The following members of the public spoke:

- Jesus Leyva, Deerfield Street, read from a prepared statement (see attached).
- Michael Klein, Meridian Street, spoke to the condition of the dams on the Green River in Precinct 7. He also expressed his hope that the path in the back of the Green River School would continue to be accessible to the public regardless of future ownership.
- Maria Burge, Garfield Street, thanked the Councilors that were leaving their positions. She thanked Councilors Lapienski and Mayo for their dedication to the Precincts they represented. She voiced her concern to the influx of people coming into the Community and the strain it could have on Greenfield and offered any service she could provide to the Council.

- Pamela Goodwin, High Street, encouraged residents to attend the Board of Health meeting, which would be hybrid, and thanked the Human Rights Committee for their meeting regarding the allegations on the Wells Street Shelter. She also commented on John Lunt's presentation to the Council regarding GCET and Mr. Leyva's presentation regarding transparency of the government.
- Glen Ayers, Davis Street, acknowledged a few of the employees of the City Hall for their professionalism in dealing with the public and encouraged the incoming executive administration to seek new legal Counsel for the City. Looking forward to working with the Community on the Public Improvement Plan to clean up the Lunt site on Federal Street.

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., December 20, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., and Zoom:

<https://greenfield-ma-gov.zoom.us/j/94681425914?pwd=bnNvNFpjSFhKZ1lTYTR0RXoyTEU1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 946 8142 5914, to receive public input on the following:

- Transfer \$1,500,000 from Free Cash to Capital Stabilization.
- Transfer \$466,000 from Free Cash to Debt Service: \$277,000 for Principal Paydowns Acct 59991 and \$189,000 for Short-Term Interest Acct 5925.
- Transfer \$199,993 from Free Cash to Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund.
- Transfer \$100,000 from Free Cash to FY24 Town [City] Attorney Services (aka Legal).
- Approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between City of Greenfield and Salary Schedule Employees Association and Transfer \$43,600 from Free Cash to seven (7) Wage Accounts.

The City Council may consider the same on Wed., December 20, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St., and Zoom: <https://greenfield-ma-gov.zoom.us/j/94681425914?pwd=bnNvNFpjSFhKZ1lTYTR0RXoyTEU1Zz09> Meeting ID: 946 8142 5914 . 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 7:22 pm. He asked if anyone from the public wished to speak on the issues; seeing none, Councilor Desorgher read the second reading:

City Council – Second Reading- December 20, 2023

- Transfer \$1,500,000 from Free Cash to Capital Stabilization.
- Transfer \$466,000 from Free Cash to Debt Service: \$277,000 for Principal Paydowns Acct 59991 and \$189,000 for Short-Term Interest Acct 5925.
- Transfer \$199,993 from Free Cash to Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund.
- Transfer \$100,000 from Free Cash to FY24 Town [City] Attorney Services (aka Legal).
- Approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between City of Greenfield and Salary Schedule Employees Association and Transfer \$43,600 from Free Cash to seven (7) Wage Accounts.

President Guin asked again if anyone from the public wished to speak on the issues; seeing none, he closed the public hearing at 7:23pm.

MOTIONS, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

Order no. FY 24-037

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

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

Appointments:

- Commission on Disability Access - Anthony Stanford, Term to Expire December 31, 2026
- Conservation Commission - Elizabeth Garofalo, Term to Expire December 31, 2026
- Franklin County Technical School Committee - Matt Duley, Term to Expire December 31, 2026
- Franklin County Technical School Committee - George VanDelinder, Term to Expire December 31, 2026
- GCET Board of Commissioners - Erin Donnally Drake, Term to Expire December 31, 2026
- Greenfield Local Cultural Council - Kate Hunter, Term to Expire December 31, 2026
- Greenfield Local Cultural Council - Lou Marie Judge, Term to Expire December 31, 2026

LIST OF DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS: 1) Mayor’s Memo for Appointments & Re-Appointments; 2) Letters of Interest and Resumes of proposed appointees.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Bullock reported the Appointments & Ordinances forwarded a majority negative recommendation, 2 yes, 3 no. The Committee deliberated on whether any new appointments should be submitted by the new administration next year.

