



# **Office of the City Clerk City of North Adams**

**10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1**

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

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## **Organizational Meeting of Government 2019**

**January 8, 2019**

The meeting was called to Order by the City Clerk for the ensuing year 2019.  
On roll call the following responded: Councilor Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson.

A moment of silence was observed remembering Richard "Buster" Leveque, part time worker at the North Adams Police Department.

The Clerk called for nominations for the Office of the Council President for the year 2019.

Councilor LaForest nominated Councilor Bona, seconded by Councilor Harpin.

With no further nominations to come before the Council a motion to cease nominations was made by Councilor Buddington, seconded by Councilor Lamb.

The Clerk declared Councilor Bona as Council President for the year 2019.

The Clerk administered the oath of office to Councilor Bona.

President Bona takes the chair.

The President called for nominations for Vice President for the year 2019:

Councilor LaForest nominated Councilor Lamb, seconded by Councilor Hopkins.

With no further nominations, the President declared the nominations closed.

The Clerk administered the oath of office to Vice President Lamb.

The President presented the Rules of Order for 2019.

Without objection the President postponed the Rules of Order to the next meeting.

The President presented the Committee and Liaison assignments and noted there were just a few changes.

The President appointed Councilor LaForest and Councilor Cohen to draw Council seats for 2019.

Seat 1. Councilor Hopkins

Seat 3. Councilor Cohen

Seat 5. Councilor Buddington

Seat 7. Councilor Wilkinson

Seat 2. Councilor Moran

Seat 4. Councilor Lamb

Seat 6. Councilor LaForest

Seat 8. Councilor Harpin

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

**11,718-a** The President presented a report of the Community Development Committee regarding the need to access healthy food and gas stations in the West end of the City.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

**11,718** The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Cohen regarding the need to access healthy food and gas stations in the West end of the City.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins it was VOTED; to postpone to the meeting of March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**10,674-6** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter Z of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams Section 2.1 entitled Divisions, which was postponed at the meeting of November 27<sup>th</sup>.

On motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of February 12<sup>th</sup>.

**11,407-2** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article XXXIV entitled Public Arts Commission of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, which was postponed at the meeting of December 11<sup>th</sup>.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of February 12<sup>th</sup>.

**11,742** The President presented Mayor's communication #1 setting the bond level for the City Treasurer/Tax Collector at \$250,000.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

**11,742** The President presented an Order establishing the bond for the City Treasurer/Tax Collector for \$250,000.

On motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows: yea Councilor Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

- 11,743** The President presented Mayor's communication #2 setting the bond level for the Assistant City Treasurer/Tax Collector at \$62,500.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

- 11,743** The President presented an Order establishing the bond for the Assistant City Treasurer/Tax Collector for \$62,500.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows: yea Councilor Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

- 11,744** The President presented Mayor's communication #3 setting the bond level for the City Clerk at \$15,000.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

- 11,744** The President presented an Order establishing the bond for the City Clerk at \$15,000.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows: yea Councilor Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

- 11,745** The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Lamb regarding the unsafe speed habits in the downtown.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest it was VOTED: to refer to the Public Safety Committee.

Councilor Lamb suggested that Council accept MGL, Chapter 90, Section 17C and Section 18B which would allow the City to have more control over excess speed in the City. Councilor Lamb noted the acceptance of the law would allow the determining authority to set speed limits of 25 mph in thickly settled or business districts. The second would allow safety zones, 20 mph including State highways with the approval of the State.

All Councilors were in agreement that excess speed is an enforcement issue.

Councilor Lamb amended the original motion to include a return date of March 12<sup>th</sup>, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins.

**11,746** The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor LaForest regarding a crosswalk on Brickyard Court.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen it was VOTED: to refer to the Traffic Commission and postpone to the meeting of March 26<sup>th</sup>.

**11,747** The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor LaForest regarding the Federal Government shutdown and the effects it may have on the North Adams School lunch program.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen it was VOTED: to refer to the Finance Committee and postpone to the meeting of February 12<sup>th</sup>.

**11,748** The President presented a recommendation from the Clerk's Office regarding the Assistant City Clerk.

On motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen it was VOTED: to confirm the recommendation.

Cathy Verrier was recommended by Deborah Pedercini to be the new Assistant City Clerk upon her advancement.

Councilors Wilkinson and Buddington said there was no better choice.


There were no committee reports for this meeting. Councilor Harpin noted a community event was being held at the North Adams Library on February 11<sup>th</sup> for children 7 and up. It is a beginners sewing class.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, hearing none, the President noted the Mayor was not present so he moved to Councilors concerns.

The President called for any Councilor concerns, Councilor Cohen noted over her first term as a Councilor she was concerned about the lack of communication. Councilor LaForest thanked the first responders for the great response today with the fire on Houghton Street. Council President thanked Sergeant Burdick of the Police Department for his 37 years of service.

With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order. On motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED; to adjourn at 8:50pm.

A True Record  
Attest,

  
City Clerk



# Office of the City Clerk

## City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109

North Adams, Massachusetts 01247

(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Marilyn Gomeau

City Clerk

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## Regular Meeting of the City Council

January 22, 2019

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30 pm in City Council Chambers with the following present: Councilor Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson.

A moment of Silence was observed, remembering Lorraine Ronan member of the North Adams Council on Aging, Celia Mirante, longtime employee of the North Adams Public Library, and Diane Cary employed by the North Adams School Department, last working in the office at Drury High School.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

Without objection the President moved Council paper #11,750 and 11,751 forward.

**11,750** The President presented Mayor's communication #4 regarding the swearing in of permanent firefighters, Tyler H. Bolte and Casey C. Cooke.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

The President called upon the Clerk to swear in the firefighters. Both were pinned by their grandfathers.

**11,751** The President presented Mayor's communication #5 regarding the swearing in of Police Sergeant Preston Kelly and Patrol Officers Matthew Meranti and Kevin Stant.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

The President called upon the Clerk to swear in the Police Officers and Sergeant Kelly.

**11,749** The President presented the Council Rules of Order for 2019.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins it was VOTED; to accept the rules as presented.

Councilor Cohen was in not in favor with the new rules. She would rather keep the communication

open between the public and the Council. It is a little bit of a slippery slope.

Former Council President Lisa Blackmer said that if we are trying to engage our community and our democracy, then we should be hearing from people.

The President called for a roll call vote, yea Councilor Bona, Buddington, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay Councilor Cohen.

Without objection the President moved Council paper #11,755 forward.

**11,755** The President presented Mayor's communication #9 regarding the transitions in the City Clerk's Office.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

The Mayor presented the Clerk with a proclamation on behalf of the City. State Representative John Barrett III, former Mayor of the City presented two proclamations, one from the House of Representatives and the other from the State Senate.

Five of the former Council Presidents were in attendance, Alan Marden, Ronald Boucher, Lisa Blackmer, Councilor Lamb and Bona. Alan Marden said that the Clerk's mother was his secretary at the Chamber of Commerce and two decades later she took over the role of making sure the Council President did things right. Ronald Boucher recalled the many Monday afternoons going over the agenda for the meetings and also commented that occasionally the Clerk would have candy for him at the meeting. Councilor Boucher said "thank you", when I sat up next to you, you were my security blanket. Your work never went unnoticed. Lisa Blackmer noted that Marilyn basically covers what we are as a society and what we are as a community. Councilor Lamb said when he first came to Council and was elected as President he was not quite sure what to expect, but soon found that Marilyn was there to help me through the process. Council President Bona said that the Clerk is literally your right hand person. I get notes and whispers sometimes indicating what I need to do next, but I never have been given candy.

The Clerk thanked the past and present Councilors for their support over the years, as well as her staff.

**11,752** The President presented Mayor's communication #6 recommending the appointment of Anna Farrington to the North Adams Public Arts Commission for a term to expire May 1, 2021 to fill the unexpired term of Julia Dixon.

The Mayor requested to withdraw the paper.

**11,753** The President presented Mayor's communication #7 recommending the reappointment of Jeffrey Naughton to the North Adams Airport Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2022.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

- 11,754** The President presented Mayor's communication #8 recommending the reappointment of Marc Morandi to the North Adams Airport Commission for a term to expire January 1, 2022.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

- 11,657-1a** Communication submitted by Council President appointing Deborah M. Pedercini as City Clerk, for a term to expire January 28, 2022.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

The Clerk swore in the new City Clerk, Deborah Pedercini.

- 11,748-a** The President presented a communication submitted by Deborah Pedercini appointing Catherine Verrier as Assistant City Clerk.

On motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

The Clerk swore in the new Assistant City Clerk, Catherine Verrier.

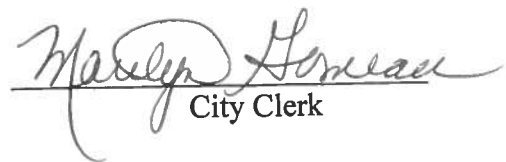
The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street said that the new rules violates free speech and he will be at the meetings holding a sign.

The President called for any Mayor's concerns, The Mayor thanked the DPW for the great job they did during the recent snow storm. He reminded residents to clear their sidewalks. The Mayor noted the Park Grant that we received in the amount of \$318,500. The medical building was also moved to a new location at the airport. The Mayor said that Richard Neal was at Drury High School talking with the students about US politics. The Mayor will be giving his State of the City Address on Tuesday January 29<sup>th</sup>.

The President called for any Councilor concerns, hearing none, a motion to adjourn was in order.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED; to adjourn at 8:25pm.

A True Record  
Attest,

  
City Clerk





# Office of the City Clerk

## City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

### Special Meeting of the City Council

February 19, 2019

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The regular meeting of the North Adams City Council scheduled for February 12, 2019 was cancelled due to inclement weather and rescheduled to February 19, 2019

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30 PM in City Council Chambers with the following present: Councilor Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, absent, Councilor Wilkinson.

A moment of silence was observed, remembering Beverly Ann Brown, a teacher's aide at Haskins School, Gail O'Brien, manager of the North Adams Federal Credit Union, Irene Helen Connor, employee and board member of the North Adams Federal Credit Union and Mary Malloy, teacher at Sullivan Elementary School.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Alice Cande, 199 Corinth Street, voiced her concern for the Minimum Wage increase and wanted to make sure all employees were treated fairly and decent.

Brian Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street, spoke about the Mohawk Theater, and the hopes that it would become some form of performing arts center, as the Colonial in Pittsfield.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, commented on the Mohawk Theater marquee, and the importance of keeping the marquee.

Robert Cardimino, 179 East Quincy Street, commented on the Hearing of Visitors, parking for Holden Street, and Mohawk Theater, as well as the artwork on the pillars near Mass MoCA.

**10,674-6** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter Z of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 2.1, entitled Divisions, which was postponed at the meeting of January 8, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of March 26, 2019.

Mayor Bernard commented that public notification has been delayed due to the absence of staff at Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. Meeting will be scheduled soon.

**11,231-1** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, entitled Administration of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams Article, 1, Section 2-1, which was referred to the General Government Committee and postponed at the meeting of December 26<sup>th</sup>.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of March 26, 2019.

Councilor Cohen stated that in the interim of changing of committees; meetings going forward need to regroup. Councilor Harpin, asked for clarification as to if this paper referred to start time.

Councilor Lamb rescinded his motion,

On motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of March 26, 2019

**11,407-2** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article XXXIV (Public Arts Commission) of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, which was postponed at the meeting of January 8<sup>th</sup>.

On motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to Postpone to the meeting of March 26, 2019.

Councilor Hopkins clarified the General Government committee meeting would be March 25, 2019.

Councilor Laforest inquired whether they were getting close to wrapping up the Ordinance. Councilor Cohen stated there would be another meeting with the Arts Commission, and feels confident.

**11,717** The President presented a communication submitted by Council President regarding parking options for the Holden Street condominium owners, which was postponed at the meeting of November 13<sup>th</sup>.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to

postpone to the meeting of April 9, 2019, Traffic Commission meeting is scheduled for April.

Councilor Lamb was concerned that the Traffic Commission does not meet regularly and has concerns about a timely return of reports.

- 11,717** The President presented a report of the North Adams Traffic Commission regarding Parking options for the Holden Street condominium owners.

Councilor Harpin made a motion to file the communication.

Councilor Cohen commented that the report from the Traffic Commission did not reference the Holden Street condominiums which was on the agenda.

Councilor Laforest commented that the paper was not addressing the agenda item. Councilor Harpin rescinded her motion.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of April 9, 2019

- 11,747** The President presented a communication from Councilor LaForest regarding the Federal Government shut-down and the effects it may have on the North Adams School lunch program, which was referred to the Finance Committee and postponed at the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

On motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of April 23, 2019.

Councilor Buddington had questions as to impact from the shutdown, Councilor Moran, stated Barbara Malkas, Superintendent, said there were enough reserves for a few more months. Councilor Lamb commented how important it is to discuss this further at Finance Committee and the need for a backup plan. Councilor Laforest had concerns for Federal funding other than lunch; stating future expenses would have negative effects.

- 11,756** The President presented Mayor's communication #10 recommending the reappointment of Jennifer Boland to the North Adams Human Services Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2022.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to confirm the reappointment.

- 11,757** The President presented Mayor's communication #11 recommending the reappointment of JoAnn Lipa Bates to the North Adams Human Services Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2022.

On motion of Councilor Cohen duly seconded by Councilor Laforest it was VOTED: to confirm

the reappointment.

- 11,758** The President presented Mayor's communication #12 recommending the reappointment of Rachelle Smith to the North Adams Human Services Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2022.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to confirm the reappointment.

- 11,759** The President presented Mayor's communication #13 recommending the appointment of David Motta to the North Adams Human Services Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2021.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

- 11,760** The President presented Mayor's communication #14 recommending the reappointment of Michael Leary to the North Adams Planning Board for a term to expire February 1, 2024.

On motion of Councilor Laforest duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins, it was VOTED: to confirm the reappointment.

- 11,761** The President presented Mayor's communication #15 recommending the reappointment of Lisa Blackmer to the North Adams Planning Board for a term to expire February 1, 2024.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Laforest, it was VOTED: to confirm the reappointment.

- 11,762** The President presented Mayor's communication #16 recommending the reappointment of Mary Ann King to the North Adams Traffic Commission for a term to expire January 11, 2021

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Laforest, it was VOTED: to confirm the reappointment.

Councilor Buddington commented that the Traffic Commission members, including himself, need to be a bit more involved and not put so much burden on Mary Ann.

- 11,763** The President presented Mayor's communication #17 recommending the reappointment of Paul Markland to the North Adams Traffic Commission for a term to expire January 10, 2022.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Laforest, it was VOTED: to confirm the reappointment.

- 11,764** The President presented Mayor's communication #18 recommending the reappointment of David Sacco to the North Adams Traffic Commission for a term to expire January 11, 2021.

On motion of Councilor Laforest, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins, it was VOTED: to confirm the reappointment.

- 11,765** The President presented Mayor's communication #19 recommending the appointment of Ian Wilson to the North Adams Traffic Commission for a term to expire January 10, 2022.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Laforest, it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

- 11,766** The President presented Mayor's communication #20 recommending the appointment of Jonathan Beaudreau to the North Adams Traffic Commission for a term to expire January 11, 2021.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

- 11,767** The President presented Mayor's communication #21 recommending the disposition of the Mohawk Theater.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

- 11,767** The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to execute a purchase and sale agreement for the Mohawk Theater.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins a motion to adopt was in order.

The Mayor spoke about the length of time that the Theater has had plans of renovation or use of the property. He would like to see what is out there for use, operations or plans to continue the work that has already been done over the past twenty years.

Councilor Lamb commented on the fact that he would like the Council to be more informed on the RFP and have more participation in the process. Mayor Bernard stated he would consider this.

Councilor Lamb questioned the Historical status of the building and questioned whether the tax credits were available to the buyer? The Mayor stated that credits were available

Councilor Cohen was in favor of the RFP and stressed that communication and transparency were important during the process.

Councilors Buddington along with Councilor Laforest had many concerns about not having any input of the language of the the RFP, "not in the municipal interest" and would like reports back to the Council and Historical Commission and having input. Doesn't want to see the property fall in disrepair and having the City be burdened once again.

The Mayor stated it would be a condition of the Purchase and Sale agreement and not the RFP.

Councilor Harpin would like to see the property retain the marquee, and has had several calls and concerns, as well as contact with the Historical Commission and stated she would be willing to pause have a bit more input.

Councilor Buddington stated that more time should be given to this, Councilor Moran stated that this is an RFP to see what people think the theater can become. He had concerns about hanging on to it and falling into disrepair, and feels this should be explored.

Considerable discussion continued amongst the Councilors regarding the RFP and the fact that there were too many unanswered questions.

Councilor Laforest asked about the tax credits. The Mayor spoke about the history of the historical tax credits.

