



City Council

Regular Meeting

~ Final ~

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

Gladys Oyola-Lopez

Monday, May 13, 2024

7:00 PM

Hybrid Council Chamber

Call to Order

7:00 PM Meeting called to order on May 13, 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	Present	
Lavar Click-Bruce	Ward 5 City Councilor	Absent	
Zaida Govan	Ward 8 City Councilor	Remote	
Malo Brown	Ward 4 Councilor	Remote	
Victor Davila	Ward 6 Councilor	Present	
Sean Curran	At-Large Councilor	Absent	
Brian Santaniello	City Councilor	Remote	
Melvin A. Edwards	Ward 3 Councilor	Present	
Tracye Whitfield	At Large City Councilor	Remote	
Maria Perez	Ward 1 City Councilor	Absent	
Michael A. Fenton	President	Present	

Reports of Committee

COUNCILOR ALLEN - FINANCE COMMITTEE - ALL THE ITEMS THAT ARE ON THE AGENDA WERE APPROVED, EXCEPT FOR ONE ITEM, BUT THAT WILL COME UP DURING THE MEETING.

COUNCILOR DELGADO - AUDIT COMMITTEE - BUILDING & CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT PRESENTED THE ANNUAL AUDIT PLANS THAT NEED TO BE APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL.

COUNCILOR DAVILA - PILOT REVENUE COMMITTEE - THERE WERE 3 AGENDA ITEMS. 1) OVERVIEW AND HOW TO INCREASE REVENUES FOR THE CITY 2) REVENUE SOURCES - STATE AIDE, CHAPTER 70 AND PROPERTY TAXES, AND 3) FUTURE MEETING DATES FOR THE COMMITTEE TO MEET.

THE COUNCILORS VOTED TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Zoning Change Referral

1. Zoning Change (ID # 7976)

To Change the Zoning of a Portion the Property Known as 824 Berkshire Avenue (01340-0130) from Industrial a to Business B.

PETITIONER:

Michael Serricchio

ADDRESS:

824 Berkshire Avenue

CHANGE REQUESTED:

Industrial A to Business B

HISTORY:

05/01/24

City Planning Board APPROVED

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

READ INTO RECORD - ACCEPTED AND APPROVED TO THE PLANNING BOARD

ATTACHMENTS:

- 3246_Berkshire_Ave_824_Formal(PDF)
- 3246_824_Berkshire_Ave_2024 (PDF)
- 3246_824_Berkshire_Ave_2024_PB_Report (PDF)

RESULT: CONTINUE VOTE

Grants

2. Order (ID # 8019)

Parks - EEA Green City Trees Grant Increase - No Match Required - \$1,800,000

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

CITY FORESTER, ALEX SHERMAN PRESENTED ON THE ITEM - GRANT IS OVER A 3 YEAR TERM TO PLANT TREES ACROSS THE CITY ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PROPERTY, IT IS AN EXTENSION OF THE PREVIOUS GRANT THAT ONLY COVERED THE HILL MCKNIGHT AREA OF THE CITY. THIS MONEY NOW EXTENDS CITY WIDE AND COVERS AN ADDITIONAL 2400 TREES.

COUNCILOR DAVILA - COMMENDED ALEX ON THE GRANT AND IS EXCITED ABOUT THE GRANT.

COUNCILOR ALLEN - STATED THAT THIS WAS GREAT NEWS FOR THE CITY.

COUNCILOR GOVAN - THANK YOU FOR GETTING THIS GRANT AGAIN, AND ALSO, PLEASE GET THE WORD OUT THAT BUSINESSES CAN REQUEST TREES ON THEIR RESPECTIVE PROPERTIES.

COUNCILOR SANTANIELLO - GREAT JOB, WE CAN ALWAYS HAVE MORE TREES IN THE CITY. HE INQUIRED ABOUT WHAT TYPE OF TREES? MR SHERMAN STATED THAT THERE WILL BE A VARIETY OF TREES, A CERTIFIED ARBORIST WILL MEET WITH THE RESIDENT DIRECTLY ON THE PROPERTY AND CHOOSE THE BEST TREE FOR THE PROPERTY.

COUNCILOR BROWN - THANKS TO EVERYONE THAT WORKED ON THIS. THIS WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO GET MORE GREENERY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

COUNCILOR WALSH - WANTED TO ECHO WHAT HER COLLEAGUES WERE SAYING. SHE INQUIRED ON HOW RESIDENTS CAN REQUEST A TREE. MR. SHERMAN STATED THAT THEY ARE UTILIZING THE 311 CALL CENTER TO ENTER TICKETS. ANY RESIDENT MAY REQUEST A TREE.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Parks green city trees Amendment (PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [10 TO 0]
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Govan, Brown, Davila, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Fenton
ABSENT:	Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Maria Perez

3. Order (ID # 8016)

Parks - Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) Grant - No Match Required - \$500,000

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

PARKS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR TOM ASHE SPOKE ON THE ITEM - THIS IS A GRANT PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR A STUDY OF THE DAMNS IN LOWER FOREST PARK. THIS WILL STUDY THE IMPACT OF FLOODING TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS.

COUNCILOR ALLEN - IS THIS GRANT ONLY IN FOREST PARK? MR ASHE STATED THAT IT IS ONLY FOR FOREST PARK, SPECIFICALLY IN THE PORTER LAKE AREA.

