

MEETING NOTICE

COMMITTEE: COMMUNITY RELATIONS
PLACE: John Zon Community Center/Zoom Hybrid
DATE: Monday, September 18, 2023
TIME: 6:00 p.m.

To join in person:

35 Pleasant Street, Greenfield

To join via Zoom:

<https://greenfield-ma-gov.zoom.us/j/92133807575?pwd=aGVtblJFbW43ZENFVEs3elEyZGUrQT09>

Meeting ID: 921 3380 7575

To join the meeting via phone:

Dial by your location

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 386 347 5053 US

+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

+1 253 205 0468 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 360 209 5623 US

Meeting ID: 921 3380 7575 Passcode: 681068

Find your local number: <https://greenfield-ma-gov.zoom.us/j/92133807575?pwd=aGVtblJFbW43ZENFVEs3elEyZGUrQT09>

AGENDA (Please note: All items listed on this agenda may not be considered or discussed at this meeting and may be addressed at future meetings.)

1. Call to Order

CHAIR STATEMENT: This meeting is being recorded by the Community Relations Committee. 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
3. Approval of Minutes – August 21, 2023.
4. Instructions and protocol for this meeting
5. Precincts 1, 2 and 3; Public Comments and Concerns
 - The following topics and concerns may be discussed –
 - Schools
 - Property Assessments/Taxes
 - GCET
 - Downtown Revitalization
 - Infrastructure
 - Lack of Retail Establishments
 - Homelessness
 - Businesses adjacent to residential districts, including concerns with lighting, noise and environmental issues
 - Sidewalk Disrepair and Snow Clearing
 - Traffic and Speeding
 - Housing
6. Next Meeting – October 16, 2023, 6:00 pm, John Zon Community Center/Zoom Hybrid, unless otherwise posted.
7. 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.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
August 21, 2023

City Hall Meeting Room, 2nd Floor/Zoom Hybrid

6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER Chairperson Forgey called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

PRESENT Councilors Forgey, Terounzo, Ricketts and Lapienski.

ABSENT Councilor Mayo.

ALSO PRESENT Interim Chief of Staff/Finance Director Diana Schindler; Councilor Virginia Desorgher and members of the public.

CHAIR STATEMENT: This meeting is being recorded by the Community Relations Committee. If any other persons present were doing the same they 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.”

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Lapienski, second by Councilor Ricketts, it was unanimously, **VOTED:** TO APPROVE THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES DATED MARCH 27, 2023.

Communications from Department Heads, by invitation – None.

Public Comment: The following members of the public spoke:

- Pamela Goodwin, High Street, spoke to her concern with the process of open meeting law and the listing of business on the City Council agenda.
- Glen Ayers, Davis Street, spoke to his request for the City Council to address the issue of the omission of the Health Department in the Greenfield City Charter and/or Code.

Chairperson Forgey opened discussion on scheduling Councilor/Precinct Meetings for September, October and November:

- No changes to the format of the Community Relations Committee should be entertained before an election when new Council members would be seated.
- Press releases were issued for Community Relations Committee meetings due to the fact it was the best avenue for citizens to come and voice their concerns, comment and ask questions of the Councilors.
- When the Council held precinct meetings they had department heads attend so citizens may receive information to their inquiries a department head could provide information for.
- Time limits as to how long citizens could speak would be determined by the Community Relations chair.

- Suggestion was made to change the date of the meeting to the 2nd Monday of each month, due to the fact the 3rd Monday of each month was either a holiday when the Committee couldn't meet or a few days before and after the City Council meeting occurs; which would hinder the Committee from forwarding any discussion/agenda items to the full Council.
- One of the main objectives of the Community Relations Committee was to communicate with constituents and hear their concerns, comments and suggestions on issues they would like to see addressed by the City, and the Committee was an avenue for City officials to meet with constituents to provide information that could address those issues.
- Community Relations Committee meeting for precincts 1, 2 and 3 would be scheduled for September, precincts 4, 5 and 6 for October, and 7, 8 and 9 for November at the John Zon Community Center, if available.
- If constituents contact Councilors directly with any questions or concerns regarding an issue to present it at the meeting.

Next Meeting – September 18, 2023, 6:00 pm, City Hall Meeting Room, 2nd Floor/Zoom Hybrid, unless otherwise posted.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Councilor Ricketts, second by Councilor Terounzo, it was unanimously,

VOTED: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:44 P.M.

Instructions and protocol for this meeting

This is a meeting of the Community Relations Committee. Your precinct Councilor may be sitting in the audience and not at the committee table. This allows us to be in compliance with Open Meeting Law for quorum purposes. Tonight you will be talking to the members at this table; however, your Councilor will hear you and you can communicate with them directly outside of this meeting.

We are the Council, the Legislative body of the City, and are providing this venue tonight for you to express concerns facing your precinct.

All Council members attending will hear your comments. We will not be able to solve your concerns tonight or be able to make promises to alleviate the difficulties. We may be able to put you in contact with the department or person who may be able to help you.

You will be given three (3) minutes to comment on issues facing you or your neighborhood. Please refrain from speaking about the election or any candidates for election as this would be a violation of election law. We request all who attend to be polite and not admonish anyone when making comments including those in attendance or other municipal officials.

PRESS RELEASE

TO: WHAI, Recorder, and GCTV 15

FROM: Kathryn J. Scott, CMC

DATE: September 8, 2023

RE: September 18th, 2023 Community Relation Committee meeting

On Monday, September 18th, 2023 the Greenfield City Council Community Relations (CR) Committee invites all residents of Precinct's 1, 2 and 3 to attend a meeting at the John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street, Greenfield, at 6:00 pm. This will be a hybrid meeting to allow virtual and physical attendance.

The City Council, the Legislative body of Greenfield, is providing this venue for you to express your concerns facing your precinct. While your precinct Councilors may attend in the audience, they will be unable to participate in the meeting due to Open Meeting Law and quorum, constraints. While this is unavoidable we believe holding the meeting will be beneficial for you to have this forum available to convey your concerns.

Please know that the Council will not be able to fix the issues you bring forth; however, we are here to take notice of your concerns and potentially put you in contact with the appropriate resources.

At the meeting there will be a sign-up sheet for you to put your name on to be called upon to air your concerns to those attending. The CR Chairperson Christine Forgey will address those attending with some procedural guidelines for the meeting. In order to allow everyone who would like to address the committee equitable time, there will be a time limit per speaker from precincts 1, 2, and 3.

We request all who attend to be polite and not admonish anyone when making comments including those in attendance or other municipal officials.

At this time it is anticipated that there will be a similar meeting in October for Precincts 4, 5, and 6 and a meeting in November for Precincts 7, 8, and 9. Dates and times for these meetings have yet to be determined.