Councilor Cohen would consider rescinding her motion if it could be brought back to the next council meeting.

Councilor Cohen rescinded her motion.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of February 26, 2019. Yea, Councilor Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, Laforest, Lamb, nay, Councilor Moran.

**11,672-1b** The President presented Mayor's communication #22 recommending amending the Compensation Plan for FY'19.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

**11,672-1b** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section 2-28(a) of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Schedule B, the Compensation Plan for FY'19.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins, it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and post as a municipal bulletin as required by law.

Council President requested a forecast of future increase to the budget with the minimum wage increase. The Mayor stated he would do so.

Councilor Laforest inquired how many employees in the City were paid under minimum wage, the Mayor replied under a dozen.

Councilor Cohen commented on how the City should set an example, as businesses have to absorb these costs as well.

**11,768** The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Buddington regarding bike lanes in the City.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen it was VOTED: to refer to the Traffic Commission and postpone to April 9, 2019.

The President called for any committee reports or minutes, hearing none, the President called for open forum,

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, read an open letter to the City Council, regarding the rules of hearing of visitors, and his disappointment. He thanked Councilor Cohen for her vote.

Brian Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street, inquired if there were any measures to enforce the snow removal ordinance, it has become a hazard to many, especially school children.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, had concerns about City employees, and not having any sand available as other cities and towns.

The President called for any Mayor's concerns, Mayor Bernard wanted to credit those making the Winterfest a success.

The President called for any liaison or Councilor concerns. Councilor Harpin commented that she provided all councilors with a report of the Retirement Board, and wanted to make clear that the stipend given to the board did not affect the 2020 appropriation.

With no further business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was in order.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 9:29 PM.

A True Record  
Attest,

  
City Clerk



# Office of the City Clerk

## City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

### Regular Meeting of the City Council

February 26, 2019

16

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30 PM in City Council Chambers with the following present: Councilor Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson.

A moment of silence was observed, remembering John Swift, Chairman of the North Adams Housing Authority, Barbara Dowling, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of North Adams Public Schools, and Gloria Rougeau, Treasurer and Collector, City of North Adams.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented. Councilor Wilkinson abstained.

Without objection the President moved Council Paper #11,769 forward.

**11,769** The President presented Mayor's communication #23 regarding the swearing in of Permanent Police Lieutenant Jason R. Wood.

The President called upon the Clerk to swear in Lieutenant Wood.

The Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Lieutenant Wood. The Lieutenant was pinned by the Mayor.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, spoke about the Mohawk Theater and is in support of the Mayor moving forward on the RFP.



Robert Cardimino, 179 East Quincy Street, voiced his concerns regarding the employees who have retired and are rehired, as well as pay increases for employees. He is concerned for the taxpayers funding these increases.

John Barrett, III, 229 Corinth Street, spoke on behalf of the Mohawk Theater and the many studies that have been done, and all the efforts that were made to retain the City's past. When he left office in January of 2010, he had hoped all those efforts would continue; whether it was the Historical Society, or any other body that wanted to sustain the integrity of the Mohawk Theater. He spoke about the first phase, being the façade, which was completed. Mr. Barrett encouraged the Council to obtain at least two appraisals on the property, as well as refer to committee for more discussion. He expressed his wishes to see the marquee lit once again.

Councilor LaForest reminded the public that if anyone wished to speak on an agenda item, that the opportunity to do so, would be now. He noted that many citizens were in the gallery.

**11,767** The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to execute a purchase and sale agreement for the Mohawk Theater, which was postponed at the meeting of February 19, 2019.

The Mayor discussed the questions from Council as well as his responses. He stated he would be happy to answer any other specific questions. He clarified that the disposition of the theater is what is before the Council; the RFP process will involve legal considerations, insuring that the property is clearly defined. The Mayor also spoke about the many studies done; however, the operating model was never clearly stated. He agrees that the theater can be an anchor for the community and the time is right to see if there is a private entity to act on it.

On motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to refer to Community Development Committee.

Councilor Hopkins stated that the City Council has an interest in having input in the process, and that citizens are very interested. He requested that the Mayor commit to some level of public and Council involvement in the process. The Mayor stated he was happy to report on it, however in terms of RFP development and purchase and sale agreements, they would be administrative functions; unless the bid comes in under the assessed value. He also stated he felt that from past RFP's, it would seem likely that they would come in under assessed value.

Councilor Harpin voiced her concerns for more involvement and does not want to rush things along; she would like to see the process move forward, but would like provisions added for more input from Council.

Councilor Wilkinson, stated he felt there would be no scenario where the City would actually have a bid over the assessed value, and feels it will come back to Council. Councilor Hopkins agreed with Councilor Wilkinson.

Councilor LaForest spoke about the Council's vote being procedural in nature, but feels that the Council

has expressed a clear interest in the long range concerns of the Mohawk Theater. He feels that there is no guarantee that an entity would not invest over \$500,000, then at that point the Council would have no input. He stated that there clearly is an interest from the public, citing the amount of residents present at the meeting, and feels that there are many questions that are unanswered. His concern is if the building to whom the organization is awarded, is unable to make a go of their project, what would happen to the property. He would like assurance that the property would return to the City.

Councilor Buddington commented that if this goes to committee, he would like to have an explicit condition on the sale. The Mayor noted that in his response, specific terms and conditions could be placed, however at this time, it is purely speculative.

President Bona spoke about the questions and responses that were addressed and responded to by the Mayor. One of the responses stated that the Council did have the authority to amend any order including placing restrictions on the Mohawk Theater. Once the RFP is approved, the City Council does not have any input. The President stated that in accordance with City Ordinance Chapter 40, abutters need to be notified.

The Mayor responded that the legal response stated, Chapter 30B, Section 16, supersedes Chapter 40 in the City's Ordinance.

Councilor Wilkinson stated that getting an appraisal for the building would be beneficial.

Councilor Harpin wanted to share the information that was received regarding funding for the Mohawk Theater, noting that there has been approximately 2.6 million dollars in grants. There are also tax credits available in the amount of \$1.1 million.

Councilor Harpin asked Building Inspector, Meranti to speak about the building's condition. Mr. Meranti stated in general the building has been mothballed; the roof has had some work, but still is in disrepair. The marquee needs repair, the building is a shell at this point, there is minimal safety equipment as well as lighting and exit signs.

Councilor Lamb spoke about the operating procedures, and referenced the failed sale of the Windsor Mill, and how these processes are conducted. He questioned if we could build in a down payment in relation to the purchase price establishing an agreement, and would like future RFP's to include this.

Councilor Buddington questioned what would be discussed at the committee meeting. Councilor Harpin stated she would like to see the property coming back to the City if it fails. Councilor Laforest stated he was unsure at this time, but there are questions from several Councilors that still need to be addressed.

Councilor Lamb stated that the Community Development meeting is scheduled for February 27, However, the agenda does not specifically state the Mohawk Theater for discussion. Representation from legal counsel, and the Mayor were requested by Councilor Lamb for the next scheduled committee meeting.

Councilor Harpin amended her motion to refer to Community Development Committee with a return

date to Council of March 12, 2019

The President called for a roll call vote, yea, Councilor Buddington, Bona, Harpin, Hopkins, Lamb, LaForest. Nay, Councilor Cohen, Moran and Wilkinson.

**11,672-1b** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section 2-28(a) of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Schedule B, the Compensation Plan for FY'19 which was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as a municipal bulletin as required by law at the meeting of February 19, 2019.

The Council President stated that the required ten day period has not been met.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of March 12, 2019.

**11,752-1** Mayor's communication #6-a regarding the appointment of Anna Farrington to the North Adams Public Arts Commission, for a term to expire May 1, 2021, to fill the unexpired term of Julia Dixon.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins it was VOTED: to confirm the Appointment.

The President called for Committee Reports and Minutes, hearing none, the President moved to Licenses.

The President presented a license from Keith Minori, 34 Mohawk Forest, North Adams, to drive a taxi for RJ's Taxi.

Councilor LaForest noted that the application was incomplete; however it was signed off by Lieutenant Wood.

Councilor Harpin stated that she would not grant the license due to the incompleteness.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of March 12, 2019

The President called for Open Forum.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, discussed his concern for the suppression of visitors at each agenda item.

Robert Cardimino, 179 East Quincy Street, voiced his concern in regards to being heard at Council Meetings.

The President called for Mayor's Concerns. The Mayor gave kudos to several student athletes and their

accomplishments, and recommended attending the Drury vs. McCann game on Thursday.

The President called for Liaison Updates and Councilor Concerns.

Councilor Cohen commented on the agenda speaking for visitors, and would like to see this return. Councilor LaForest echoed Councilor Cohen.

Council President Bona had concerns with the snow removal ordinance enforcement.

The President called for Correspondence, hearing none, a motion to adjourn was in order.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 8:34 PM.

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City Clerk



**Office of the City Clerk**  
**City of North Adams**  
10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

**Regular Meeting of the City Council**

March 12, 2019

21

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30 PM in City Council Chambers with the following present: Councilor Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, Harpin Absent.

A moment of silence was observed, remembering Kija Kim Bolton, a teacher at Brayton Elementary School

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the February 26th meeting.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, spoke about the speed limits on East Main Street.

Karen Ferrara, 51 Edgewood Avenue, read from an article in the Berkshire Eagle quoting a history of the property located at 45 Edgewood and the years that she has endured several nuisances and damage to her property due to lack of upkeep on the property.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, spoke about Greylock School and the lack of maintenance to the building.

**11,767** The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to execute a purchase and sale agreement for the Mohawk Theater, which was postponed at the meeting of February 26, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of March 26, 2019.

Councilor Lamb spoke about the Community Development Committee meeting where it was identified the ideal course of action would be to postpone this paper until an RFP process has been concluded by the Mayor's office. He stated he knew that the Mayor was waiting on legal counsel to review and make sure it is in compliance.\_\_\_\_

Councilor Buddington stated he was not disposing the motion, he wanted however, to have concrete options on the RFP before adopting the Order.

**11,672-1b** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section 2-28(a) of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Schedule B, the Compensation Plan for FY'19 which was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as a municipal bulletin as required by law at the meeting of February 19, 2019, and postponed at the meeting of February 26, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance as presented.

Councilor Wilkinson stated he would abstain from the vote, due to the fact his daughter worked in Public Safety; Councilor Bona also stated he would abstain. Councilor Buddington stated he did not think that there was a need to abstain, due to the fact that the Ordinance addressed several areas and was not specific.

The Ordinance was ordained by yea and nay vote as follows, Councilor Buddington, Cohen, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, yea, Councilor Bona and Wilkinson, abstained.

**11,745** The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Lamb regarding the unsafe speed habits in the downtown, which was referred to the Public Safety Commission and postponed at the meeting of January 8, 2019.

On Motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen it was VOTED: to file the communication.

Councilor Lamb gave a report from the Public Safety Commission regarding the speed checks that were done by North Adams Police and the traffic checks did not identify any trends.

Councilor Cohen inquired what type of data was kept, and were there specific times. Councilor Lamb replied that there were periodic times of day that the detectors checked the speed. Councilor Buddington commented that even though the speeds are within the limits, it did not mean it was not still a safety concern. Councilor Lamb echoed Councilor Buddington, and spoke about decreased speeds, and raised crosswalks.

Councilor Cohen stated she was concerned with texting, and thought that signage near school zones and pedestrian areas and throughout the East Main, Pleasant, and Miner Streets should be looked at.

**11,567-2** The President presented Mayor's communication #24 regarding the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Statement of Interest (SOI) for Greylock Elementary School.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

**11,567-2** The President presented a Resolution authorizing the Superintendent of Schools to submit a Statement of Interest for Greylock Elementary School.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson, it was VOTED: to adopt the Resolution as presented.

Barabara Malkas, Superintendent of Schools, spoke on behalf of Mayor Bernard in his absence. She described how the SOI is a first step in the multiyear request for consideration of a building project. She spoke on the antiquated state of the school which does not meet ADA compliance for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century education. She stated that there is a very detailed motion to be read into the record. She pointed out that submitting the SOI, which the City has done annually since 2009, does not require the City to enter into any agreements. This allows the City to be considered for the funding.

Councilor Bona asked how many submissions before a decision would be made. The Superintendent replied, that each year is a new submission and they have to go through the process. The SOI must be submitted by April 6, including the minutes that show that the City Council endorsed the submission, and that the School Committee endorsed the submission. It will be screened in by the SBA in April through October and a decision would be made around December.

Councilor Bona spoke about being involved with the Cole Grove Park School process, and knew it would be a long process for the Greylock School project.

Councilor Wilkinson inquired as to whether our State Representative could have any input in this SOI, Superintendent Malkas stated that there could not be any influence.

Councilor Buddington asked about what other requirements were necessary, Superintendent Malkas stated Wi-Fi has been retrofitted; however the support for electronic device use is limited. There is also a capacity issue, where inclusivity in all classrooms is difficult, as there is just not enough space.

Councilor Lamb suggested that the Resolution be read into the record. Superintendent Malkas read the Resolution.

The Resolution was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows, yea Councilor Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, nay, none.

**8,815-21a** The President presented Mayor's communication #25 regarding revision to Chapter 8 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Department of Public Safety.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

**8,815-21a** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 8 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Department of Public Safety.

On Motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to refer to Public Safety Committee and postpone to the meeting of April 23, 2019.

Councilor LaForest read the Mayor's communication, and stated that the Ordinance is lengthy and needs reviewing, therefore felt the need to refer to the Public Safety Committee.

**11,590-2** The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Harpin regarding property located at 45 Edgewood Avenue.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of June 11, 2019

Councilor Lamb inquired as to why such a lengthy postponement. Councilor LaForest noted that currently there is a lengthy probate issue that should be worked out by April 1. As soon as paperwork is complete, a significant investment will be made in the property to alleviate the issues in the neighborhood. Councilor LaForest stated that the property is in horrible disrepair, and if he was not assured that the investors would not be making significant repairs, he would be demanding that the building be torn down immediately.

Councilor Cohen stated that she hopes to see representation from the Building Inspector, and Health Inspector, and felt it was time that we give some relief to the neighbors.

Council President complimented Karen Ferrara on her persistence in continuing her efforts to have her voice heard in this issue. He also stated there were many properties like this in the City, and neighbors have to endure the same issues.

Councilor LaForest noted that the previous Council missed a step in the process, and that Council did declare it a nuisance property, in the following month, the Council approved the funding for demolition, however, never put forth the paperwork to demolish the building.

Councilor Lamb, commented that for clarity, he believed that the chain of command would have come from the Mayor and not the Council in regards to the property demolition.

The President presented a license from Keith Minori, 34 Mohawk Forest, North Adams, to drive a taxi for RJ's Taxi which was postponed at the meeting of February 26, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President presented a license from David Bushey, Jr., 60 Chestnut Street, North Adams, for a license to drive a taxi for RJ's Taxi.

On Motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson, it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President presented a license from Carmen M. Hyatt, 2 Seminole Drive, North Adams, for a



license to drive a taxi for RJ's Taxi.

On Motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of March 26, 2019.

Councilor Cohen stated her concerns regarding the application process for taxi licenses, she noted the reason she would not grant the license was due to the application missing information, and stated that even though the application was approved by Lt. Wood, it was not complete.

Councilor LaForest commented that he did not feel comfortable approving licenses and questioned why they came before the Council; Council President stated that it was in our City ordinances.

The President called for Open Forum.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, stated his concerns regarding potholes throughout the City, as well as boarded up properties.

Bryan Sapienza, 112 Pleasant Street, spoke about his concerns regarding the City Ordinance requiring snow removal, especially near school zones.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, gave kudos to Councilors for bringing the safe driving issue to Council, and stated that the police presence is important in deterring speeding, he also commented on the taxi drivers and their driving habits. Mr. Smith spoke in favor of selling the Mohawk Theater, however keeping the marquee.

Karen Ferrara, 51 Edgewood Avenue, spoke regarding property at 45 Edgewood Avenue, and made her concerns known as to the nuisance and the many years she has had to endure the property's lack of attention. Although she understands the postponement, she is concerned about the maintenance of the property, such as mowing the lawn, in the interim of the purchase of the property and is requesting the City's help.

The President called for liaison updates and Councilor concerns, Councilor Cohen expressed her concern for not allowing people to speak on agenda items, and did not feel it was productive. Council President Bona interrupted Councilor Cohen and stated that her concerns have already been addressed at previous meetings, and stated the unnecessary redundancy. Councilor LaForest interjected and defended Councilor Cohen's right to speak during Councilor concerns. Councilor Cohen continued stating the right of citizens to speak and be heard.

With no further business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was in order.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 8:36 PM.

