



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the City Clerk

Meeting of the North Adams City Council
Tuesday, February 08, 2022
7:30 PM

MINUTES

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30 p.m. in Council chambers.

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Councilors Barbeau, Blackmer, Bona, Harpin, Obasohan, Oleskiewicz, Sapienza, Shade, and Wilkinson; a quorum was present.

A moment of silence was observed for Diane O'Brien, a 32-year aide in the public school system, and Michelle Kirby, who served for several years as president of the PTG groups at Johnson and Conte Schools. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the President called for approval of the minutes for the January 25, 2021 meeting. On the motion of Councilor Oleskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Sapienza, the minutes were approved.

The President called for the hearing of visitors.

Robert Smith, 163 North Street, spoke regarding paper #12,053. He noted that driving in the area of Hodges Cross Road has included high rates of speed and poor driving practices. He encouraged the Council to seek ways to reduce the speed, and then, hopefully, the number of accidents.

11,790-3 An ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Section 2-27 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Schedule A; Chapter 2, Section 2-28, Schedule B of the DPW and DPW Supervisor; and Part V, Schedule B of the Police Scale.

On the motion of Councilor Sapienza, seconded by Councilor Oleskiewicz, it was VOTED to adopt the amendment by unanimous yea vote.

11,826 An ordinance amending the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams regarding the various fees established in the City Code.

On the motion of Councilor Bona, seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was unanimously VOTED to postpone to the meeting of April 26, 2022. Discussion ensued; Public Safety and Public Services are still reviewing. It will then go to the Finance Committee

12,053 Communication submitted by Councilor Oleskiewicz requesting a review of the traffic issues in the area of the intersection of Hodges Crossroad.

The President filed the communication without objection. After discussion by Councilor Oleskiewicz, on the motion of Councilor Harpin, seconded by Councilor Shade, it was unanimously VOTED to send the paper to the Traffic Commission with a return to Council at the meeting of April 12, 2022.

12,054 Communication submitted by President Blackmer requesting time to provide an update on the City Clerk hiring process.

The President filed the communication without objection. She explained the timeline of the hiring process for both the Clerk and Assistant Clerk positions. Marcus Lyon will be put forth for approval as Clerk at a special meeting on February 16, 2022. Interviews for the Assistant position will be held on February 9, 2022, with a candidate to be brought to Council on February 22, 2022.

12,055 Mayor's Communication #8 recommending the reappointment of Dean Bullett to the North Adams Airport Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2024.

On the motion of Councilor Sapienza, seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,056 Mayor's Communication #9 recommending the reappointment of Marc Morandi to the North Adams Airport Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2025.

On the motion of Councilor Sapienza, seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,057 Mayor's Communication #10 recommending the reappointment of October Cellana to the Board of Health for a term to expire January 1, 2025.

On the motion of Councilor Wilkinson, seconded by Councilor Shade, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,058 Mayor's Communication #11 recommending the appointment of Elena Sprague to the Commission on Disabilities for a term to expire December 1, 2024.

On the motion of Councilor Harpin, seconded by Councilor Sapienza, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,059 Mayor's Communication #12 recommending the reappointment of Nancy Canales to the Council on Aging for a term to expire January 1, 2025.

On the motion of Councilor Sapienza, seconded by Councilor Oleskiewicz, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,060 Mayor's Communication #13 recommending the reappointment of Margaret Christiansen to the Council on Aging for a term to expire January 1, 2025.

On the motion of Councilor Obasohan, seconded by Councilor Wilkinson, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,061 Mayor's Communication #14 recommending the reappointment of Joanne Hurlbut to the Historical Commission for a term to expire January 1, 2025.

On the motion of Councilor Sapienza, seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,062 Mayor's Communication #15 recommending the reappointment of Christopher Wondolowski to the Historical Commission for a term to expire January 1, 2025.

On the motion of Councilor Wilkinson, seconded by Councilor Obasohan, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,063 Mayor's Communication #16 recommending the reappointment of Jennifer Boland to the Human Services Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2025.

On the motion of Councilor Shade, seconded by Councilor Obasohan, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,064 Mayor's Communication #17 recommending the appointment of Rebecca Choquette to the Human Services Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2025.

On the motion of Councilor Harpin, seconded by Councilor Sapienza, it was VOTED to approve the appointment; 8 yea votes; 1 abstention by Councilor Bona.

12,065 Mayor's Communication #18 recommending the reappointment of Annie Rodgers to the Human Services Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2025.

On the motion of Councilor Shade, seconded by Councilor Barbeau, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,066 Mayor's Communication #19 recommending the reappointment of Jane LaMarre to the Mass MoCA Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2025.

On the motion of Councilor Harpin, seconded by Councilor Sapienza, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,067 Mayor's Communication #20 recommending the reappointment of Amy Meehan to the Mass MoCA Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2025.

On the motion of Councilor Wilkinson, seconded by Councilor Sapienza, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,068 Mayor's Communication #21 recommending the reappointment of Gina Puc to the Mass MoCA Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2025.

