



City Council

Special Meeting

~ Final ~

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

Gladys Oyola-Lopez

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

6:30 PM

Springfield City Hall -- Council Chambers

Call to Order

6:30 PM Meeting called to order on June 20, 2023 at Springfield City Hall -- Council Chambers, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Kateri B. Walsh	At-Large Councilor	Present	
Michael A. Fenton	Ward 2 Councilor	Present	
Maria Perez	Ward 1 City Councilor	Remote	
Tracye Whitfield	At Large City Councilor	Present	
Zaida Govan	Ward 8 City Councilor	Present	
Timothy C. Allen	Ward 7 Councilor	Present	
Malo Brown	Ward 4 Councilor	Present	
Justin Hurst	At Large Councilor	Present	
Lavar Click-Bruce	Ward 5 City Councilor	Present	
Melvin A. Edwards	Ward 3 Councilor	Present	
Sean Curran	At-Large Councilor	Present	
Victor Davila	Ward 6 Councilor	Present	
Jesse Lederman	President	Present	

Old Business - Continued Financial Orders

1. Order (ID # 7475)

FY22 Certified Free Cash to Stabilization Reserve Fund - \$17,591,479.91

FY22 Certified Free Cash to Stabilization Reserve Fund - \$17,591,479.91

HISTORY:

06/12/23 City Council

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

CAFO PLANTE SPOKE ON THE ITEM

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD ASKED THE CAFO FOR A MORE DETAILED EXPLANATION INCLUDING FUNDING THE POLICE COMMISSION FROM THE FREE CASH. COUNCILOR WHITFIELD ASKED IF MR. PLANTE WAS ABLE TO SPEAK TO NORMAN ROLDAN SINCE THE LAST MEETING.

MR. PLANTE HAS NOT SPOKEN TO MR. ROLDAN SINCE THE LAST MEETING.

*****INSERT COUNCILOR WHITFIELD'S QUESTION REGARDING FREE CASH & THE
REAL ESTATE TAX INCREASE AND TJ PLANTE'S RESPONSE*****

COUNCILOR HURST ECHOED COUNCILOR WHITFIELD'S COMMENTS AND NOTED HIS HESITANCY TO APPROVE THE BUDGET TRANSFER AS HE BELIEVES WE SHOULD BE TRANSFERRING MORE TO FREE CASH. COUNCILOR HURST NOTED HIS CONCERN ON LACK OF FUNDING FOR THE POLICE COMMISSION BUDGET.

COUNCILOR GOVAN NOTED HER AGREEMENT WITH COUNCILORS WHITFIELD AND HURST. SHE NOTED AN EMAIL THAT SHE SENT TO THE MAYOR AND FINANCE SUGGESTING THAT \$7 MILLION DOLLARS OF THE CERTIFIED FREE CASH TO THE FY24 ESTIMATED REVENUES. COUNCILOR GOVAN ALSO NOTED THE LACK OF FUNDING FOR THE POLICE COMMISSION.

COUNCILOR DAVILA AGREED WITH HIS COLLEAGUES ON THE LACK OF FUNDING FOR THE POLICE COMMISSION. NOTED THAT THE POLICE COMMISSION SHOULD ALSO BE REACHING OUT TO FINANCE TO REQUEST A BUDGET. COUNCILOR DAVILA NOTED THAT NOT PASSING THE ITEM WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE STATE/FEDERAL GRANTS.