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# Office of the City Clerk

## City of North Adams

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North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

### Regular Meeting of the City Council

March 26, 2019

26

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30 PM in City Council Chambers with the following present: Councilor Bona, Buddington, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, Harpin. Absent, Councilors Cohen, Hopkins.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the March 12th meeting.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented. Councilor Harpin and LaForest abstained.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, spoke in favor of disposition of the Mohawk Theater.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, commented on making sure that Mass MoCA restores the art pillars, and considered it criminal.

Bryan Sapienza, 112 Pleasant Street, recommended that the Council remain the governing body for the taxi licenses, and also pointed out an incorrect date on the license before the Council.

**11,407-2** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article XXXIV (Public Arts Commission) of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, which was postponed at the meeting of February 19, 2019

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of May 28, 2019.

Councilor Buddington inquired as to why the postponement; Councilor LaForest stated that Councilor Hopkins was absent, and at the last meeting it was suggested that the Public Arts Commission would have one additional meeting to review the proposed ordinance changes, the meeting is being rescheduled.

- 10,674-6** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter Z of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 2.1, entitled Divisions, which was postponed at the meeting of February 19, 2019.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of May 28, 2019.

Councilor Lamb inquired as to why the postponement; Councilor LaForest asked Mayor Bernard to comment on the status of the Ordinance changes. Mayor Bernard stated that due to staff changes in the Community Development Office as well as Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, we are a bit behind, and needed more time. It was requested to hold more community meetings in May.

- 11,231-1** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2 entitled Administration of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Article 1, Section 2, which was postponed at the meeting of February 19, 2019.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of April 9, 2019

Councilor LaForest asked if there were minutes available from the committee meeting, due to Councilor Hopkins' absence, there were not. Councilor Wilkinson stated several Councilors were present at the meeting, and could comment on the outcome, that the time of 7:30 could be changed to 6:30.

Councilor Wilkinson stated that he would understand the council postponing until a full Council was present for the vote.

The President called for a roll call vote for postponement, yea Councilors Bona, Buddington, Harpin, LaForest, Lamb, Moran. Nay, Councilor Wilkinson.

- 11,767** The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to execute a purchase and sale agreement for the Mohawk Theater, which was postponed at the meeting of March 12, 2019.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to refer to Community Development Committee and postpone to the meeting of April 23, 2019

Councilor Lamb stated that the solution that we were suggesting at the last committee meeting, which was flipping the process of the RFP and disposition of property, instead of declaring it surplus property at the beginning, we would do it in the middle, after the RFP was out there through the Mayor's office. He stated the need for community conversation and input.

Councilor LaForest noted that MGL states the Council is responsible for any restrictions that would be attached to the RFP, and this is his consideration in returning the paper to committee.

- 11,718** The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Cohen regarding the need to access healthy food and gas station in the West end of the City which was postponed at the meeting of January 8, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of May 28, 2019

Councilor Buddington commented that it was a broad proposal; Councilor Lamb stated that there are committees that are surveying the community, and are in process.

Councilor Wilkinson stated the importance of this paper, and healthy food for the community.

- 11,746** The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor LaForest regarding crosswalk located at Brickyard Court which was postponed at the meeting of January 8, 2019

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson, it was VOTED: to return to the Traffic Commission and postpone to the meeting of April 23, 2019

Councilor LaForest stated that the Traffic Commission neglected to put this on their meeting agenda. He stated his concerns as to the process that the Traffic Commission has, and would like to see better consistency in reporting back to the Council

Councilor Harpin noted that the Council received the latest Traffic Commission minutes, and stated that they would be having regular monthly meetings held on the third Monday at 6:00.

- 11,770** The President presented Mayor's communication #26 requesting the Finance Committee schedule meetings for the FY' 20 budget.

The Mayor spoke in regard to the budget process, and setting up budget meetings, Councilor Harpin stated that five meetings will be held mid-April through May on Wednesday evenings.

The President placed the communication on file.

- 11,771** The President presented a communication submitted by Council President Bona regarding amending the Ordinance regarding the approval of taxi licenses.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

Councilor Bona stated that he had clarification from MGL that the process remains with the Council.

The President presented a license from Carmen M. Hyatt, 2 Seminole Drive, North Adams, to drive a taxi for RJ's Taxi which was postponed at the meeting of March 12, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Buddington duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of April 9, 2019.

Councilor Lamb stated that the date on the application needs to be corrected.

Council President called for a vote to postpone, yea Councilors Bona, Buddington, Harpin, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay, Councilor LaForest.

The President called for liaison updates and Councilor concerns, Councilor Buddington noted that Mary Ann King from the Traffic Commission submitted Ordinances to be amended, and stated he would prepare them for the next meeting.

The President called for Open Forum.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, thanked Councilor Bona for his apology to Councilor Cohen, then proceeded to read an open letter in regards to the suppression of allowing the public to speak on agenda items, and felt it was a personal attack on himself, Mr. Cardimino, and Mr. Sapienza. He also stated Councilor Cohen has every right to bring the issue back each meeting.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, spoke about his concerns with Council President Bona receiving City health insurance. He also stated his disappointment with not being able to be heard on open agenda items.

Henry Jaeschke, 42 Chase Avenue, congratulated the Drury High School Basketball team on going to Western Mass championship.

Council President called for Mayor's Concerns.

The Mayor thanked Superintendent Malkas for her presentation of SOI for Greylock School. He also commented on Councilor Cohen's paper regarding healthy food, and felt it was an important issue.

Mayor Bernard spoke about the open meetings scheduled for Police Chief finalists, and thanked the search committee.

The Mayor stated that roadways on Curran Highway would be under construction in the next week. The Mayor also spoke on the importance of the 2020 Census.

Councilor Buddington stated that NBCTV is working on the issue that is causing a volume problem.

Councilor Wilkinson stated he was concerned with how many papers are being postponed at the Council meetings.

Councilor Harpin inquired as to when the School Department would be coming to City Hall on the second floor. The Mayor responded that Inspection Services would be moving this week, School Department would be sometime in April, and that the Mayor's Office would have to be determined due to logistics and engineering.

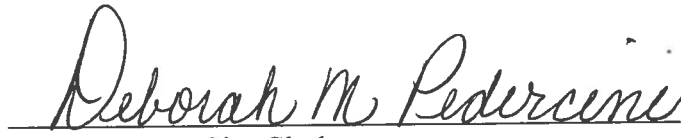
Councilor LaForest inquired as to what the timeline is on the roof at the Public Safety building. The Mayor stated there was an Architectural Access Board issue to be negotiated.

Councilor LaForest commented on postponing the agenda items, stating that the process is to be better vetted, and that the councilors can go to committee meetings, to research and be better informed prior to voting.

With no further business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was in order.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 8:21 PM.

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Attest,

  
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# Office of the City Clerk

## City of North Adams

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North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

### Regular Meeting of the City Council

April 9, 2019

31

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers with the following present: Councilor Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of March 26, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

A moment of silent remembrance was held for Cecilia Garner, a past president of the Friends of the North Adams Public Library and assisted at the North Adams Tourist Booth.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, commented on his disappointment of the time change of the Council meetings.

**11,717** The President presented a communication submitted by Council President regarding parking options for the Holden Street condominium owners which was postponed at the meeting of February 19, 2019.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

**11,717** The President presented a report of the North Adams Traffic Commission regarding parking options for the Holden Street condominium owners which was postponed at the meeting of February 19, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to file the report.

Councilor Buddington inquired as to where the report addressed the issues. Councilor Buddington, liaison to the Traffic Commission, stated that there was not a quorum at the last meeting, but that they would be addressing the issue at the next scheduled meeting.

Councilor Cohen rescinded her motion to file the report.

Councilor Lamb stated that there was confusion in the street names, and the report just needs to be clarified.

Councilor Buddington stated that the Traffic Commission should be able to put a report together fairly quickly; Councilor Moran agreed, and felt that a postponement until April 23, 2019 would be sufficient.

Councilor Cohen felt that there should be a presence by the Traffic Commission, and there needed to be better communication.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of April 23, 2019, and refer to the Traffic Commission for a clarification report from the chairperson.

**10,540-4**      An Ordinance amending Chapter 13, of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 13-6, entitled Fees for parking zones.

On Motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

Councilor Moran felt that this paper would be affected by the report that the Traffic Commission would be submitting. Councilor LaForest agreed that the Traffic Commission did not give any explanation as to how they arrived at these figures, and felt clarification was necessary.

Councilor Lamb stated that he seconded the motion so that it could be discussed, however, he is unsure as to why the rates are increased and is looking for justification.

Councilor Harpin felt the paper should be delayed and a decision could be made once a report is issued.

Councilor LaForest stated that the report should address the concerns that Mr. Oberst and others requested in his letter of June 26, 2018.

Councilor Buddington rescinded his motion.

On Motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to refer to the Traffic Commission for a clarification report and postpone to the meeting of May 14, 2019.

Councilor Cohen inquired as to why the papers would be postponed at different dates, and felt that there should be representation from the Traffic Commission. She had concerns about not receiving information in a timely manner.

Councilor Lamb felt that both papers were related, however, they were not the same, and could be done separately.



Councilor Wilkinson had safety concerns for the parking lot, and traffic flow.

The Mayor spoke on the traffic flow and crosswalks at Holden and Center Street, and the factor of a speedbump.

Considerable discussion continued regarding the clarification of getting a report as to the increase in fees.

Councilor Moran felt confident that the clarification issues, and why the rates were raised, would be available in a timely manner from the Traffic Commission; Councilor Buddington agreed.

**10,454-3** The President presented a report submitted by the Traffic Commission regarding parking at intersection of North and Houghton Streets.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

**10,454-3** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 13-49, entitled Parking prohibited on certain streets.

On Motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins, it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

**11,768** The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Buddington regarding bike lanes in the City which was postponed at the meeting of February 19, 2019.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

**11,768** The President presented a report of the Traffic Commission regarding changes to the City Ordinances pertaining to bike lanes.

On Motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to file the report.

Councilor Buddington spoke about the bike lanes throughout the City.

**8,890-9** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 13-21, Designation, etc. by Council.

On Motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law

**9,653-1** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 13-55.1, Tow away regulations.

On Motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law

Councilor Buddington noted there was an error on the Ordinance, and wanted to amend it by changing “(10) to (11)”.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to amend the Ordinance by changing “(10) to (11)”.

**10,893-1** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 13-48, General Prohibitions.

On Motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law

**11,231-1a** The President presented a report submitted by General Government Committee regarding Chapter 2, Administration, Article 1, Section 2-1.

On Motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest it was VOTED: to file the report.

Councilor Wilkinson requested the report read into the record. Councilor Hopkins read the report.

**11,231-1** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, entitled Administration, of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Article 1, Section 2-1, which was postponed at the meeting of March 26, 2019.

On Motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins, it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins, an amendment was made to change the time of 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Councilor Lamb stated that he would vote against the time change due to residents he has spoken to, as well as his own personal reasons. He stated he would not be able to see his son at all, two days a month, and simply stated, family is important to him. When he became a Councilor, 7:30 was the start time. He does not feel that there would be more attendance if the time was shifted.

Councilor Cohen stated that due to the fact that the two year term is ending, she felt it was not the opportune time to change the start time. She felt it would be best to wait until a new Council comes in. She echoed Councilor Lamb's statements about the importance of family time.

Councilor LaForest continued to have shifting in his decision, due to family, as well as the consideration of the limited options for holding meetings now that the School Department will be in the building. He also stated the concern for Councilors that work out of town, and time restraints. Therefore he would not support the change.

Councilor Buddington was in support of the change and felt that there would be more resident participation.

Councilor Harpin stated she was unsure prior to the meeting how she would be voting, however after hearing from other councilors, she wants to accommodate all. She stated that when she ran for Council, this was the start time, and has adjusted her lifestyle as such. She is not in favor of the time change, and has not heard from residents that the time is inconvenient.

Councilor Bona agreed with Councilor Harpin, stating he had no complaints from residents, and has

spoken to NBCTV, and Council meetings will be on air the following week, and can be viewed at 6:30. He is currently happy with the current time, and would be against the change.

Councilor Hopkins agreed with Councilor Cohen, that possibly this should be addressed with the future Council.

Councilor Moran stated that he felt it would be difficult for the residents who did not realize the time change, and came to the meeting late, they would not be able to speak at all on an agenda item. He feels that if the time is changed, then the rule of speaking on agenda items should be changed.

Councilor Bona stated that if the Motion fails then it would not be able to be brought back for one year. Councilor Buddington stated that it could return again sooner than one year, if there was a motion to reconsider.

The President called for a roll call vote on the 6:30 p.m., amendment, on roll call, the following responded: yea, Councilors Buddington and Wilkinson, nay, Councilors Bona, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest Lamb, Moran. Motion Fails.

The President called for a roll call vote on the original motion. On roll call, the following responded: yea, Councilors Buddington and Wilkinson, nay Councilors Bona, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest Lamb, Moran. Motion Fails.

**11,772** The President presented Mayor's communication #27 regarding Chapter 13, Sec. 13-52, all night parking ban.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

**11,772** The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to supersede Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Sec. 13-52, lifting the all night parking ban 12:00 AM, April 11, 2019

On motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson, it was VOTED: to Adopt the Order .

The Mayor spoke about the fact that due to no snow in the forecast, and weather being more seasonable, he felt it appropriate to lift the overnight parking ban. Councilor Harpin commended the Mayor, as she realizes the hardship the parking ban has on residents.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote, yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay, none.

**11,191-1** The President presented Mayor's communication #28 regarding Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Sec. 13-52, All night parking.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

The Mayor stated, having lifted the ban, he felt it would be beneficial to residents, to institute an earlier ban. An additional change would be to replace "state of emergency", with "weather emergency".

**11,191-1** An Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Sec. 13-52, All night parking.

On motion of Councilor Laforest, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins, it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

Councilor LaForest inquired if the need for a “state of emergency” phrase should remain. The Mayor stated that if they were to declare a state of emergency, it would require a notification to MEMA, and other agencies; they are two separate issues.

Councilor Cohen asked what the driving force was to change the Ordinance. The Mayor stated that he has lifted the ban the past two years, and felt the snow that the City receives in April is usually minor.

Councilor Harpin commented that it would be a 15 day savings for residents who do have to pay for off street parking, and felt it was a good change.

Councilor LaForest asked whether or not there has been any thought about the ban being removed altogether, the Mayor stated currently, he feels the need to keep it in place.

Councilor Lamb asked if there was any signage stating the overnight ban, especially for visitors who do not know about the City’s ban. He inquired if the City would possibly think about adding signage, so there are not unnecessary tickets being issued. Councilor Hopkins stated he thought that there was a sign stating this on Houghton Street.

**11,773** The President presented Mayor’s communication #29 recommending the reappointment of Richard Lavigne as resident commissioner for the North Adams Housing Authority for a term to expire July 1, 2024

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins, it was VOTED: to accept the reappointment.

**11,774** The President presented Mayor’s communication #30 recommending the reappointment of Mary Ann Caproni as a Registrar of Voters for a term to expire April 1, 2022.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to accept the reappointment.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES**

Councilor Lamb stated that each councilor should have received the minutes from the Community Development Committee meetings.

## **LICENSES**

An application from Carmen M. Hyatt, 2 Seminole Drive, North Adams, for a license to drive a taxi for RJ’s Taxi which was postponed at the meeting of March 12, 2019, was withdrawn.

The President called for Open Forum.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, spoke about the possible bed and breakfast, and music venue coming in the future. He spoke about his disagreement with Councilor Buddington and Wilkinson regarding the time change, and was pleased that the time will remain the same. He again reiterated his concern about speaking at each council paper.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, spoke about his concerns with Council President Bona, and asked for an apology to Councilor Cohen.

Henry Jaeschke, 42 Chase Avenue, spoke on his support for the 6:30 change, due to the length of the meetings.

Council President called for Mayor's Concerns.

The Mayor spoke about Superintendent Malkas and her staff moving into City Hall on April 11. He spoke about the City Hall Concert series featuring the Drury Jazz Band. Mayor Bernard stated City Hall will be closed in observance of Patriots Day. He noted that National Library Week is this week, and stated the hiring of Sarah Sanfilippo as the City's new Library Director, as Mindy Hackner will be retiring in June. Department of Public Services will be crack sealing as well as potholes next week.

Mayor Bernard gave kudos to the volunteer representatives of the Hillside Cemetery Restoration Project, and spoke about updates on their work. Roger Eurbin had updated the Mayor on resetting and repairing stones for a total of 1,212 to date, and cleaned 350, and helped in the effort to honor the veterans by placing over 2,800 flags on all cemeteries last year. They also participated in the Wreaths Across America. Mayor Bernard wanted to show his appreciation for all of their hard work by a round of applause.

Councilor Moran spoke on how important outdoor recreation is to our community and stated that if anyone wished to volunteer, there is a trail clean up at Windsor Lake Saturday, at 9:30 with the assistance of MCLA students for their day of service.

