

Minutes from the City Council Meeting on Tuesday February 15, 2022 at 7:12 pm in the Auditorium are as follows:

Laflamme, Frank N., President	At-Large Councilor	Present
Roy, Gerard (Jerry) A.	At-Large Councilor	Present
Tillotson, James K.	At-Large Councilor	Present
Zygarowski, Robert J.	At-Large Councilor	Present
McAuliffe, Joel D.	Ward 1 Councilor	Present
Shane D. Brooks	Ward 2 Councilor	Present
Delmarina Lopez	Ward 3 Councilor	Present
Balakier, George A.	Ward 4 Councilor	Present
Krampits, Fred T.	Ward 5 Councilor	Present
Dobosz, Derek Gregory	Ward 6 Councilor	Present
Courchesne, William C.	Ward 7 Councilor	Present
Labrie, Gary R.	Ward 8 Councilor	Present
Mary Elizabeth Pniak-Costello	Ward 9 Councilor	Present

Public Input—Derek Dobosz, 70 Post Road, WMDC is a quasi-public entity, appointments, there is a 9 member board, cannot find out when the terms expire. City members are different and the terms don't match. Craig McDonald, 6 Eton Street, urge the council members to reject the grant. This is just a gift to the food bank. Too large for the area, overbuilding. We don't need another community room, taxpayers money is going to the food bank. Started in June before the project was even proposed. Project needs to cut 1.6 million, shouldn't be a curb cut on Carew Street. People will be piling out of the building at night. There are 75 computer workstations for 61 people, not a good deal for the city. Make a better neighbor for the neighborhood. Kevin Coulter, 32 Maryland Avenue, also ask the council to reject/vote no on MO-1, 2 & 3, especially number 3. None of this was brought up in prior meetings. Employees alone will be adding to the traffic. We have enough facilities for emergency use. Meeting usage for the city is not needed. Don't need that. Comp HS Horticulture program will have students out there to study. Too much for Carew Street. Please reconsider this grant. Sean Goonan, 6 Lincoln Street, city is updating green space. Walking paths and kayak passes. Near the food bank project they could have had bike lanes, encouraging bike/walking lanes. Food bank has a right to exist. Project didn't require a special permit, should require a special permit. Looks as if the zoning was changed just for this. The City was pursuing a Massworks grant for this is sketchy. To see a grant used for a massive warehouse is wrong.

--Motion made by Councilor McAuliffe to accept the minutes of 2/1/22. Motion passed.

MO-1 Ordered that the City Council accept the FY 2022 Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development Massworks Infrastructure Program Grant in the amount of One million six hundred twenty two thousand and 00/100 (\$1,622,000.00). Said grant will be used for site infrastructure components associated with the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts new headquarters/distribution facility to be constructed at the Chicopee River Business Park. The grant is accepted in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53A.

--Motion made by Councilor Dobosz to receive and pass. Motion made by Councilor Courchesne to refer to the Finance Committee. Motion to refer to the Finance Committee defeated by a roll call vote of 3 yes, 10 no. Councilors Dobosz, Courchesne, and Pniak-Costello voting yes. Motion made by Councilor Tilloston to receive and pass. Councilor Dobosz stated this is an order for a proposed grant from the state. Mayor said the city is trying to benefit the food bank. City would get permanent easement, use of building for an emergency shelter. Problem with non-profit using this after 30 years of being vacant. Grant was applied for in June or July, no meetings were done before then. Don't think it's a last mile delivery service. Fierce opposition to this project. Food bank was unwilling to work with the neighbors. State legislature is pushing hard for this. Will not support this tonight. Appreciate the Mayor's effort, don't think this will

