

MEETING NOTICE

COMMITTEE: COMMUNITY RELATIONS
PLACE: Greenfield City Hall Meeting Room, 2nd Floor/Zoom Hybrid
DATE: Monday, October 16, 2023
TIME: 6:00 p.m.

To join in person:

City Hall, 14 Court Square, Greenfield

To join via Zoom:

<https://greenfield-ma-gov.zoom.us/j/92028783655?pwd=TFhqM25zenhPQVIEbE1aN1ZabERsUT09>

Meeting ID: 920 2878 3655

To join via phone:

Dial by your location

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+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

+1 386 347 5053 US

Meeting ID: 920 2878 3655 Passcode: 571915

Find your local number: <https://greenfield-ma-gov.zoom.us/j/92028783655>

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 – September 18, 2023
4. Motions –
 - Proposed Resolution to Endorse Senate Bill No. 303: An Act Increasing the Commonwealth’s Shared of the Education Foundation Budget. – 1st on agenda.
 - Proposed Resolution to Endorse Senate Bills No. 335 and 337 Relating to Special Education Funding Reimbursement. – 2nd on agenda.
5. Instructions and protocol for this meeting
6. Precincts 4, 5 and 6; Public Comments and Concerns
 - The following topics and concerns may be discussed –
 - Former Lunt Property Clean Up
 - Aromatic Filler – Air Pollution, Truck Traffic
 - Traffic – Speeding on Side Streets
 - Property Assessments/Valuation
 - Sidewalk Repair/Replacement
7. Next Meeting – November 13, 2023, 6:00 pm, City Hall Meeting Room, 2nd Floor/Zoom Hybrid, unless otherwise posted.
8. 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
September 18, 2023

John Zon Community Center/Zoom Hybrid

6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER Chairperson Forgey called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

PRESENT Councilors Forgey, Lapienski, Ricketts and Terounzo.

ABSENT Councilor Mayo.

ALSO PRESENT Mayor Roxann Wedegartner; Finance Director/Interim Chief of Staff Diana Schindler; Precinct 1 Councilor Katherine Golub 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 AUGUST 21, 2023.

Chairperson Forgey read the following statement:

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 proposes. 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.

The following members of the public spoke:

- Glen Ayers, Davis Street (Precinct 3), spoke to the ongoing issue with the contamination of the Lunt property and how the contamination was traveling into other sections of Greenfield through the storm drains.

- Mike Mastrototaro, Cypress Street (Precinct 3), spoke to his concern regarding damaged and the lack of sidewalks in Precinct 3. He also suggested that Place Terrace be made into a one-way street due to school traffic.

Chairperson Forgey opened discussion to the list of concerns posted on the agenda that include 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 and Housing:

- A number of the issues listed fell into more to the enforcement side of government then they would to be larger topics of concern. Most of these issues would be forwarded to the Mayor's office along as well as to the heads of the departments that could address the issues raised.
- Issues such as GCET and speeding would be forwarded to the proper departments.
- Issue with sidewalks could be forwarded to DPW Director Marlo Warner to obtain any information regarding plans with repair and additional sidewalks.
- It was noted that issues brought to the attention of the Council were from residents who had attempted to contact the appropriate departments without receiving sufficient answers or results.
- Designation of a "help desk", which could direct people which department could assist their issues and concerns.
- The issue with the school traffic on Place Terrace could be addressed with the School Committee.
- Most of the issues residents would like to see addressed had their origins in the executive branch of government. The Council could only perform certain duties that may not include addressing most of the topics presented, which was a frustrating position for Councilors. However, the Precinct Councilors did inquiry with their constituents what the most concerning issues facing their precinct.
- Rationale for the Council subcommittee to schedule these forums was to grant residents another venue in which to address the Council about issues that concern them and some precincts may have different issues they want addressed.

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

VOTED: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:32 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL ORDER
City of GREENFIELD
MASSACHUSETTS

Councilor _____ :

Second by Councilor _____ :

*The City Council,
Moved that it be ordered,*

THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL APPROVES THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION TITLED “A RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE SENTATE BILL NO. 303: AN ACT INCREASING THE COMMONWEALTH’S SHARE OF THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION BUDGET.”

The City Council,
Move that it be resolved that,

WHEREAS, in 1993, the Commonwealth passed the Education Reform Act, committing to sharing 41% of K-12 school funding costs for school districts throughout the Commonwealth and established a minimum funding standard in the creation of “The Foundation Budget” for every school district,

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Foundation Review Budget Commission under-calculated the “Foundation Budget” costs by over \$1 billion annually in the areas of special education in-district teachers, health insurance and benefits, and special education out-of-district,

WHEREAS, in 2019, the legislature passed the Student Opportunity Act, which did not address 20 years of under-funded Chapter 70 local school aid relative to inflation and increased local school funding costs,

WHEREAS, S. 303, An Act Increasing the Commonwealth's Share of the Education Foundation Budget, would phase in a 1% increase each year to the Commonwealth’s share of K-12 education funding for 5 years to, increasing the state’s share from 41% to 46%,

The Greenfield City Council endorses the passage of S. 303, and we urge state legislators to vote for the passage of these changes to state law.

FURTHERMORE that we urge our local state legislators, school committee and mayor to formally endorse and support the passage of these changes to state laws.

FURTHERMORE that we urge city councils, school committees and mayors through Massachusetts to endorse the passage of these changes to state laws.

