

CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the City Clerk

**Meeting of the North Adams City Council
October 22, 2024
7:00 PM**

I hereby notify that at twelve noon today, October 16, 2024, the following items of business have been filed with this office and will be acted upon at the Regular Meeting of the City Council in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, Tuesday evening **October 22, 2024 at seven o'clock** according to Section 8, Rules and Orders of the City Council.

This meeting can be viewed live on the Northern Berkshire Community Television station, channel 1303, and will be posted to their website as soon as possible. We will also be live streaming on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@NorthAdams> , just click on the "Live", then on the "2024.10.22 City Council Meeting".

Tina Leonesio, City Clerk

AGENDA

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
October 22, 2024**

Roll Call

Moment of Silent Remembrance Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes – September 24, 2024 City Council Minutes
October 9, 2024 City Council Minutes

Hearing of Visitors on Agenda – This is an opportunity for the public to speak to the Council for two minutes regarding items listed on the agenda.

Old Business

12,393-2 An Ordinance to Amend the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams under Chapter 13, Sections 26, 49 & 50., postponed from the meeting of September 24, 2024.

New Business

12,433 Communication #71, from Mayor Macksey, requesting a Public Tax Classification Hearing considering percentages of local tax levy to be allocated to each class of real estate and personal property for Fiscal Year 2025.

12,434 A Resolution, from Councilor Andrew Fitch and President Bryan Sapienza in Support of the Northern Tier Passenger Rail Service connecting North Adams to Boston.

Licenses

Taxi - Cab

None

Open Forum – This is the opportunity for the public to speak to the Council for two minutes on issues of Municipal Significance.

Mayor’s Updates

Committee Reports and Minutes

Liaison Updates/ Councilor’s Concerns

Correspondence

Announcement of State General Election Dates & Times to Remember

Adjournment



City of North Adams

In City Council

Date: August 13, 2024

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of North Adams as follows:

That Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, entitled Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Section 13-26.1 entitled School zones, Section 13-49 entitled Prohibited Parking on Certain Streets, Section 13-50 entitled Parking Time Limited on Certain Streets, and Section 13-50.1 entitled Other Restricted Parking Times, be and hereby amended:

Under Section 13-26.1 entitled School Zones:

After paragraph beginning;

“East Main Street”

Delete paragraph;

“Kemp Avenue 500 feet northerly and 500 feet southerly from the Sullivan School Driveway, 20 miles per hour, school days only, between the hours of 7am and 4pm.”

And Insert paragraph:

“Hodges Cross Road, 500 feet easterly and 500 feet westerly from the main driveway of McCann School, 20 miles per hour, school days only between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4 p.m.”

Under Section 13-49 entitled Prohibited Parking on Certain Streets:

Delete the following;

“Bank Street easterly side”

Under Section 13-50 entitled Parking Time Limited on Certain Streets, paragraph (f) entitled Fifteen-minute parking:

Delete the following;



City of North Adams

In City Council

“Center Street, southerly side, from a point 172 feet from the easterly line of Marshall Street and extending 106 feet in an easterly direction. Said area shall be for registry business only and shall be in effect Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. only.”

Furthermore, *Delete*;

“Houghton Street, easterly side from Liberty Street to Brooklyn Street.”

Under Section 13-50.1 entitled Other Restricted Parking Times:

Delete the following;

“Williams Street, westerly side from a point beginning 160 feet northerly from the north curb line of School Street and extending 80 feet during the hours from 7:00 a.m. To 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday through June 30, 1994”

And Furthermore, *Insert new Section* after end of section for Blackinton Street, the following;

“East Main Street, no parking, from the western side of the driveway of 238 East Main Street, extending 60 feet westerly, during the hours of 8AM and 5PM, Monday through Friday.”



