



City Council

Hearings Meeting

~ Final ~

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

Tasheena Davis
4137876589

Monday, August 17, 2020

6:30 PM

City Hall -- Room 200

I. Hearings

6:30 PM Meeting called to order on August 17, 2020. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM (utilizing remote collaboration technology).

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Adam Gomez	Ward 1 Councilor	Remote	
Tracye Whitfield	Councilwoman	Remote	
Victor Davila	Councilman	Remote	
Michael A. Fenton	Ward 2 Councilor	Remote	
Sean Curran	Councilman	Absent	
Orlando Ramos	Vice President - Ward 8 Councilor	Remote	
Kateri B. Walsh	At-Large Councilor	Remote	
Marcus J Williams	Vice-President	Remote	
Timothy C. Allen	Ward 7 Councilor	Remote	
Jesse Lederman		Remote	
Melvin A. Edwards	Ward 3 Councilor	Remote	
Malo Brown	Councilman	Absent	
Justin Hurst	President	Remote	

Moment of Silence - Pledge of Allegiance

II. Petition

Petition (ID # 5802)

Black Lives Matter Mural

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Councilor Whitfield addressed the Council. She began with statistics and may get emotional as she is a black mother of a black son and daughter. Black men are 3 times more likely to be killed by the police and from 2013-2019 99% of shootings by police of black men did not result in criminal charges. She stated that her son drove her car which has an expired inspection sticker and she didn't know if he would come home where her white counterparts don't have to think about those possibilities. Black Lives Matter is a movement. It is a call to action against police brutality. Robert Gossman, owner of Nathan Bill's showed up to make peace and offered to pay for the whole mural. Councilor Whitfield asked that any counterparts that see discrimination show up as allies. She stated that she dreams of a time where we will be judged by the content of our character and not the color of our skin. Historically black lives do not matter. She thanked City politicians, artists and the community for coming together. She explained that we are all fighting for racial and social justice.

Councilor Allen thanked Councilor Whitfield. He wished good luck to all.

Councilor Davila thanked Councilors Whitfield and Hurst and the owner of Nathan Bills. He explained he agrees with Councilor Whitfield that this is a bold statement that will resonate throughout the region. He remembers being discriminated against for speaking his native language in the 80's and that will stick with him forever.

Councilor Walsh stated this is a proud moment for the City of Springfield. She thanked Talbert Swan, Councilor Whitfield and the owner of Nathan Bills.

Councilor Lederman rose to speak in support. He thanked Councilor Whitfield for her leadership and feels the placement is amazing. He has been amazed with the movement and he was moved when the Councilors marched with young people down State Street.

Councilor Fenton thanked everyone involved. He stated this is a tremendous moment that requires planning and logistics. He echoed all the sentiments of other Councilors.

Councilor Lederman asked for the specific event logistics.

Councilor Whitfield thanked President Hurst and for all the support. She thanked all for reading the proposal and providing feedback. She explained it would be painted on September 12, 2020 after it was approved by the Board of Public Works and by the Council. She explained it would be an all day event, from 8am-4pm. She thanked Councilor Ramos for purchasing a BLM flag that will be flown on the day of the event.

ATTACHMENTS:

- BLACK LIVE MATTER MURAL REQUEST - 7.18.2020 (PDF)
- BLM .5 top (PDF)
- BLM street .5 (PDF)
- BLM Street (PDF)
- top BLM (PDF)
- 26 BLM asphalt murals across the US (PDF)

RESULT: APPROVED [10 TO 0]

AYES: Whitfield, Davila, Fenton, Ramos, Walsh, Williams, Allen, Lederman, Edwards, Hurst

ABSENT: Adam Gomez, Sean Curran, Malo Brown

III. Orders

Order (ID # 5809)

PACE Massachusetts

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Councilor Fenton explained that he worked on this with Economic Development and the Mayor's Office. He stated he had clients in Berkshire County participating in the program. The program is for green energy development for private businesses and non-profits. The

City will work with MassDevelopment to place betterment liens on the property to finance green infrastructure.

