



City Council

Regular Meeting

~ Final ~

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

Gladys Oyola-Lopez

Monday, May 6, 2024

7:00 PM

Hybrid Council Chamber

Call to Order

7:00 PM Meeting called to order on May 6, 2024 at Hybrid Council Chamber, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Kateri B. Walsh	At-Large Councilor	Remote	
Timothy C. Allen	Ward 7 Councilor	Present	
Jose Delgado	City Councilor	Remote	
Lavar Click-Bruce	Ward 5 City Councilor	Present	
Zaida Govan	Ward 8 City Councilor	Remote	
Malo Brown	Ward 4 Councilor	Present	
Victor Davila	Ward 6 Councilor	Present	
Sean Curran	At-Large Councilor	Remote	7:35 PM
Brian Santaniello	City Councilor	Present	
Melvin A. Edwards	Ward 3 Councilor	Present	
Tracye Whitfield	At Large City Councilor	Remote	
Maria Perez	Ward 1 City Councilor	Present	
Michael A. Fenton	President	Present	

Reports of Committee

COUNCILOR ALLEN - FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

COUNCILOR BROWN - MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

COUNCILOR DAVILA - GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

COUNCILOR SANTANIELLO - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Informational

1. Order (ID # 7999)

March Revenue Vs. Expenditure Report

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

PAT BURNS, COMPTROLLER, PRESENTED THE REPORT

ATTACHMENTS:

- March Revenue Vs. Expenditure Report (PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [12 TO 0]
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Davila, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton
ABSENT:	Sean Curran

2. Informational 2024-4

Confirmation of the Appointment of Vana Nespor to the Historical Commission

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

DR. NESPOR, RETIRED BAYPATH VICE PRESIDENT, SPOKE ON HER APPOINTMENT TO THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION.

COUNCILOR WALSH ASKED DR. NESPOR TO SPEAK ABOUT HER CAREER BEGINNING AT SHEPARD UNIVERSITY SPECIFICALLY THE CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR WORKING WOMEN. SHE IS THE CO-FOUNDER OF THE 1 DAY A WEEK PROGRAM.

4 MASTERS AND A DOCTORATE.

COUNCILOR GOVAN ENCOURAGED THE COUNCIL TO VOTE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Vana Nespor Letter (PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [12 TO 0]
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Davila, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton
ABSENT:	Sean Curran

3. Informational 2024-3

Confirmation of Vanessa Ford to the SRA Board

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

VANESSA FORD SPOKE ON HER APPOINTMENT TO THE SRA BOARD

COUNCILORS BROWN, SANTANIELLO, CLICK-BRUCE, ALLEN, PEREZ, WHITFIELD, GOVAN SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE CONFIRMATION.

COUNCILOR DAVILA READ THE APPOINTMENT LETTER INTO THE RECORD.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Vanessa Ford - SRA Appointment (PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [12 TO 0]
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Davila, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton
ABSENT:	Sean Curran

Petitions

4. Petition (ID # 8003)

Eversource - John Street

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

CHRIS CIGNOLI, DPW DIRECTOR, SPOKE ON THE AGENDA ITEM

COUNCILOR BROWN ASKED ABOUT IMPROVING THE REPAIR/RESTORATION WORK DONE AFTER THE INITIAL WORK

ATTACHMENTS:

- Report-I John St. (PDF)
- 24EG168 FPO (PDF)
- John St - Springfield City Council Letter (PDF)

RESULT:	APPROVED [11 TO 0]
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton
ABSENT:	Sean Curran
AWAY:	Victor Davila

5. Petition (ID # 8004)

Gonetspeed - Hamilton Street

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

CHRIS CIGNOLI, DPW DIRECTOR, SPOKE ON THE AGENDA ITEM

ATTACHMENTS:

- Report-Hamilton St. (PDF)
- SPRFD-A2 - 01 - Underground - City of Springfield - Board of Public Works - Infrastructure Petition (04-01-24) (PDF)

RESULT:	APPROVED [11 TO 0]
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton
ABSENT:	Sean Curran
AWAY:	Victor Davila

6. Petition (ID # 8005)

Comcast - Berkshire Ave.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

CHRIS CIGNOLI, DPW DIRECTOR, SPOKE ON THE AGENDA ITEM.