- It was noted that the decision was not based on the appointees who were submitted but the transition to a new Mayor/administration in January.
- The current Mayor had authority with appointing board and committee members until the end of their term and therefore should not hold up any appointments for boards and committees who were in need of members.
- Councilors expressed concern that some boards and committees vacancies had not been filled for months and now the Mayor was trying to fill them before the transition to the new administration and questioned the timeliness of the appointments.
- Concern was raised that if the Council rejected these new appointments it could take 2 to 3 months for them to come before the Council for a vote and it could leave some boards and committees without a proper quorum for the ability to conduct business.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Lapienski, no audio of visual second, it was,

MOVED: TO DIVIDE THE MOTION BETWEEN THE APPOINTMENTS THAT WOULD CREATE A QUORUM ON BOARDS WHO DON’T HAVE THEM AND THOSE THAT DON’T.

DISCUSSION: It was noted that none of the boards and committees were in jeopardy of not obtaining a quorum with the possible exception of Commission on Disability Access; however, they would not be meeting in January.

Councilor Lapienski withdrew his motion.

It was by roll call, 2 yes, 10 no, 1 abstention,

DEFEATED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 24-037.

Order no. FY 24-044

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

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

Reappointments:

- Council on Aging - Patricia Jordan, Term to Expire December 31, 2026

- Council on Aging - Linda Smith, Term to Expire December 31, 2026
- Greenfield Local Cultural Council - Tim Fisk, Term to Expire December 31, 2026
- Parking & Traffic Commission - Jim Geisman, Term to Expire December 31, 2026
- Trustees of the Soldiers Memorial - John Ambo, Term to Expire December 31, 2026

DISCUSSION: Councilor Bullock reported the Appointments & Ordinances Committee forwarded a majority positive recommendation 3 yes, 2 no. The Committee's rationale to accepting the re-appointments was that some of these boards and committees would have run the risk of being without a quorum to conduct ongoing business.

- The rationale for the decision to reject the re-appointments were made as to the appointments in which it was argued that the new incoming administration should re-appoint as well as appoint new board and committee members.

It was by roll call, 12 yes, 1 no,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 24-044.

Order no. FY 24-045

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 2-10, AFFIRMS THE FOLLOWING RE-APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION: TRAVIS DRURY, TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2026.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Bullock reported the Appointments & Ordinances Committee did not forward a recommendation due to an issue with the re-appointee's ability to serve on the Conservation Commission if they were on another Committee. It was later determined that this re-appointee was seated on another committee as a representative of the Conservation Commission.

It was unanimously,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 24-045.

Order no. FY 24-038A1

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

MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THE CITY COUNCIL, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, VOTE TO DECLARE THAT CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT 188 MAIN STREET, RECORDED IN THE FRANKLIN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS LAND REGISTRATION OFFICE ON CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 1467, DOCUMENT 8582, BOOK 10, PAGE 15, BE DECLARED SURPLUS PROPERTY AND TRANSFER SAID PROPERTY TO THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR FOR SALE.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS: 1) Memo from Mayor dated November 27, 2023

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

- It was noted the Mayor requested the property be declared surplus at this time and in the future would come back to the Council to request authorization to sell the property.
- Although a name was given of an individual who was interested in purchasing the property, the Committee believed an RFP (Request for Proposal) was still warranted.
- If the City decided there was a legitimate use for the property after it was voted to become surplus it would not need to come back to the Council to remove it from surplus status.
- Under Chapter 30B, if the property was assessed under \$35,000 an RFP was not required.

- The property in question was taken under tax title, which required a specific process to sell it under Massachusetts General Law.
- The current administration, Collector/Treasurer and Finance Director had decided to not sell property taken by tax title at the Council's request.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Elmer, second by Councilor Lapienski, it was unanimously,
VOTED: TO CALL THE QUESTION.

Order No. FY24-038A1 was now on the floor for a vote.

It was by majority, 11 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions,
VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 24-038A1.

Order no. FY 24-038A2

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Elmer, second by Councilor Lapienski, it was,
MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE MAYOR TO SELL 188 MAIN STREET, RECORDED IN THE FRANKLIN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS LAND REGISTRATION OFFICE ON CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 1467, DOCUMENT 8582, BOOK 10, PAGE 15, PURSUANT TO THE CITY COUNCIL POLICY FOR THE SALE OF CITY OWNED LAND AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THE SAME.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Elmer reported the Economic Development Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation with the understanding that the rules within the policy for the sale of City Owned Land was followed.

- Mayor Wedegartner noted that at this time she did not have a buyer for this property and was not planning to sell it through the remainder of her term.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Bullock, second by Councilor Ricketts, it was unanimously,
TABLE: ORDER NO. FY24-038A2.

