



City Council

Regular Meeting

~ Final ~

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

Gladys Oyola-Lopez

Monday, November 18, 2024

7:00 PM

Hybrid Council Chamber

Call to Order

7:00 PM Meeting called to order on November 18, 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	Absent	
Lavar Click-Bruce	Ward 5 City Councilor	Present	
Zaida Govan	Ward 8 City Councilor	Remote	
Malo Brown	Ward 4 Councilor	Remote	
Victor Davila	Ward 6 Councilor	Present	
Sean Curran	At-Large Councilor	Remote	
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	Present	
Michael A. Fenton	President	Present	

Reports of Committee

COUNCILORS PRESENTED REPORTS ON THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

COUNCILOR ALLEN - FINANCE

COUNCILOR PEREZ - ELDER AFFAIRS

COUNCILOR DAVILA - PILOT REVENUE COMMITTEE & GENERAL GOVERNMENT

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD - DOESN'T AGREE WITH THE INDIVIDUALS ON THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AS THERE ARE NO WOMEN OR "BLACK" INDIVIDUALS ON THE COMMITTEE. AS A RESULT SHE NOTED THAT SHE WILL NOT VOTE TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE.

COUNCILOR WALSH NOTED THAT SHE WAS THE ELDER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. ADDITIONALLY

COUNCILOR PEREZ WAS PRESENT AT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

ALL COUNCILORS VOTED TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE EXCEPT COUNCILOR WHITFIELD. COUNCILOR DELGADO IS ABSENT.

Petitions

Motion To The End of The Agenda

CITY ENGINEER HECTOR VELEZ WAS PRESENT REMOTELY TO SPEAK ON THE MATTER.

MR. VELEZ WAS HAVING ISSUES WITH HIS AUDIO CONNECTION.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FENTON ASKED IF THERE WAS A MOTION TO SEND THE ITEM TO THE END OF THE AGENDA TO ALLOW MR. VELEZ THE OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT ANY AUDIO ISSUES.

COUNCILOR EDWARDS MADE A MOTION TO SEND ITEMS 1-6 TO THE END OF THE AGENDA.

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILOR WALSH.

ALL COUNCILORS PRESENT VOTED YES. COUNCILOR DELGADO WAS ABSENT.

1. Petition (ID # 8322)

Eversource Gas - Wellesley St.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

City Engineer Hector Velez spoke on all of the petitions.

Councilor Whitfield asked how long the work will take. She asked if the work will be happening simultaneously.

Matthew Nichols from Eversource spoke and provided details on the location, length and traffic plans for the work to be done.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Report Wellesley St (PDF)
- MA-SPR-PIP-24-003 - Wellesley St - IFR Drawing - Rev B (PDF)
- Springfield City Council Letter - Wellesley St (PDF)

RESULT: **APPROVED [12 TO 0]**

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

ABSENT: Jose Delgado

2. Petition (ID # 8323)

Eversource Gas - Fisher St.

ATTACHMENTS:

- MA-SPR-PIP-25-019 - Fisher St - IFR Drawing - REVA (PDF)
- Springfield City Council Letter - Fisher St (PDF)
- Report Fisher St (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED [12 TO 0]**AYES:** Walsh, Allen, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Davila, Curran, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton**ABSENT:** Jose Delgado**3. Petition (ID # 8324)**

Eversource Gas - James St.

ATTACHMENTS:

- James St - Pro Drawing Rev0 - PE Stamped (PDF)
- James St - Springfield City Council Letter (PDF)
- Report James St (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED [12 TO 0]**AYES:** Walsh, Allen, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Davila, Curran, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton**ABSENT:** Jose Delgado**4. Petition (ID # 8325)**

Eversource Gas - Armory St.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Report Armory St (PDF)
- Armory St - Springfield City Council Letter (PDF)
- Armory St Bridge_IFC Option A (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED [12 TO 0]**AYES:** Walsh, Allen, Click-Bruce, Govan, Brown, Davila, Curran, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton**ABSENT:** Jose Delgado**5. Petition (ID # 8320)**

Eversource Gas - Worthington Street

ATTACHMENTS:

- Report Worthington St (PDF)
- MA-SPR-PIP-25-016 - Worthington St - FPO Drawing - RevC (PDF)
- Springfield City Council Letter - Worthington St (PDF)

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

6. Petition (ID # 8321)

Eversource -97 Carol Ann St.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 18756907 Carol Ann St SPFLD Map (PDF)
- 18756907 Carol Ann St SPFLD UG Petition (PDF)
- Carol Ann St. Report (PDF)

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

Grants

7. Order (ID # 8314)

Donation of Goods to the Springfield Library Department - Video Magnifier

ATTACHMENTS:

- Donation of Goods to Springfield Library Dept- Video Magnifier (PDF)

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

8. Order (ID # 8317)

Parks Department - Donation - \$2,381.70 - No Match Required

ATTACHMENTS:

- Parks - Bench Donation - John Zebb - redacted (PDF)

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

9. Order (ID # 8318)

COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program Grant - No Match Required - \$10,000

ATTACHMENTS:

- AMP25 Grant Set Up (PDF)

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

10. Order (ID # 8316)

Fire Emergency Management Performance Grant - \$71,335.00 - In-Kind Match Required

ATTACHMENTS:

- Fire - FY24 EMPG Signed Request for Grant Set-Up (PDF)
- Fire - Springfield 24 EMPG Signed Contract & CASL (PDF)

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

11. Order (ID # 8313)

FY25 SHINE Grant Amendment Increase - No Match Required \$80,158.15

ATTACHMENTS:

- SHINE Amendment FY25 - \$80158.15 (PDF)