COUNCILOR BROWN NOTED HIS CONCERNS (*****
INCLUDE HIS ADDITIONAL SUMMARY HERE AND TJ'S RESPONSE
*****)

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD ASKED WHAT THE WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY IS TO SCHEDULE ANOTHER SPECIAL MEETING IN THE EVENT ITEMS 1-4 ARE NOT PASSED TONIGHT. COUNCIL PRESIDENT LEDERMAN NOTED THAT WE WOULD HA

ATTACHMENTS:

- FY22 Free Cash to Stab Fund (DOCX)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [10 TO 3]
AYES:	Walsh, Fenton, Perez, Allen, Brown, Click-Bruce, Edwards, Curran, Davila, Lederman
NAYS:	Tracye Whitfield, Zaida Govan, Justin Hurst

2. Order (ID # 7470)

Transfer - FY22 Certified Free Cash to FY24 Estimated Revenues - \$5,000,000.00

HISTORY:

06/12/23 **City Council**

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Transfer - FY22 Certified Free Cash to FY24 Estimated Revenues - \$5,000,000.00

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

CAFO PLANTE - SET ASIDE TO REDUCE THE TAX RATE

COUNCILOR HURST DO MORE THAN THIS \$5MILL

ATTACHMENTS:

- FY22 Free Cash to FY24 Levy (DOCX)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
AYES:	Walsh, Fenton, Perez, Whitfield, Govan, Allen, Brown, Hurst, Click-Bruce, Edwards, Curran, Davila, Lederman

3. Order (ID # 7474)

Transfer - FY22 Certified Free Cash to Neighborhood Enhancement Fund - \$3,000,000

HISTORY:

06/12/23 **City Council**

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Transfer - FY22 Certified Free Cash to Neighborhood Enhancement Fund - \$3,000,000

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

CAFO PLANTE SPOKE ON THE ITEM

COUNCILOR DAVILA ASKED WHAT THE SPECIFIC FUNDING WAS FOR.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD ASKED HOW THE FUND WOULD WORK. WOULD IT BE GOING TO DEVELOPERS TO BUILD IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS? DISAGREED WITH TRANSFERRING MONEY BEFORE A PROCESS HAS BEEN CREATED FOR SPENDING THE MONEY. NOTED THAT SHE WILL VOTE AGAINST THE TRANSFER.

MR. PLANTE NOTED THAT IT WOULD GO TO CITY DEPARTMENTS. THE REQUESTS WOULD BE COMING FROM THE NEIGHBORHOODS.

COUNCILOR HURST NOTED THAT THE COUNCIL DID THE SAME THING WITH THE ARPA FUNDING. HE NOTED THAT APPROVING THE MONEY BLINDLY DOES NOT MAKE SENSE. HE NOTED HE WILL NOT VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE TRANSFER.

COUNCILOR GOVAN ASKED FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THIS ITEM. NOTED THAT GOING TO THE NEIGHBORHOODS FOR INPUT WOULD BE IMPORTANT.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD NOTED THE BODY'S FIDUCIARY DUTY AND THE FACT THAT THIS MONEY IS TAXPAYER'S MONEY.

COUNCILOR DAVILA ASKED IF ANYONE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION HAS A FORMAL LIST OF PROPOSED PROJECTS. NOTED HE IS NOT COMFORTABLE VOTING FOR THIS ITEM TONIGHT. COUNCILOR DAVILA MADE A MOTION TO COMMITTEE. SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CLICK-BRUCE. MOTION TO COMMITTEE FAILED.

COUNCILOR PEREZ ASKED TJ IF THIS REQUEST FOR TRANSFER CAME ABOUT FROM THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT THAT WAS DONE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS. MR. PLANTE NOTED THAT THE CREATION OF THIS FUND DID COME OUT OF THE WORK THAT WAS DONE IN THAT NEEDS ASSESSMENT BUT COULD NOT BE PAID FOR WITH ARPA FUNDS.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD ASKED FOR A COPY OF ANY NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS ASSESSMENT THAT WAS DONE.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD NOTED THAT SHE CONTINUES TO OPPOSE APPROVING THIS ITEM WITH OUT A PLAN.

COUNCILOR DAVILA NOTED THAT HE IS VERY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THIS VOTE. HE NOTED THE LACK OF PROCESS FOR THE DISBURSEMENTS OF FUNDS, NOTED THE ARPA FUND ROLL OUT. COUNCILOR DAVILA INVOKED RULE 20 WHICH ENDED DEBATE AND REFERRED THE ORDER TO THE COMPTROLLER. COUNCIL PRESIDENT LEDERMAN AGREED THAT INVOKING RULE 20 WAS APPROPRIATE PARLIAMENTARY PROTOCOL. DEBATE WAS ENDED AND THE COUNCIL WILL WAIT TO RECEIVE A REPORT BACK FROM THE COMPTROLLER.