On the motion of Councilor Wilkinson, seconded by Councilor Obasohan, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,069 Mayor's Communication #22 recommending the reappointment of Kayla Hollins to the Planning Board for a term to expire February 1, 2025.

On the motion of Councilor Harpin, seconded by Councilor Shade, it was VOTED to amend the appointment to expire on February 1, 2027. The Council unanimously VOTED to approve the amended appointment.

12,070 Mayor's Communication #23 recommending the reappointment of Paul Markland to the Traffic Commission for a term to expire January 10, 2025.

On the motion of Councilor Wilkinson, seconded by Councilor Sapienza, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,071 Mayor's Communication #24 recommending the reappointment of Ian Wilson to the Traffic Commission for a term to expire January 10, 2025.

On the motion of Councilor Oleskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Barbeau, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,072 Mayor's Communication #25 recommending the appointment of Glenn Murray to the Conservation Commission for a term to expire August 1, 2024.

On the motion of Councilor Harpin, seconded by Councilor Oleskiewicz, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,073 Mayor's Communication #26 recommending the appointment of Barbara Murray to the Hoosac Water Quality District to fill the unexpired term of Michael Nuvallie, to expire April 8, 2023.

On the motion of Councilor Wilkinson, seconded by Councilor Barbeau, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,074 Mayor's Communication #27 recommending the appointment of Gail Grandchamp to the Idea, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Commission for a term to expire February 8, 2025.

On the motion of Councilor Harpin, seconded by Councilor Wilkinson, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,075 Mayor's Communication #28 recommending the appointment of Joseph Santelli to the Idea, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Commission for a term to expire February 8, 2025.

On the motion of Councilor Wilkinson, seconded by Councilor Sapienza, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,076 Mayor's Communication #29 recommending the appointment of Amanda Hartlage to the Idea, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Commission for a term to expire February 8, 2024.

On the motion of Councilor Harpin, seconded by Councilor Wilkinson, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,077 Mayor's Communication #30 recommending the appointment of Lynn DeSanty to the Idea, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Commission for a term to expire February 8, 2024.

On the motion of Councilor Harpin, seconded by Councilor Barbeau, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,078 Mayor's Communication #31 recommending the appointment of Stephanie Mirante to the Idea, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Commission for a term to expire February 8, 2024.

On the motion of Councilor Oleskiewicz, seconded by Councilor Shade, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,079 Mayor's Communication #32 recommending the appointment of Jennifer Choquette to the Idea, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Commission for a term to expire February 8, 2023.

On the motion of Councilor Harpin, seconded by Councilor Oleskiewicz, it was VOTED to approve the appointment; 8 yea votes; 1 abstention, Councilor Bona.

12,080 Mayor's Communication #33 recommending the appointment of Rachel Hailey to the Idea, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Commission for a term to expire February 8, 2023.

On the motion of Councilor Shade, seconded by Councilor Oleskiewicz, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

12,081 Mayor's Communication #34 recommending the appointment of Michael Goodson to the Idea, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Commission for a term to expire February 8, 2023.

On the motion of Councilor Obasohan, seconded by Councilor Oleskiewica, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the appointment.

The President called for Open Forum.

Kate Barbeau, 1360 Church Street, noted that a snow day occurred on the cut off date for the acceptance of resumes for a posted City position. She asked if consideration might be given in the future to extending cut off dates. The President acknowledged her request, and noted that the Screening Committee checked for resumes over the following days, but as they were due through an online process, the snow day did not impact accepted responses.

The President called for Mayor's Concerns.

The Mayor thanked all the members of the disbanded IDEA Working Group (in response to the formation of the Council IDEA Committee via Ordinance) for their time and efforts in establishing an important resource.

The Mayor congratulated Jessica Lincourt on her appointment to the position of Assessor, having worked as the Assistant Assessor since 2019. She also welcomed new Code Enforcement Officer Marc Bryant, and noted that the City is still seeking to fill the assistant IT position.

The Mayor stated that the fire department will be doing ice rescue training at Windsor Lake. She stated that in separate news, the City has received \$190K in grant monies from the Department of Energy that will be parsed out in several areas.

The Mayor stated that Winterfest will be held Saturday, February 19, 2022.

The President called for Committee Reports and Minutes.

Councilor Wilkinson reported that the General Government Committee needs one more meeting to finish discussing the Council Rules.

Councilor Shade stated that she will be reaching out to the newly appointed members of the IDEA Committee to schedule the first meeting.

The President called for Liaison Updates and Councilor Concerns.

Councilor Shade stated that Berkshire Live Out Loud will be held at Berkshire Community College on April 2, 2022, intended to educate residents around issues of the LGBTQ community.

Councilor Sapienza stated that several walks have not been maintained, and are snow and ice covered, causing issues for pedestrians around the City. He urged residents to clear walks to the best that they are able.

President Blackmer stated that the United Way would be holding a chicken dinner on March 7, 2022, and that it is take-out only in light of the pandemic.

Seeing no correspondence, on the motion of Councilor Wilkinson, seconded by Councilor Shade, it was VOTED to adjourn at 8:20 pm.

A True Record

Attest,

\Cathleen M. King
City Clerk