Tim Sheehan, Executive Director of Economic Development, addressed the Council. He stated this is time sensitive and this is a win/win from an economic development standpoint. MassDevelopment is the coordinator with the lender to secure payment.

Wendy O' Malley, Vice President of MassDevelopment, addressed the Council. The program is in 22 municipalities already and they are excited to work with Springfield property owners.

Councilor Lederman wanted to be added as a co-sponsor. He held subcommittee meetings on the program last year and Ms. O'Malley came to speak before the program specifics were finalized.

ATTACHMENTS:

- PACE Massachusetts 7-2020 detailed_v2 (PDF)
- PACE Massachusetts 2020 (PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [10 TO 0]
AYES:	Whitfield, Davila, Fenton, Ramos, Walsh, Williams, Allen, Lederman, Edwards, Hurst
ABSENT:	Adam Gomez, Sean Curran, Malo Brown

Order (ID # 5810)

Election Warrant

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Gladys Oyola, Election Commissioner, addressed the Council. She explained the warrant is cut and dry as no changes have been made to polling locations. She stated the schools are not open, so it provides a level of safety. With buildings that are not municipal, there has been communication to ensure social distancing guidelines will be met.

Councilor Walsh asked if there is special advice for those voting by mail.

Commissioner Oyola stated that Councilor Davila previously asked that question.

ATTACHMENTS:

- SEPTEMBER PRIMARY WARRANT 2020 (PDF)
- POLLING PLACES 2020 EXCEL (PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [11 TO 0]
AYES:	Gomez, Whitfield, Davila, Fenton, Ramos, Walsh, Williams, Allen, Lederman, Edwards, Hurst
ABSENT:	Sean Curran, Malo Brown

IV. Special Permits

Petition (ID # 5657)

For a Special Permit for a Temporary Truck or Truck Body Storage Lot at the Property Known as 158 Avocado Street 00845-0035) (Book#3441/Page#205), as Allowed by M.G.L. and the Springfield Zoning Ordinance Article 4, Table 4-4, Section 12.5(2).

Request:	See Above
Owner:	Springfield Cooperative Farmers Market Association, Inc.
By:	Richard A Skypek, Esquire
Petitioner:	Springfield Cooperative Farmers Market Association, Inc.
By:	Richard A Skypek, Esquire

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Rick Sypek addressed the Council representing the Springfield Coop Farmers Market Inc. He stated they have a temporary truck on Avocado Street that will be stored and used for weekend business. The New North Citizens Council (NNCC) showed unanimous support. He stated it is a clean site next to Interstate 91.

Councilor Gomez asked if they received a letter of support.

Clerk Davis and Philip Dromey, Deputy Director of Planning stated they had not received a letter of support from the NNCC.

Councilor Hurst informed the Council that if any testimony is received regarding the special permit, it will be read into the record at the next meeting.

Councilor Lederman made a motion to continue, seconded by Councilor Whitfield. All being in favor, the item was continued to the next meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Avocado_St_158_Tax_Formal (PDF)
- Avocado_St_158_2020 (PDF)

RESULT:	CONTINUE VOTE [11 TO 0]	Next: 9/14/2020 6:30 PM
AYES:	Gomez, Whitfield, Davila, Fenton, Ramos, Walsh, Williams, Allen, Lederman, Edwards, Hurst	
ABSENT:	Sean Curran, Malo Brown	

Petition (ID # 5788)

To Amend an Existing Special Permit (Motor Vehicle Service Station), Granted July 2007, by Allowing a Change in the Site Plan at the Property Known as 740 Boston Road (01655-0126)(Book#18106/Page#199), as Allowed by M.G.L. and the Springfield Zoning Ordinance Article 4, Table 4-4, Section 12.3(1).

Request: See Above
Owner: GOGRI, Inc.
By: Hasmukh Gogri
Petitioner: GOGRI, Inc.
By: Hasmukh Gogri

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Hash Gorgi, owner of 740 Boston Rd., addressed the Council. He explained that the old station was destroyed as it was built 30+ years ago and was non-compliant with safety regulations. He wants to add 1600 sq. ft. to the building to meet current codes and standards.