President Guin, without objection, forwarded Order No. FY24-039: THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO ACCEPT AN EASEMENT FOR 7 SPECIFIC PARKING SPACES AT THE CITY PARKING LOT LOCATED AT 402 MAIN STREET/LEAVITT-HOVEY HOUSE (PARCEL #56-2-0) AND 412 MAIN STREET, to January due to receiving late information regarding the proposed easements on 402 & 412 Main Street.

Order no. FY 24-027

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Desorgher, second by Councilor Ricketts, it was,
MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVES A TRANSFER IN THE SUM OF \$1,500,000 FROM FREE CASH TO CAPITAL STABILIZATION.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS: 1) FY23 Stabilization Accounts thru June 30, 2023; 2) FY23 Certified Free Cash Summary (Documents were used for Order Nos. FY24-028, FY24-029, FY24-030 & FY 24-031.)

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

It was unanimously,
VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 24-027.

Order no. FY 24-028

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Desorgher, second by Councilor Ricketts, it was,
MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVES A TRANSFER IN THE SUM OF \$466,000 FROM FREE CASH TO DEBT SERVICE, TO FUND ACCOUNT LINES PRINCIPAL PAYDOWNS (01007100 59991) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$277,000 AND SHORT-TERM INTEREST (01007520 5925) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$189,000.

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

It was unanimously,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 24-028.

Order no. FY 24-029

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Desorgher, second by Councilor Terounzo, it was,
MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVES A TRANSFER IN THE SUM OF \$199,993 FROM FREE CASH TO OPIOID SETTLEMENT STABILIZATION FUND.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS: 1) Memo from Finance Director Diana M Schindler date July 25, 2023, regarding Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund.

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

It was unanimously,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 24-029.

Order no. FY 24-030

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Desorgher, second by Councilor Terounzo, it was,
MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVES A TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000 FROM FREE CASH TO TOWN [CITY] ATTORNEY SERVICES.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS: 1) G/L Account Detail for Town [City] Attorney Services; 2) Year to Date Legal Town (City) Ordinary Expenses

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

- Councilors expressed disappointment that the money allocated for the legal account was spent over a short period of time; however, it was agreed the money would be required in order for the new administration to conduct proper City business.

It was by majority 12 yes, 1 no,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 24-030.

Order no. FY 24-031

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Desorgher, second by Councilor Forgey, it was,
MOVED: THAT IT BE ORDERED, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, PURSUANT TO M.G.L. C 150E, § 7, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE CITY OF GREENFIELD AND

SALARY SCHEDULE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION AND TRANSFER FROM FREE CASH, THE TOTAL SUM OF \$43,600, TO FUND THE FIRST-YEAR COST ITEMS TO BE ALLOCATED AS FOLLOWS:

Licensing Dept Wages	01001650 5111	\$ 2,200
Planning Dept Wages	01001770 5111	\$ 1,600
Building Inspections Wages	01002410 5111	\$ 12,500
Council on Aging Wages	01005410 5111	\$ 5,100
Veterans Wages	01005430 5111	\$ 5,800
Library Wages	01006100 5111	\$ 3,600
Recreation Wages	01006300 5111	\$ <u>12,800</u>
		\$ 43,600

LIST OF DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS: Signed MOU between City of Greenfield and SSEA Union dated October 18, 2023.

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

It was unanimously,
VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 24-031.

Order no. FY 24-040

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Desorgher, second by Councilor Terounzo, it was, **MOVED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED, UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF MAYOR WEDEGARTNER, TO RESCIND THE BORROWING AUTHORIZATION FOR THE GREENFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING PROJECT BY THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000. REVISED AUTHORIZATION WILL BE \$18,041,296.

PURPOSE	DATE OF VOTE	ART #	AMT AUTH
New Library	03/20/19	19-050	19,541,296
	Voted 10/19/22	Reduce	-500,000
	Voted 11/16/2022	Reduce	-500,000
		Reduce	-500,000

LIST OF DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS: 1) G/L Account Detail Library Foundation Donation Report from MUNIS system.

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

It was unanimously,
VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 24-040.

