



City of Westfield Massachusetts

Notice of Meeting

ad hoc Business Development Committee

RECEIVED
12:01 PM,
APR - 6 2018

Date: April 12, 2018

Time: 5:00 PM

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Location: Room 315, Municipal Building, Westfield, MA

Agenda

1/6/11

Under "Public Participation" the Councilors were addressed by Mr. Paul Dion, 61 Loomis Ridge. Mr. Dion, owner of Westfield Aviation, expressed his concerns relative to a recently received tax bill as a lessee of Airport property. He questioned why the tax bill has never been issued before this time.

President Keefe explained that a recent court case in Fitchburg, MA brought the state statute relative to the tax bill to the attention of the City. Mr. Dion expressed his concern that the new tax bill will cause businesses to close down due to their inability to pay the new tax bill. He requested that the Assessors' Department reevaluate the values of the involved properties and that the Council amend the leases to include an in-lieu of taxes clause.

During Mr. Dion's presentation, it was voted, upon motion of Councilor Miller, that his time limit be extended beyond the three minute time limit to ten minutes.

A raise of hands, per request of Councilor Andras, indicated that the approximate 50 people present were all there relative to the new tax bill.

Mr. Michael Foy, 15 Oakcrest Drive, Dr. Joe Keenan, and Atty. Mark Begley, all lessees of Airport property echoed the concerns above.

Councilor Crean offered a motion which was duly seconded that the above matter be referred to ad hoc Business Development Committee and City Properties Committee. Councilor O'Connell offered an amendment which was duly seconded to the above motion to also send the matter to Legislative and Ordinance Committee.

At this point President Keefe relinquished the Chair to Councilor Sullivan.

Councilor Keefe explained that the matter relative to reevaluating the values of property is an Assessors' Department function and the executing of the leases is a function of the Airport Commission, therefore, the matter does not need to be sent to Council committees.

Upon motion of Councilor O'Connell, it was

VOTED: That the amendment to send the matter to Legislative and Ordinance Committee be WITHDRAWN.

Upon motion of Councilor Crean, it was

VOTED: That the original motion above relative to the new tax bill be REFERRED TO AD HOC BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE and CITY PROPERTIES COMMITTEE.

President Keefe was recorded as being OPPOSED.

1/20/11

Upon motion of Councilor Miller, it was

VOTED: That the Elm Street & the Intramodal Project be REFERRED TO ZONING, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, AD HOC BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT and upon motion of Councilor Onofrey, it was further,

VOTED: That the matter also be REFERRED TO WESTFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

4/7/11

Upon motion from Councilor Brown, it was

VOTED: That the Council requests that the Mayor and associated departments, begin the process needed to establish an Economic Impact Zone for the downtown area and that this matter be REFERRED TO THE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, LEGISLATIVE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE, THE MAYOR, THE CITY ADVANCEMENT OFFICER, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING and LAW DEPARTMENT.

Upon motion from Councilor Brown, it was

VOTED: That the Council requests that the Mayor and associated departments, begin the process needed to establish a contractual agreement with University of Massachusetts - Amherst, the Center for Economic Development, to complete a comprehensive study on a business advancement master plan for the downtown area and that this matter be REFERRED TO THE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, LEGISLATIVE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE, THE MAYOR, THE CITY ADVANCEMENT OFFICER, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING and PURCHASING DEPARTMENT.

2/4/16

Upon motion of Councilor Dondley (and Bean), it was

VOTED: to establish an Economic and Cultural Development Advisory Committee to explore avenues and make recommendations for unifying stakeholders around Westfield's development efforts and be REFERRED TO BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

Prior to the vote, Councilor Surprise questioned who would be on the Committee. Councilor Dondley informed the Council that the Committee would be kept broad to see where it goes. He referred to a link from Iowa that leaders all came together on the same page and worked together to a lot of projects done and leadership to get the job done. He informed the Council the committee would coordinate WOW, businesses could take more of a role without the BID, and have some short-term goals to show progress. Councilor Paul questioned if the Westfield Gas & Electric would be envisioned to be included. Councilor Dondley informed the Council that it would start small. Councilor Babinski informed the Council that the Urban Planning had a sign-up sheet for participation and would that group be incorporated into this committee. Councilor Surprise questioned if the new position of Community Outreach Coordinator from the Mayor in tonight's Communications from the Mayor would cover these issues. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that he liked the idea, but a lot of the issues are already being covered by other departments and commissions.