benefit the city. Encourage legislature to talk to people who live here. Councilor Courchesne stated have concerns about this program, went through each Massworks grant for the year. Not sure how it qualifies for this. Going back on word, never a city wide state of emergency, amend to refer to finance. Councilor McAuliffe stated like to speak, reject sending this to finance. Councilor Brooks stated not in support of sending this to Finance, am in favor of this passing tonight. Food insecurity leads to other problems, when you have to choose between feeding your family and paying bills that is an issue. Food insecurities lead people to losing their housing. Councilor McAuliffe stated want to congratulate Councilor Brooks on his words, disagree with Councilor Dobosz due to residence usually people around the project have an issue with the project. Chicopee is known as a community that has food insecurities. There does not need to be a special permit. Important project, significant amount of money. Hope to see food insecurity become food security. Councilor Tillotson stated support this. Know it bothers the neighbors but it is needed. Don't put it next to me, few facts, 11 new full time and 3 part time jobs will be created. Twenty six percent of people get food from food banks, six places in Chicopee hand out food. Living in a time where people are having trouble feeding their family, pass this tonight, get it going. Everything cost more today, oil has gone up, gas has gone up, food, meat and vegetables are out of sight. Bigger facility, don't understand why anyone would be opposed to this. Whatever went in there people would complain. Between the two biggest cities. Easy for people who truly need the food to get the food. Councilor Dobosz stated counter argument, Lorraine's soup kitchen is known for doing the most for the city, never got a grant. We have Lorraine's and COA handling food insecurity. Incentives to make smaller to make the neighbors happy. We had to wait 30 years for something to go in there. Will not generate taxes. Thirty days from issuance of a c/o to go to court. Drop in the bucket, 11 jobs, 3 part time, unprecedented deal. Not popular, grant for private entity, think more before you vote. Councilor Courchesne stated don't disagree with all that was said. Lorraine's will still get food at Lorraine's. Moot point. Asked for an in kind donation in lieu of taxes. Nothing was given, cut our losses where we are. Don't know why there is a rush on this tonight. Councilor Roy stated as past president of Lorraine's soup kitchen can't see not accepting the grant. Especially same issues when building Lorraine's as they are having now. Councilor Brooks stated as someone who has worked in the sector with people who are experiencing food insecurities, staff sent to secure food for Chicopee residents. This will be a direct benefit to residents. Has a local impact. Food bank is exempt from paying taxes. Many non-profits exist throughout the city, strongly encourage all members to support this tonight. Councilor Lopez stated difficult as a new councilor. Problematic that the food bank wouldn't give any. Spent resources to secure the grant/now need to maintain the grant. Support the food bank. Think there is an added benefit to the city. Doesn't affect only our city, should support neighboring cities. Not to benefit residents directly. Important to keep this money in the city, we are providing a service. Could not sleep at night knowing we didn't accept something that would make people eat. Councilor Pniak-Costello asked do we lose this money if we send this to finance. Lee Pouliot stated certainly will cause a delay. Need to be spent in the Fiscal year. Councilor Pniak-Costello stated no definite we could lose the money if we had a Finance Committee meeting quickly. Make sure the public understands this process. As a probation officer deal with people that are down and out. Residents brought up some valid points. School busses in Ward 5, tough one, we don't want to lose money, don't want to harm residents. Lot of thought. Thank residents. Councilor Tillotson stated don't see any reason to put in Finance. Vote up or down tonight. Food bank member sights, they are all over the city. Cover a lot of Chicopee. Longer delay, take longer to get the building up and going. Need a bigger space. Zoned properly. Went through Conservation Commission, non-profit raising money themselves tonight. Councilor Krampits stated got calls to deny this tonight, felt building is too big for the property, feel for the residents, and understand the reasoning. Have to look at it is what will this do, won't stop this/force them to make the building smaller. This won't stop the project. In reality they won't have meetings there, we would be passing up 1.6 million. Will support passage tonight. Councilor Labrie stated understand the residents' concerns, looking for tenants in an industrial park. Food bank will be built in this location. The city has written grants for non-profits. While he understands the neighbors' concerns would rather see the 1.6 million come to the City of Chicopee. Hope residents can work out amicably. Councilor Lopez stated did get a call from resident, not Chicopee money, only for the food bank. We have done this for other non-profits. If we do this for non-profits, we set a precedence.

Motion to pass passed through all stages by a roll call vote of 10 yes, 2 no, 1 abstained. Councilor Dobosz and Pniak-Costello voting no. Councilor Courchesne abstained.

MO-2 Mayors appropriation of One million six hundred twenty two thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$1,622,000.00) to the following named account: Planning Special Account for Food Bank Massworks Infrastructure Improvements from available funds in the Undesignated Fund Balance "Free Cash" Account.

--Motion made by Councilor McAuliffe to receive and pass. Councilor McAuliffe stated continuation of #1, spend money to get the Massworks grant. Thirty year infrastructure, backed up by leader Wagner. Motion passed through all stages by a roll call vote of 10 yes, 3 no. Councilors Dobosz, Courchesne, and Pniak-Costello voting no.

MO-3 Ordered that the City Council, acting in accordance with the City Charter, hereby votes to accept a permanent access easement over a property located at the corner of Carew and East Main Streets in Chicopee pursuant to Massworks Grant requirement and to authorize the Mayor to execute any formalities, including but not limited to negotiating, editing and executing the attached draft access easement agreement in order to acquire the easement rights enumerated in said agreement from the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Inc. for the purposes enumerated in said agreement.