COUNCILOR BROWN ASKED IF THESE COMPANIES CAN DO MORE COVERAGE WITH PAVEMENT INSTEAD OF JUST PATCH WORK.

DIRECTOR CIGNOLI STATED THAT HE HAS BEEN SITTING ON PERMITS UNTIL WORK IS DONE COMPLETELY ON THE STREETS.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Berkshire Ave. Construction Details (PDF)
- Berkshire Ave. petition-Springfield (PDF)
- Screenshot 2024-04-09 073123 (PDF)
- COMCAST REPORT - Berkshire Ave. (PDF)

RESULT: **APPROVED [11 TO 0]**

AYES: Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton

ABSENT: Sean Curran

AWAY: Victor Davila

Grants

7. Order (ID # 7998)

HUD Continuum of Care Grant - No Match - \$7,534,592.00

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

GERALDINE MCCAERTY, DIRECTOR OF HOUSING, SPOKE ON THE ITEM.

COUNCILOR GOVAN NOTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED THIS GRANT BEFORE AND CONGRATULATED DIRECTOR MCCAERTY. SHE IF THE PROGRAM KEEPS PARTICIPANT RETENTION RE

ATTACHMENTS:

- FY25 CoC Grant \$7,534,592 (may meeting) CD (PDF)

RESULT: **ADOPTED [11 TO 0]**

AYES: Walsh, Allen, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Davila, Curran, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Fenton

ABSTAIN: Maria Perez

AWAY: Jose Delgado

8. Order (ID # 8002)

Springfield City Library Donation - \$15,000.00

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

ITEMS 8 & 9 WERE TAKEN TOGETHER IN ONE VOTE

ATTACHMENTS:

- Libraries Donation \$15,000_Redacted (PDF)

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES: Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Davila, Curran, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton

9. Order (ID # 8001)

FY24 State Aid to Public Library Increase - No Match Required - \$7,446.89

ATTACHMENTS:

- Libraries FY24 State Aid-increase \$7,446.89 (PDF)

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES: Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Davila, Curran, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton

Orders

10. Order 2024-4

An Order Amending Chapter 16, Board Commissions and Committees

HISTORY:

03/11/24	City Council	FIRST READING
03/18/24	City Council	FIRST READING
04/08/24	City Council	FIRST READING

COUNCILOR EDWARDS SPOKE ON THE ITEM. HE NOTED THAT THE AMENDMENT WOULD ONLY AFFECT THE CPC. ELIMINATE THE TERM LIMIT.

FIRST STEPS.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

ON FOR 2ND & 3RD STEP FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.

COUNCILOR EDWARDS PROVIDED A BRIEF RECAP FOR THE HISTORIC COMMISSION RE-APPOINTMENT.

COUNCILOR BROWN ASKED TO BE ADDED AS CO SPONSOR.

COUNCILOR PEREZ ASKED TO BE ADDED AS A CO SPONSOR AS WELL.

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Michael A. Fenton, President
AYES: Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Davila, Curran, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton

11. Order (ID # 7989)

Order Approving Contract for Emergency Communications Dictation System

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

DEVON GREIRSON, SPRINGFIELD LAW DEPARTMENT, GAVE A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE ORDER. 5 YEAR CONTRACT FOR COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT FOR THE FIRE

DEPARTMENT. RECORD, LOG AND STORE ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. TOTAL COST FOR THE CONTRACT IS \$38,000.

