

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.