With no further business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was in order.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 8:48 p.m.

A True Record  
Attest,

  
City Clerk



# Office of the City Clerk

## City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109

North Adams, Massachusetts 01247

(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini

City Clerk

### Regular Meeting of the City Council

April 23, 2019

38

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers with the following present: Councilor Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of April 09, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

A moment of silent remembrance was held for Michael Naughton, McCann Technical High School business teacher, cooperative work coordinator and admission counselor and recruiter. Frances Patenaude, employee of the North Adams Housing Authority.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, spoke about the Mohawk Theater and his concerns about the Marquee hindering the sale of the property.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, commented on his disappointment of the fee changes on the Center Street parking lot. He stated that he went to the subcommittee meeting and was unable to speak. He felt they should reconsider the cost and would like to see them raised.

Bryan Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street, spoke on behalf of the North Adams Public Arts Commission Ordinance, and stated that the new language will be an equitable solution where the Arts Commission produces the contract and submits to the Mayor's Office for signature and fosters good communication.

The President moved paper 11,775, Mayor's communication #31 regarding transitions in the North Adams Police Department. The Mayor acknowledged that the new Police Chief, Jason Wood would be formally sworn in on May 1<sup>st</sup> and a ceremonial swearing in will be on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Brayton Elementary School at 2:00 pm. The Mayor thanked all of the committee and community members that were part of the selection for Police Chief.

The Mayor then thanked Michael Cozzaglio for all of his years of service on the North Adams Police Department; and read into the record a proclamation.

Mr. Cozzaglio received a round of applause, and then he spoke about his 32 years of service and his gratefulness to his family, his community, and his fellow officers. He praised the committee that selected Lt. Wood as the next Police Chief, and stated he was the right choice for the position.

The President moved paper **11,776**, Mayor's communication #32 regarding a Proclamation acknowledging Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, May 5-11, 2019.

The Mayor presented a proclamation acknowledging Children's Mental Health Awareness, the Mayor read the proclamation into the record.

**11,747** The President presented a communication from Councilor LaForest regarding the Federal Government shutdown and the effects it may have on the North Adams School lunch program, which was postponed at the meeting of February 19, 2019.

Councilor Harpin stated that it was recommended to go to the Finance Committee.

On motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of May 14, 2019.

**8,815-21a** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 8 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Department of Public Safety, which was postponed and referred to Public Safety Commission, at the meeting of March 12, 2019

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of May 28, 2019.

Councilor Buddington inquired as to why the postponement. Councilor LaForest stated that a portion of the Ordinance was referred to the Finance Committee and is relevant to the review of fees charged in various departments, as well as questions for the Mayor's Office. The bulk of the Ordinance was to clarify the actual structure of the Public Safety Department, and there were no issues with the majority of the Ordinance.

**11,746** The President presented a communication from Councilor LaForest regarding crosswalk on Brickyard Court which was postponed and referred to the Traffic Commission at the meeting of March 26, 2019

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of May 14, 2019.

Councilor Buddington stated that the Traffic Commission just met, and wanted to give councilors time to go over the minutes.

**11,767** The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to execute a purchase and sale agreement for the Mohawk Theater, which was postponed and referred to the Community Development Committee at the meeting of March 26, 2019.

Councilor Lamb stated that the Community Development Committee met and the majority of concerns raised were around the marquee and transparency after an agreement of disposition. The marquee concern was addressed by approving the following language for the RFP: "The buyer shall maintain the historic integrity of the marquee in perpetuity." The other concern was the process, which the Mayor had suggested that all RFP's shall come back to the Council, either at a full meeting, or a committee meeting.

Council President asked Councilor Lamb to read into the record the amendment to the Order. Councilor Lamb stated that the amendment shall read: "The buyer shall maintain the historic integrity of the marquee in perpetuity."

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to accept the Order as amended.

Councilor LaForest asked for clarification if the marquee is included in the building, and what would be allowed to be changed. Councilor Lamb stated that, details such as colors, materials and lighting was a rabbit hole the committee didn't want to go down, preferring more general language. Any binding language would likely be instilled in a purchase-and-sales agreement based on discussion with other city officials in committee.

Councilor Wilkinson stated that he felt the building was not on the Historic Register. Councilor Lamb stated he was correct. Councilor Wilkinson also questioned how we would police any wording on the marquee, as it falls under the freedom of speech.

Councilor Moran stated that he felt this could limit potential buyers, and stated that we have put \$2.6 million into the Building in the past 20 years and it is still sitting here, and we have a public safety building that we will have to repair, or build a new one, and feels like we are micromanaging. He agreed with Councilor Wilkinson, as to policing of the language restrictions.

Councilor Cohen stated that these issues were discussed at the committee meeting, and the intent was to get the property back on the tax roll, and felt that the language is fair, and did not want to put too many "stop signs" or restrictions on the RFP, to entice buyers, but put a tone as to what we expect the buyer to do.

Councilor Wilkinson stated that the marquee is important, but agrees with Councilor Moran, there has already been \$2.5 million spent, and are now looking at \$100,000 to restore the marquee. He feels we may be limiting the possibility of a buyer. Councilor Wilkinson stated "A number of different people might want to invest in that building and at the same time, you're asking them to make sure you throw in an extra hundred thousand, because we want to protect this". He stated he felt there should not be any restrictions.

Councilor Lamb stated that this property is different from other properties, and feels that anyone purchasing the building is going into it with the intent that this is the last remaining marquee in the City, and needs to be maintained, and feels it would be irresponsible not to put the language in the RFP. If the marquee is not preserved, he feels that there will be discontent in the community, stating it is the heart and soul of the community.

Councilor Buddington stated that the committee found a good fit with the restriction. He asked as to who would have the authority to enforce the restriction. Councilor Lamb stated that the deed would be



drafted from the administration with legal counsel.

Councilor Bona stated that he felt optimistic that someone would be interested in the property, and will do something good with it. He feels that by keeping the marquee, you are also saying that the front building is restricted to not being raised.

Councilor Lamb stated that the marquee could actually be removed, and put back up, other communities have done this.

Councilor Bona stated he would vote no on the amendment, he feels we do not know what developers have in mind, and feels that it would be better if the RFP stated that it was a preference instead of a requirement. He also stated that if a non-profit does take over the property, we do not know one hundred percent if the property will go back on the tax roll, and that the marquee is certainly valuable, however if a strong proposal came in, residents may be okay with losing it. He stated that “the Hub building used to have a marquee, but no one talks about that, instead they all remember the Capitol Restaurant that was inside.”

Councilor Lamb followed up stating that regardless of whether or not the property would be put on the tax rolls, the upkeep and maintenance burden would be taken off of the City. He also stated, that someone could put millions of dollars into a project and remove the marquee, however, the aesthetics of the marquee is the main component.

Councilor Lamb stated how many visitors are taking photos and posting to their Instagram accounts, and feels that even though it is historical, it is part of the City’s future generations as well. He also noted surrounding communities that have kept their marquees have found them to retain their value to the community.

Councilor LaForest agreed with Councilor Lamb, and stated that if a proposal comes in indicating a desire for the City to maintain the marquee, the restriction could be removed from a future RFP. It is in the best interest of the City to maintain the marquee, but we do need to develop downtown, and is happy to support the amendment.

Councilor Harpin echoed Councilor Lamb and Cohen, and stated that it is our responsibility to at least make an attempt to save the marquee, if we do not have a good response, we could put it back out again, and said she supports the amendment.

Councilor LaForest said that all recent development in the City has been very respectful of the heritage of the City. He does not believe a potential developer will want to remove the marquee, and is integral to the building, and has full faith in the Planning Board.

Councilor Cohen stated that she appreciates that the leaders of the City can look into the future while still appreciating the past. If we continue to keep our mindset on appreciating the past, I think we can find a happy medium, and does not feel it is too much to ask to preserve the history of Main Street.

The President called for a roll call vote on the amendment, on roll call, the following responded: yea, Councilors Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, nay, Councilors Moran, Wilkinson, Bona. Motion passes.

The President called for a roll call vote on the Order, on roll call, the following responded: yea, Councilors, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Councilors Moran, Wilkinson, Bona, nay, none. Motion passes.

**11,407-2** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article XXXIV (Public Arts Commission) of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, which was postponed at the meeting of March 26, 2019.

Councilor Hopkins spoke about the final language that the General Government Committee arrived at during the last Meeting. The minutes were distributed earlier in the day, however not enough time for the public presentation, therefore, will have to be postponed to the meeting of May 14, 2019.

Councilor Lamb stated that it was important to hear from Mr. Sapienza to hear his support, since it speaks another layer of approval from the body that is most impacted by this act.

Councilor LaForest stated that this does not change the legislative intent, and wanted to clarify the process and powers and intent, it merely cleans up the language. He did have one criticism, and that is, that the Ordinances and the Public Arts Commission were created, and the Commission received almost no support historically, and he hopes that with the new introduction that the current administration will work together to fully engage in the initial legislation.

Councilor Buddington inquired if the General Government Committee recommended changes to the language at its last meeting, Councilor Hopkins stated it was the same language from the past meeting.

Councilor Harpin stated that she spoke to a couple people on the Commission and that they were okay with it, and that there is a meeting next Monday, and it is on the agenda, so therefore postponing this would be a good idea.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of May 14, 2019.

**11,717** The President presented a report of the North Adams Traffic Commission regarding parking options for the Holden Street condominium owners which was postponed at the meeting of April 9, 2019.

On Motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins it was VOTED: to file the report.

Councilor LaForest questioned whether or not the minutes received gave enough time for Councilors to review, as they were just received today. The Clerk explained that the report from Traffic Commission Chairman, Sacco addressed the issues which were included in the packet from last week.

Councilor Lamb stated that the communication from Councilor Buddington also spoke about the specific matter and clarified what was requested of the Traffic Commission. Councilor LaForest questioned whether the minutes were official, because they were unapproved. Councilor Lamb stated that it was a grey area, and that the report can still be filed. Councilor Buddington gave Kudos to Amanda Chilson for expediency on the minutes.

- 10,454-3** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 13-49, entitled Parking prohibited on certain streets which was passed to a second reading and published as required by law at the meeting of April 9, 2019.

On Motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance.

The President called for a roll call vote on the Order, on roll call, the following responded: yea, Councilors, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, Bona, nay, none. Motion passes.

- 8,890-9** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 13-21, Designation, etc. by Council, which was passed to a second reading and published as required by law at the meeting of April 9, 2019.

On Motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance.

The President called for a roll call vote on the Order, on roll call, the following responded: yea, Councilors, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, Bona, nay, none. Motion passes.

- 9,653-1** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 13-55.1, Tow away regulations, which was passed to a second reading and published as required by law at the meeting of April 9, 2019.

On Motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance.

The President called for a roll call vote on the Order, on roll call, the following responded: yea, Councilors, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, Bona, nay, none. Motion passes.

- 10,893-1** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 13-48, General Prohibitions, which was passed to a second reading and published as required by law at the meeting of April 9, 2019.

On Motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance.

The President called for a roll call vote on the Order, on roll call, the following responded: yea, Councilors, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, Bona, nay, none. Motion passes.

- 11,191-1** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Sec. 13-52, All night parking, which was passed to a second reading and published as required by law at the meeting of April 9, 2019.

On Motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance.

The President called for a roll call vote on the Order, on roll call, the following responded: yea, Councilors, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, Bona, nay, none. Motion passes.

**11,777** The President Presented Mayor's communication #33 relative to approval of a permit for the installation of an overhanging sign to MountainOne Financial, located at 93 Main Street.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

**11,777** An Order granting permission to install overhanging sign to MountainOne Financial, located at 93 Main Street.

On Motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins, it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

Councilor Moran inquired if this had gone to the Planning Board, Councilor Wilkinson clarified that it had.

Councilor Cohen had concerns as to why it stated a P.O. Box for an address, on the Certificate of Liability, and not a physical address.

Councilor Harpin stated that she thought the awnings looked great in the photos, and that they will add value to the downtown.

The President called for a roll call vote on the Order, on roll call, the following responded: yea, Councilors, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, Bona, nay, none. Motion passes.

**11,718-1** The President presented a communication from Councilor Lamb regarding food access to the West end, presentation.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of August 13, 2019.

Councilor Lamb stated that the presentation that was scheduled tonight, has been rescheduled, as they are in the process of a grant application, and felt it was more appropriate to return at a later date.

The President presented an application from Ernie Perry, 118 Eagle Street, North Adams, for a secondhand license under the business name of, Odds & Ends, located at 118 Eagle Street, North Adams.

On Motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor Moran, it was VOTED: to grant the license. Councilor Bona abstained.

The President called for Open Forum.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, suggested that President Bona's health insurance be rescinded. He suggested to Councilor Lamb that trees and flowers should be put on Ashland Street, and felt the flowers on Main Street last year were not to his liking, and a better effort should be made.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, spoke about how he had seen a documentary about children painting an optical illusion in the roads, to appear as speed bumps, to make motorists believe they were raised, and to slow down. He felt this would work for crosswalks around the school district.

Bryan Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street, spoke on his support for Main Street flowers, and feels that they

put a good effort in the beautification of our downtown. .

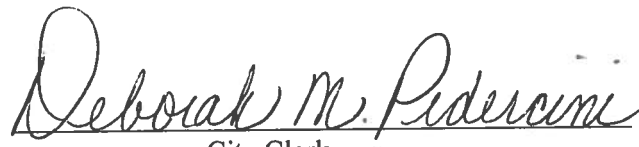
Council President called for Mayor's Concerns.

The Mayor spoke about the Teen Invitational art show at Mass MoCA on April 26<sup>th</sup>, which features many local schools including North Adams. He also reminded everyone of the new police chief, Jason Wood's swearing in at Brayton Elementary School on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 pm.

With no further business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was in order.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 8:52 p.m.

A True Record  
Attest,

  
City Clerk



# Office of the City Clerk

## City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

### Regular Meeting of the City Council

May 14, 2019

46

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers with the following present: Councilor Bona, Buddington, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Moran, Councilors absent, Councilor Cohen, Lamb and Wilkinson.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of April 23, 2019.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Bryan Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street, spoke in favor of the North Adams Public Arts Commission's new Ordinance language.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, commented on his disappointment of the fee changes on the Center Street parking lot. He also spoke about the fact that the children's artwork on Marshall Street has not been addressed yet.

**11,746** The President presented a communication from Councilor LaForest regarding crosswalk on Brickyard Court which was postponed at the meeting of April 23, 2019.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins, it was VOTED: to file the communication.

Councilor Buddington read the Traffic Commission's report regarding the crosswalk. He stated it was his understanding that the crosswalk was actually put in by the school, and that they have plans to get children to school by an alternate route that will avoid the intersection.

Councilor Laforest stated, it may be difficult to have children reroute, and questioned if there were any actions being taken tonight.

President Bona stated that the reports can be put on the agenda at a later date. Councilor Buddington stated he felt that the crosswalk can be removed without Council approval. President Bona disagreed. Councilor LaForest

rescinded his motion, and would like to see the plan from the school to reroute. He also agreed with President Bona that the Council should have a vote in removal of the crosswalk. Councilor Harpin asked who would be contacted at the school, Council President suggested through the Mayor's Office.

On Motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins it was VOTED: to refer to the Mayor's Office and postpone to the meeting of June 11, 2019.

**11,747** The President presented a communication from Councilor LaForest regarding the Federal Government shutdown and the effects it may have on the North Adams School lunch program, which was postponed at the meeting of April 23, 2019.

On Motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to file the communication.

Councilor Harpin stated that she attended the meeting with Dr. Malkas, and that it was explained thoroughly about the School Lunch program, and that all councilors should have received a copy of the minutes.

**11,407-2** The President presented a report from the General Government Committee regarding Chapter 2, Article XXXIV (Public Arts Commission) of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, amending language.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

Councilor Hopkins stated that the language was reviewed, and PAC member Sapienza is present to answer any questions.

**11,407-2** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article XXXIV (Public Arts Commission) of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, which was postponed at the meeting of April 23, 2019.

On Motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkin it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

Councilor LaForest stated that there was a communication brought forward, and Chairperson of PAC, Eric Kerns stated a concern about custody and care of all works of art owned by the City. He had no issue with the PAC language, however the "City has some incumbency to support the Commission that has been created and for which we have worked through Ordinance changes for quite some time. If there is intent for the Commission to be the custodian of Public Arts, there needs to be some additional effort from the administration."

**10,540-4** The President presented a report of the North Adams Traffic Commission regarding Chapter 13, Section 13-61, entitled fees for parking zones, which was postponed at the meeting of April 23, 2019.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

**10,540-4** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 13-61, entitled fees for parking zones, which was referred to the Traffic Commission and postponed at the meeting of April 9, 2009.

On Motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkin it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

Councilor Laforest was concerned that fees are being raised solely because they have not been raised in ten years, without an actual study as to the usage, as to the cost of maintaining the parking lot. Many of the spaces are purchased by a couple of businesses at a fairly significant cost.

Councilor Harpin stated that she spoke to the Mayor regarding all fees citywide. She stated that possibly doing this at the same time all fees are addressed. Councilor Buddington stated that it is just inflation, and doesn't feel a study is warranted. Councilor Moran stated that he agreed that we should be looking at the bigger picture, how many people are actually affected. He stated there should be a comparison as to what the "going rate" in other communities are, and felt it would be worth it to wait until more information was gathered. Councilor LaForest echoed Councilor Moran, and felt we should not make it more difficult for residents and businesses downtown, noting that it is only an arbitrary number, and stated he would vote no.

Councilor Harpin suggested referring to the Finance Committee, as the fees for Public Safety are also in front of the Committee at this time.

Councilor Buddington recinded his motion. On Motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkin it was VOTED: to refer to the Finance Committee and postpone to the meeting of June 28, 2019.

President Bona stated that in a sense he feels that due to the equipment that is used to maintain the parking lots, the cost of inflation is making it more costly to maintain, therefore, one could use this as a reason to raise fees.

**11,778** The President presented Mayor's communication #34 appropriating funds from the Parking Meter Reserve account to purchase a utility vehicle for the North Adams Fire Department

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

**11,778** The President presented an Order appropriating the sum of \$52,663.75 from Parking Meter Reserve account to Capital Expenses.

On Motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

Councilor Buddington questioned the cost of \$539 for a radio; Steven Meranti, Fire Chief, stated that the radio is an option, and can be removed. Councilor LaForest commented that the cell phones would be relaying to the radio, and felt it was not a luxury as it would be used in the line of safety. Councilor Harpin agreed with Councilor LaForest, and asked the age of the current vehicle. Fire Chief Meranti stated over 25 years, and described the poor condition. Councilor Buddington inquired if the radio would be used as part of communications with the Fire Station, as it appears only to be a regular radio. Fire Chief Meranti stated that the system they are currently looking at ties cell phones to the radio and possibly broadcast over radio.

Councilor Harpin inquired what the truck's use would be, Chief Meranti stated it would be used for pulling all trailers, including the shelter trailer, generator, MDU, snowmobile and ATV. The truck also is used at every fire and transports four firefighters. When the fires are extinguished, the truck is also used to haul all the hoses and



equipment back to the station. It is also used daily for smoke detector inspections, as well as the Police Department's use for barricades.

Councilor President inquired as to what will happen to the current truck, Chief Meranti stated it would most likely be declared excess property. Administrative Officer, Michael Canales stated it would be declared surplus vehicles along with other vehicles that are currently coming off line, and go through the process of selling them. Councilor Hopkins stated he has seen the vehicle and does not believe there is any value to it.

The President called for a roll call vote on the Order, on roll call, the following responded: yea, Councilors, Buddington, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Moran, Bona, nay, none. Motion passes

**11,779** The President presented Mayor's communication #35 accepting a gift from Maryann and Anthony Abuisi to the City of North Adams, Public Library in memory of Judith Ann "Jody" LaFortune Gottwald.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

**11,779** The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to accept a gift from Maryann and Anthony Abuisi to the City of North Adams and the North Adams Public Library.

On Motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The President read the Order into the record.

The President asked Ms. Abuisi to describe the gift. She stated that her sister passed away suddenly on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, in South Bend, Indiana at the age of 77. It was her wish to have donations made in her memory to the North Adams Public Library, a place near and dear to her heart and responsible for her career choice as a librarian. Her love for books and reading actually started at the young age of eight in the children's section of the library and later in high school, she worked as a page. After high school she earned a degree in Library Science at Simmons College in Boston, and masters from University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Her career then took her to become a Librarian at Townsend College in Maryland and on to her final twenty two years as Librarian at Indiana State University at South Bend.

Ms. Abuisi stated "I have always wanted to do something for the City, mostly because I've given 28 years in my service; my dad was a firefighter from 1941 to 1969". She stated due to her sister's love of books, I spoke to Mindy at the Library, and she seemed excited about the bronze statue by Design Toscano is called "Read to Me" and is of a boy and a girl sitting on a bench with a book. Ms. Abuisi said she had seen the statue in Naples, Fla., about a decade ago and loved it. The statue has already been purchased and is in her garage. "I just hope everybody will love it," she said. "To me it's appropriate and it would give children probably the incentive to read and put down the iPads."

Councilor Buddington thanked the Abuisis, and asked if it was a painted statue; Ms. Abuisi stated it was a patina. Councilor Harpin thanked the Abuisis for the gift and stated, "It's a beautiful statue and so appropriate for the library and how it fits in with your family and your sister, it's just a lovely gesture. So thank you very much."

The President called for a roll call vote on the Order, on roll call, the following responded yea, Councilors, Buddington, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Moran, Bona, nay, none.  
Motion passes

The President called for committee reports and minutes, not hearing any, moved on to licenses.

The President presented an application from Mary Ann George, 656 Ashland Street, North Adams, for a secondhand license under the business name of, MaryAnn-tiques Gifts, located at 615 Ashland Street, North Adams.

On Motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin it was VOTED: to grant the License.

The President called for a roll call vote on the license, on roll call, the following responded yea, Councilors, Buddington, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Moran, nay, none. Councilor Bona abstained.  
Motion passes

Council President abstained from the vote due to similar business

The President presented an application from James Montepare, 100 McClain Court, Williamstown, MA for a secondhand license under the business name of, Empire Antiques, located at 63 Main Street, North Adams

On Motion of Councilor Moran, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest it was VOTED: to grant the License.

The President called for a roll call vote on the license, on roll call, the following responded: yea, Councilors, Buddington, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Moran, nay, none. Councilor Bona abstained.  
Motion passes

The President presented an application from James Montepare, 100 McClain Court, Williamstown, MA for a secondhand license under the business name of, Empire Antiques, located at 432 State Road, North Adams

On Motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to grant the License

The President called for a roll call vote on the license, on roll call, the following responded yea, Councilors, Buddington, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Moran, nay, none. Councilor Bona abstained.  
Motion passes

The President called for Open Forum.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, advocated for the artwork for the children at Marshall Street.

Roger Eurbin, 677 Ashland Street stated that they would be placing flags at the Southview Cemetery on Saturday May 25, at 8:45. If anyone from the public would like to join, they would welcome the help. Also, he noted the artwork on the Goodwill store.

Bryan Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street, noted that the East Main Street area crosswalk should be looked at by the Traffic Commission, as it needs painting and attention paid to, as it is a safety issue.

Michael Canales, City Administrative Officer stated, that on May 28, at 7:00 there will be a display for the City's Municipal Vulnerability study in the lobby of City Hall. Immediately following there will be a presentation to the City Council.

The President called for Councilors Concerns.

Councilor LaForest asked through the chair to Mr. Canales as to whether or not he had an update on the ADA appeal of the Police and Fire Station. Mr. Canales stated, the City had been granted the variance, and has reached out to the contractor, and they will be honoring the contract.

Councilor Harpin asked Mr. Canales as to any conditions that are attached. Mr. Canales stated that there were other items identified, due to the value of the roof; it kicks off a number of ADA issues, and they will be going back to them as we go along.

Councilor LaForest asked for clarification, do they want to know the process for replacement of the building? Mr. Canales stated that they are working on a plan for this right now. They would like up to date progress.

Councilor LaForest asked if he could make that information available to the Council. Mr. Canales stated they would.

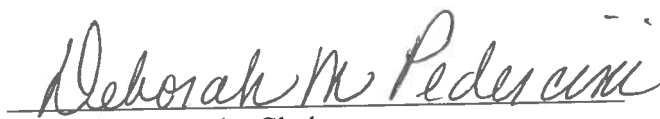
Councilor Moran stated that there were several new murals throughout the City, and recommended the public check them out. He also spoke about the O+ festival, which was a great success.

Councilor Buddington thanked Councilor Harpin on her efforts on the minutes for the Finance Committee. President Bona agreed.

With no further business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was in order.

On motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.

A True Record  
Attest,

  
City Clerk



# Office of the City Clerk

## City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109

North Adams, Massachusetts 01247

(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini

City Clerk

### Regular Meeting of the City Council

May 28, 2019

52

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers with the following present: Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Absent, Councilor Hopkins.

A moment of silence was held for Beverly Jane Demarsico, cafeteria worker at Greylock and Brayton Elementary schools.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of May 14, 2019.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented. Councilors Cohen, Lamb and Wilkinson abstained.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, spoke in reference to Councilor Lamb's council paper regarding speed limits, and his concerns for the police presence to enforce the speed limits. He had concerns about limiting the speed limits in the downtown and felt it should be used around school zones.

Daniel Connerton, 58 Quincy Street, spoke in regards to the seven new parking spaces that are proposed on Ashland Street. Mr. Connerton voiced his concerns for visibility and pedestrian crossing, as well as the delivery trucks that would be entering and exiting at Cumberland Farms.

**11,780** The President presented Mayor's communication #36 presenting the North Adams Hazard Mitigation and Vulnerability Preparedness Plans.

Without objection, the President moved to the presentation.

Caroline Massa from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission presented the Hazard Mitigation and Vulnerability Preparedness Plans in an informative slide presentation with questions and answers from Administrative Officer, Michael Canales, Councilors and public.

- 11,407-2** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article XXXIV (Public Arts Commission) of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, which was passed to a second reading and published as required by law at the meeting of May 14, 2019.

On Motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll call the following responded yea; Councilor Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Lamb, LaForest, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none. Motion Passes.

- 10,674-6** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter Z of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 2.1, entitled divisions, which was postponed at the meeting of March 26, 2019.

Councilor Wilkinson requested an explanation as to what exactly Chapter Z is; Councilor Bona stated it was several different zoning district changes.. Councilor Wilkinson stated that the Council was looking at a plan to change zoning in the City, but does not recall approving it. He would like it to go to committee because he has serious concerns with the zoning.

On Motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to refer to Community Development Committee and postpone to the meeting of July 23, 2019.

Councilor LaForest requested an update as to where the process has gone over the past several months.

Councilor Buddington had concerns regarding the owner of NORAD Mill and would like to know what the status is on the zoning changes at that location.

Councilor Lamb stated the public zoning meeting unfortunately overlapped the budget committee meeting and it made it hard for councilors to attend. Therefore, it would be essential for Michael Canales and someone from BRPC to be in attendance at the Community Development Committee meeting.

Councilor Cohen stated that she needed to have a clear understanding of the process, not only for herself but for her constituents and citizens. She stated Michael Nuvallie, Community Development director, is willing to come to the meeting and discuss, however, something in writing that would be simplistic and in laymen's terms for all would be appreciated.

Councilor Harpin echoed Councilor Cohen. She is requesting that administration makes every effort to schedule meetings that do not conflict with other essential meetings, as well as televising the meetings in order to outreach to the community.

Councilor Wilkinson stated his concerns that there could be tax implications with the zoning changes.

Councilor Buddington agreed with Councilor Cohen, that it would be helpful if the administration could rewind a little. He stated his understanding was that the new zoning ordinance was to simplify the current situation without substantial changes; zone lines were snapped to match lot boundaries. Some residents have split lots; the intent is that anyone in a non-split lot, the usage will remain the same; it is intended to be a "clean-up" of zoning.

Councilor Lamb stated there was a lacking gap in knowledge and awareness and not enough time to discuss in a one hour meeting; there needs to be more meetings and discussion.

Councilor Buddington inquired if the zoning maps were online, Mr. Canales was unaware.

The Mayor stated that the process began a year ago with staff from many departments, and the review of the zoning; as it exists currently, the map is outdated as to how it has been developed and using GIS to draw the

cleaner boundaries is in line with standards. There were meetings in the fall with BRPC, there was a pause due to staff vacancies, and the recent meeting is the restart of this project; and not to suggest that there are not important clarifications and questions, nor force this through. He stated he spoke to Michael Nuwallie today, and is working with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission addressing all of the issues making sure that the maps and tables respond to the input that has been heard up to this point, and plan to put the information online. He anticipates several community informational meetings would be upcoming. As we restart the process, we would again have Council and Planning Board meetings as well.

Councilor LaForest stated that at the public meeting there was a significant amount of confusion amongst residents that had received letters, there wasn't a clear and precise explanation as to the differentiation between classification changes and usage changes, but it seemed very convoluted. He stated he was confused if the motion to refer to Community Development Committee in light of the upcoming community meeting was still in order. Councilor Lamb responded that the discussion would be beneficial.

Councilor Cohen stated the need to inform the citizens of how these zoning changes will affect their homes, and the need to slow down the process, to make sure people are fully informed.

Councilor LaForest stated when he attended the public meeting; he did not have a full understanding of what zones were changing, and echoed Councilor Cohen's concerns. He stated that there was no information online and the residents need to know that the neighborhoods that they live in are not going to be drastically changed.

Wilkinson stated that a good resource for zoning maps online to follow would be Bennington, Vermont. He also stated that he commended the Council for putting the brakes on and not just passing without the full understanding of what was being passed.

Mayor Bernard stated respectfully, that it has been brought forth twice prior and the suggestion that it was brought forward to force a decision is not the case. Councilor Wilkinson apologized if there was a misunderstanding, there was no ill intent.

President Bona clarified that the paper was before the Council due to a postponement from a previous meeting.

The President inquired if Michael Nuwallie will be the point person to address any questions; the Mayor stated that would be appropriate. However, the best way to address any issues is at a public meeting.

**8,815-21a** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 8 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Department of Public Safety, which was postponed at the meeting of April 23, 2019.

On Motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

Councilor LaForest stated that the Public Safety Committee reviewed the proposed Ordinance change which is restructuring of Public Safety in Ordinance to reflect the change to Police and Fire Chief rather than Public Safety Commissioner. We did review with the Mayor and attorney Dupere and all references to the old structure; rather than having thirty ordinance changes, section 866-867 making sure that some of the responsibilities go to the Police Chief and others go to Director of Inspection Services. Beyond that there was also a question as to whether a schedule of fees should be revisited and the committee felt that they would move on with the Ordinance change, and during the summer, review as part of a broader reconsideration of fees throughout the City. It is the recommendation of the Public Safety Committee to adopt as presented.

- 11,718** The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Cohen regarding the need to access healthy food and gas station in the west end of the City which was postponed at the meeting of March 26, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Cohen duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of August 27, 2019.

Councilor Cohen stated that there were still pending issues on this, and the Community Development Committee would like to have time to meet and discuss them.

- 11,781** The President presented Mayor's communication #37 recommending the reappointment of Bryan Sapienza to the North Adams Public Arts Commission for a term to expire May 1, 2024

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED to confirm the reappointment

- 11,782** The President presented Mayor's communication #38 recommending the reappointment of Rosemary Dickinson to the North Adams Board of License Commission for a term to expire June 1, 2025.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED to confirm the reappointment

- 11,783** The President presented Mayor's communication #39 regarding revision changes to Chapter 7 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams increasing members of the Cemetery Trustees.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

- 11,783** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Section 7-12.1 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, entitled Public Services, Cemetery Trustees.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

The Mayor stated that Mr. Lescarbeau has had challenges with the board, and had interest in doing more with the Committee and felt bringing new perspective would be helpful. Councilor LaForest inquired as to the cost of changing an Ordinance. Councilor Wilkinson inquired as to if the members receive a stipend, the Mayor replied, no. Councilor Cohen asked what the role of the Cemetery Trustee was; the Mayor stated they were charged with the care and oversight of the Cemetery, perpetual care, plots, rules and regulations and expansion.

Councilor Buddington asked if the board was strictly advisory, the Mayor replied, essentially, yes.

Councilor Cohen inquired whether they would work with Mr. Eurbin's group or what the role was. The Mayor stated that they are under the provisions of Public Services.

Councilor LaForest again asked the cost of changing this ordinance, and felt it was unnecessary to change the number of Trustees, because current members do not attend the meetings. The President asked the Clerk approximately what the cost is to advertise and change the Ordinance, the Clerk estimated approximately \$400-600.

Councilor Buddington stated he felt the value of the City assets that the Cemetery Board is helping out with is

huge compared to the cost of publishing the Ordinance, and stated he did not feel it was a matter of not having a quorum, only that additional members would be a more stable board with more diversified opinions.

Councilor LaForest noted that the Mayor indicated there was an issue in attaining a quorum, and realizes this is not the only reason for the change.

Councilor Harpin asked how often they met, the Mayor stated, as needed.

Several Councilors discussed the legalities of publishing in print, and the state and local laws associated with the publishing.

Councilor Moran stated that if Mr. Lescarbeau felt the need to add members we should be supportive. He felt that considering the City's budget is forty million dollars, and to "nickel and dime" is going backwards. He agreed that the City should be mindful of spending, however this is getting more community members involved, and he had no issues with passing this Ordinance.