ATTACHMENTS:

- CAFO Cert - Free Cash to Neighborhood Enhancement Fund (DOCX)

Motion to Send to Committee

Councilor Davila made a motion to send this item to the Finance Committee

Votes NOT to send to committee: Councilors Walsh, Fenton, Perez, Govan, Allen, Brown, Edwards, Curran

Votes TO send to committee: Councilors Whitfield, Hurst, Click-Bruce, Davila, Lederman

The motion failed. Debated was resumed.

4. Order (ID # 7471)

Transfer - FY22 Certified Free Cash to Roadway Improvements - \$2,500,000

HISTORY:

06/12/23 **City Council**

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Transfer - FY22 Certified Free Cash to Roadway Improvements - \$2,500,000

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

CAFO PLANTE SPOKE ON THE ITEM

ATTACHMENTS:

- FY22 Free Cash to Roads and sidewalks (DOCX)

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES: Walsh, Fenton, Perez, Whitfield, Govan, Allen, Brown, Hurst, Click-Bruce, Edwards, Curran, Davila, Lederman

5. Order (ID # 7490)

Budget Transfer Within a Department - Finance to Multi-Year Pay-Go Fund - \$1,482,207.12

HISTORY:

06/12/23 **City Council**

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Budget Transfer Within a Department - Finance to Multi-Year Pay-Go Fund - \$1,482,207.12

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

CAFO PLANTE SPOKE ON THE ITEM

ATTACHMENTS:

- CAFO Cert - FY23 EOY Pay-Go Transfer (PDF)

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES: Walsh, Fenton, Perez, Whitfield, Govan, Allen, Brown, Hurst, Click-Bruce, Edwards, Curran, Davila, Lederman

6. Order (ID # 7484)

Bills of Prior Year - Law Department- \$11,385.00

HISTORY:

06/12/23 **City Council**

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

CAFO PLANTE SPOKE ON THE ITEM

ATTACHMENTS:

- Law BOPY Invoice - Steiner Consulting (PDF)
- CAFO CERT - LAW BOPY (PDF)

RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES: Walsh, Fenton, Perez, Whitfield, Govan, Allen, Brown, Hurst, Click-Bruce, Edwards, Curran, Davila, Lederman

7. Order (ID # 7467)

Bills of Prior Year - Police - \$2,628.82

HISTORY:

06/12/23 **City Council**

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

CAFO PLANTE SPOKE ON THE ITEM

ATTACHMENTS:

- SPD BOPY 06-12-2023 (PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
AYES:	Walsh, Fenton, Perez, Whitfield, Govan, Allen, Brown, Hurst, Click-Bruce, Edwards, Curran, Davila, Lederman

Orders

8. Order (ID # 7510)

FY24 Budget - General Fund

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

MAYOR DOMENIC SARNO SPOKE ON THE BUDGET.

MAYOR SARNO NOTED IT WAS THE 9TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR WITHOUT AN USING RESERVE FUNDS.

NOTED THAT THERE ARE NO LAYOFFS IN THIS BUDGET AND THE PRIORITIES ARE ECO DEV, PUBLIC HEALTH, PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY. MAYOR SARNO NOTED THAT 2/3 (BY LAW) WERE BUDGETED TO THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT AND 1/3 TO THE CITY SIDE.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT LEDERMAN THANKED THE MAYOR, CHIEF OF STAFF ASHE AND ALL THE DEPARTMENT HEADS PRESENT.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD SPOKE. NOTED THE POLICE COMMISSION'S BUDGET. THE MAYOR NOTED THAT THE COMMISSION'S BUDGET IS COMING FROM THE LAW DEPT AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. COUNCILOR WHITFIELD WANTED TO KNOW SPECIFICALLY WHERE THE LINE ITEM FUNDING FOR THE POLICE COMMISSION WAS LOCATED.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD NOTED THAT SHE SPOKE TO MICHELLE WONG, NICOLE PORTER AND ARIANNA JAMES JOHNSON FROM THE DOJ.

