



City Council

Special Meeting

~ Final ~

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

Gladys Oyola-Lopez
413-787-6096

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

5:30 PM

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Call to Order

5:30 PM Meeting called to order on November 30, 2021 at Virtual Meeting (Zoom) ,

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Melvin A. Edwards	Ward 3 Councilor	Present	
Jesse Lederman	At-Large Councilor	Present	
Gumersindo Gomez	Ward 1 Councilor	Present	
Timothy C. Allen	Ward 7 Councilor	Present	
Sean Curran	At-Large Councilor	Present	
Tracye Whitfield	Vice President	Present	
Orlando Ramos	Ward 8 Councilor	Present	
Malo Brown	Ward 4 Councilor	Present	
Kateri B. Walsh	At-Large Councilor	Present	
Victor Davila	Ward 6 Councilor	Present	5:37 PM
Michael A. Fenton	Ward 2 Councilor	Present	5:44 PM
Justin Hurst	At Large Councilor	Present	
Marcus J Williams	President	Present	

Public Portion

The Council will consider an Order setting a residential factor for Fiscal Year 2022.

Order# 6530

Transfer - FY21 Certified Free Cash to FY23 Estimated Revenues - \$2,500,000.00 (Mayor Sarno)

Order# 6529

Transfer - FY21 Certified Free Cash to FY22 Estimated Revenues - \$2,500,000.00 (Mayor Sarno)

Order# 6528

TAX FACTOR-FISCAL YEAR 2022

Orders

1. Order (ID # 6529)

Transfer - FY21 Certified Free Cash to FY22 Estimated Revenues - \$2,500,000.00

HISTORY:**11/29/21****City Council****CONTINUE VOTE****FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Transfer - FY21 Certified Free Cash to FY22 Estimated Revenues - \$2,500,000.00

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

- **Item#1** - Transfer from FY21 to FY22 (\$2,500,000). Councilor Whitfield asked if the Mayor would be attending this meeting and wanted to add more from free cash to take away some of the burden for taxpayers. She also stated that the programs available are not for everybody, and used her parents as an example. Councilor Whitfield will support this year's increase but not next year's.

Councilor Walsh inquired about meeting with TJ Plante and the Mayor. Councilor Walsh would like the City Council to be able to do more for the residents and Business Owners of the City. TJ Plante stated that there is money for hardships through the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan.

Councilor Gomez inquired about the time frame of the budget, and commented on the fact that the City Council has very little to do with this issue. He would like the City Council to be involved with negotiations beforehand. Councilor Gomez will not be supporting this, and feels that the Council is being "bullied." Councilor Hurst asked TJ what would happen to the funds if not approved today? TJ stated it would stay in unappropriated funds (reserves). Once a tax rate is set, it stands until next year.

Councilor Hurst would like the City Council to be involved in negotiations beforehand. Councilor Hurst thinks the residents deserve more, so he will be voting this down.

Councilor Davilia pointed out that they Mayor is not present and expressed his disappointment. TJ Plante clarified that the 2.5 million would set consistency for taxpayers.

Councilor Ramos wanted to know the difference between the tax bill as proposed versus using the 2.5 million. The taxes go from \$278 to \$216 utilizing the 2.5 million. Councilor Ramos will be supporting this motion, and cautions his colleagues in voting against it. Councilor Ramos is also disappointed that the Mayor did not work with the City Council.

Councilor Lederman wanted to know if it possible to include an insert in the 3rd quarter to assist with tax burden. Councilor Lederman thinks that there should be a written policy for communication to residents. Motion to approve the order. Motion approved.

ATTACHMENTS:

- CAFO Cert - Free Cash to FY22 and FY23 General Fund Revenues (DOCX)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [11 TO 2]
MOVER:	Melvin A. Edwards, Ward 3 Councilor
SECONDER:	Jesse Lederman, At-Large Councilor
AYES:	Edwards, Lederman, Allen, Curran, Whitfield, Ramos, Brown, Walsh, Davila, Fenton, Williams
NAYS:	Gumersindo Gomez, Justin Hurst

2. Order (ID # 6530)

Transfer - FY21 Certified Free Cash to FY23 Estimated Revenues - \$2,500,000.00

HISTORY:**11/29/21****City Council****CONTINUE VOTE****FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Transfer - FY21 Certified Free Cash to FY23 Estimated Revenues - \$2,500,000.00

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Motion made by Councilor Davila to send to Committee. Seconded by Councilor Whitfield.