Councilor Harpin stated that the Mayor's paper did not actually give enough explanation, therefore making it more difficult for the Council to make a decision.

Councilor LaForest felt the need to defend his concerns and stated he did not fully understand why there was a need for five members.

The President called upon Roger Eurbin from the gallery to give an overview of the board's duty. Mr. Eurbin stated that "the board would go through the Rules and Regulations, updating if needed, and making sure that any thoughts or ideas that came from the DPW was brought into the picture; it is not that complex, and if the people are not there, they are not there."

The President called for vote, all in favor, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Councilor Harpin and LaForest opposed.

**9,513-27** The President presented Mayor's communication #40 regarding the Transfer Station Rates for FY 2020.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

**9,513-27** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Section 7-11 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, entitled Public Services, Disposal of Waste at Transfer Station.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Bona, it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

Councilor Lamb asked if there were any cost savings to residents, such as composting. Councilor Moran stated they were entertaining commercial composting and NBCC is doing a forum and will be piggybacking on this.

Councilor Harpin questioned if this fit in with Green Community. Councilor Buddington stated he appreciated Councilor Moran and the administration for such detailed reports.

Councilor LaForest questioned over a ten year period what the approximate increase to residents would be. Mr. Canales stated approximately 25%.

Mr. Canales stated the cost of recyclables used to be free to remove, however due to the China regulations of only 1% sorting contamination, it is nearly impossible to reach. Without that revenue stream, the City has to cover the



costs within the budget. The City is looking at better signage and recycling and compost, and possibly partnering with other communities to make sure recycling is a priority.

Councilor LaForest questioned if the cost of landfill stickers were increasing. Mr. Canales stated no.

Councilor Buddington questioned if we could benefit from more recycling. Mr. Canales stated that the City already does dual stream (separating paper from plastic and aluminum). The advantage of going to single stream, a private hauler would need to separate the recyclables. The Mayor stated that as the pressure on the recycling market increases the focus on reuse and reduction which is where we can see the efficiency as to what the cost will be to our community.

Councilor Harpin questioned what the miscellaneous expense line was for. Mr. Canales stated several items were lumped as operating expenses. Councilor Harpin clarified what the new rate was, and the increased cost of bags.

Councilor LaForest inquired as to the balance in the Transfer Station's reserve account. Mr. Canales stated that there was approximately \$400,000, and stated that there was an appropriation for the fleet of small trucks, in the amount of \$74,000. There is also an additional \$40,000 to replace the bins. The other large piece of equipment is the front end loader, which to replace is very costly. The sticker revenue goes in the reserve account, this allows the City to run the Transfer Station and have capital money available to make upgrades, repairs and equipment purchases.

President Bona inquired that if the cost of recyclables is costing the City, will we still encourage recycling? Mr. Canales stated that in order to cover the costs, we have to focus on reuse, as this is also the State's focus.

Councilor Moran mentioned that there will be a hazardous waste day in August.

**11,784** The President presented Mayor's communication #41 regarding the purchase of equipment for the North Adams Transfer Station.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

**11,784** The President presented an Order appropriating the sum of \$42,942 from the Landfill Reserve account to the Department of Public Safety, Health Inspection Services, Miscellaneous Purchased Services.

On Motion of Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Mayor stated the use of the Transfer Station Reserve is to purchase the new bins; the current bins are old and in disrepair, and need to be replaced.

Councilor LaForest recalled last year that there were significant safety issues with the condition of the bins and the need to have a second set of bins to avoid moving them around.

Mr. Canales stated that they are looking at getting lighting, and with some of the regulations from OSHA that need to be abided by, they are looking at different procedures for changing out the bins, therefore having dual bins will be more efficient.

Councilor Cohen praised the new improvements, and the fact that the City is offering more to the citizens to justify the increase in costs.

- 11,745-1** The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Lamb regarding decreased speed limits in the Designated Safety Zones.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

- 11,745-1** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 13-26.2 and 13-26.3, entitled Establishment of 25 Miles-Per-Hour Speed Limit and Designated Safety Zones.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington, it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

Councilor Lamb stated that this issue has been before Public Safety Commission as well as the Traffic Commission and has been discussed in three meetings this year. Councilor Lamb wanted to clarify that it was brought to his attention that this is actually an adoption of State legislation into our Acts to allow for us to act upon the utility of the two laws that exist with the State. It allows us to establish 25 miles-per-hour zones and establish special designated safety zones at 20 miles-per-hour within the City. It does not universally change speed limits in the City, and does not make any dramatic changes; it offers a tool for the Traffic Commission to act upon the areas deemed necessary. Ultimately, enforcement will be the police. Councilor Lamb stated, with these changes there were studies done in Boston, that showed even with no enforcement increases, there was a 2% decrease in speeding in areas where they designated speed limits, regardless of the enforcement rate, it has a positive impact on communities.

Councilor Lamb stated he wanted to make an amendment to his motion, as MGL only needs to be adopted. Amendment is as follows: eliminate the text in the Ordinance as proposed, and instead change it to adopt the two titles; MGL Ch. 90, Section 17C, Establishment of 25-miles-per-hour speed limit in thickly settled or business districts in city or town; violation and MGL Ch. 90, Section 18B, Establishment of designated safety zones for ways in city or town, violation into City Ordinance Acts C.

President Bona and Councilor Lamb clarified that this is just a tool to be able to set the speed limits by adopting these laws. Councilor Harpin inquired as to what streets would be included in these speed limits. Councilor Lamb stated that there have already been some residents addressing this, and there will be meetings discussing this. The Traffic Commission will be involved, assessments and studies will be done.

Councilor Cohen inquired if other cities and towns are using these laws and verbiage in more rural areas. Councilor Lamb stated the law is fairly new, however Williamstown does have examples of slower speed limits, it is private property. Councilor Bona stated that signage is very important and many streets are missing signs and inquired if there were plans to replace them. The Mayor stated there needs to be an inventory done.

On Motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin it was VOTED: to adopt the amendment.

- 11,785** The President presented a communication submitted by North Adams Traffic Commission regarding metered parking on Ashland Street.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Moran, it was VOTED: to file the communication.

Councilor Buddington wanted to address the concerns of Mr. Connerton regarding the parking spaces encroaching on the turn lane on Ashland Street, the Traffic Commission did discuss this issue, and these parking spaces will not change that lane, and will be a separate process requiring a traffic study. The turn lane will remain as is.

Councilor Harpin questioned what was being filed, and whether it was the approval of the seven parking spaces by the Traffic Commission. She inquired as to whether it was before Council for approval. Councilor Buddington stated the Traffic Commission neglected to submit an Order. Councilor Bona clarified that the Council does not approve “parking spaces” only parking distance, using measurements from a certain corner, and it will say “Parking”, or “No Parking” is permitted, the Council changed this when they changed the bike lanes and removed a couple parking spaces. He stated, usually the Traffic Commission brings forth an Ordinance change.

Councilor Buddington stated he would work with the Chairman of the Traffic Commission on the Ordinance with this content in it.

Councilor Harpin had concerns about the parking, she believes that the streets need to be listed, and she stated that she reviewed the Ordinances, and there are actually named streets with metered parking on East or West side direction. She stated she lives on Ashland Street and travels daily and commented on the very congested areas that will be in the vicinity of the parking spaces and has concerns about visibility and feels it is a safety issue, and that there is ample parking in that area already.

Councilor Harpin stated that according to the Traffic Commission minutes, the State recommended a traffic study, and the DOT did not recommend the parking. The Council recently approved removing parking spaces on Ashland Street in the last six months, and stated she felt that adding more back in this area is even more dangerous than the ones that were removed previously.

Councilor Buddington wanted to clarify that when the State responded to the Traffic Commission’s request for the maximum amount of parking spaces, due to Mr. Maloney’s pressing, the State could not give a definitive answer, and were informed they would have to have a traffic study done.

Councilor Harpin debated that the minutes from the Traffic Commission does not specify that.

Councilor Wilkinson stated to the Council this was only a communication, and felt that the discussion should be debated when an actual Order does come before the Council.

Councilor Moran inquired what the reasoning was for seven spaces. Councilor Buddington stated the intent was to open up businesses, and part of that was wishing for parking directly outside of their businesses.

Councilor LaForest stated he has noticed that there are frequently vacant spaces in the area downtown. He echoed Councilor Harpin’s concern for safety as it is very congested in that area. He also agrees with Councilor Wilkinson that this conversation would be better attached to an Order before the Council. He feels that an engineering study needs to be done, as there is not enough space for two parking lanes, bike lanes, two lanes of traffic and a turn lane to go east and west on.

Councilor Lamb stated there was a serious issue that if people cannot park directly in front of a business, they will not go there. There is definitely a lot of parking in the vicinity; however, you cannot utilize Steeple City, or private property. He stated that the Council should be discussing this even prior to an Order, it’s important to have whoever brings this back to us that they have all these steps in place, such as engineering or traffic study done.

Councilor Bona inquired if the Council should be returning to the Traffic Commission with questions, or could it be relayed by Councilor Buddington to bring the Ordinance forward. Councilor Harpin mentioned she would locate the section for Councilor Buddington.

Councilor Lamb praised Mr. Connerton for bringing to light the Cumberland Farm trucks, as he has experienced this as well. He inquired with the Mayor whether or not the revitalization of Ashland Street has been addressed with him. The Mayor replied nothing substantial at this time. Councilor Lamb felt it imperative that it should all be looked at prior to coming back to Council

Councilor LaForest echoed Councilor Lamb in reference to the revitalization of Ashland Street, all of the questions should be addressed as well as a traffic study prior to returning to the Council.

Councilor Moran stated he feels that the Traffic Commission can give their recommendations, however that does not mean the Council has to agree with them.

Councilor Buddington inquired as to what the collective wishes of the Council are from the Traffic Commission, he stated a map as to where the spaces would be, a traffic study, consideration as to how bike lanes fit into it, whether this would interfere with the right turn lane onto Summer Street, and whether truck traffic from Cumberland Farms would be too much of a risk. The President stated that the Ordinance language would need to include measurements.

**11,786**           The President presented a communication from Councilor LaForest regarding stipends paid to individuals assigned to take minutes at various City meetings.

On Motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to refer to the Finance Committee, and postpone to the meeting of June 11, 2019.

Councilor LaForest stated the paper was for the Finance Committee and the Mayor to reconsider the stipends that are paid primarily to individuals taking minutes at boards and committee meetings, including the City Council meetings, there seems to be an inconsistency in the amounts that the individuals are paid. He stated referring to the part in regards to City Council, standing committee meetings that are usually staffed by three members, one of the members is required to take minutes for archiving purposes. This makes it difficult to concentrate on the meeting and participate fully, it would be beneficial to have someone to take minutes other than a committee member. He felt this was a good time for the Finance Committee to review this during the budget review

Considerable discussion amongst Councilors continued in regard to putting this on the agenda for a later date, and whether there was time to add to the agenda to discuss. Councilor LaForest rescinded his motion, and changed the return date to the Council to June 25, 2019.

The President called for any Committee reports or minutes, hearing none, he moved to Licenses.

The President presented an application from Timothy Randall, 56 Cummings Avenue, Williamstown, MA for a secondhand license under the business name of, Sanford & Kid, located at 160 Houghton Street, North Adams.

On Motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President called for Open Forum.

Henry Jaesche , 62 Chase Avenue reminded the residents that the Farmer's Market will be coming in June and the Steeplecats are back in season as well.

Roger Eurbin, 677 Ashland Street, spoke about the great response that was received to help put flags on the cemeteries, the following groups were represented: Boy Scouts of America, Adams Community Bank, Mountain One, American Legion, VFW, Vietnam Veterans of America, McCann School, Drury Baseball, First Baptist Church, all military branches, Wreaths Across America, and many families. The Hillside group thanks all of these people.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, had concerns as to why the VFW and the American Legion were not involved in the placing of flags on the cemeteries as the Cemetery group took over this duty.

Bryan Sapienze, 113 Pleasant Street, thanked the Mayor and Council on his reappointment to the PAC. He spoke about Johnson School Head Start art exhibit.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, thanked Councilor Lamb for the work he is doing in regards to the safety zone speed limits. He also thanked the Mayor for reappointing Mr. Sapienza and commented on the impressive Memorial Day services.

The President called for Mayor's concerns. The Mayor acknowledged the City staff who prepared the park for the Memorial Day service, veterans and community members, Drury Band, Carly Pontier, Steven Roy, and all the volunteers who contributed.

The Mayor noted that Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, recognized superintendent, James Brosnan, McCann School for his 25 years of service as well as superintendent, Barbara Malkas with a president's award, and outstanding contributions. The Mayor congratulated all of the graduates from BART, McCann and Drury.

Councilor Harpin mentioned that the last Finance Committee meeting is tomorrow evening at 6:30 in City Hall.

President Bona stated that he was in the City Clerk's office for an hour and a half this morning and noted that there was a lot of activity in the office. He spoke about the new Federal ID for your driver's license requiring a birth certificate and marriage certificate, and how it is creating an increase in traffic in the office.

With no further business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was in order.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 10:12 p.m.

A True Record  
Attest,

  
City Clerk



**Office of the City Clerk**  
**City of North Adams**  
10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

**Regular Meeting of the City Council**

June 11, 2019

62

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers with the following present: Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of May 28, 2019.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, inquired if there were any cuts to the FY' 2020 Budget.

**11,590-2** The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Harpin regarding property located at 45 Edgewood Avenue which was postponed at the meeting of March 12, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest it was VOTED: to file the communication.

Councilor Harpin stated she heard from Ben Svenson today and he was able to gain title and insurance and is going to clean up the property in the next ten days. She also spoke to Ms. Ferrara, adjacent neighbor, and she seemed satisfied with the progress.

**11,746** The President presented a communication submitted by the North Adams Traffic Commission regarding crosswalk on Brickyard Court.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to file the communication.

**11,746** The President presented Mayor's communication #46 in response to Councilor LaForest's communication regarding crosswalk on Brickyard Court.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to file the communication.

The Mayor provided to the Council the recommended and approved "Safe Route to School" from the Brayton Hill neighborhood which is Brayton Hill Terrace along the crosswalk to the intersection, that bypasses the crosswalk. The Traffic Commission has recommended the crosswalk for removal; this is the recommendation of

the School Department. We are hoping to receive funding for a Safe Route to School grant that will allow the City to look at the entire area.

Councilor Lamb stated he felt it was necessary to notify the neighboring area that this would be the route, noting that the crosswalk will be removed. The Mayor stated that if it was in walking access, the recommended path would be up Brickyard Park rather than walking through the woods. Councilor Lamb, again stated the necessity of distributing information.

The Mayor stated that the question was regarding the school route, therefore, there has not been any suggestion that a communication in that neighborhood should be addressed at this time. Councilor Lamb stated that if we are steering the traffic of human bodies to a safer route as children, there should also be attention paid to adults that will be monitoring them. Perhaps this should be another layer to this matter. He felt it necessary as the no longer marked crosswalk won't be there.

Councilor Harpin stated that a solution could be a barrier, such as a fence. The Mayor stated that it was on private property. Councilor LaForest stated that he felt it was ridiculous, it is the second time a crosswalk, used by children has been brought before Council, and both times, the answer was to remove it. The plan now is for children to walk all the way to route 2, and all the way back and cross a busy crosswalk. His feeling is, that these children will not adhere to this new path, and most likely children will still be crossing there.

Councilor Cohen stated that the crosswalk has been there for decades, therefore the children will still use this route, and by removing the crosswalk, will not mitigate the problem; it is a safety issue. Councilor Lamb stated that it is a step to make it safer, however it is a much longer route, and not human in form design for people to go this direction. Councilor Lamb noted that there is a Safe Route to School grant available and there are opportunities to improve this area. He felt that the Council should postpone this paper.

Councilor LaForest stated that the longer route already exists, and stated that people will still continue to use the crosswalk route, and feels that a safety issue still remains. He stated that removing the crosswalk would mean that the Council would have to approve the removal. He stated that he hopes that the crosswalk does not disappear due to the paper being filed.

Councilor Moran stated that he disagreed with all Councilors that spoke on this, he stated that removing the crosswalk is exactly what we need to do, because it is unsafe; whether people adhere to it, is another issue. He stated he is a civil engineer and that is the appropriate thing to do, stating that even though you did it this way, which is wrong, we are telling you the proper way to do it. This is a crosswalk, that should not have been there, the Traffic Commission has agreed that it should not be there, whether people follow it or not is up to the parents and the children of the neighborhood. He stated that we should move forward with the removal, and continue with discussion after the Safe Route to School grant happens.

