

Minutes from the City Council Meeting on Tuesday June 7, 2022 at 7:01 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
Brooks, Shane D.	Ward 2 Councilor	Present
Lopez, Delmarina	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
Pniak-Costello, Mary Elizabeth	Ward 9 Councilor	Present

Public Input—Mary Gaynor, 145 Slate Road, Thank City Treasurer Marie Laflamme and Mr. Hosey for answering all questions. Both qualified. Any person who holds an elected office shouldn't hold a board position. Does the appointee bring a good viewpoint? Need more than just qualifications and who you know. Herve Gousy, 39 Hillman Street, code enforcement officer, Mayor vetoed a code enforcement officer. Health department is the only one who is enforcing, went to the Assessors office, Clerks, Collectors, DPW and Building departments, no info at all. Health department had some info that was four years old. If anyone has ever felt like a tennis ball being bounced around he was it. Willing to show pictures and proof. Al Kendall, 40 Meadow Street, Chair of COD, residents of the City of Chicopee, need members of all ages, invitation to continue culminating, a first full COD is within reach. The first meeting will be at the center sub-station on June 20th. Tremendous challenges, also tremendous opportunities. Anyone can be anything, please be kind. Kindness is a profound way to serve others. The past five years have asked over 100 people to be members of the commission. Taj Ondrick was one of the most humble people. Thanks to the Council and the Mayor. Opportunity to be kind and to heal. Dave Amo, 72 Fairway Drive, oppose the proposed truck stop at Burnett Road. Planning had a meeting, fifty plus residents of Ward 6 all opposed. It is your responsibility as a Council to represent the people of Chicopee. Not one resident or business in favor of this. Will come out in force to oppose another truck stop. Susan Laplante, 71 Angela Drive, lived there for 55 years, from a family of 5, also brought up a family in the area, always been a good neighborhood. Completely opposed to another truck stop. Traffic continues to get worse, already a congested area. Will back up traffic, no one wants to wait at a light 3 or 4 times. People who live there have to deal with this traffic. Kids on busses are often late, have a moratorium on this for traffic. WMDC, Mr. Czepiel refused to answer questions of the constituents. Please consider the residents. Jane Alexander 25 Thomas Street, trying to work with the city, residents on Thomas Street want help, afraid of repercussions. Illegal mechanic shop, drug dealings. Tying to raise kids there. Want a no parking or handicap parking sign. There has been no help. Have to change what is going on in that area. Need to all step in and stop what's going on at 28 Thomas Street. Children need to be feeling safe. Should be home resting, please do something about this. We don't need this here. Get all the cars out of there. Kevin Laplante, Post Road, new travel center being built on Burnett Road. Traffic is a major issue. The light at 1st Ave will be the only light. During peak hours the traffic can be backed up all the way to the state park, there will be a limited number of spots, not in the best interest of local residents. Using the terminology of travel center is wrong, will be a truck terminal. Marie Laflamme, 189 Bridle Path Road, board member up for renewal on WMDC board, do feel qualified to serve on the board. Respectfully disagree, believe that people should volunteer more. Continue to help the city.

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to take item #15 out of order. Motion passed.

