



City Council

Special Meeting

~ Final ~

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

Gladys Oyola-Lopez
413-787-6096

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

5:30 PM

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Call to Order

5:30 PM Meeting called to order on June 14, 2022 at Virtual Meeting (Zoom) , Virtual Meeting, N/A, NA.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Maria Perez		Present	
Jesse Lederman	President	Present	
Sean Curran	At-Large Councilor	Present	
Kateri B. Walsh	At-Large Councilor	Absent	
Malo Brown	Ward 4 Councilor	Present	
Victor Davila	Ward 6 Councilor	Present	
Justin Hurst	At Large Councilor	Present	
Melvin A. Edwards	Ward 3 Councilor	Present	
Timothy C. Allen	Ward 7 Councilor	Present	
Zaida Govan	Ward 8 City Councilor	Present	
Michael A. Fenton	Ward 2 Councilor	Present	
Tracye Whitfield	At Large City Councilor	Present	

Orders

1. Order (ID # 6778)

FY23 Budget - General Fund

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Mayor Sarno opens up thanking the City Council, all the cabinet heads and the finance team.

Mayor Sarno stated it is a good news budget that will keep all services going & people working. Budget makes sure reserves are sustainable enough for a recession.

15mil in ARPA funds. New schools. Fully funded libraries. More academies for fire & police.

3.8% Increase in the FY23 Budget (mostly in school dept)

Councilor Brown thanked the mayor for joining and his main concern was sports teams-locker rooms needing to be re-done. Mayor Sarno will meet with Superintendent.

Councilor Edwards made a motion to approve the budget, second by Councilor Fenton

Councilor Govan mentioned property tax relief.

ARPA fund will be for senior assistance.

Councilor Hurst stated he wants to do more with the FREE CASH for the residents. Hurst asked about City Council getting private council/lawyer for council and requested pay studies for administration assistants.

Councilor Allen doesn't believe we should be talking about staff's salaries in the budget meeting (should be more private & respectful)

Councilor Whitfield stated it was public knowledge and talked about equity in the budget/salary increases.

Atty Bill Mahoney stated the employees should have 48 hrs notice and employees should not be targeted.

Councilor Whitfield requested to see the law and know the facts. Whitfield brought up equity in department heads.

Councilor Whitfield does not support budget with 17mil increase in property tax with no commitment to reduce.

Councilor Fenton supports this budget- less than 4% increase with inflation at over 8% which is an accomplishment.

Fenton pointed out the unprecedented relief to tax payers- operating structural deficit with stabilization reserve and we got to the point with a healthy reserve (but needs to continue to grow) along with pension.

Councilor Davila mentioned property tax and reserves and questioned how it would helpful in come into a crisis in the future. Police Dept/ gas prices increasing

TJ stated reserves will be helpful because people can continue to work provide services/ projects for our residents.

Mayor Sarno trying to protect taxpayers, funding Wayfinders, ARPA, abatement, the budget is the best way to be fiscally responsible.

Councilor Davila is concerned with the communication department he has been trying to get a tour for 3 years.

Commissioner Clapprood stated there is a lot of construction and people are de-placed.

Tom Ashe stated that Councilor Davila didn't get a call back because the commissioner sent him specific dates on when he go.

Fire Dept (deputy Wells)- more than happy to have him go though keeping COVID outside the dispatch area and how it was limited who went in.

Councilor Whitfield, (talking about property taxes)stated the City of Springfield is the second lowest income so we have to make it relative to what is going on (inflation & basic cost of living) Whitfield thinks the Mayor should consider all these factors for relief to the residents rather than give money to rich developers who don't live in the City of Springfield.

Councilor Allen mentioned a historical perspective of the challenge of budget 12 years ago when he first got on and how as a whole the financial picture is much better.

Councilor Brown mentioned opening up gyms/ and how he wants to help.

Mayor Sarno and TJ Plante stated there is funding in there for the gyms.

Councilor brown asked about the events and if the city can create/give something to help.

Mayor Sarno stated we help out the best of our ability being able to strike a balance. (over times and weekends)

Councilor Brown said the administration has been doing a good thing with ARPA-Brown needs help with seniors(they cannot fill out the application)

Mayor Sarno did the Ray Jordan center to help the seniors and is going to continue working on it.