Councilor Lederman made a motion to continue, seconded by Councilor Whitfield. All being in favor, the item was continued to the next meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Boston_Rd_740_Tax_Formal (PDF)
- Boston_Rd_740_2020 (PDF)

RESULT:	CONTINUE VOTE [11 TO 0]	Next: 9/14/2020 6:30 PM
AYES:	Gomez, Whitfield, Davila, Fenton, Ramos, Walsh, Williams, Allen, Lederman, Edwards, Hurst	
ABSENT:	Sean Curran, Malo Brown	

Petition (ID # 5603)

To Amend an Existing Special Permit (Drive-Up Service Window), Granted August 2006, by Allowing a Change to the Petitioner, at the Property Known as 381 Cooley Street (03170-0199) (Book#21176/Page#558), as Allowed by M.G.L. and the Springfield Zoning Ordinance Article 4, Table 4-4, Section 19.1(1).

Request: See Above
Owner: Jefferson Investors, LLC
By: Andrew Cohen, President
Petitioner: Walgreens S17787
By: Robert Lauzon

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Robert Lauzon representing Walgreens addressed the Council. He stated they have reached out to the Outer Belt Civic Association and received no response.

Councilor Davila asked what the hours of operation would be.

Mr. Lauzon stated they would be M-F 9am-8pm; Sat. 9am-6pm; and Sun. 9am-5pm.

Councilor Allen stated that there was originally a condition to keep the treebelt clean that was not upheld.

Mr. Lauzon stated they will be sure to keep it clean going forward.

Philip Dromey, Deputy Director of Planning, stated originally it had to be seeded but it has been mulched but he does not have an issue with that. He stated it is up to the Council to change that.

Mr. Lauzon explained it has been mulched for 14 years.

Councilor Allen stated he will speak with Mr. Gould before the next meeting.

Councilor Allen made a motion to continue, seconded by Councilor Whitfield. All being in favor, the item was continued to the next meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Cooley_St_381_Tax_Formal (PDF)
- Cooley_Sy_381_2020 (PDF)

RESULT:	CONTINUE VOTE [11 TO 0]	Next: 9/14/2020 6:30 PM
AYES:	Gomez, Whitfield, Davila, Fenton, Ramos, Walsh, Williams, Allen, Lederman, Edwards, Hurst	
ABSENT:	Sean Curran, Malo Brown	

Petition (ID # 5702)

For a Special Permit for a Motor Vehicle Service Station (Gas Station/No Repair Service) and a Drive-Up Service Window at the Properties Known as 3111 Main Street (08130-0397)(Book#22005/Page#37), ES Main Street (08130-0394)(Book#22929/Page#511) and 11 Merwin Street (08580-0035)(Book#22738/Page#566), as Authorized by M.G.L. and the Springfield Zoning Ordinance, Article 4, Table 4-4, Section 12.3(1) and 19.1(2).

Request:	See Above
Owner:	Zahoor UI Haq
By:	Zahoor UI Haq
Petitioner:	Zahoor UI Haq
By:	Zahoor UI Haq

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Robert Levesque addressed the Council on behalf of the petitioner and owner Mr. Haq. He asked to share his screen with the Council. He explained it is a vacant property with a connector and the property owner wishes to demolish the structure under the canopy. He would like to replace it with a 5600 sq. ft. building to reconfigure the parking lot and have a drive thru window.

Councilor Lederman asked about the drive thru window and stated typically the Council knows who will be operating the window. He stated at other hearings constituents are concerned with the hours of a drive thru window. He stated the proposed landscaping between the property and residences is good.

Mr. Levesque stated Mr. Haq is in the process of securing a tenant.

Councilor Davila stated the owner should be present at the next meeting as there are safety concerns to consider. He asked if this was presented to the neighborhood council.

Mr. Levesque stated they have a letter of support from the council.

Councilor Fenton asked if there was a signage plan.

Mr. Levesque stated that was submitted to Planning.

Councilor Davila asked about the flow of traffic.

Mr. Levesque used his presentation to show the flow of traffic.