COUNCILOR SANTANIELLO - HOW LONG WITH THIS STUDY TAKE. MR. ASHE STATED THAT SINCE THE STUDY HAS NOT STARTED HE IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE A TIMELINE. HE WILL BE FOLLOWING UP.

ATTACHMENTS:

- dep Grant Setup signed (PDF)
- dep contract (PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [10 TO 0]
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Govan, Brown, Davila, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Fenton
ABSENT:	Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Maria Perez

4. Order (ID # 8015)

Emergency Management Performance Grant - \$92,735.50 - In-Kind Match Required

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

ITEMS # 4, 5, AND 6 ARE ALL BELOW THE THRESHOLD AND CAN BE TAKEN TOGETHER.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Request for Grant Set Up - Signed (PDF)
- 23EMPG Springfield Contract to be signed (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED [10 TO 0]**AYES:** Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Govan, Brown, Davila, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Fenton**ABSENT:** Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Maria Perez**5. Order (ID # 8018)**

FY24 DPW Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) Grant Increase - No Match - \$10,124.72

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

ITEMS # 4, 5, AND 6 ARE ALL BELOW THE THRESHOLD AND CAN BE TAKEN TOGETHER.

ATTACHMENTS:

- RDP FY24 Grant Increase - Grant Setup Form (PDF)
- RDP FY24 Grant Increase Contract Addendum (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED [10 TO 0]**AYES:** Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Govan, Brown, Davila, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Fenton**ABSENT:** Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Maria Perez**6. Order (ID # 8017)**

Parks Department - Donations - \$5,245.35 - No Match Required

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

ITEMS # 4, 5, AND 6 ARE ALL BELOW THE THRESHOLD AND CAN BE TAKEN TOGETHER.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Parks Donations benches (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED [10 TO 0]**AYES:** Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Govan, Brown, Davila, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Fenton**ABSENT:** Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Maria Perez**Orders****7. Order (ID # 8020)**

PEG Access and Cable Related Fund FY24 Q4 Franchise Fee Payment - \$152,642.64

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

COUNCILOR ALLEN - THIS IS THE ONE ITEM THAT WE SPOKE ABOUT IN COMMITTEE THAT DID NOT GET APPROVED. SINCE THERE ARE SO MANY PROBLEMS WITH THE SOUND IN

MEETINGS, WE SHOULD NOT APPROVE RIGHT AWAY TO PAY IT. TRY TO WORK AND TROUBLESHOOT THE ISSUES BEFORE THIS IS BILL GETS PAID.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILOR ALLEN TO SEND TO COMMITTEE AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILOR EDWARDS

ALL COUNCILORS VOTED TO SEND TO FINANCE COMMITTEE, COUNCILORS CLICK BRUCE, CURRAN, AND PEREZ WERE ABSENT.

RESULT:	REFERRED TO COMMITTEE	Next: 6/3/2024 7:00 PM
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8. Order (ID # 8021)

Transfer from Reserve for Contingencies to the Elections Commission - \$45,000

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Transfer from Reserve for Contingencies to the Elections Commission - \$45,000

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

CITY CLERK AND ELECTION COMMISSIONER GLADYS OYOLA-LOPEZ SPOKE ON THE ITEM - THIS TRANSFER WAS FOR MONIES FOR THE INCREASE IN VOTING BY MAIL AND EARLY VOTING EQUIPMENT FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Elections CAFO Cert (PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [10 TO 0]
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Govan, Brown, Davila, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Fenton
ABSENT:	Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Maria Perez

Ordinances

9. Order 2024-5

Ordinance - Tree Replacement Revolving Fund

HISTORY:

05/06/24	City Council	FIRST READING
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COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

2ND AND FINAL STEP - CITY FORESTER ALEX SHERMAN SPOKE ON THE ORDINANCE - FUND WAS PASSED LAST MONTH BY THE CITY COUNCIL. PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO HOUSE FUNDING RECEIVED AS MITIGATION FOR THE REMOVAL OF HEALTHY PUBLIC TREES. 50\$ PER DIAMETER INCH OF A HEALTHY TREE THAT IS BEING REMOVED DUE TO NEW CONSTRUCTION, ADDITIONS, OR WIDENING OF A DRIVEWAY.

COUNCILOR DELGADO - WHAT KIND OF OUTREACH IS BEING DONE FOR CONTRACTORS AND RESIDENTS UNDERSTAND THIS ORDINANCE? WANTS TO ENSURE ALL PARTIES ARE

INFORMED. MR. SHERMAN STATED THERE WAS LOCAL CONTRACTORS AND EVERSOURCE, BUT WILL ENSURE THE MEDIA GETS INVOLVED TO MAKE EVERYONE AWARE.

COUNCILOR ALLEN - IS THERE EXISTING SEED MONEY IN THIS ACCOUNT. MR. SHERMAN STATED THAT THE FUND WOULD BE SEEDED WITH THE FIRST INSTANCE OF MITIGATION. THERE HAS BEEN LOCAL DEVELOPERS THAT HAVE REACHED OUT AND INQUIRED. WE WILL BE ABLE TO PLANT NEW TREES WITH THE FUNDING.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Ordinance Amending 268 (PDF)

RESULT: **ADOPTED [10 TO 0]**

AYES: Walsh, Allen, Delgado, Govan, Brown, Davila, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Fenton

ABSENT: Lavar Click-Bruce, Sean Curran, Maria Perez