--Motion made by Councilor Pniak-Costello to receive and pass. Councilor Pniak-Costello stated this is in regards to an easement on the project. Motion passed through all stages by a roll call vote of 12 yes, 1 no. Councilor Dobosz voting no.

MO-4 Ordered that the City Council accept the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) grant in the amount of One hundred thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$100,000.00) for the further progress with design and engineering of the Abbey Brook Revitalization Project in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53A.

--Motion made by Councilor Krampits to receive and pass. Councilor Krampits stated money for the demolition of the dams so we don't have the issues we've been having. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

MO-5 Mayors appropriation of One hundred thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$100,000.00) to the following named account: D.P.W. Parks Special Account for Bemis Pond Dams from available funds in the Undesignated Fund Balance "Free Cash" account and will reimbursed through the Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) Funding Agreement.

--Motion made by Councilor Roy to receive and pass. Councilor Roy stated city was awarded a grant. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

MO-6 Mayors appropriation of Fifty two thousand one hundred fifteen and 70/100 dollars (\$52,115.70) to the following named account: Human Resources Special Account for Indemnifications of Police & Fire from available funds in the Undesignated Fund Balance "Free Cash" Account.

--Motion made by Councilor Labrie to receive and pass. Councilor Labrie stated city is self-insured for workmen's comp, contractual obligation. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

MO-7 Mayors appropriation of Thirty four thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$34,000.00) to the following named account: Fire Special Account for Vehicle Purchases from available funds in the Stabilization Fund for Capital Budgeting.

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive and pass. Councilor Tillotson stated a vehicle the Fire Department is out of service, wishes to purchase to replace a 2006 vehicle. Wouldn't be able to get a sticker. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

MO-8 Ordered that the City Council accept the FY 2022 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant in the amount of Twenty five thousand two hundred ninety one and 24/100 (\$25,291.24) from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to the Chicopee Fire Department. Said grant is accepted in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53A.

--Motion made by Councilor Balakier to receive, pass and the grant accepted. Councilor Balakier stated Firefighter safety grant. To purchase hoses, will be reimbursed in full. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

MO-9 Mayors appropriation of Twenty five thousand two hundred ninety one and 24/100 dollars (\$25,291.24) to the following named account: Fire Special Account for Purchase of Equipment from available funds in the Undesignated Fund Balance "Free Cash" account and will be reimbursed through the FY 2022 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant.

--Motion made by Councilor Zygarowski to receive and pass. Councilor Zygarowski stated a grant to get equipment. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

MO-10 Mayors appropriation of Fourteen thousand four hundred eleven and 98/100 dollars (\$14,411.98) to the following named account: Planning Expense Account for Special Services from available funds in the Undesignated Fund Balance "Free Cash" account.

--Motion made by Councilor Courchesne to receive and pass. Councilor Courchesne stated for the open space plan. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

MO-11 To the City Council

You are hereby notified that I have this day appointed John Beaulieu 20 Willow Street, Chicopee, MA 01020 as a member of the Veterans Advisory Board until the first of February 2025. To which appointment I ask the confirmation of your honorable Council.

*New appointment

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive and appointed this evening. Councilor Tillotson stated he's everywhere. All know him. Motion passed.

MO-12 To the City Council

You are hereby notified that I have this day appointed Sarah Mailhott 6 Laskowski Lane, Chicopee, MA 01020 as a member of the Veterans Advisory Board until the first of February 2025. To which appointment I ask the confirmation of your honorable Council.

*New appointment

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive and appointed this evening. Councilor Tillotson stated qualified as well, very knowledgeable. Councilor Pniak-Costello stated appreciate all the members. Glad Sarah will be a woman's voice. Motion passed.

MO-13 To the City Council

You are hereby notified that I have this day appointed Louis Brault 104 Johnson Road #207, Chicopee, MA 01022 as a member of the Veterans Advisory Board until the first of February 2025. To which appointment I ask the confirmation of your honorable Council.

*New appointment

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive and appointed this evening. Councilor Tillotson stated been around a long time, knowledge and service will be a help. Motion passed.

MO-14 To the City Council

You are hereby notified that I have this day appointed Al Picard 46 Harvey Street, Chicopee, MA 01020 as a member of the Veterans Advisory Board until the first of February 2025. To which appointment I ask the confirmation of your honorable Council.

*New appointment

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive and appointed this evening. Councilor Tillotson stated a hound for punishment, good luck. Councilor Balakier stated Al is very community minded, will be an asset. Councilor Roy stated known for a number of years, thank for service. Councilor Dobosz stated thank for all you do for the community. Motion passed.

