



City of Westfield, Massachusetts

MINUTES OF MEETING

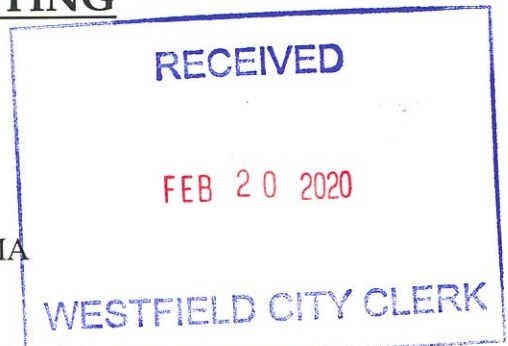
NAME OF COMMITTEE: Legislative and Ordinance

DATE: January 29, 2020

TIME: 5:30 PM

LOCATION: Municipal Building, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA

ROOM NO: 201



Attending: Chair Councilor Onyski, Councilor Burns, Councilor Adams

Meeting Started promptly at 5:30 PM

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Anyone taping or recording the meeting?
--None
2. Public Participation.
--Councilor Figy spoke regarding a joint meeting between L and O and ZBD in 2019. Minutes were not submitted to City Clerk. Figy will supply to current L and O for consideration at our next meeting.
3. Approval of minutes of November 18, 2019.
--Approved 3-0
4. Submitting a Resolution accepting drainage easements to the properties located at 74 Crescent Circle, 68 Crescent Circle and 62 Crescent Circle. (1-16-20)
--City Engineer Mark Cressotti presented details
--There has been extensive street flooding on Crescent Circle
--There were easements when subdivision was built but drainage didn't follow the plans exactly
--New easements were granted at no charge to city by the three property owners
--Easements will allow city to repair and stabilize drainage on property
--Repair costs about \$150,000.00 which is not yet allocated, maybe from DPW?
--Conservation Commission voted unanimously to approve project
--Approved 3-0
5. 5/1/14 Upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was VOTED: That the proper steps be taken to amend Chapter 11 Community Services, Article II Public Parks relative to the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail and that this matter be REFERRED TO LEGISLATIVE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE. 8/21/14 REMAIN IN COMMITTEE 9/18/14 REMAIN IN COMMITTEE 4/28/16 REMAIN IN COMMITTEE and also be REFERRED TO LAW DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION and ROUND TABLE.

- Part of L and O cleanup
 - This has been around since 2014
 - It will eventually need to be resolved but hasn't had the need in six years
 - Voted to remove from committee without action 3-0
6. 6/16/16 Submitting a Resolution creating a gift account for the funds received for the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail donations. 1/19/17 REMAIN IN COMMITTEE - Councilor Figy informed the Council that this is a unique item because it is not a park and it is not a roadway and that the City has to assign a department to oversee it and at this point the City is not sure what department to assign it to.
- Part of L and O cleanup
 - This has been around since 2016
 - Related to #5
 - Without department ownership, Rail Trail can still have donations through City Council Approval
 - Voted to remove from committee without action 3-0
7. 1/19/17 Upon motion of Councilors Figy and Harris, it was VOTED: To examine or reexamine the real estate tax exemption allowed by law for those over 65 years of age with intent of increasing that exemption (MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, 17, 41-41C and any other law pertaining to this exemption) and that the matter be referred to LEGISLATIVE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE and LAW DEPARTMENT. Councilor O'Connell questioned if this exemption is the same exemption for Veterans. Councilor Harris informed her that it is not the same exemption. The exemption for the Veterans is a State exemption and will be handled by Representative Velis.
- Part of L and O cleanup
 - This has been around since 2017
 - Voted to remove from committee without action 3-0
8. 1/8/18 Upon motion of Councilor Flaherty, it was VOTED: That the Charter & Rules Committee to review the current City Council Rules, collect suggestions for edits from the City Councilors, and make recommendations for revisions and be REFERRED TO CHARTER & RULES COMMITTEE and upon motion of Councilor Figy, it was further voted to also be REFERRED TO LEGISLATIVE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE and LAW DEPARTMENT.
- Part of L and O cleanup
 - This has been around since 2018
 - Voted to remove from committee without action 3-0
9. 1/18/18 Upon motion of Councilor Burns and Councilors Bean and Paul, it was VOTED: That the law department map out a process to combine the Water Commission and the Board of Public Works and that this matter be REFERRED TO THE LEGISLATIVE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE and THE LAW DEPARTMENT.
- Part of L and O cleanup

- This has been around since 2018
 - Now is a good time to follow up since departments are combined and City will be looking for new DPW Director
 - Burns has some of the necessary work already completed
 - Voted to leave in committee 3-0
10. 5/17/18 Upon motion by Councilor Allie (Beltrandi, Emmershy and Flaherty), it was VOTED: That an ordinance regarding road repairs be established and that the matter be REFERRED TO LEGISLATIVE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE. Councilor Allie informed the Council that this would address issues relative to requirements of digging up the road, repaving of the road after being dug up, patching and sealing and to ensure that the road is fixed to the integrity it should be. President Beltrandi relinquished the Chair to Councilor Figy. Councilor Beltrandi informed the Council that this was in the process in the past with the trench permits and this would be something that would be added to that.
- 4/4/19 REMAIN IN COMMITTEE
- Part of L and O cleanup
 - This has been around since 2018
 - Had several meetings in past but discussed several technical solutions
 - Better off to let DPW Commission find a technical solution and then move back to L and O
 - Voted to remove from committee 3-0 and refer to DPW Commission
11. 6/7/18 Upon motion of Councilor Burns, (and Figy), it was VOTED: That a City Ordinance dealing with rental properties within the City of Westfield be reviewed and/or created and be REFERRED TO LAW DEPARTMENT, BUILDING DEPARTMENT, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, CITY ADVANCEMENT OFFICER, PLANNING BOARD and LEGISLATIVE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.
- Part of L and O cleanup
 - This has been around since 2018
 - Councilor Figy has information on this and will be discussed at next L and O meeting.
 - Voted to leave in committee 3-0
12. 12/6/18 Upon motion of Councilor Allie, it was VOTED: That the Abutter Notification Ordinance at Section Article 1, Section 1-40.3 – Mailing of Notices be strengthened and that the matter be REFERRED TO LEGISLATIVE AND ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.
- Part of L and O cleanup
 - This has been around since 2018
 - Councilor Allie can resubmit if so desired
 - Voted to remove from committee 3-0
13. Adjourned at 6:10 PM.

