



City Council

Special Meeting

~ Final ~

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103
<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

Gladys Oyola-Lopez

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

6:00 PM

Hybrid Council Chamber

Call to Order

6:00 PM Meeting called to order on November 29, 2023 at Hybrid Council Chamber, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Kateri B. Walsh	At-Large Councilor	Remote	
Michael A. Fenton	Ward 2 Councilor	Present	
Maria Perez	Ward 1 City Councilor	Remote	
Tracye Whitfield	At Large City Councilor	Absent	
Zaida Govan	Ward 8 City Councilor	Present	
Timothy C. Allen	Ward 7 Councilor	Present	
Malo Brown	Ward 4 Councilor	Remote	
Justin Hurst	At Large Councilor	Remote	
Lavar Click-Bruce	Ward 5 City Councilor	Remote	
Melvin A. Edwards	Ward 3 Councilor	Present	
Sean Curran	At-Large Councilor	Remote	
Victor Davila	Ward 6 Councilor	Present	
Jesse Lederman	President	Present	

Orders - Continued from 11/28/2023

Posted in the event that passage of these orders is not completed on 11/28/2023.

1. Order (ID # 7767)

Transfer - FY23 Certified Free Cash to FY24 Estimated Revenues - \$1,000,000.00

HISTORY:

11/28/23

City Council

CONTINUE VOTE

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Transfer - FY23 Certified Free Cash to FY24 Estimated Revenues - \$1,000,000.00

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Councilor Allen spoke on the transfer. He summarized a meeting with the Mayor regarding negotiating the transfer of additional free cash in the amount of \$1 million dollars to lower taxes.

Councilor Brown spoke on the probability of municipal finances being negatively affected due to the changing and reduced state aid.

Councilor Govan thanked Councilor Allen for meeting with the Mayor. She is not in support of the Mayor's offer.

Councilor Walsh thanks Councilor Allen for the work he did to negotiate an additional \$1 million dollars from certified free cash to FY24 Estimated Revenues.

Councilor Hurst thanked Councilor Allen for the work he did to negotiate with the Mayor. He also thanked the residents that testified last night.

Councilor Walsh also asked the Assessor's Office to follow up with the individuals who spoke at the 11/28/2023 public speak out.

Councilor Davila asked Patrick Greenhalgh what the abatement amount was and when residents could apply. Due April 1 of 2024 for FY 2024 and it is for \$1,000.

Assessor Greenhalgh noted that two years ago the age was lowered from 70 to 65 and the abatement was doubled from \$500 to \$1,000.

July 1, 2024 is when the Senior work off program is starting. Councilor Davila asked when the Tax Work Off Program was adopted.

Councilor Click-Bruce asked how many people were granted the Circuit Breaker tax write off.

Councilor Fenton highlighted the work the Council and the Administration has done in the last 12 months. Senior tax abatement program was opened up to younger people and doubled. Healey's Circuit Breaker program. He noted that a resident who is able to take advantage of the abatement, circuit breaker and tax work off may be able to eliminate their real estate taxes all together. He noted that the city of Springfield has not increased taxes at the rate of other cities/towns.

Councilor Govan asked about the income and asset restrictions for the COS abatement and the Circuit Breaker Program.

Councilor Hurst noted the zealous efforts of Councilor Whitfield on reducing taxes. He asked if when we reduce the levy is it applied across the board? Assessor Greenhalgh said yes. Hurst asked if there was a way to scale the reduction so that the residents that really need it are the only ones eligible.

ATTACHMENTS:

- CAFO Cert - \$1M FY23 Free Cash to FY24 General Fund Revenues (DOCX)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [10 TO 2]
AYES:	Walsh, Fenton, Perez, Allen, Brown, Click-Bruce, Edwards, Curran, Davila, Lederman
NAYS:	Zaida Govan, Justin Hurst
ABSENT:	Tracye Whitfield

Order Under Suspension

2. Order (ID # 7779)

Transfer - FY23 Certified Free Cash to FY24 Estimated Revenues - \$1,000,000.00

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Transfer - FY23 Certified Free Cash to FY24 Estimated Revenues - \$1,000,000.00

ATTACHMENTS:

- CAFO Cert - additional \$1M FY23 Free Cash to FY24 General Fund Revenues (DOCX)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [10 TO 2]
AYES:	Walsh, Fenton, Perez, Allen, Brown, Click-Bruce, Edwards, Curran, Davila, Lederman
NAYS:	Zaida Govan, Justin Hurst
ABSENT:	Tracye Whitfield

Orders- Continued from 11/28/2023

3. Order (ID # 7768)

Tax Factor - FY24

HISTORY:

11/28/23 City Council CONTINUE VOTE

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

CAFO Burns spoke on the item.

Councilor Allen thanked Assessor Greenhalgh for the work he did on updating the tax factor.

lowest single family average tax bill for the entire region and any other city in the state with the exception of North Adams.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [10 TO 2]
AYES:	Walsh, Fenton, Perez, Allen, Brown, Click-Bruce, Edwards, Curran, Davila, Lederman
NAYS:	Zaida Govan, Justin Hurst
ABSENT:	Tracye Whitfield