Councilor Cohen stated that not all children have parents that walk with them, and feels that it is not an easy route for children, and its human nature to find the most efficient route. She would like to see this return to Public Safety Committee. Councilor Harpin echoed Councilor Cohen's statements, and suggested having contact with Parks and Recreation, and collaborating with Public Safety.

Council President stated that the crosswalk never came before Council and does not believe that Council approval is necessary. Councilor Lamb stated that he disagrees due to the longevity of the crosswalk, there is more to it, as it has a perceived corridor of use. He feels that it should not just be removed.

Councilor LaForest stated point of order, as there is not a paper in front of them to remove it for approval.

Councilor Cohen stated that there is not a list of citywide crosswalks.

Councilor Buddington stated that this routing is the best solution and feels that it is not a safe crosswalk. He stated he would rescind his motion albeit finds no other steps as a Council to change the outcome.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen it was VOTED: to refer to Public Safety Committee and postpone to the meeting of September 10, 2019

The Mayor thanked Councilor Moran, this is not the Mayor's recommendation, this is an acceptance of the fact that the communication was addressed to him, and was incumbent upon him to respond. This was the recommendation of the Public School district which has the responsibility to determine the safe routes to school, therefore, a route that goes through private property and woods to an illegal crosswalk is not a recommended safe route. There is a plan in the fall for a walking school bus for students and parents.

Council President called for all in favor, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen Harpin, Hopkins, Lamb, Wilkinson yea, Councilors LaForest and Moran nay.

**11,746** The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor LaForest regarding crosswalk on Brickyard Court which was referred to the Mayor's Office and postponed at the meeting of May 14, 2019.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin it was VOTED: to refer to Public Safety Committee and postpone to the meeting of September 10, 2019.

Councilor Buddington asked if there was some way that these papers could be linked together, Council President stated that they are all separate papers, and it is necessary to discuss them individually.

**8,815-21a** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 8 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Department of Public Safety, which was passed to a second reading and published as required by law at the meeting of May 28, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, yea Councilors, Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, nay, none. Motion passes.

**9,513-27** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Section 7-11 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, entitled Public Services, Disposal of Waste at Transfer Station, which was passed to a second reading and published as required by law at the meeting of May 28, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, yea Councilors, Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, nay, none. Motion passes.



**11,783** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Section 7-12.1 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, entitled Public Services, Cemetery Trustees, which was passed to a second reading and published as required by law at the meeting of May 28, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson, it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance.

Councilor LaForest asked Commissioner Timothy Lescarbeau how many Cemetery Trustee meetings have been cancelled or postponed in the last year, Mr. Lescarbeau stated he was unsure. Councilor LaForest asked for an estimate, he stated that they only meet when there is an issue, and this is why he would like to add more members to diversify the commission. If you have one person on the commission that has health issues and is unable to attend, then you cannot have a meeting. Councilor Harpin inquired as to what would normally be on the agenda, Mr. Lescarbeau responded that it varies; fee structure, changing rules for foundation depth, stones, etc. There is an expansion in the near future and they would like to erect a kiosk and master map, therefore we would like to engage the help of these new members.

Councilor Cohen thanked Mr. Lescarbeau for attending and clarifying the need for additional members.

Council President apologized to the Council that he did not distribute the rules that he received from commission member, Ed Marino. He mentioned that they are going to be updating them. He stated that the City is currently working on a new website, and a map would be helpful for the Cemetery.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, yea Councilors, Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, nay, none. Motion passes.

**11,745-1** The President presented an Order accepting Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 90, Section 17C, Establishment of 25-miles-per-hour speed limit, and Chapter 90, Section 18B, Establishment of designated safety zones.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, yea Councilors, Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, nay, none. Motion passes.

Without objection, the President moved paper # 11,770-1

**11,770-1** The President presented a communication from Councilor Harpin regarding FY' 2020 Budget, recommendations.

Councilor Harpin thanked everyone who participated in the Finance Committee meetings for the FY' 2020 Budget. She stated that there were five meetings and there was robust conversation and questions, and felt it was a positive process. She gave kudos to Council President Bona and Councilor LaForest for their participation and attendance, as well as committee members, Councilors Wilkinson and Cohen.

Councilor Harpin discussed the six recommendations that were brought before the Mayor, of which, four were approved. The first amendment was a change that would allow City Council to use secretarial funds for subcommittee meetings, if needed, which would not increase the budget. The next item was an increase to the Clerk to the City Council, in the amount of \$1,200. Councilor Harpin stated it would be an Ordinance change, however, the City Clerk clarified that it was a Massachusetts General Law that has already been adopted, no

change is necessary. Additionally, \$5,000 was also requested to be moved from the legal account to a line item set up specifically for the City Council, which would not change the budget, but would allow the Council to go directly to legal services, instead of having to go through the administration. There was a decrease in the budget of \$600 to Parks and Recreation, as the secretarial stipend was eliminated.

The two additional requests were pertaining to the Mayor's Office; an increase to the Mayor's Salary of \$4,000, which has not seen an increase in 12 years, and the committee felt that the increase would keep the salary competitive, and maintain the integrity of the office, and service to the City, and feels it is important. Understanding that there are time restraints, Councilor Harpin felt there was still time to adjust the budget to add in the increase for January through June, and it would not be in an election year. The last amendment request was a decrease to the Mayor's administrative assistant, which she believed the Mayor would be addressing.

Councilor Harpin summarized her thoughts of the budget; with \$1,000,000 coming off of the debt line, she stated that the Mayor will attest that the budget shows an increase of only \$89,000, which is less than .2 percent. However, if you took the actual amount of money that came off the debt, then the actual increase to our budget is over \$1,000,000. Therefore, if we are stating that we have a maintenance budget, then we need to maintain the same investments, or at least have a plan to maintain the same investments. She stated that the City is not taking that money and reinvesting it in our infrastructure that would normally be used for sidewalks, roads, water, etc., and stated it was concerning to her. She requested that the Council postpone approving the budget for one more meeting until the end of June. She stated that they could still pass the Compensation Plan, as it needs two readings, however there was still time, as the deadline to pass the budget is June 30, and the next meeting is June 25, and feels one more Finance Committee meeting would be essential to have a better understanding of where the City is going in the future, and to answer any other questions they may have.

Councilor Cohen thanked Councilor Harpin for all of her hard work on the Finance Committee, and was appreciative of her efficiency and accuracy. Councilor Wilkinson echoed Councilor Cohen, and stated how well her minutes were.

On motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to file the communication.

**11,770** The President presented Mayor's communication #42 presenting the FY' 2020 Budget.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

The Mayor echoed the appreciation to the committee for good conversation and a good process. He stated Councilor Harpin spoke about the suggested changes, and the amendments that were made and areas where we did take recommendations. The Mayor stated, that if the action on the budget does go forward tonight, he would introduce some amendments into the process; one of the changes was in the Mayor's Office line.

**11,770** The President presented an Order appropriating the sum of \$40,810,269 to be raised by taxation for FY' 2020.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by councilor Moran, it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

Councilor Harpin stated that due to several changes, such as the legal portion for City Council, as well as the IT department stating that they are listed as assistant MIS directors, there needed to be more discussion.

Councilor LaForest stated, he would like to hear the changes.

Councilor Lamb stated, procedurally, due to the motion, if this fails, in accordance with bylaws, there would be a secondary process to go through. He stated, historically, the budget was a great process, bullet, by bullet, and felt

it was of significant value. Councilor Buddington wanted to clarify Roberts Rules, as he felt that postponing to another meeting does not require withdrawing a motion.

Councilor Wilkinson stated, originally he did not feel the need for another Finance Committee meeting, however, with questions from Councilor Harpin, Councilor Wilkinson rescinded his motion.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to refer to the Finance Committee and postpone to the meeting of June 25, 2019.

Councilor LaForest inquired if they are postponing to hear the Mayor's proposed changes, or to review the reports for the Mayor's office.

Councilor Lamb stated the benefit for postponing would be that the changes the Mayor is indicating now and specific questions could be corrected and then be clarified for the next meeting.  
Councilor Buddington stated that he would like to hear the changes to be as informed as possible.  
Councilor Lamb requested the changes to be viewed tonight.

The Mayor handed out a document stating the changes. The budget will have a commensurate reduction in the amount of \$2,214.00 for the salary of the Administrative Assistant to the Mayor, as well as Unclassified, the FICA line reduces by \$35.00.

**11,787** The President presented Mayor's communication #43 presenting the City's FY'2020 Classification Plan.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

**11,787** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section 2-27 of the Revised Ordinances, Schedule A, Classification Plan FY' 2020.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and post as a municipal bulletin.

Councilor Harpin inquired if there could be any changes made on second reading, the President and Councilor Lamb stated they felt that if they were insignificant, it would be acceptable to approve as amended.

**11-787-1** The President presented Mayor's communication #44 presenting the City's FY' 2020 Compensation Plan.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

**11-787-1** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section 2-28(a), Schedule B, Compensation Plan FY' 2020; July 1, 2019 through December 28, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and post as a municipal bulletin.

**11-787-1a** The President presented Mayor's communication #45 presenting the City's FY' 2020 Compensation Plan.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

**11-787-1a** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section 2-28(a), Schedule B, Compensation Plan FY' 2020; December 29, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and post as a municipal bulletin.

The President called for Committee Reports and minutes, not hearing any, moved to Open Forum.

Bryan Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street, inquired if there were any plans for safe routes in front of Cole Grove School, as it is a very busy street. It is posted at 20 mph during school hours, and wanted to make the public aware of the situation.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, spoke about the bill signed today for infrastructure in the state, and commented how this will be good for our community. He wanted to remind everyone about Flag Day on Friday, and wished everyone a Happy Father's Day.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, commented on the flags that Alan Horbal has put up in the eastern part of the city, and gave him recognition and praised him for voluntarily doing this every year.

Trupthi Mehta, 149 Church Street, Louison House, wanted to direct the Council's attention to the heavy traffic, dangerous, and erratic driving in her neighborhood, and the lack of attention paid to the speed limits, noting she was almost hit herself.

The President called for Mayor's Concerns. The Mayor wanted to give recognition to the DPW and all of their hard work on the water main break, he stated it was actually a combination of infrastructure, management and detective work, it was an extended leak, as it was difficult to find the gates and shutoff.

The Mayor stated that line painting will begin Sunday, June 16, due to weather restraints. He spoke about a meeting he had with Public Safety in regards to the walking school bus, on Church Street, while walking with Lt. Beverly, on Church Street, detective Boudreau pursued a car on Porter Street that went across the yellow line and raced past another vehicle and failed to stop, he was ultimately cited. The need for enforcement in that area will be addressed.

The Mayor stated that currently there is a push on junk vehicles, and in working with Bill Meranti, they will receive a sticker, three days' notice, and will be towed to the City Yard, at the owner's expense.

The Mayor discussed the house on Brooklyn Street that was damaged by fire, and no repairs have been made, the building inspector served another notice today to the property owner, and are working with legal counsel to determine what the City's options are, should the owner not fulfil their obligation to responsibility. He stated he did not want it to get to the point where the City would have to take down the building at the City's expense, however, if necessary they will explore that.

With no further business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was in order.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 10:12 p.m.

A True Record  
Attest,

  
City Clerk



**Office of the City Clerk**  
**City of North Adams**  
10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

**Regular Meeting of the City Council**

June 25, 2019

69

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers with the following present: Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of June 11, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, spoke in favor of the removal of the crosswalk on Brickyard Court. He also stated he was opposed to putting up ethnic signage for the sister City of Tremosine, his reasoning was that if you do this for one group, you will have to do for all ethnic groups

Bryan Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street, spoke in regards to the parking meter zone on Ashland Street. He stated his concerns with safety in the area and feels it is too congested to add more parking there.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, spoke in regards to the parking fees in the long term parking Ordinance. He felt that the fees needed to be increased to offset the maintenance.

Daniel Connerton, 58 Quincy Street, spoke in favor of keeping lifeguards at Windsor Lake, stating that the need for these trained first responders are more than just babysitters, they are trained for emergencies, crowd control, and CPR, it's a matter of public safety. He urged the City to keep the lifeguards at the Windsor Lake.

The President moved paper #11,791

**11,791** The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Harpin regarding signage at the City's entrances to recognize our sister city, Tremosine, Italy.

Without objection, the President filed the communication, and invited Mr. Edward Morandi to speak.

Mr. Edward Morandi presented a history of how the City of Tremosine, Italy became a sister city to the City of

North Adams. He stated that our City's Italian heritage is still very rich, he named several families still residing in the City that have family in Tremosine. He presented the renderings of the signage to the sister city, that is proposed to be placed on Route 2 and Route 8, entrances to the City. Mr. Morandi stated that the budget has \$500 appropriated to the Sister City account.

Councilor LaForest stated that even though he is not Italian, there is a very long history of several Italians in the community, and was influenced growing up in the City by the Italian Heritage. He stated that he like the signage, and the fact that they matched the signage that is currently in Tremosine welcoming visitors from North Adams. His only concern was that they would not block the North Adams signage. Mr. Morandi stated, he is currently working with administration on this.

Mr. Morandi responded to Mr. Smith's comment about not being in favor of the signage; he stated that it took fifteen years and \$45,000 out of his pocket, and if anyone else would like to do this, they have the same opportunity.

Councilor Harpin stated that the signage will follow the City's Ordinance. She stated that she, herself, has made a trip to the sister city, and noted the similarities between the cities.

Councilor Lamb stated he likes to see the signage in other communities, noting the connection between other cultures, and he is in support of this signage. He questioned the \$500 in the budget and inquired if they would be able to time the purchase as such that both fiscal years funding could be used. Mr. Morandi stated that he has an arrangement with Beck's Printing, and they are willing to wait for payment.

Councilor Wilkinson requested that we send photos to Tremosine, Mr. Morandi stated he would absolutely do this. Councilor Buddington stated he felt it was great to have the social connections with the families visiting each city, and Councilor Buddington stated he had been to Tremosine himself. Councilor Cohen stated that she felt it was very important to keep our roots and history alive, and thanked Mr. Morandi for his efforts.

The Mayor stated the City is in full support, and he stated that his mother and his aunt have also visited Tremosine, and they commented on how wonderful the area is.

**10,540-4** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 13, of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 13-61, entitled, Fees for parking zones which was postponed at the meeting of May 14, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Harpin duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of September 24, 2019.

**11,786** The President presented a communication from Councilor LaForest regarding stipends paid to individuals assigned to take minutes at various City meetings, which was postponed at the meeting of May 28, 2019.

On Motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin it was VOTED: to file the communication.

Councilor LaForest thanked the Mayor for his support in increasing the City Clerk's stipend from \$50.00 per meeting to \$100.00, as well as other stipends for minute taking for the City Council.

**11,770** The President presented an Order appropriating the sum of \$40,810,269 to be raised by taxation for FY' 2020, which was postponed at the meeting of June 11, 2019

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen it was VOTED: to approve the Order.

Councilor Harpin stated that she would like to make amendments to the budget that were approved by the Mayor. The first amendment was to change the Mayor's Administrative Assistant's salary.

On motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to amend 1K, Mayor's Administrative Assistant Salaries from \$136,406 to \$133,992.

Councilor LaForest wanted to clarify that this change reflects a step and 1% raise to all nonunion employees. The Mayor stated that previously they had put an additional step in the original version of the budget, and this will correct that.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Nay, Councilor Wilkinson. Motion passes.

On motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins it was VOTED: to amend the General Government total from \$1,308,879 to \$1,306,465.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none. Motion passes.

Councilor Harpin stated the next change was decreasing the Windsor Lake Park Manager's Salary to reflect the correct amount.

On motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to amend Section 3I, Windsor Lake, Salaries from \$35,250 to \$33,000.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none. Motion passes.

On motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to amend the total for Public Services from \$3,424,826 to \$3,422,576.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none. Motion passes.

On motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to amend FICA, Section 6, Unclassified from \$103,975. To \$103,908.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none. Motion passes.

On motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to amend Total Unclassified from \$8,327,526 to \$8,327,459.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none. Motion passes.

Councilor Harpin motioned she would like to advocate to remove \$14,000 from the Airport Expense line. There is \$12,000 labeled Miscellaneous, and requested an additional \$2,000 from the Fuel line, and her reasoning for doing so, she stated, was that for funding the lifeguards at Windsor Lake. She stated, she did not want the public to think it is a money issue; she agrees with Mr. Connerton, it is a safety issue. Councilor Harpin asked the Mayor to reconsider adding in funding for the lifeguards, even just a portion to get through the summer. She felt that there needed to be better communication with the public.

The President stated that Councilor Harpin would need to have her motion seconded; Councilor Buddington seconded the motion.