REBECCA OCASIO WAS PRESENT TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THAT THE COUNCIL MAY HAVE.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Order Approving Equature Contract (PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Davila, Curran, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton

12. Order (ID # 8006)

Reserve for Contingencies to Comptroller Department State Assessments - \$40,000.00

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

PATRICK BURNS, COMPTROLLER, SPOKE ON THE ITEM AND EXPLAINED THE NEED TO PAY THE UMASS MEDICAL SCHOOL. THE REVENUE WILL COME BACK TO THE CITY IN A FEW MONTHS.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Comptroller CAFO Cert (PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [12 TO 0]
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Davila, Curran, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton
ABSTAIN:	Jose Delgado

13. Order (ID # 8013)

Order Authorizing Expenditure of Additional FY24 Chapter 90 Funds - \$184,848

The Commonwealth of Mass. has released additional FY24 Chapter 90 local transportation aid funding to Springfield in the amount of \$184,848

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

COUNCILOR CIGNOLI, DPW DIRECTOR, SPOKE ON THE ITEM.

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD HAS RECEIVED STATE MONIES FOR ADDITIONAL PAVING PROGRAMS.

COUNCILOR SANTANIELLO ASKED HOW MUCH WAS IN THE CHAPTER 90 FUND? APPROXIMATELY 4.5 MILLION DOLLARS. SPRINGFIELD IS RECEIVING \$194,000 FROM THE STATE THIS YEAR, THAT WILL BE ADDED TO THE CHAPTER 90 ACCOUNT.

DIRECTOR CIGNOLI PROVIDED A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THE PAVING BUDGET. THERE IS ABOUT 4 MILLION DOLLARS IN THE CHAPTER 90 ACCOUNT. DIRECTOR CIGNOLI LIKES TO HAVE A YEAR ASIDE IN RESERVES.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Chapter 90 Rural Roadway- Grant Setup Form (PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Davila, Curran, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton

14. Order (ID # 7804)

Transfer - FY23 Certified Free Cash to Opioid Settlement Fund - \$1,521,535.00

HISTORY:**12/18/23****City Council****REFER COMMITTEE VOTE**

DEPUTY CAFO LINDSAY HACKETT SPOKE ON THE ITEM.

COUNCILOR HURST ASKED FOR THE SPECIFIC USES OF THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT GRANT. HE NOTED HE IS NOT COMFORTABLE VOTING TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER AND NOTED SINCE THIS IS HIS LAST MEETING HE WILL DEFER TO HIS COLLEAGUES.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD MOTIONED TO SEND THE ITEM TO COMMITTEE, THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILOR WHITFIELD.

COUNCILOR DAVILA SPOKE ON THE USAGE OF THE SETTLEMENT MONEY FOR THE TACK UNIT. HE NOTED THAT THE DEPARTMENTS USING THE FUNDS SHOULD BE PRESENT TO SPEAK TO THE COUNCIL ON THE FUNDS. HE WILL SUPPORT THE MOTION TO COMMITTEE.

COUNCILOR GOVAN NOTED THAT SHE WILL SUPPORT THE MOTION TO COMMITTEE.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD SPOKE ON THE ITEM AND NOTED ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS THAT COULD BENEFIT FROM THIS FUNDING.

COUNCILOR BROWN ASKED IF THE MONIES COULD BE ALLOCATED TO DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS. DEPUTY CAFO HACKETT WAS NOT CERTAIN. COUNCILOR BROWN NOTED THAT PROGRAMS EXIST WHICH WOULD BENEFIT FROM THIS OPIOID FUNDING.

COUNCILOR ALLEN SPOKE THAT MAKING A MOTION TO COMMITTEE IS VALID AND HE WILL SUPPORT IT.

03/11/24**City Council**

COUNCILOR EDWARDS MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM

SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ALLEN

COUNCILOR ALLEN NOTED THAT A PROCESS ON DECISION MAKING SHOULD BE PUT INTO PLACE INCLUDING THE COUNCIL AND NUMEROUS DEPARTMENTS

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Transfer - FY23 Certified Free Cash to Opioid Settlement Fund - \$1,521,535.00

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

COMMISSIONER HELEN CAULTON-HARRIS SPOKE ON THE ITEM.