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- 15 Be it Ordered that the S.A.L.T. Council present the annual poster contest winners at tonight's meeting.
- Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to turn over to Lt. Kalbaugh. Motion passed. Lt. Kalbaugh presented the certificates with officer Ortiz.
- C-1 Communication from Jeff Nadeau, Owners Representative, UH Storage (DE) Limited to request an additional 120 day extension on the special permit application at 499 Montgomery Street.
- Motion made by Councilor McAuliffe to refer to item #13 on the agenda. Motion passed.
- Motion made by Councilor McAuliffe to approve the minutes of 4/19/22, 5/3/22, & 5/17/22. Motion passed.
- Motion made by Councilor Dobosz to take items #25 & #26 out of order. Motion passed.
- 25 An application for a NEW Gas Storage license at: 357 Burnett Road, Chicopee, MA 01020. Applicant: Chicopee Inn, Inc., 851 East Columbus Ave., Springfield, MA 01105.
- Motion made by Councilor Brooks to receive and refer to the License Committee and other departments as required. Councilor Dobosz stated Planning had a meeting regarding this, over 50 constituents came, strongly opposed to this. Concerns that the trucks would stop Burnett Road twice. No overnight at this, would increase Burnett Road traffic 10-20%. No police or fire present. Want to do an above ground tank. We don't want this. Do believe this property should be developed. Need smart business. Won't tolerate a truck stop. Pride already has enough issues. This is terrible for the neighborhood. Disaster waiting to happen. Motion passed, referred.
- 26 An application for a NEW Service Station License at: 357 Burnett Road, Chicopee, MA 01020. Applicant: Pilot Travel Centers, 357 Burnett Road, Chicopee, MA 01020
- Motion made by Councilor Brooks to receive and refer to the License Committee and all other applicable departments. Councilor Dobosz stated same comments. Same project, don't feel this fits in with the neighborhood. Trucks will stop traffic twice. Take into consideration. There should be at least two weeks so people are able to come to the meeting. Motion passed, referred.
- Motion made by Councilor McAuliffe to take #8 & #9 out of order. Motion passed.
- 8 A favorable Human Resource Committee report: Mayoral appointment of Marie Laflamme as a member of the Westover Metropolitan Development Corporation to serve in such office for the term of 3 years expiring on the first of February 2025.
- Motion made by Councilor Tillotson that the re-appointment of Marie Laflamme to WMDC be approved. Councilor Tillotson stated was articulate in committee. Spoke again tonight, the committee felt she should be re-appointed. Deserves an opportunity to serve again. Councilor McAuliffe stated in favor to vote tonight, view members as highly qualified. Helps residents, volunteers on everything. Gives back to the community constantly. Find her to be thoughtful, will be voting favorably. Councilor Dobosz stated want to thank Marie Laflamme for answering questions. Don't believe elected officials should serve on boards. Don't agree with the goals of WMDC. Can't get minutes. Nothing has been shared. WMDC board members, Council Members, should take what has happened to residents more seriously. Not going to vote for incumbents. Councilor Balakier stated in favor of voting for Marie. There is no greater teacher than experience. Extremely well rounded, will do the best for the city. Councilor Lopez stated this not

about Marie Laflamme, don't think this is a question of personality. Don't think elected officials should sit on boards. Councilor Pniak-Costello stated was on sub-committee. Marie is an outstanding citizen, donated so many hours, when a person is elected is very difficult to have two masters. Had been on the Planning Board and Council on Aging but resigned from both when elected. Lot easier to do one job that you are elected for. Councilor Labrie stated think Marie has been an outstanding asset to the city. Was there long before she was elected Treasurer. Feels she is doing the position justice, will vote for her tonight. Motion passed by a roll call vote of 8 yes, 3 no, 2 abstained. Councilors Lopez, Dobosz, and Pniak-Costello voting no. Councilors Laflamme and Courchesne abstained.

- 9 A favorable Human Resource Committee report: Mayoral appointment of Jim Hosey as a member of the Westover Metropolitan Development Corporation to serve in such office for the term of 3 years expiring on the first of February 2025.
- Motion made by Councilor Tillotson that the reappointment be approved this evening. Councilor Tillotson stated eminently qualified, can't imagine not giving him an opportunity to serve. Hoping he will be a peacemaker, well educated. Lucky to have him. Councilor McAuliffe stated what a tremendously qualified individual. Turned into multi-million-dollar corporation. Hope he uses his military background and offers an outside prospective. Councilor Pniak-Costello stated on a personal basis, he is a class act. Has experience and background for this position. Best of both worlds with this individual. Thank you for stepping up. Councilor Dobosz wants to speak in favor. Appreciate him answering questions, no one more qualified to work there. Will do his best to improve communications. Motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.
- MO-1 Mayors appropriation of Eighteen thousand three hundred eight nine and 65/100 dollars (\$18,389.65) to the following named account: Human Resources Special Account for Indemnification of Police & Fire from available funds in the Undesignated Fund Balance "Free Cash" Account.
- Motion made by Councilor Brooks to receive and pass. Councilor Brooks stated self-funded. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.
- MO-2 Mayors appropriation of Seven thousand one hundred twenty-five and 00/100 dollars (\$7,125.00) to the following named account: Fire Special Account for Lock Box Program from available funds in the Undesignated Fund Balance "Free Cash" Account.
- Motion made by Councilor Lopez to receive and pass. Councilor Lopez stated money for lock boxes, program since 2019. Will reduce forced entry into a person who is incapacitated home. Cost to the resident is \$15.00. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.
- MO-3 Ordered that the City Council accept the Bulletproof Vest Reimbursement Grant in the amount of One thousand eight hundred and 00/100 dollars (\$1,800.00) from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security Office of Grants and Research to the Chicopee Police Department. Said Grant is accepted in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53A.
- Motion made by Councilor Courchesne to receive and pass. Councilor Courchesne stated this is a 50% reimbursement grant. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.
- MO-4 Ordered that the City Council accept the donation of a Ballistic K9 Vest with an estimated value of One thousand five hundred fifty and 00/100 dollars (\$1,550.00) from Brady's K9 Fund to the Chicopee Police Department. Said Vest will be used for Police K9 Kane and it is accepted in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53A 1/2.