MO-15 To the City Council

You are hereby notified that I have this day appointed Christopher Dupont, 50 Fair Street, Chicopee, MA 01020 as a member of the Veterans Advisory Board until the first of February 2025. To which appointment I ask the confirmation of your honorable Council.

*New appointment

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive and appointed this evening. Councilor Tillotson stated in that company have to be good. Councilor Zygarowski stated thank all of you for your service. Motion passed.

MO-16 To the City Council

You are hereby notified that I have this day appointed Bruce Socha 8 Broadway Court, Chicopee, MA 01020 as a member of the Veterans Advisory Board until the first of February 2025. To which appointment I ask the confirmation of your honorable Council.

*New appointment

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive and appointed this evening. Councilor Tillotson stated very good company. Motion passed.

MO-17 To the City Council

You are hereby notified that I have this day appointed James Healey 139 Summit Avenue, Chicopee, MA 01020 as a member of the Veterans Advisory Board until the first of February 2025. To which appointment I ask the confirmation of your honorable Council.

*New appointment

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive and appointed this evening. Councilor Labrie stated thank everybody for volunteering their time, great group of people. Made for James Healy, he is at every Veteran's event. Councilor Tillotson stated congratulate Mr. Healy, short speeches, welcome back. Councilor Lopez stated thank all, especially Mr. Picard, have known him a long time. Thank you for giving your time. Motion passed.

MO-18 Ordered that the City Council accept the donations in the amount of Eight thousand four hundred four and 00/100 dollars (\$8,404.00) to the Chicopee Council on Aging. Said donations are for senior meals for the month January, 2022 and they are accepted in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53A.

--Motion made by Councilor Lopez to receive and pass with a second by Councilor Zygarowski. Councilor Lopez stated charging a fee for senior lunches. Councilor Pniak-Costello stated food is good. Motion passed through all stages by a roll call vote of 12 yes, 1 abstained. Councilor Laflamme abstained.

19 A favorable Ordinance Committee report: BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council that the Code of the City of Chicopee for the Year 1991, as amended, be and is hereby further amended as follows:

Article II Ambulance Service

Chapter 34-25 Fees

Delete and insert in place thereof

BLS:	\$1035
ALS1:	\$1679
ALS2:	\$2800
Mileage:	\$25 per mile

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive, 2nd and final reading, enrolled and ordained. Councilor Tillotson stated recommended by the Ambulance Commission, won't affect anyone who can't pay. Insurance covers first, trying to get what we're entitled to from the insurance companies. Councilor Roy stated point of information, things have changed a lot. Councilor Balakier stated hasn't been addressed in 8 years, get proper billing on the books. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

20 A favorable Ordinance Committee report: Chapter 7 Ordinance Revisions.

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive, 2nd and final reading, enrolled and ordained. Councilor Tillotson stated brings up to date on all jobs. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

21 A favorable Ordinance Committee report: BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council that the Code of the City of Chicopee for the Year 1991, as amended, be and is hereby further amended as follows:

Chapter 198 Motor Vehicles on City Property

Add to 198-1A Violations and penalties

(A) No person shall operate a recreational vehicle or off-highway/road on any City-owned or controlled public way, sidewalk, park, playground, recreation area, public school property or any other property owned or controlled by the City.

(B) No person operating or in control of a recreational or off-highway/road vehicle shall refuse to stop such vehicle after having been requested or signaled by a law enforcement officer, No person shall refuse to give their correct name, address or registration to the law enforcement officer.

(C) No person shall operate a recreational or off-highway/road vehicle recklessly or negligently so that the lives of the public might be endangered and/or such operation, cause serious bodily injury.

(D) No person shall operate a recreational or off-highway/road vehicle recklessly or negligently so as to cause property damage public/and or private property.

(E) No person shall operate a recreational or off-highway/road vehicle without stopping and making their name, address and vehicle information known after knowingly colliding with or otherwise causing bodily injury to another.

(F) No person shall operate a recreational or off-highway/road vehicle recklessly or negligently so that the lives or safety of the public may be endangered.

(G) No person shall operate a recreational or off-highway/road vehicle recklessly or negligently as to harasses or be a nuisance to the public.

(H) No person shall operate a recreational or off-highway/road vehicle without first having registered/insured such vehicle in accordance with MGL c.90B Section 22.

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive, 2nd and final reading, enrolled and ordained. Councilor Courchesne stated on behalf of Chief Gawron and the task force. Motion passed through all stages by a roll call vote of 12 yes, 1 out of chair. Councilor Labrie out of chair.