SHE EXPLAINED THE PLAN AND NOTED THAT THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE A DYNAMIC PLAN THAT CAN BE UPDATED BY FUTURE ADMINISTRATIONS.

COUNCILOR SANTANIELLO ASKED COMMISSIONER CAULTON TO REPEAT THE OPIOID STATISTICS FOR SPRINGFIELD. HE SUGGESTED THAT OPIOID EDUCATION START AT THE SCHOOL AGE LEVEL.

COUNCILOR BROWN NOTED THAT PROGRAMS EXIST WHO DO THIS WORK AND ASKED IF THEY WOULD BENEFIT FROM THESE FUNDS. HE NOTED HIS SUPPORT FOR SMALL LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS WHO DO THE PROGRAMMATIC WORK WITH THE SPRINGFIELD HHS DEPT ON OPIOID ADDICTION.

COUNCILOR DAVILA SPOKE ON THE ITEM. HE NOTED THAT THE OPIOID MONEY CAME BEFORE THE COUNCIL AT A PRIOR MEETING WITH THE INTENTION OF USING THE FUNDS FOR TAC UNITS. HE NOTED THAT THE USE OF OPIOID FUNDS AS EXPLAINED BY COMMISSIONER CAULTON-HARRIS IS MORE IN LINE WITH HOW HE ENVISIONED THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND MONIES BEING ALLOCATED. HE ALSO OPINED THAT THE CITY STILL NEEDS 2 TAC UNITS.

COUNCILOR GOVAN SPOKE ON THE ITEM. SHE NOTED HER PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH OPIOID OVERDOSES AND THE WORK HER SON DID WITH TAPESTRY HEALTH.

COMMISSIONER CAULTON-HARRIS SAID SHE HAD THE PLEASURE OF WORKING WITH COUNCILOR GOVAN'S SON IN THE ARENA OF ADDICTION AND RECOVERY.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD ADDRESSED COUNCILOR SANTANIELLO'S CONCERN THAT CANNABIS LACED WITH FENTANYL COULD CAUSE OVERDOSES. SHE NOTED THAT THERE IS NO SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE TO PROVE THAT HIS CONCERNS ARE VALID.

COUNCILOR ALLEN SAID WE NEED TO BETTER AS A CITY. HE NOTED THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND THE JULY 25TH MEETING AND ASKED THE COUNCIL TO SUPPORT THE HHS DEPARTMENT AND OTHER LOCAL AGENCIES THAT ARE WORKING TO ADDRESS OPIOID ADDICTION. WE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER AS A COUNCIL TO SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE.

COUNCILOR GOVAN WANTED CLARIFICATION ON THE MEETING TIME TAKING PLACE ON THURSDAY, JULY 25TH. IT WAS STATED THAT THE MEETING IS IN THE MORNING.

MS. CAULTON-HARRIS WANTED TO STRESS THAT THE BRANDEIS STUDY DID NOT LOOK AT DEATHS, IT LOOKED AT SUBSTANCES THAT WERE BEING INTEGRATED IN, SHE WANTED TO BE CLEAR. FURTHER, SHE IS WILLING TO MEET WITH COUNCILOR WHITFIELD ABOUT HOW TO REACH INDIVIDUALS BOTH USING DRUGS AND SELLING DRUGS.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD STATED THAT SHE WOULD LOVE TO MEET, AND THANKS FOR THE CLARIFICATION ON THE BRANDEIS STUDY.

COUNCILOR GOVAN ADDED THAT THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE REASONS THAT PEOPLE CHOOSE TO USE DRUGS NEED TO BE CLOSELY LOOKED AT.