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

Orders**12. Order (ID # 8315)**

Bills of Prior Year - Various Departments - \$12,238.49

ATTACHMENTS:

- CAFO Cert BOPY's (PDF)

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

13. Order (ID # 8312)

FY24 Free Cash to Various Deficits - \$99,517.09

ATTACHMENTS:

- CAFO Cert - Free Cash Transfer to Cover Deficits (PDF)
- Copy of Grant Deficits Transfer Free Cash (PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [11 TO 1]
AYES:	Walsh, Allen, Click-Bruce, Brown, Davila, Curran, Santaniello, Edwards, Whitfield, Perez, Fenton
NAYS:	Zaida Govan
ABSENT:	Jose Delgado

14. Order (ID # 8311)

PEG Access and Cable Related Fund FY25 Q2 Franchise Fee Payment - \$137,635.59

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

DEPUTY CAFO HACKETT SPOKE ON THIS ITEM.

COUNCILOR DAVILA NOTED THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE SOUND/ACOUSTICS AND COMPLIMENTED FOCUS ON THEIR WORK.

ATTACHMENTS:

- PEG Cable Access-Franchise Fee Q2 (PDF)

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

15. Order (ID # 8304)

Supplemental Budget - Decrease in Charter School Tuition State Aid

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

DEPUTY CAFO SPOKE ON THE ITEM.

SHE NOTED THAT THE STATE REDUCED THE CHARTER SCHOOL BUDGET.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD ASKED FOR THE DEPUTY CAFO FOR A MORE DETAILED EXPLANATION.

REDUCTION IN THE RESERVE FOR CONTINGENCIES IS THE MAIN AFFECT.

COUNCILOR DAVILA ASKED IF THE REMAINING RESERVE FOR CONTINGENCIES IS STILL HEALTHY

ATTACHMENTS:

- FY25 Final Cherry Sheet Numbers(PDF)

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

16. Order (ID # 8319)

Decertification of Tax Increment Financing Agreement (TIFF) for SNAPland 59, LLC at the Property Known as 51-59 Taylor Street.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

BRIAN CONNORS, ECO DEV OFFICE, SPOKE ON THE ITEM.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD SPOKE REGARDING THE ISSUANCE OF THE TIFF. SHE ASKED IF THE NEW OWNERS WOULD BE REQUESTING A TIFF

MR. CONNORS GAVE FURTHER EXPLANATION ON THE DECERTIFICATION OF THE "TIFF". HE NOTED THAT THE OWNERS DID NOT RECEIVE ANY BENEFIT FROM THE "TIFF".

ATTACHMENTS:

- 20241112143011202 (PDF)

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

Resolutions**17. Resolution (ID # 8326)**

Support of Stearns Square Bench Return Plan & Timetable

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

COUNCILOR GOVAN SPOKE ON THE ITEM AND READ THE RESOLUTION INTO THE RECORD.

COUNCILOR PEREZ SPOKE ON THE ITEM NOTING THE SEVERE DETERIORATION OF BENCH AND THE REMOVAL FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY. SHE NOTED THAT SHE HAS ASKED THE CHAIR OF THE MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT TO HAVE A MEETING ON THIS ITEM . SHE MADE A MOTION TO THE M&D COMMITTEE TO FORMULATE A DETAILED PLAN FOR RETURN OF THE BENCH TO STEARNS SQUARE.

COUNCILOR DAVILA ASKED FOR ERICA SWALLOW TO COME TO THE PODIUM TO SPEAK ON THE CONDITION OF THE BENCH. MS. SWALLOW SPOKE ON HER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CURRENT CONDITION AND LOCATION OF THE BENCH.

COUNCILOR DAVILA NOTED THAT THE BODY CAN VOTE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AND ALSO MEET IN THE MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE BENCH BEING RESTORED.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD SPOKE IN AGREEMENT WITH BOTH COUNCILOR DAVILA AND COUNCILOR PEREZ. SHE NOTED THAT THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD HAS A COMMUNICATION PROBLEM.

COUNCILOR BROWN SPOKE ON THE ITEM.

COUNCILOR SANTANIELLO ASKED WHO WOULD BE REPAIRING THE BENCH.

COUNCILOR GOVAN NOTED THE POSSIBILITY OF USING CPA FUNDS FOR RESTORATION OF THE BENCH.

COUNCILOR WALSH NOTED THAT SHE WOULD BE SUPPORTING THE MOVE TO COMMITTEE AS A COURTESY TO COUNCILOR PEREZ.

COUNCILOR PEREZ NOTED HER CONCERN WITH THE RESOLUTION IS THAT THE RESOLUTION IS NOT A CONCISE PLAN. SHE AGREED WITH COUNCILOR BROWN THAT WE SHOULD HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR ALL HISTORIC BENCHES THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

COUNCILOR CLICK-BRUCE NOTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION DID SEND AN EMAIL REGARDING THE REMOVAL OF THE BENCH.

COUNCILOR EDWARDS NOTED THAT EVERYONE IS AGREEMENT ON THE RETURN OF THE BENCH. HE NOTED THAT THE CHAIR OF THE M&D COMMITTEE HAS AGREED TO HAVE A MEETING.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD NOTED THAT ALL COUNCILORS SHOULD HAVE THE SAME LEVEL OF RESPECT AS WARD COUNCILORS.

COUNCILOR PEREZ MADE A MOTION TO SEND TO COMMITTEE AND COUNCILOR CLICK BRUCE SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL COUNCILORS VOTED TO SEND THE RESOLUTION TO THE MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE EXCEPT COUNCILOR GOVAN. COUNCILOR DELGADO WAS ABSENT.