22 A favorable Ordinance Committee report: Be it Ordained by the City Council that the Code of the City of Chicopee for the year 1991, as amended, be and is hereby further amended as follows:

Add to Chapter 260-22

Chapter 260-22 (1)

No driver shall park or stand any recreational motor vehicle and/or recreational motor vehicle attachment having a gross vehicle weight of 26,001 pounds or more, exceeding 20 feet in length or designed or constructed for overnight occupancy for more than eight (8) hours on any day, on any part of any street, way, highway, road or parkway under the control of the City of Chicopee where parking or standing a vehicle is not otherwise prohibited, provided that this regulation shall not apply during actual service or delivery or in the case of an emergency. Motor vehicles, regardless of size, owned or operated by the City of Chicopee, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the United States of America are hereby exempt from these regulations. Each day in which a motor vehicle is in violation of this provision shall constitute a separate offense.

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive, 2nd and final reading, enrolled and ordained. Councilor Courchesne stated will help address a long standing issue. Happy finally worked the language out. Motion passed through all stages by a roll call vote of 11 yes, 2 out of chair, Councilors Brooks and Labrie out of chair.

23 A favorable Ordinance Committee report: A proposed ordinance adding to Chapter 260, Parking Regulations, Mount Vernon Road, South side-163 feet from Dale Street Intersection, Parking Prohibited Here to Corner.

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive, 2nd and final reading, enrolled and ordained. Councilor McAuliffe stated self-explanatory. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

- 24 An unfavorable Ordinance Committee report: A proposed ordinance adding to Chapter 260, Handicap Parking, 8 Beaudoin Court, Handicap Parking.

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive and the proposed ordinance denied. Councilor Balakier stated it was an unusual street to find. Private property, city doesn't place signs on private property. Motion to deny passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

- 25 A proposed ordinance adding to Chapter 260 Parking Regulations: Leclair Terrace, Westerly extension of street-North Side-Entire 57' feet of westerly extension, Parking Prohibited Here to Corner.

--Motion made by Councilor Balakier to receive, 1st reading and refer to the Ordinance Committee. Councilor Balakier stated problem with parking. Police, Engineering and Fire, met with the Engineer and he thinks this is the best course of action. Motion passed, referred.

- 26 An application for a NEW Special Permit under Section 275-9L of the Municipal Zoning Ordinance for the purpose of: Renewing the special permit granted on March 2, 2021, to exercise the regulations of the Mill Conversion and Commercial Center Overlay District. Location of Property: 10 Southwick Street. Name of Applicant: Valley Opportunity Council, 35 Mt. Carmel Avenue, Chicopee, MA 01013.

--Motion made by Councilor Balakier to receive and refer to the Zoning and Mill Conversion Overlay District Committees. Councilor Balakier stated renewal of permit. Motion passed, referred.

- 27 A petition for an Amendment of a Class 2 and Auto Repair License for Daniel's Truck Center to Daniel's Truck Center, Inc. Location of licenses: 18 Montcalm Street. Applicant: Daniel Laflamme, 18 Montcalm Street, Chicopee, MA 01020.

--Motion made by Councilor Brooks to receive and granted this evening. Councilor Brooks stated reclassification of corporate structure. Motion passed.

- 28 An application for a NEW Auto Detail license: Everything Window Tint, 450B New Ludlow Road, Chicopee, MA 01020.

--Motion made by Councilor Brooks to receive and refer to the License Committee. Councilor Brooks stated take up in committee. Motion passed, referred.

- 29 A petition from Eversource Gas of Massachusetts, hereby requests that it be granted a location and permission to install and maintain 2,400' of 2" IP plastic gas main on Jacob Street from James Street to Vadnais St, 1,830' of 2" IP plastic on Streiber Drive from Memorial Drive to 27 Streiber Drive with such laterals and service connections as it may now or subsequently find necessary. Said installation will be installed in accordance with the plans enclosed.

--Motion made by Councilor Dobosz to receive and refer to the Utilities Committee. Councilor Dobosz stated take up in committee. Motion passed, referred.

30

A petition from Eversource Gas (EGMA), hereby requests that it be granted a location and permission to install and maintain 295' of 2" IP plastic gas main on Marshall Avenue from Chicopee Street to 31 Marshall Avenue with such laterals and service connections as it may now or subsequently find necessary. Said installation will be installed in accordance with the plans enclosed.

--Motion made by Councilor Dobosz to receive and refer to the Utilities Committee. Councilor Dobosz stated deal with in committee. Motion passed, referred.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith W. Rattell', written in a cursive style.

Keith W. Rattell
City Clerk