



City of Springfield

Special Meeting

~ Minutes ~

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

Linda Fitzpatrick
413-787-6559

Wednesday, June 4, 2014

4:30 PM

Springfield City Hall -- Council Chambers

I. Call to Order

4:30 PM Meeting called to order on June 4, 2014 at Springfield City Hall -- Council Chambers, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Zaida Luna	Ward 1 Councilor	Present	
Timothy C. Allen	Ward 7 Councilor	Present	
E. Henry Twiggs	Ward 4 Councilor	Present	4:35 PM
Kenneth E. Shea	Ward 6 Councilor	Present	
Kateri B. Walsh	Vice President - At-Large Councilor	Present	
Melvin A. Edwards	Ward 3 Councilor	Present	
Bud L. Williams	At-Large Councilor	Present	
Orlando Ramos	Ward 8 Councilor	Present	
Timothy J. Rooke	At-Large Councilor	Present	
Clodo Concepcion	Ward 5 Councilor	Present	
Justin Hurst	At Large Councilor	Present	
Thomas M. Ashe	At-Large Councilor	Present	
Michael A. Fenton	President - Ward 2 Councilor	Present	

Moment of Silence - Pledge of Allegiance

II. General Business

1. Order (ID # 2654)

Putnam Grant Funding Bond - \$5,879,826 - 2Nd Reading

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Read for 1st time on June 2, 2014 and an explanation was given by TJ Plante, CAFO stating that the bond needs to be approved by June 30, 2014 in order to satisfy legal requirement of Bond Counsel. The Bond was originally approved by the Finance Control Board in 2009 with a \$114.3 million construction cost and \$12.5 million City matching fund but with requested change orders to cover the cost of dental clinic (\$1.4 million), contaminated soils (\$780 thousands), construction costs change orders (\$3.7 million) that exceeded the amount approved by the Finance Control Board and some of the cost were deemed ineligible by MSBA, pending further review and the \$5,879,826 is to pay the City's share of the Bonded project that may not be eligible for reimbursement. Mr. Plante also stated that the City has made improvements to the School Building Commission and change order processes by adding 2 new members to the School Building Commission adding the School Superintendent and the CAFO so that the change orders will be looked at from school management process and the financial impact on the City's ability to pay.

Mr. Plante also said that the Department of Capital Asset Construction has been reorganized by hiring a new director and by posting 2 additional positions for project managers which when filled will save the city thousands of dollars. Councilor Williams asked if any "Brownfield" money was available for the soil contamination and Mr. Plante said no. Councilor Williams asked if this amount would effect other construction project and Mr. Plante said no. Councilor Williams also asked about the construction project manager and why they were not picking up the extra cost and Mr. Plante said these are not the kind of costs that are covered by a construction project manager. Councilor Walsh said the administration "sounds like a broken record" by coming to the City Council late in the process which does not allow adequate notice or time for the Council to ask questions and get answers. Councilor Walsh asked if the additions to the School Building Commission would make a difference and Mr. Plante said he can already see a difference because the Superintendent can look the project from school point of view and he can look at the project from a financial implication point of view. Councilor Ramos asked if the City is persuading reimbursement of \$2.5 million why is the Council being asked to approval \$5.8 and Mr. Plante said that the City needs the cash "in the bank" on or before June 30, 2014 and the City does not know when or if the money will come in from the MSBA. Councilor Allen asked when did the City find out that it needed the \$5.8 million and why was the Council not notified and Mr. Plante said that early January, 2014 when the City was meeting with DOR to get the FY13 "free cash" certification. Councilor Allen asked if it occurred to the Administration to let the City Council or Council Finance Committee of the issues and Mr. Plante said the Administration was tried to get handle on the problem and get it fixed. Councilor Allen pressed Mr. Plante on the late notification to the Council and Mr. Plante said that it was not intentional but was just trying to put into place a new process and apologized to Council for the late notice. Councilor Allen asked is there a documents that describes the problems and not the solution as the June 2, 2014 memo and Mr. Plante there is no such document but he could create or produce one but as problems can up the City tried a new solution and the memo is result of those efforts. Councilor Allen asked what the impact on "free cash" means and Mr. Plante said if the \$5.8 million is not approved than any amount of so-called "free cash" will be reduced by the amount not approved by June 30, 2014. Councilor Rooke said that the history of the project is that it came in on-time and under budget and \$10 million was transferred to Forest Park Middle School and if not we would not be having this discussion. Councilor Concepcion said he planning on supporting the project but City has paid "big buck" to Director and construction manager and somebody did not get the job done and the Director of Capital Asset Construction has left the City and has left a mess and the citizens and taxpayers to pay the bill. Councilor Shea said he been involved in school projects as a School Committee member and none of the school buildings have come in on or under budget and with the changes made by the City will make a better project results and you can never have all the solutions to problems with a project because each project is unique and elected official we often has to make last minute decisions. Councilor Twiggs made a motion to move the question which was seconded by Councilor Rooke and said motion failed on a roll call vote. Councilor Allen said that the City has a process problem and his jobs as a Councilor is to be a fiscal oversight. Patrick Sullivan, Director of Parks, Building and Recreation Management stated that the problem was the lack of communication with the previous Director and that problem has been solve. The order then passed by the following roll call vote.