Majority vote required

VOTE:

Explanation of supporting rationale:

**Resolution to Endorse Senate Bill No. 303: An Act Increasing the
Commonwealth's Share of the Education Foundation Budget**

The City Council,
Move that it be resolved that,

WHEREAS, in 1993, the Commonwealth passed the Education Reform Act, committing to sharing 41% of K-12 school funding costs for school districts throughout the Commonwealth and established a minimum funding standard in the creation of "The Foundation Budget" for every school district,

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Foundation Review Budget Commission under-calculated the "Foundation Budget" costs by over \$1 billion annually in the areas of special education in-district teachers, health insurance and benefits, and special education out-of-district,

WHEREAS, in 2019, the legislature passed the Student Opportunity Act, which did not address 20 years of under-funded Chapter 70 local school aid relative to inflation and increased local school funding costs,

WHEREAS, S. 303—An Act Increasing the Commonwealth's Share of the Education Foundation Budget—would phase in a 1% increase each year to the Commonwealth's share of K-12 education funding for 5 years to, increasing the state's share from 41% to 46%,

The Greenfield City Council endorses the passage of S. 303, and we urge state legislators to vote for the passage of these changes to state law.

FURTHERMORE that we urge our local state legislators, school committee and mayor to formally endorse and support the passage of these changes to state laws.

FURTHERMORE that we urge city councils, school committees and mayors through Massachusetts to endorse the passage of these changes to state laws.

CITY COUNCIL ORDER City of GREENFIELD MASSACHUSETTS

Councilor _____ :
Second by Councilor _____ :

***The City Council,
Moved that it be ordered,***

**THAT THE GREENFIELD CITY COUNCIL APPROVES THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION TITLED
“A RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE SENATE BILLS NO. 335 AND 337 RELATING TO
SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING REIMBURSEMENT.”**

The City Council,
Move that it be resolved that,

WHEREAS, special education costs represent an extraordinary cost for the taxpayers of the City of Greenfield—over \$3.8 million for FY2022 alone,

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth mandates that school districts fulfill special education requirements without fully funding these mandates,

WHEREAS, in 1993, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court stated the Massachusetts constitution 1780 clause concerning education ‘is not merely aspirational or hortatory, but also imposes on the Commonwealth an enforceable duty to provide an education for all its children, rich and poor, in every city and town through the public schools’ and that ‘the Commonwealth had failed to meet its constitutional obligation.’

WHEREAS, S. 335—An Act to Increase Special Education Circuit Breaker Reimbursement From 75% to 90%—would increase the Commonwealth’s reimbursement to municipalities of high-cost special education instruction and transportation costs from 75% to 90% of costs exceeding the approved costs threshold,

WHEREAS, S. 337—An Act Relative to Adjusting Approved Costs Threshold—would reduce the approved cost threshold from \$45,793 (as set in FY ‘20 and adjusted by the foundation inflation index annually) to \$37,120,

The Greenfield City Council endorses the passage of S. 335 and S. 337 and urges state legislators to vote for the passage of these changes to state law.

FURTHERMORE, we urge our local state legislators, school committee, and mayor to formally endorse and support the passage of these changes to state laws.

FURTHERMORE, we urge city councils, school committees, and mayors throughout Massachusetts communities to endorse and support the passage of these changes to state laws.

Majority vote required

VOTE:

Explanation of supporting rationale:

**Resolution to Endorse Senate Bills No. 335 and 337
Relating to Special Education Funding Reimbursement**

The City Council,
Move that it be resolved that,

WHEREAS, special education costs represent an extraordinary cost for the taxpayers of the City of Greenfield—over \$3.8 million for FY2022 alone,

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth mandates that school districts fulfill special education requirements without fully funding these mandates,

WHEREAS, in 1993, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court stated the Massachusetts constitution 1780 clause concerning education ‘is not merely aspirational or hortatory, but also imposes on the Commonwealth an enforceable duty to provide an education for all its children, rich and poor, in every city and town through the public schools’ and that ‘the Commonwealth had failed to meet its constitutional obligation.’

WHEREAS, S. 335—An Act to Increase Special Education Circuit Breaker Reimbursement From 75% to 90%—would increase the Commonwealth’s reimbursement to municipalities of high-cost special education instruction and transportation costs from 75% to 90% of costs exceeding the approved costs threshold,

WHEREAS, S. 337—An Act Relative to Adjusting Approved Costs Threshold—would reduce the approved cost threshold from \$45,793 (as set in FY ‘20 and adjusted by the foundation inflation index annually) to \$37,120,

The Greenfield City Council endorses the passage of S. 335 and S. 337 and urges state legislators to vote for the passage of these changes to state law.

FURTHERMORE, we urge our local state legislators, school committee, and mayor to formally endorse and support the passage of these changes to state laws.

FURTHERMORE, we urge city councils, school committees, and mayors throughout Massachusetts communities to endorse and support the passage of these changes to state laws.

Instructions and protocol for this meeting

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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: October 12, 2023
RE: October 16th, 2023 Community Relation Committee meeting

On Monday, October 16th, 2023 the Greenfield City Council Community Relations (CR) Committee invites all residents of Precincts 4, 5 and 6 to attend a meeting at the City Hall Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, 14 Court Square, 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 4, 5, and 6.

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 November for Precincts 7, 8, and 9. Date and time for the meeting have yet to be determined.