

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
September 19, 2022

Zoom Conferencing System

6:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER** Chairperson Ricketts called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**PRESENT** Councilors Ricketts, Gilmour and Guin (as ex-officio committee member)

**ABSENT** Councilors Lapienski, Bottomley and Terounzo.

**ALSO PRESENT** Councilor Christine Forgey;

**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.

Communications from Department Heads, by invitation: None.

Chairperson Ricketts opened public forum:

- Russ Pirkot inquired who he would speak to regarding the lack of recycling receptacles around Greenfield public areas. He was directed to speak to the Department of Public Works on this issue.
- Sandra Boston, Abbot Street, would like to see a recycling receptacle at Poet Seat Tower.
- Nancy Hazard, Spring Terrace, would also like to see more recycling receptacles along Main Street and in Parks.
- Dawn Morin, Hope Street, supported the idea of more recycling receptacles around Greenfield. She noted that she would like to see all City of Greenfield Committees who met virtually and through hybrid to forward their recordings to GCTV for airing. It was suggested since the Council had no authority to direct other committees and commissions to air their meetings, to forward your request to the Mayor or Chief of Staff.
- Ms. Boston asked if anyone from the Council was interacting with the issue of the Chief of Police's recertification. She was informed that it was not within the Council's purview to address personnel issues for the City; the issue was for the Mayor and public safety to address.
- Jesus Leyva, High Street, spoke to his experience with the public safety commission; both positive and negative. He believed the commission should be involved with issues including police misconduct and related matters before it was brought to the Mayor. He also noted that the commission does not properly post their meetings on the City's website calendar. It was noted that the City Charter gave the public safety commission the power to investigate police misconduct complaints, including the issuance of subpoenas if needed.
- Stephanie Duclos, Chapman Street, addressed issues with the homeless population in Greenfield and how funds from the City's Free Cash account could be used towards that issue, especially with winter approaching. Possibility of the city to assign an individual or group to check in on the homeless to find out their needs and help direct them to services.
- Mr. Pirkot inquired what the difference was between a commission and a committee and if they were in service at the behest of the Mayor.

- Frank Trapanese, Stetson Drive, spoke to residing on a city owned dirt road that was in major disrepair and attempted numerous times to work with the Mayor's office. He was provided a report suggesting he appropriate his own money to upgrade the land that the city owned.
- Mr. Leyva addressed the issue of the Council voting to accept and Mayor's appointment. It was noted that the Council does not accept an appointment but rather confirms them. He also spoke to his experience when he did obtain an audience with the Mayor and his frustration with having to contact the State authorities over City issues.

Next meeting scheduled for October 17, 2022, 6:00 pm, via Zoom Conferencing System, unless otherwise posted.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by Councilor Guin, second by Councilor Gilmour, it was unanimously,

**VOTED:** TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:30 P.M.