Councilor Govan commends the administration and is looking forward to next year to come to some sort of way to support the residents. Councilor Govan supports the budget and mentioned that she is helping the residents with the ARPA application.

Councilor Perez supports the budget and commends the administration.

Councilor Hurst is excited about the ARPA funding and how Mayor rewarded businesses of color. Hurst believes we need to get the money out the door and speed up the process.

Councilor Fenton made the motion to call the question.

ATTACHMENTS:

- FY23 GF Budget(PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [8 TO 2]
MOVER:	Melvin A. Edwards, Ward 3 Councilor
SECONDER:	Michael A. Fenton, Ward 2 Councilor
AYES:	Perez, Lederman, Curran, Brown, Davila, Edwards, Allen, Fenton
NAYS:	Justin Hurst, Tracye Whitfield
ABSENT:	Kateri B. Walsh
AWAY:	Zaida Govan

Motion To: Move the Question

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Councilor Fenton Moved the Question to Call a Vote

RESULT:	ADOPTED [9 TO 0]
MOVER:	Michael A. Fenton, Ward 2 Councilor
AYES:	Perez, Lederman, Curran, Davila, Hurst, Edwards, Allen, Fenton, Whitfield
ABSENT:	Kateri B. Walsh
AWAY:	Zaida Govan
RECUSED:	Malo Brown

2. Order (ID # 6779)

FY23 Budget Order - Enterprise Fund

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Lindsay Hackett, Deputy CAFO, spoke on this order.

Councilor Whitfield asked for an explanation on this budget

Lindsay Hackett stated it was for the handle the trash fee bulk fund. The enterprise fund is \$12mil.

Councilor Brown asked for clarification.

Hackett stated the over all cost to run the city's trash fund is \$12 mil.

Brown asked if we could lower the amount- Finance is open to the conversation.

ATTACHMENTS:

- FY23 EF BUDGET (PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [10 TO 0]
AYES:	Perez, Lederman, Curran, Brown, Davila, Hurst, Edwards, Allen, Fenton, Whitfield
ABSENT:	Kateri B. Walsh
AWAY:	Zaida Govan

3. Order (ID # 6855)

FY23 Budget Order - Revolving Funds

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Lindsay Hackett, Deputy CAFO, spoke on this order

This order is to appropriate funding annual for our revolving funds (5) handy cap parking, Matoon st, light removal, parks banquet facilities & Schools technology.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [11 TO 0]
AYES:	Perez, Lederman, Curran, Brown, Davila, Hurst, Edwards, Allen, Govan, Fenton, Whitfield
ABSENT:	Kateri B. Walsh

4. Order (ID # 6862)

FY23 Budget - EF Retained Earnings

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Lindsay Hackett spoke on this order.

Councilor Whitfield questioned if this was a surplus and what do we use it for.

Hackett- the fund budge is 12m fees bring in 5 mil city is left to appropriate funding for the difference. (It is an additional source of revenue)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [10 TO 0]
AYES:	Perez, Lederman, Curran, Brown, Davila, Hurst, Edwards, Allen, Fenton, Whitfield
ABSENT:	Kateri B. Walsh, Zaida Govan

5. Order (ID # 6853)

Transfer - FY21 Certified Free Cash to FY23 Estimated Revenues - \$1,000,000.00

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Transfer - FY21 Certified Free Cash to FY23 Estimated Revenues - \$1,000,000.00

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Lindsay Hackett spoke on this order.

No questions from the council.

ATTACHMENTS:

- FY21 Free Cash to FY23 Revenue (PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [10 TO 0]
AYES:	Perez, Lederman, Curran, Brown, Davila, Hurst, Edwards, Allen, Fenton, Whitfield
ABSENT:	Kateri B. Walsh
AWAY:	Zaida Govan

Motion To: Suspension of Rules

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Suspension of Rule 19

RESULT:	ADOPTED [10 TO 0]
MOVER:	Tracye Whitfield, At Large City Councilor
SECONDER:	Michael A. Fenton, Ward 2 Councilor
AYES:	Perez, Lederman, Curran, Brown, Davila, Hurst, Edwards, Allen, Fenton, Whitfield
ABSENT:	Kateri B. Walsh
AWAY:	Zaida Govan