--Motion made by Councilor Zygarowski to receive and pass. Councilor Zygarowski stated he considers it an honor to talk about this as the first K-9 officer from the City of Chicopee. Value of the vest, money well spent. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

MO-5 Mayors appropriation of Sixty eight thousand and 96/100 dollars (\$68,000.96) to the following named account: Reserve for School Special Custodians from available funds in the Undesignated Fund Balance "Free Cash" Account.

--Motion made by Councilor Balakier to receive and pass. Councilor Balakier stated transfer of Sprint funds for maintenance summer program for students. Hire kids for the summer maintenance work. Still need help. Councilor Pniak-Costello stated tremendous program for the schools during the summer. Saw the wonderful work the students do. Motion passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

MO-6 To the City Council

You are hereby notified that I have this day appointed Amy L. Partelow, 7 Dunn Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts 01020 as a member of the Commission on Disability to serve as a member for the term of 3 years expiring on the first of June 2025. To which appointment I ask the confirmation of your honorable Council.

*New Appointment

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive and refer to the Human Resource Committee. Councilor Tillotson stated since it is a new appointment it will be referred to committee. Motion passed, referred.

MO-7 To the City Council

You are hereby notified that I have this day appointed Jan F. Wegrzynek, 38 Sergeant Ave., Chicopee, Massachusetts 01020 as a member of the Ambulance Commission to serve until the first of January 2025. To which appointment I ask the confirmation of your honorable Council.

*New Appointment

--Motion made by Councilor Labrie to receive and refer to the Human Resource Committee. Councilor Labrie stated everyone knows him, he's been a police officer for years. New appointments get referred. Motion passed, referred.

10 A favorable Human Resources Committee report: Mayoral appointment of Doreen E. Naumchick as a member of the Council on Aging to serve in such until the first of April 2025.

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive and the appointment confirmed. Councilor Tillotson stated seemed very excited about the roll, think she will be helpful. Motion passed.

11 A favorable Human Resources Committee report: Mayoral appointment of Kurt Pressey as a member of the Mobile Home Rent Control Board to serve until the first of May 2024.

--Motion made by Councilor Tillotson to receive and the appointment confirmed. Councilor Tillotson stated gentleman has a lot of spark. Asked him if he knows what he's getting into? Usually well attended meetings, think he's got the personality to make it. Motion passed.