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor
Jennifer A. Macksey

Communication #	Subject	Date
71	Tax Classification Public Hearing	October 22, 2024

Honorable Members of the City Council
North Adams, Massachusetts

Dear Honorable Councilors:

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59, §2A (b), I request that the North Adams City Council conduct a public tax classification hearing on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

The purpose of the hearing will be to consider the percentages of the local tax levy to be allocated to each class of real estate and personal property within the City of North Adams for Fiscal Year 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer A. Macksey
Mayor



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Board of Assessors

October 15, 2024

To: Mayor Jennifer Macksey

From: Jessica Lincourt, Board of Assessors

Re: Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Classification Hearing

The State Commissioner of Revenue has determined that the locally assessed values of real and personal property in North Adams represent full and fair cash valuation as of January 1, 2024, for Fiscal Year 2025, and that these proposed property assessments satisfy the minimum requirements for certification.

The Commissioner further certifies that all real property has been classified according to its use as of January 1, 2024 as required by Chapter 59, § 2A (b).

The community must now hold a public hearing on the issue of selecting a residential factor, which will determine the percentages of the tax obligation allocated to each class of property for Fiscal Year 2025.

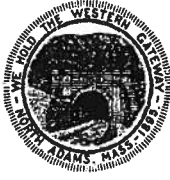
As in prior years, the members of the Board of Assessors request that you promote public understanding and discussion of the options available to the City with regard to allocating the tax obligation among major property classes. The City Council, with the approval of the mayor, may elect a factor greater than the minimum residential factor, or a factor of "1" which will result in a uniform allocation of the tax burden among all classes of property. In addition, they have options to grant an open space discount, residential exemption, and small commercial exemption.

Based on the above, I respectfully request that you submit a communication to the City Council at their Tuesday, October 22, 2024, meeting requesting that a tax classification hearing be held during the Tuesday, November 12, 2024, City Council meeting.

Sincerely,



Jessica Lincourt, Principal Assessor



City of North Adams

In City Council

In the City Council, October 22, 2024

Upon the Recommendation of:

- Council President Bryan Sapienza
- Councilor Andrew Fitch

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has conducted a two year study examining the benefits, costs, and investments necessary to implement passenger rail service from North Adams to Boston, with the speed, frequency, and reliability necessary to be a competitive option for travel along this corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Tier Passenger Rail Study aimed to:

- Engage the Working Group, study stakeholders, and the public;
- Assess historic, current, and forecasted future conditions;
- Develop and examine potential service alternatives that could connect communities along the corridor; and
- Identify potential recommendations and next steps.

WHEREAS, MassDOT has proposed six viable options that take into account the aforementioned qualifications;

WHEREAS, the Northern Tier Passenger Rail would build predominantly on existing locomotive infrastructure, reducing costs as compared to similar scale projects such as the West-East Passenger Rail;

WHEREAS, the Northern Tier Passenger Rail places the City of North Adams in a prime transitional gateway between the Pioneer Valley, New York and Boston, increasing traffic throughout a variety of sectors.

WHEREAS, the completion of the Northern Tier Passenger Rail contributes to the economic development and emboldenment of communities throughout the state, allowing for North Adams to revitalize its tourism sector, create new avenues of revenue production and economic opportunities for all residents.



City of North Adams

In City Council

WHEREAS, the sixty day public commenting period, put forth by MassDOT, has concluded as of October 12, 2024;

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the Northern Tier Passenger Rail remains in preliminary planning and staging phases;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Adams City Council and the Mayor of the City of North Adams is in full support of the collaboration between MassDOT, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and local communities to fully realize, complete, and reopen the Northern Tier Passenger Rail Service that would connect North Adams to Boston;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the completion of the Northern Tier Passenger Rail project aligns with our vision to strengthen the City of North Adams as an economic and cultural center as well as increase diversification of the workforce, access to medical resources and other cultural hubs throughout the state;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of North Adams City Council will periodically and openly update the public about any proceedings regarding the Northern Tier Passenger Rail, particularly any information that directly affects the City of North Adams and its residents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Adams City Clerk shall send a copy of this signed resolution to Mayor Jennifer Macksey, MassDOT, Governor Maura Healey, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, State Representative John Barrett III, State Senator Paul Mark, the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, 1Berkshire, the Berkshire Eagle, iBerkshires, and other local media outlets.

Approved this ____ day of October, 2024

The North Adams City Council by:

Bryan Sapienza, Council President

ATTEST

The City of North Adams by:

Jennifer A. Macksey, Mayor

ATTEST