Order no. FY 24-047

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Desorgher, second by Councilor Terounzo, it was unanimously, **VOTED:** THAT IT BE ORDERED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL TAKE FROM THE TABLE ORDER NO. FY 24 -017 "TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF THE PRIOR YEAR INVOICES DATE 6/9/23 FOR DOHERTY, WALLACE, PILLSBURY AND MURPHY PC IN THE AMOUNT

OF \$15,038.75 TO BE PAID FROM FY24 LEGAL TOWN[CITY] #01001510.5302.” WHICH WAS TABLED AT THE NOVEMBER 15, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

Order No. FY24-017 was now on the floor, as read by Councilor Terounzo: THE CITY COUNCIL, MOVED THAT IT BE ORDERED, TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF THE PRIOR YEAR INVOICES DATE 6/9/23 FOR DOHERTY, WALLACE, PILLSBURY AND MURPHY PC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,038.75 TO BE PAID FROM FY24 LEGAL TOWN[CITY] #01001510.5302.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS: 1) Invoice from Doherty, Wallace, Pillsbury and Murphy PC date June 9, 2023, for \$50.00; 2) Summary of Legal Costs for FY24.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Desorgher reported the Ways & Means Committee forwarded a unanimous positive recommendation, 1 abstention. As stated previously, the motion was tabled after it was discovered there was not enough funds in the account and the Council couldn’t transfer funds until this meeting.

It was by majority, 11, yes, 1 no, 1 abstention,

VOTED: TO APPROVE ORDER NO. FY 24-017.

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- December 20, 2023

- Transfer \$30,000 from Free Cash to FY24 Legal Labor.
- Transfer \$600 from the Handicapped Parking Fund for ADA Disability Access at Greenfield High School Track.
- Transfer \$4,500 from the Handicapped Parking Fund for ADA Disability Access to Proposed Bocce Courts.

Councilor Elmer apologized for a piece in the Recorder regarding his contribution to the Council as being more significant than other Councilors due to a comment he had made to the writer of the piece he felt disappointed he hadn’t been a better or more effective Councilor.

Councilor Forgey announced this was the end of her career in politics and would not be running for any office in the future. She was interested in becoming part of the Community and would continue with government service whenever she could. She expressed how she was lucky in her ability to sit in both the Executive and Legislative seat; it was a great experience and many rewards, but also great disappointments. She wished everyone the best of everything and thanked the voters of Greenfield to serve and work for and with them.

Councilor Lapienski stated that it had been a pleasure to serve; as he had signed up for this position when no one else was willing to do so. He wanted to clarify that the resolution of no confidence in the Police Chief was not authored by Councilor Bullock as the Greenfield Recorder reported, but was authored by him. He also addressed the article, also from the Greenfield Recorder, that had come out regarding his reasons for not serving his full term; he was leaving to focus on his service to the Jewish Community. He wished everyone on the Council the best of luck and his hope was to work together to make the Council a better place to do business.

Councilor Ricketts thanked everyone who was leaving their position for their service. She thanked Mayor Wedegartner for her years of service and thanked Councilor Desorgher on her run for Mayor and wished her the best of luck. She also requested a page of the minutes be dedicated to Robert Wainstein, who was a previous Councilor.

Councilor Gilmour said her farewells to the Councilors who were leaving their positions. She wanted to thank the Councilors that had helped her grow and learn based on taking in other points of view. She thanked Councilor Guin for his contributions when she was serving a President and he was her Vice-President.

Councilor Bullock thanked the outgoing Councilors, especially Councilors Desorgher and Forgey, for their welcoming demeanors and insight on the Council. She thanked Dan Guin for his service and appreciated the fact that even though they did not agree on a number of issues, they were able to work together.

President Guin thanked everyone for their service and working together with Councilor Forgey again. He talked about his journey through the Legislative branch; how he wanted to work with everyone even if they didn't agree with his thoughts and views, there was still a level of professionalism and respect; and his focus on Greenfield. He thanked City Clerk Kathy Scott and Assistant City Clerk Quinn Jaquins for their constant help and assistance during City Council meetings. He reminded Councilors to remember the policies and procedures, and bottom line, just get it done. Thanked Mayor Wedegartner for her service and looked forward to Mayor-Elect Desorgher's service and hoped to come back and serve Greenfield in another capacity.

Councilor Forgey also thanked Wilson Roberts as his role as parliamentarian. He thanked all the Councilors for their service and looked forward to working with the new Council and Mayor.

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

VOTED: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:00 P.M.