JUDGE PAYNE DETAILED THE RESOURCES GIVEN TO THE POLICE COMMISSION. HE NOTED THAT THE ONLY THING THAT THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS WAS CELL PHONES. THE JUDGE NOTED THAT THE COMMISSION BEING ASSIGNED CITY CELL PHONES COULD OPEN THE COMMISSIONERS AND THE CITY UP TO LIABILITY. JUDGE PAYNE NOTED HE WOULD BE REACHING OUT TO THE POLICE COMMISSION TOMORROW REGARDING THE ALLEGED CONCERNS THEY HAVE REGARDING RESOURCES ALLOTTED TO THEM.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD SPOKE ON THE FREE CASH TO ESTIMATED REVENUES FOR REAL ESTATE TAXES. COUNCILOR WHITFIELD SPOKE ON GUN VIOLENCE, THE SHANNON GRANT AND C3

THE MAYOR RESPONDED DETAILING THE CITY EFFORTS REGARDING GUN VIOLENCE HE NOTED THE RELEASE OF INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED FOR GUN POSSESSION.

COUNCILOR FENTON INVOKED RULE 10B LIMITING A MEMBERS RIGHT TO SPEAK

COUNCIL PRESIDENT LEDERMAN ACKNOWLEDGED THE RULE AND GAVE THE FLOOR BACK TO COUNCILOR WHITFIELD TO CONCLUDE HER COMMENTS.

COUNCILOR WHITFIELD CONTINUED SPEAKING.

THE MAYOR CONCLUDED HIS COMMENTS ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT BY VARIOUS METHODS.

COUNCILOR GOVAN ASKED A QUESTION (***** INSERT SPECIFIC QUESTION HERE*****)

CHAIRMAN GREENHALGH EXPLAINED THE FORMULA THE ASSESSOR USE WHEN CALCULATING THE TAX RATE.

TJ PLANTE CAUTIONS THE COS THAT PUTTING A NUMBER ON THE TAX RATE THIS EARLY IS NOT ADVISABLE BECAUSE THE NUMBERS COULD CHANGE DRASTICALLY.

COUNCILOR GOVAN ASKED ABOUT THE POLICE COMMISSION BUDGET. CAFO PLANTE NOTE THAT THE COMMISSION CAN TAP INTO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OTPS BUDGET. THERE IS NO SPECIFIC "LINE ITEM".

COUNCILOR GOVAN ASKED USING TAX PAYER MONEY TO ELIMINATE THE TRASH FEE. THE MAYOR EXPLAINED THE ENTERPRISE FUND AND WHAT CITY PROGRAMS THE FUND PAYS FOR.

DIRECTOR CIGNOLI NOTED THAT THE TRASH DISPOSAL, RECYCLING, LEAF PICKUP IS A "GOOD DEAL" COMPARED TO THE NEIGHBORING CITIES AND TOWNS.

COUNCILOR DAVILA COMPLIMENTED THE MAYOR ON SEVERAL ITEMS COVERED IN THE BUDGET.

COUNCILOR DAVILA ASKED THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE TAX WRITE OFF PROGRAM.

COMMISSIONER CAULTON SAID THAT FINANCE, ASSESSORS AND ELDER AFFAIRS ARE WORKING ON THIS PROGRAM.

COUNCILOR DAVILA ASKED ABOUT THE POLICE COMMISSION BUDGET.

COUNCILOR DAVILA ASKED THE MAYOR AND FINANCE TO LOOK INTO FURTHER PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. COUNCILOR DAVILA COMPLEMENTED THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, DEPUTY WELLS AND COMMISSIONER CALVI.