COUNCILOR PEREZ SEES YOUNG CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITY DYING. NOW IS THE TIME TO GET EDUCATION TO THE YOUTH IN THE COMMUNITY. SHE SAW ON THE NEWS THAT A CHILD TOOK SOME DRUGS THAT THEY THOUGHT WAS CANDY.

ATTACHMENTS:

- CAFO Cert - FY23 Free Cash Opioid Transfer (PDF)
- BUL-2023-7 (1)(PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Davila, Curran, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton

Ordinances

15. Order 2024-5

Ordinance - Tree Replacement Revolving Fund

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

PATRICK BURNS, COMPTROLLER, SPOKE ON THE ITEM. IN MARCH THE CITY COUNCIL PASSED CHAPTER 268 TREE ORDINANCE.

COUNCILOR BROWN ASKED FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE REVOLVING FUNDS. MR BURNS REPLIED IF A CONTRACTOR TAKES DOWN A HEALTHY TREE, THEY WOULD HAVE TO PAY THE CITY \$1200 THAT WOULD GO INTO THIS REVOLVING FUND. THE CITY'S FORESTRY DEPARTMENT WILL UTILIZE THIS MONEY TO REPLACE THAT TREE. HE ALSO SPOKE ON THE SOLAR AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CLEAN ENERGY.

COUNCILOR ALLEN WENT INTO DETAIL ABOUT THE TREE ORDINANCE. SOME LAND POSSIBLY HAS BEEN RESERVED FOR A SOLAR FARM IN THE ALLEN/COOLEY STREETS AREA.

COUNCILOR GOVAN WANTED CLARIFICATION IF IT COVERED BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TREES. ALSO, WOULD THE DEVELOPERS OF THE SOLAR FARM HAVE TO REPLACE THE TREES THAT GET CUT DOWN TO CREATE IT?

MR. BURNS EXPLAINED HOW THE MONIES IN THE REVOLVING FUNDS WERE ALLOCATED. BUT ALSO ASKED THAT ALEX SHERMAN, CITY FORESTER BE PRESENT AT THE THIRD AND FINAL STEP MEETING TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS ORDINANCE.

COUNCILOR BROWN QUESTIONED THE AMOUNT OF THE FINES TO BUSINESSES AND THE UNEQUAL COST FOR A RESIDENT VS. A CONTRACTOR. \$2,000 VS. \$400. MR BURNS STATED THE PRICE DIFFERENCE WITH RESIDENTS VS PRIVATE COULD BE BECAUSE THE CONTRACTOR HAS THE EQUIPMENT FOR REMOVAL.

MR. BURNS NOTED THAT THE ORDINANCE WAS AMENDED AND ADOPTED IN MARCH AND THE COUNCIL COULD CERTAINLY INCREASE THE FINE IF THEY WERE TO REVISIT THE ORDINANCE.

COUNCILOR DAVILA NOTED THAT COUNCILOR BROWN RAISED A LOGICAL POINT AS TO THE AMOUNT OF THE FINE. SUGGESTED COUNCILOR BROWN'S CONCERN SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE. THE CHAIR OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE IS COUNCILOR GOVAN AND MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CHAIR IS COUNCILOR BROWN. IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMITTEES LOOK AT THIS ORDINANCE IN ADVANCE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

ALL COUNCILORS VOTED TO APPROVE THE REVOLVING FUND - FIRST STEP.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Ordinance Amending 268 (PDF)

RESULT:	FIRST READING	Next: 5/13/2024 7:00 PM
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Resolutions

16. Resolution 2024-3

Primary Care for You Legislation Endorsement

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

COUNCILOR DAVILA ASKED THAT THE ITEM BE TAKEN OUT OF ORDER.

WITHOUT OBJECTION ITEM #16 WAS HEARD AS THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [11 TO 0]
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Click-Bruce, Govan, Davila, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton
ABSTAIN:	Malo Brown
ABSENT:	Sean Curran