A true copy,

Attest: _____
Kathryn J. Scott, CMC, City Clerk

GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Zon Community Center/Zoom Hybrid
 Regular Meeting
 December 20, 2023

Vote Summary 1 of 2	Attendance	FY24-032	FY24-037	FY24-044	FY24-045	Call Question FY24-038A1	FY24-038A1	Table FY24-038A2	FY24-027	Fy24-028	FY24-029
1. Golub, Katherine	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2. Guin, Daniel President	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3. Desorgher, Virginia	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4. Bottomley, John	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Abs	Y	Y	Y	Y
5. Bullock, Marianne	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6. Gilmour, Sheila	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7. Lapienski, Jasper	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
8. Wondolowski, Lora 6:34p	Y	----	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
9. Helie, Derek	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10. Elmer, Philip	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
11. Forgey, Christine Vice - President	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
12. Ricketts, Penny	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Abs	Y	Y	Y	Y
13. Terounzo, Michael	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
		12 y 0 n	2 y 10 n 1 abs	12 y 1 n	13 y 0 n	13 y 0 n	11 y 0 n 2 abs	13 y 0 n	13 y 0 n	13 y 0 n	13 y 0 n

Vote Summary 2 of 2	FY24-030	FY24-0331	FY24-040	FY24-047 Take from Table	FY24-017			
14. Golub, Katherine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
15. Guin, Daniel President	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
16. Desorgher, Virginia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
17. Bottomley, John	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
18. Bullock, Marianne	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
19. Gilmour, Sheila	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
20. Lapienski, Jasper	N	Y	Y	Y	N			
21. Wondolowski, Lora 6:34p	Y	Y	Y	Y	Abs			
22. Helie, Derek	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
23. Elmer, Philip	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
24. Forgey, Christine Vice - President	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
25. Ricketts, Penny	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
26. Terounzo, Michael	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
	12 y 1 n	13 y 0 n	13 y 0 n	13 y 0 n	11 y 1 n 1 abs			

Jesus Leyva Public Comment at the December 20, 2023 City Council

Public Comment City Council 12 20 2023

To the members of the Greenfield City Council,

I have sent a letter of interest by email to the city council to express my interest in being appointed to the vacant precinct 7 seat resigned by Councilor Lapienski and I hope you will consider me for appointment to the vacant precinct 7 seat.

I want to be a city councilor to work to fulfill the promise of transparency in government. Many people ran on platforms of “transparency” or “reform” and many residents asked for greater transparency in government. What does that mean? I would suggest that every city board, committee and commission should implement the following basic tenants of good governance and that I hope the new incoming administration implements clear public policy to forward these tenants:

- 1 – Compliance with state open meeting laws regulations
- 2 – Email contact information for all members of a city board, committee or commission should be posted on the city’s website
- 3 – The minutes and agendas from previous meetings going back at least 3 years should be easily accessible and readily available to the public for each city body on the city’s website
- 4 – Every city meeting should allow for at least a minimum public comment of 3 minutes per person (or if there are many public speakers, 1 minute)
- 5 – City boards, committees and commissions should have a regularly monthly scheduled meeting, once a month that fall on the same day of the week, week of the month and time of day
- 6 – Abutter notification and hearings by all city departments, boards, committees and commissions when a substantial project or change in a neighborhood is taking place. Additionally, there should be meaningful outreach and participation when a public policy decision concerns or affects specific residents or property owners.

Anyone who has participatory experience with city government should understand fully why these best practices policies are vital to transparency.

Some of these assumptions are built into existing state and local laws, but have not been followed according to the complaints of so many different residents. Some boards and commissions recently have gone out of their way to try and adopt some of these tenants like the public safety commission. Others seem to be playing “secret government bingo”, like the Board of Health, that somehow manage to fail all 6 of these precepts at once.

What I have found consistently frustrating about the time I have spent as a non-elected or non-appointed participant of Greenfield city government is not the issues or differences of opinions, those are expected. What is frustrating is how regularly we skip necessary steps for expediency. Or how often legitimate complaints are not taken seriously even with a mountain of documentation. And finally the frequency that city officials reject transparency as performative and unnecessary or inconvenient to the operations of city administration.

I hope that with the coming of the new year, that we can do better. The agenda of

IN MEMORY OF

Robert Wainstein

November 7, 1950 – November 27, 2023

Among his many accomplishments:

Received Degree from Western New England College School of Law.

A practicing attorney for over 35 years, with a primary focus in Elder Law.

Served as a Town Councilor for Precinct 5 from 2016 to 2017.

Served as President of the New England Learning Center for Women in Transition and the Massachusetts Justice Project, respectfully.

Served as Board Member for Franklin County Community Health Center and Temple Israel, respectfully.



It is not length of life, but depth of life.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson, American Philosopher