- 12 A favorable Zoning Committee report: Special Permit application under 275-9L3 for the purpose of renewal of expired Special Permit for dimensional relief for building lot located at 652 Chicopee Street. Applicant: Andre Marcoux, 67 Catherine Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.
- Motion made by Councilor Balakier to receive and the Special Permit granted with conditions. Motion made by Councilor Balakier to approve waiver #1. Motion made by Councilor Balakier to approve waiver #2. Councilor Balakier stated renewing expired Special Permit, there will be two motions for waivers. Motion to grant the Special Permit passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote. Motion to approve waiver #1 passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote. Motion to pass waiver #2 passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.
- 13 A favorable Zoning Committee report: Special Permit application under 275-59 (c) (11) for the purpose of adding 3 new drive up self-storage buildings, (2) 20'x50' and (2) 10'x100' to the existing 7 outside storage units located at 499 Montgomery St. Applicant: UH Storage (DE) Limited, Jeff Nadeau, PO Box 29046, Phoenix, AZ 85038.
- Motion made by Councilor Balakier to continue and the extension be granted to 6/28/22 Zoning meeting. Councilor Balakier read the request into the record. Councilor Lopez stated why didn't the applicant communicate with Planning? The applicant was given plenty of time. Disrespectful to not communicate with Planning, do not support this evening. Councilor Courchesne stated asked for a reason why this keeps happening. Councilor Pniak-Costello voted no in sub-committee. Too many chances, too many times this applicant has been discussed in Zoning. There must be an issue. Needs to be in better communication. Councilor Labrie stated he must be missing something. Been in business for 30 years, put in buildings that will generate tax revenue. Will make a SPRAC plan. Agree to the June date, gave notice the next day. In ward have very little problems, no neighbor complaints. Not sure why we can't get together with him, will vote to extend. Councilor Balakier stated was in communication with Lee this afternoon, Lee feels comfortable that they will have an agreement by the next meeting. Councilor Zygarowski stated will vote yes, Ward Alderman said they've been in business for over 30 years. Cleaned up two parcels, willing to vote yes. Good businessman. Councilor Tillotson stated agree with Councilor Labrie, he's been good. Give him one more shot, could be some personal issue. Give him another month, we need business. Burden on the taxpayer will get greater and greater. Councilor Laflamme stated it would have been nice if we had received communication. Wished he would have told us they were in communication. Motion to continue passed by a roll call vote of 9 yes, 4 no. Councilors Lopez, Dobosz, Courchesne and Pniak-Costello voting no.
- 14 A favorable Zoning Committee report: Special Permit application under 275-50 (C) (1) & 50 (C) (2) (a) for the purpose of refacing the existing pole sign with an EMC -- Electric Message Center and relief of 25' setback located at 1599 Memorial Drive. Applicant: Sign Techniques, Inc., Tracy Janik, PO Box 237, Chicopee, MA 01021.
- Motion made by Councilor Balakier to receive and the Special Permit approved with conditions. Motion made by Councilor Balakier to approve waiver #1. Councilor Balakier stated they are refacing an existing sign. Electric message center. Councilor Lopez stated voted unfavorably at committee. Asked for specifications that were not met, asked for dimmers at set time, due to resident concerns, will vote unfavorably. Councilor Pniak-Costello stated when voted no, wanted to further research this. Went to Attorney Garvey and Lee Pouliot, will change vote and encourage colleagues to do the same. Yes vote makes sense. Tremendous amount of time given to this discussion. Concerns of resident were met. In the best interest of the neighborhood to change. Councilor Courchesne stated new light will be same as the old light, will probably be less of a problem. Constituent has complaints about parking lot lights. Councilor Lopez stated this is in Councilor Pniak-Costello's ward, if she feels comfortable with it will support this. No

problem changing vote. Councilor Zygarowski stated will vote yes on this. After 19 years on the council, had to get clearance from the ethics commission to vote on this. Lights are for safety, 9 lights in the parking lot don't affect the neighbors. Sign is so far away from the building. The amount of taxes these people pay, was ridiculous to put the K of C through this. Lights are for safety, sign will be ok. Councilor Dobosz stated will support, same size, listen to the residents, thank Councilors Lopez and Pniak-Costello for listening to the residents. No conflict, agree with everything that's been said. Councilor Laflamme stated thank the gentlemen from the K of C working with a company to have the parking lot lights changed. Motion to approve the Special Permit passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote. Motion to approve waiver #1 passed through all stages by a unanimous roll call vote.

16 Be it Ordered that the DPW install a "Go Slow Children" sign in front of 15-17 Sitnik Avenue.

--Motion made by Councilor Balakier to receive and sent to DPW for implementation. Councilor Balakier stated constituent concerns, want traffic slowed. Motion passed.

17 Be it Ordered that the Ordinance Committee meet to discuss issues on Nye Street.

--Motion made by Councilor Pniak-Costello to refer to the Law Department and the Building Department. Councilor Pniak-Costello stated an apartment complex was put up near a persons home. If on the playground equipment you can see into a persons house. Councilor Zygarowski stated glad made the change, when Law and Building can come up with an ordinance. Not in ordinance form. Motion passed.

18 Be it Ordered that a No Dumping sign be installed on Holyoke Avenue on the west side near Third Avenue.

--Motion made by Councilor Pniak-Costello to refer to the City Engineer. Councilor Pniak-Costello stated follow up with the City Engineer. Motion passed.