COUNCILOR DAVILA NOTED HIS CONCERNS ABOUT PUBLIC SAFETY SPECIFICALLY SPD. SUPERINTENDENT CLAPROOD NOTED THAT THE DIFFICULTY OF GUN VIOLENCE. SHE NOTED THE SUPPORT SHE RECEIVES FROM THE ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND THE CITY COUNCIL.

COUNCILOR BROWN SPOKE ON THE BUDGET AND THANKED PAT SULLIVAN FOR THE PARK PROJECTS IN WARD 4, REPAIR OF BLIGHTED PROPERTIES, NEW SCHOOL AND STREET REPAIRS.

COUNCILOR BROWN ASKED ABOUT THE RETURN OF POLICE SUBSTATIONS. SUPERINTENDENT CLAPROOD NOTED DIFFICULTY MANNING SUBSTATIONS DUE TO THE STAFFING LEVELS.

COUNCILOR BROWN COMMENDED THE MAYOR AND COUNCILOR LEDERMAN ON HIS WORK ON THE GIRARD AVE APARTMENTS. COUNCILOR BROWN ASKED WHAT THE CITY IS DOING TO SANCTION THE LANDLORDS WITH CODE ENFORCEMENT VIOLATIONS.

THE MAYOR NOTED THAT THESE LANDLORDS ARE BEING BROUGHT TO COURT, WAYFINDERS IS INVOLVED AND CODE ENFORCEMENT.

COUNCILOR HURST NOTED THE TOP TWO ISSUES THAT CONSTITUENTS HAVE SPOKEN TO HIM ABOUT ARE TAXES AND

COUNCILOR HURST SUGGESTED THAT THE MAYOR PUT THE MONEY THAT HAS BEEN SET ASIDE FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT FUND TOWARD LOWERING TAXES OR TO OFFSET THE TAX FEE.

COUNCILOR HURST NOTED THAT HE DOESN'T BELIEVE THE POLICE COMMISSION HAS A DEDICATED BUDGET. COUNCILOR HURST NOTED THAT THE CITY SHOULD HIRE AN INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT TO ASCERTAIN THE NEEDS OF THE POLICE COMMISSION.

COUNCILOR HURST SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL MONIES BE ALLOCATED TO RECRUIT OFFICERS.

NOTED THE COLLABORATION WITH ROCA FOR LITTER PICK UP. SUGGESTED THE HIRING OF ROCA PARTICIPANTS FOR CITY EMPLOYMENT. COUNCILOR HURST SUGGESTED PROVIDING RESIDENTS WITH REDUCED OR FREE TRANSPORTATION, SPECIFICALLY THE YOUTH.

COUNCILOR ALLEN

ATTACHMENTS:

- FY24 - Schedule A GF (PDF)

RESULT: **ADOPTED [11 TO 2]**

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

NAYS: Tracye Whitfield, Justin Hurst

9. Order (ID # 7511)

FY24 Budget Order - Enterprise Fund

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

LINDSAY HACKETT, DEPUTY CAFO, SPOKE ON THE ITEM

ATTACHMENTS:

- FY24 - Schedule A (EF) (PDF)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
AYES:	Walsh, Fenton, Perez, Whitfield, Govan, Allen, Brown, Hurst, Click-Bruce, Edwards, Curran, Davila, Lederman

10. Order (ID # 7513)

FY24 Budget Order - Revolving Funds

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

LINDSAY HACKETT, DEPUTY CAFO, SPOKE ON THE ITEM

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
AYES:	Walsh, Fenton, Perez, Whitfield, Govan, Allen, Brown, Hurst, Click-Bruce, Edwards, Curran, Davila, Lederman

11. Order (ID # 7512)

FY24 Budget - EF Retained Earnings

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

LINDSAY HACKETT, DEPUTY CAFO, SPOKE ON THE ITEM

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
AYES:	Walsh, Fenton, Perez, Whitfield, Govan, Allen, Brown, Hurst, Click-Bruce, Edwards, Curran, Davila, Lederman