Read for 2nd time on June 6, 2014 and an explanation was given by TJ Plante, CAFO stating that this is the second reading due to the lack of a unanimous vote at on Monday's

meeting and he will answer any question from the Council. Councilor Allen said he still had a problem with the process and after speaking with Mr. Plante had a better understanding of the problems but he does like the last minutes Order coming from the Administration and the lack of respect for the Council as a full participate with the Mayor and the Order passed a 2nd time by the following roll call vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [11 TO 2]
MOVER:	Bud L. Williams, At-Large Councilor
SECONDER:	Timothy J. Rooke, At-Large Councilor
AYES:	Luna, Twiggs, Shea, Walsh, Edwards, Williams, Ramos, Rooke, Concepcion, Hurst, Ashe
NAYS:	Timothy C. Allen, Michael A. Fenton



City of Springfield

ADOPTED

Meeting: 06/04/14 04:30 PM
Initiator: Wayman Lee
Sponsors: Mayor Domenic J. Sarno
DOC ID: 2654

2.1

Putnam Grant Funding Bond - \$5,879,826 - 2Nd Reading (Mayor Sarno)

BOND ORDER TO PAY FOR COSTS RELATED TO THE ROGER L. PUTNAM CONSTRUCTION PROJECT THAT ARE INELIGIBLE FOR GRANT FUNDING THROUGH THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY

BE IT ORDERED THAT: the City appropriates Five Million Eight Hundred Seventy Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Six Dollars (\$5,879,826) to pay costs of the Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical Academy Construction Project, located at 1300 State Street in Springfield, that are ineligible for grant funding through the Massachusetts School Building Authority, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the City Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Sections 7(3) and 7(3A) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefore.

WHEREAS, after reviewing this order, the Chief Administrative and Financial Officer has certified to the Mayor and City Council, that in his professional opinion, after an evaluation of all pertinent financial information reasonably available, the City's financial resources and revenues are and will continue to be adequate to support the proposed expenditures and obligations involved in the transfer, without a detrimental impact on the continuous provision of the existing level of municipal services, in accordance with Section 2(f) of Chapter 656 of the Acts of 1989, as added by Section 1 of Chapter 468 of the Acts of 2008.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the City Treasurer is authorized to file an application with The Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any and all bonds or notes of the City authorized by this vote, and to provide such information and execute such documents as the Municipal Finance Oversight Board of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts may require.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [11 TO 2]
MOVER:	Bud L. Williams, At-Large Councilor
SECONDER:	Timothy J. Rooke, At-Large Councilor
AYES:	Luna, Twiggs, Shea, Walsh, Edwards, Williams, Ramos, Rooke, Concepcion, Hurst, Ashe
NAYS:	Timothy C. Allen, Michael A. Fenton