19 Be it Ordered that the Water Resource Committee meet to discuss the water tower in Fairview.

--Motion made by Councilor Pniak-Costello to refer to the Water Resource Committee. Councilor Pniak-Costello stated to get an update about maintenance. Councilor Lafflamme stated will be washing the tower. Motion passed, referred.

20 Be it Ordered that the Utilities Committee meet with Chicopee Electric Light to receive and discuss yearly updates.

--Motion made by Councilor Dobosz to receive and refer to the Utilities Committee and bring the tax report. Councilor Dobosz stated did this the last two years, went well but with the CEL director retiring, there is a lot of change in a short time. There are two options for Crossroad Fiber. Question if fees are going up. Meeting will be July 11th at 6:30, Councilors can ask questions. Councilor Tillotson stated hope to get a report in lieu of taxes. Donation every year, hope they are prepared to answer that question. Motion passed, referred.

21 Be it Ordered that the Planning Department come up with possible non-zoning related policy, planning, and design/engineering interventions to address the root of traffic concerns within the Burnett Road neighborhood.

--Motion made by Councilor Dobosz to receive and refer to the Planning Department for information. Councilor Dobosz stated Lee Pouliot wrote a two page letter opposing the Burnett Road moratorium.

Temporary moratorium was filed with overwhelming backup from neighbors. Think its retaliation. Words in the order are taken from the letter from Lee Pouliot. Motion passed, referred.

22 Be it Ordered that Jean Fitzgerald be recognized and given an official citation from the City Council for her work regarding the National Night Out and other community work she has been involved in.

--Motion made by Councilor Pniak-Costello to refer to the Rules Committee for a public hearing. Councilor Pniak-Costello stated making sure following the rules. Been an activist for decades. See if we can do a public recognition. Give credit where credit is due. Councilor Courchesne stated in the past this would have been directed through the Mayor's office. Should be done through the Mayor's office. Councilor Dobosz stated agreed to co-sponsor. Ran the National Night Out by herself for 20 years. There were strong opinions, she is an activist, be involved. No one can take away hours of activity. Won't oppose sending to rules, be kind, agree with that. Councilor Courchesne stated would have signed on the order to. Attacking you keeps you honest. Councilor Laflamme stated worked with Jean on the National Night Out in 2015, she was given a plaque and was on the news. Appreciated the many years she gave to the organization. Motion passed, referred. Councilor Brooks opposed.

23

PRIDE Month in the City of Chicopee

CITY OF CHICOPEE IN THE CITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Queer/Questioning plus (LGBTQ+) and ally communities of Chicopee are an integral part of the vibrant culture and climate of Chicopee; and

WHEREAS, the diverse LGBTQ+ community and allies continue to contribute to the widespread academic, economic, artistic and social spheres within and around our greater community; and

WHEREAS, the month of June is designated as Pride Month to commemorate the Stonewall Riots which occurred in June of 1969 and are generally recognized as the catalyst of the LGBTQ+ rights movement; and

WHEREAS, Chicopee's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning plus communities make an indelible impact upon the quality of life in Chicopee, and Pride Month serves as a call to our collective consciousness to persist in the fight to eradicate prejudice and discrimination everywhere:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council in the City of Chicopee does hereby recognize and salute PRIDE in the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Transgender, Queer/Questioning community in Chicopee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council does hereby proclaim June 2022, as "Pride Month" in the City of Chicopee.

--Motion made by Councilor McAuliffe to read into the record and approved. Amend to read LGBTQ+ & allies. Councilor McAuliffe read the proclamation into the record. Appreciate the assistance, in an effort to keep this correct. Important month. There is prejudice and discrimination. We should recognize all people. Friday there is a flag raising and Saturday a pride parade. Motion passed.

24 A proposed ordinance adding to Chapter 260, Isolated Stop Signs and Signal Lights: Windsor Street, going south at the intersection of Bay State Road, Isolated Stop Sign.

--Motion made by Councilor Labrie to receive, 1st reading and refer to the Ordinance Committee. Councilor Labrie stated constituent request, little stretch, put up a fence that is blocking sight. Motion passed, referred.

27 2022 Junk Dealer's License Renewals

Moving/Odd Jobs Unlimited Glenn X. Joslyn 874 Front Street

--Motion made by Councilor Brooks to receive and approved. Councilor Brooks stated renewal. Motion passed.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith W. Rattell".

Keith W. Rattell
City Clerk