

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
August 21, 2023

City Hall Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, due to the fact the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.