Councilor Lederman made a motion to continue, seconded by Councilor Whitfield. All being in favor, the item was continued to the next meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Main_St_3111_Tax_Formal (PDF)
- Main_St_3111_2020 (PDF)

RESULT:	CONTINUE VOTE [11 TO 0]	Next: 9/14/2020 6:30 PM
AYES:	Gomez, Whitfield, Davila, Fenton, Ramos, Walsh, Williams, Allen, Lederman, Edwards, Hurst	
ABSENT:	Sean Curran, Malo Brown	

Petition (ID # 5693)

For a Special Permit for the Expansion of a Non-Conforming Use (Used Car Sales) Located at the Property Known as 724 Page Boulevard (09440-0124) (Book#15109/Page#0177) to the Property Known as 734 Page Boulevard (09440-0127) (Book#22737/Page#187), as Allowed by M.G.L. and the Springfield Zoning Ordinance, Article 10, Section 10.1.30.

Request:	See Above
Owner:	Carlos G Dias
By:	Carlos G Dias
Petitioner:	Carlos G Dias
By:	Carlos G Dias

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Jeffrey Dias addressed the Council. He is owner of New Englad Wholesalers lot. He expained that he has purchased the service facility. He explained he renovated and added 12 spots to the property. He 724 Page Boulevard is a small lot so he is only looking to improve traffic flow and add employee parking.

Councilor Fenton made a motion to amend condition #3 from 12 sales' spaces to 8 sales' spaces.

Councilor Whitfield made a motion to continue, seconded by Councilor Williams. All being in favor, the item was continued to the next meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Page_Bl_724_734_Tax_Formal (PDF)
- Page_Bl_734_2020 (PDF)

RESULT:	CONTINUE VOTE [11 TO 0]	Next: 9/14/2020 6:30 PM
AYES:	Gomez, Whitfield, Davila, Fenton, Ramos, Walsh, Williams, Allen, Lederman, Edwards, Hurst	
ABSENT:	Sean Curran, Malo Brown	

Petition (ID # 5692)

To Amend an Existing Special Permit (Motor Vehicle Sales), Granted May 2010, by Allowing a Change in the Petitioner, at the Property Known as 193 Taylor Street (11430 0163) (Book#14035/Page#172) as Allowed by M.G.L. and the Springfield Zoning Ordinance, Table 4-4, Section 12.1.

Request:	See Above
Owner:	Samuel Springer
By:	Samuel Springer
Petitioner:	Samuel Springer
By:	Samuel Springer

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Steven Shahabian, property owner, addressed the Council. He stated the property was a run down mobile home park and he has purchased it and renovated it. He explained he has worked with code enforcement to bring the property into compliance.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Taylor_St_193_Tax_Formal (PDF)
- Taylor_St_193_2020 (PDF)

RESULT:	CONTINUE VOTE [11 TO 0]	Next: 9/14/2020 6:30 PM
AYES:	Gomez, Whitfield, Davila, Fenton, Ramos, Walsh, Williams, Allen, Lederman, Edwards, Hurst	
ABSENT:	Sean Curran, Malo Brown	

Petition (ID # 5655)

For a Special Permit for Motor Vehicle Sales at the Property Known as NS Worcester Street (A.K.A. 93 Grochmal Avenue)(12525-0150)(Book#11182/Page#387), as Allowed by M.G.L. and the Springfield Zoning Ordinance, Article 4, Table 4-4, Section 12.1.

Request:	See Above
Owner:	Hayastan Industries, Inc.
By:	Stephen Shahabian
Petitioner:	Stephen Shahabian
By:	Stephen Shahabian

ATTACHMENTS:

- Worcester_St_NS_Tax_Formal (PDF)
- Worcester_St_NS_2020 (PDF)

RESULT: CONTINUE VOTE [11 TO 0]**Next: 9/14/2020 6:30 PM****AYES:** Gomez, Whitfield, Davila, Fenton, Ramos, Walsh, Williams, Allen,
Lederman, Edwards, Hurst**ABSENT:** Sean Curran, Malo Brown