Motion failed.

- **Item#2** - Transfer from FY21 Certified Free Cash to FY23 (\$2,500,000). Motion to send this item to the Finance Committee.

Councilor Ramos stated that he would be against the Motion to send this Item to Committee.

Councilor Lederman inquired that if this does not get passed tonight, that it would have no impact on next year's budget.

Councilor Hurst and Whitfield are hesitant in committing now, then they may lose out on further negotiations.

Councilor Gomez thinks this is an ambush, if approved today, then there will be "no say" for next year. He wants to send this item to Committee.

Councilor Davila thinks that we can do better for the residents due the financial state that the City is in.

Motion made by Councilor Davila to send to Committee. Seconded by Councilor Whitfield.

Motion failed.

Councilor Fenton is going to vote against it and believes that there are other problems, such as pension. Motion to approve the order. Motion approved.

ATTACHMENTS:

- CAFO Cert - Free Cash to FY22 and FY23 General Fund Revenues (DOCX)

RESULT: REFERRED TO COMMITTEE [5 TO 8]**MOVER:** Victor Davila, Ward 6 Councilor**SECONDER:** Tracye Whitfield, Vice President**AYES:** Gomez, Whitfield, Walsh, Davila, Hurst**NAYS:** Edwards, Lederman, Allen, Curran, Ramos, Brown, Fenton, Williams**Order (ID # 6530)**

Transfer - FY21 Certified Free Cash to FY23 Estimated Revenues - \$2,500,000.00

HISTORY:**11/29/21****City Council****CONTINUE VOTE****FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Transfer - FY21 Certified Free Cash to FY23 Estimated Revenues - \$2,500,000.00

RESULT:	ADOPTED [9 TO 4]
MOVER:	Malo Brown, Ward 4 Councilor
SECONDER:	Timothy C. Allen, Ward 7 Councilor
AYES:	Edwards, Lederman, Gomez, Allen, Curran, Ramos, Brown, Walsh, Williams
NAYS:	Tracye Whitfield, Victor Davila, Michael A. Fenton, Justin Hurst

3. Order (ID # 6528)

Tax Factor - FY22

HISTORY:

11/29/21

City Council

CONTINUE VOTE

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

- **Item#3** - Tax Factor for FY22, Patrick from Assessors presented an options table, 0.7927 is the tax factor that would result in an increase of \$216.

Councilor Allen referenced TJ Plante's memo, CIP shift is at the maximum point of favoring residents and it is a concern. Average tax bills shows that Chicopee and Holyoke's rate is higher than Springfield. Fiscal responsibility, Councilor Allen thinks that there has been great oversight managing the City's Finances. Motion to accept order.

Councilor Whitfield commented that she was in the Finance Department and stated that there were layoffs and furloughs. It has not been a perfect 10 years and the City is not doing the best with what they have. Councilor Whitfield requested next time a memo is presented, then state all the facts.

Councilor Fenton stated that everyone lived the financial crisis and not just watched it. Springfield has one of the lowest tax rates in the Commonwealth.

Councilor Davila referenced also the memo.

Councilor Whitfield defended that she is a professional and has the right to speak her mind and give her personal opinion and further do her best for her respective constituency.

Motion approved. Tax factor is approved.

***Motion to suspend Rule 19 for Items 1 and 2. Motion approved.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [10 TO 3]
MOVER:	Timothy C. Allen, Ward 7 Councilor
SECONDER:	Melvin A. Edwards, Ward 3 Councilor
AYES:	Edwards, Lederman, Gomez, Allen, Curran, Ramos, Brown, Walsh, Fenton, Williams
NAYS:	Tracye Whitfield, Victor Davila, Justin Hurst

Adjournment

Councilor Lederman stated that Dr. Nathan from Brightwood clinic passed away. Councilor Whitfield wanted to the Council to sing Happy Birthday to Councilor Hurst. Councilor Walsh gave a shout out to Janet Santos from Head Start.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00pm