Councilor Harpin began again, and pleaded with the Mayor to reconsider the funding for the Windsor Lake lifeguards. The Mayor stated that by cutting the items from the Airport Expense, it would cut into the operations of the Airport. The Mayor asked Michael Canales to discuss the uses for the Miscellaneous line. Mr. Canales began discussing the costs associated with the Miscellaneous line, he spoke about the new building, lighting, etc. and stated the entire budget is \$16,000, and this would be cutting three quarters of the budget, and should be reconsidered. The Mayor stated that if you take \$14,000 out of the budget, you would be decreasing the budget. Councilor Harpin asked why it could not be reallocated. The Mayor stated that it would cut the money from the budget, you can only approve or reject, cannot add.

Councilor LaForest inquired as to why the City is making the decision to not fund the lifeguards. The Mayor stated that he agreed with Mr. Connerton, there should have been better communication. He stated the timing led to confusion, however it is an operational decision. The Mayor stated that there is a misconception regarding camps, he clarified that all camps have lifeguards, The YMCA is not sending their younger campers due to weather. The camp programs make it easier for the camps to abide by state law. The practice in the past has been to staff until Labor Day, which is difficult, due to staff going back to school, etc. The complaints that he heard last year, were inattentive lifeguards, and a guard that is not paying attention presents a greater risk to the City than a swim at your own risk scenario. He stated that the lake is 70 percent of the time, not lifeguarded, there is clear signage at the lake. He stated the comparisons to other recreational facilities; Pittsfield has a limited season, Margaret Lindley, Williamstown, runs without guards, the State Park, Mauserts, Clarksburg runs without guards as well.

He stated he was not suggesting it was best practice, this is where we see the lake going, and stated he was not inclined to change at this time. He stated he was a parent and sees the need for reassurance, however, he felt it was the responsible and appropriate thing to do. Councilor Buddington stated he supports lifeguards at the lake, and that he has heard the administration argue that there are many unstaffed hours, and no one expected to have it guarded 100%, however it is worthwhile to have the guards at busier times at the lake. He stated that it was his general understanding, without specifics, that most of the Airport expenses are Reimbursed from the Federal government, and inquired if this is true.

The Mayor stated that most things would be, however, some things, for example, operations, lighting are not reimbursable. The Mayor asked Mr. Canales to discuss what is reimbursed. Mr. Canales stated that capital items that are done in conjunction with MA Aeronautics and FAA are reimbursed.

Councilor LaForest stated that he felt it was wrong to not have lifeguards; other communities may do this, however, the Red Cross, and American Lifeguard organizations would disagree. The Councilor then spoke on the



response time and injuries, drowning, etc. He stated statistically most drownings occur in less than twenty seconds, even attentive parents can miss their child going under the water. He spoke about swimming with his own family at the lake and feels we have a responsibility to provide lifeguards.

Councilor Moran agreed with Councilor LaForest, and stated however, we should be able to come up with the money without taking it from the Airport. He agreed that lifeguards should be at Windsor Lake, and stated that a lot of money has been put into the Airport, and hopefully a bike trail will be constructed soon. He would like the funds stay in the Airport, and find the money elsewhere.

Councilor Wilkinson agreed with Councilor Moran, he stated he has mixed feelings on the lifeguard issue, however does not feel that the money should come from the Airport.

Councilor Cohen stated that there should be money to move around, the five meetings that the Finance Committee had showed some wiggle room. She noted some well justifications for this change and voiced her concern over the way it was distributed to the public. She stated that the administration should have been more transparent to the residents, educating them not to send the children to the lake unattended, a Robo call, etc. It is her hope that the Mayor will find the money in the budget to fund the lifeguards.

Councilor Buddington stated he realized that the Council does not have the authority to add to the budget, only to Cut; however, every year we do transfer from one account to the other. If we were to cut the budget in the Airport, then that would reduce the budget by \$14,000 that would reduce the amount that we collect from taxes. This is something we could not change, whereas, if things were changed later on, as a whole City we would have authority to reallocate.

Councilor Moran stated the Windsor Lake has become a place that people are attending and is a good service for residents and visitors.

Councilor Harpin stated that the lake has been a great asset to the City, and she stated that the City has received a lot of publicity, and due to the many visitors, they should be able to visit our lake and feel comfortable in knowing that there are lifeguards. She stated that we should really be investing more into the lake.

Councilor LaForest stated that he neglected to mention that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has regulations on lifeguards relative to municipal pools, but not for municipal beaches, and stated it was a breakdown of logic. He feels that it is incumbent on the local municipalities to create Ordinances as to whether or not lifeguards are provided at municipal beaches.

President Bona reminded the Councilors that the motion on the floor is to reduce the Airport.

Councilor Hopkins stated that no one in the room wants to cut lifeguards, and fourteen thousand dollars does not sound like a lot of money. It is his understanding of the mechanics of the budget that we will not find the money tonight and put it into a line item and stated he would like to pass the budget tonight.

Councilor Harpin requested to rescind her motion, and she stated that she wanted to make a new motion to change her amendment to reduce the Airport Maintenance Salary from \$33,332 and cut it by \$14,000. She stated that the building is new, and possibly with the School Department at City Hall now, that would free up time from our maintenance crew.

Council President stated that there needed to be a second, Councilor Cohen seconded the motion.

Councilor Wilkinson questioned what Councilor Harpin was attempting to do, there was discussion. Mr. Canales pointed out that the Council has \$25,000 from the Reserve Account to use for any transfers into the budget. He stated that it was the one account that the Council could allocate \$14,000 to the lifeguards.

Councilor Lamb stated if that were amenable, this is something we would discuss in committee, and thanked Mr. Canales.

Councilor LaForest stated that the Mayor in his capacity has indicated that there will be no lifeguards, even if we could find the fourteen thousand dollars. The only other option would be to put an Ordinance together for our community to mandate them.

Councilor Lamb attempted to clarify that if we cut, then we actually cut the budget, and it disappears. There is 25,000 available in the Reserve account.

Considerable discussion amongst several Councilors ensued, it was the general consensus not to cut the Airport Maintenance line.

Councilor Hopkins inquired of the Mayor, if he would be willing to approve transferring the funds from the Reserve account. The Mayor stated he would entertain transferring the funds.

Councilor LaForest inquired of the Mayor if he heard him properly, that he would reconsider having lifeguards, the Mayor stated, I would be willing to work with you.

Councilor Harpin wanted to clarify with the Mayor if he is going to allocate the \$14,000 from the Reserve to Windsor Lake, the Mayor stated he would consider it.

Councilor Harpin rescinded her motions.

On Motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins, it was VOTED: to amend the Amount to be Appropriated for Operations and Amount to be Raised from Taxes from \$40,810,269 to \$40,805,538.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none. Motion passes.

Councilor Harpin stated that the Budget would be done line by line. Councilor Wilkinson read the numbers for General Government.

It was VOTED: to adopt the line item for General Government in the amount of \$1,306,465.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none. Motion passes.

Councilor Lamb clarified that the reason a roll call vote is used, is for any councilor who chooses to abstain, may do so on any department.

Councilor Cohen read the numbers for Public Safety.

It was VOTED: to adopt the line item for Public Safety in the amount of \$5,167,790.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran. Councilors Harpin and Wilkinson abstained.. Nay none. Motion passes.

Councilor Harpin read the line item amounts for Public Services.

It was VOTED: to adopt the line item for Public Services in the amount of \$3,422,576.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none. Motion passes.

Councilor Wilkinson read the line item amounts for School Department.

It was VOTED: to adopt the line item for School Department in the amount of \$17,769,074.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Moran, Wilkinson. Councilor Lamb abstained. Nay none. Motion passes.

Councilor Wilkinson read the line item amounts for Unclassified.

It was VOTED: to adopt the line item for Unclassified in the amount of \$8,327,526.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Nay Councilor Wilkinson. Motion passes.

Councilor Wilkinson read the line item for Pensions.

It was VOTED: to adopt the line item for Pensions in the amount of \$2,949,557.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none. Motion passes.

Councilor Harpin read the line item for Capital Expenses.

It was VOTED: to adopt the line item for Capital Expenses in the amount of \$831,000.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none. Motion passes.

Councilor LaForest quoted the Charter stating a six year capital improvement plan shall be submitted with the budget. He inquired if the City was following this. Councilor Harpin stated that this is one of the reports that has been requested. The Mayor responded that he would look to this as a good practice in the future.

Councilor Wilkinson inquired what streets are on the list. The Mayor stated Hospital Avenue, East Main, Miner Street, North Church, and Quincy streets.

Councilor Harpin read the line item for Interest

It was VOTED: to adopt the line item for Interest in the amount of \$343,472.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none. Motion passes.

Councilor Harpin read the line item for Debt.

It was VOTED: to adopt the line item for Debt in the amount of \$\$688,451.

Councilor Harpin read the line item for Debt.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none. Motion passes.

It was VOTED: to adopt the Total Budget in the amount of \$44,247,496

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none. Motion passes.

**11,787** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section 2-27 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Schedule A, Classification Plan FY' 2020, which was passed to a second reading and published as a municipal bulletin at the meeting of June 11, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none. Motion passes.

**11,787-1** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section 2-28(a), Schedule B, Compensation Plan FY' 2020, July 1, 2019 through December 28, 2019, which was passed to a second reading and published as a municipal bulletin at the meeting of June 11, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none. Motion passes.

**11,787-1a** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section 2-28(a), Schedule B, Compensation Plan FY' 2020, December 29, 2019 through June 30, 2020, which was passed to a second reading and published as a municipal bulletin at the meeting of June 11, 2019.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none. Motion passes.

Councilor Harpin clarified that there is an increase in the Mayor's Salary line in 2020 and it will be in a non-election year, all were in agreeance that the salary needed an increase.

On motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to amend the Mayor's Salary from 84,470 to 88,470 effective January 1, 2020.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none. Motion passes.

- 11,788** The President presented Mayor's communication #47 recommending the reappointment of James M. Neville to the North Adams Housing Authority for a term to expire July 1, 2024.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest it was VOTED: to confirm the Reappointment

- 11,789** The President presented Mayor's communication #48 recommending the appointment of Alyssa Sporbett to the North Adams Public Arts Commission for a term to expire May 1, 2021, to fill the unexpired term of Cynthia Quinones.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

Councilor Cohen inquired whether or not the board members are invited to the meetings, so that the Council can put a face to the name or meet. The Mayor responded no. Councilor Cohen recommended that we invite board members to the meeting.

- 11,746-1** The President presented Mayor's communication #49 regarding the removal of crosswalk on Brickyard Court.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

- 11,746-1** The President presented an Order authorizing the removal of crosswalk on Brickyard Court.

On motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

Councilor LaForest stated that he had bittersweet feelings. He stated he was pleased to see an Order on the table to remove the crosswalk, that would indicate that the City admits that they put it there. However, he strongly objects to the removal of it, as many people use this route, he stated he would vote no on this. Councilor Wilkinson stated he echoed Councilor LaForest and would also vote no. Councilor Lamb stated he did not want to remove the crosswalk; however it is not safe and should not have been there in the first place. He stated possibly in the late summer or early fall discussions will begin on a solution, and stated he would vote yes to remove it on the merit that it is an illegal crosswalk, but looks forward to the next step in a solution. Councilor Cohen stated she would be voting no on the removal, she stated it was much too quick to make this decision.

Councilor Hopkins stated that the crosswalk is unsafe, and needs to be removed. He stated the Traffic Commission never approved it. He feels it's a liability to the City, and City officials and School officials are requesting this, and we should be in compliance with the laws. Councilor Harpin stated she feels it needs to be removed, as it is not a safe route.

Several Councilors continued to discuss the removal of the Crosswalk and the liability to the City.

Councilor Bona stated that the Council voted in favor of the crosswalk eight years ago to be put there with the stipulation that sidewalks would be installed, and that never happened.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Harpin, Hopkins, Lamb, Moran. Nay, Councilors Cohen, LaForest and Wilkinson. Motion passes.

- 10,335-2** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 13-58, entitled Parking meter zones, Ashland Street.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to refer to the Public Safety Committee and postpone to the meeting of August 27, 2019

Councilor Harpin referred to City Council Rules #22 stating that this has already been before the Council, and this rule states that it cannot be voted upon again in less than one year, unless the Council votes to reconsider. Councilor Bona stated that the communication was only filed. Councilor Harpin disagreed. Councilor Wilkinson stated that an Ordinance for this matter was not before the Council at that time. He stated he felt they should not be penalized due to an error. Councilor Buddington stated that the general issue of parking meters did not come up, and he stated that the Council did not take action, only filed it.

Councilor LaForest stated that the Council should vote to reconsider.

Councilor Cohen rescinded her motion.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to recall the communication regarding the parking meters on Ashland Street.

Councilor Wilkinson inquired if a unanimous vote for a recall was necessary, the President replied two thirds.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington, it was VOTED: to refer to the Public Safety Committee and postpone to the meeting of August 27, 2019

**11,790** The President presented a communication submitted by Council President Bona regarding short term rentals, and the requirements of the City.

President Bona recommended this paper to go to Community Development.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to refer to Community Development Committee and postpone to the meeting of September 24, 2019.

The President called for Open Forum.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, stated he has been a resident for two and a half years, and loves the City. He wanted to recommend a positive article from CNN about our city being a tourist city, and how we are becoming a destination city.

Henry Jaesche, spoke about parking meters and the need to have a person to repair and collect. He also wanted to remind people about Solid Sound.

Bryan Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street informed the public about a bike ride to the murals at 6:00, Thursday at St. Anthony's.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, voiced his concerns regarding the cemeteries and veterans' flags. He feels that the flags were not placed properly. He questioned why the volunteers were not notified as to how to arrange the flags.

The President moved to Mayor's Concerns.

The Mayor acknowledged the finance team, David Fierro and Michael Canales for their efforts in the FY 2020 budget process. He stated the budget is fiscally responsible and respectful of the taxpayers. The budget brings all three bargaining units on the same schedule; the DPW for one year, a one year increase for non-union staff, and

looked at areas where we could find efficiencies while ensuring equal or better service. We consolidated positions, leading to a 2.5 person reduction in staff. We have done everything we can to minimize the taxpayers, while ensuring a high level of service.

The Mayor mentioned that the Office of Community Development will be having discussions on an outdoor theater park in downtown, based on surveys that were conducted. It is not a recommendation; it is only an informational meeting at the Baptist Church at 7:00 on July 7, 2019.

The Mayor stated that the Retirement Board met this week and mentioned that North Adams was the top returning municipality. One of only four municipalities to see a positive return; he wanted to acknowledge the fund manager and the Retirement Board who kept a focus on this. This is a great result for the City.

The Mayor reminded all of the Solid Sound and Farmer's Market this weekend.

The President called for Councilor Concerns.

Councilor Lamb stated Downstreet Art kicks off Thursday, with galleries and music. The City contracted with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to conduct a study on a Lunar; a living street model for Eagle Street. There will be a charrette on Thursday at Downstreet Art.

Councilor Cohen stated that she had residents' concerns about the Gibbs Gas Station on State Road, and would like to see the area cleaned up as well as the corridor to our City. She also stated that the Valero Gas station is moving slowly.

Councilor Moran gave kudos to Roger Eurbin and all the volunteers that worked on the cemeteries.

Councilor Buddington inquired if he would now officially be on the Public Safety Committee, the President stated that Councilor Harpin has removed herself due to her son being on the North Adams Police Department, and that he would now officially be on this committee.

Councilor LaForest discussed the Ordinance that was approved on April 23, 2019 to ban parking on the corner of Houghton Street to the first driveway on North Street. No signage has been placed, nor has there been any enforcement, and the neighbors are concerned.

Councilor LaForest noted that there are safety concerns at an abandoned house at 1302 Massachusetts Avenue, and would like to see some action taken.

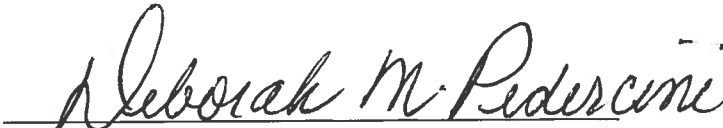
Councilor LaForest notified all that the Louison House rebuild dedication is tomorrow at 11:30. The Louison House has had a tremendous overhaul due to a fire there three years ago. They provide resources for many people in our area.

Councilor LaForest gave kudos to the first responders in their role in rescuing a young woman that fell at Cascades, and wished all well.

With no further business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was in order.

On motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 9:51 p.m.

A True Record  
Attest,

  
City Clerk



# Office of the City Clerk

## City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

### Regular Meeting of the City Council

July 9, 2019

80

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

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Councilors Bona, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Moran, Wilkinson, Councilors absent, Buddington, Cohen, and Lamb.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of June 25, 2019.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Hearing none, the President moved to the Council papers.

**11,653-4** The President presented Mayor's communication #50 regarding a transfer in the amount of \$282,500 from Stabilization Account to Public Safety and Unclassified Accounts.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

**11,653-4** The President presented an Order appropriating the sum of \$282,500 from Stabilization Account to Public Safety and Unclassified Accounts.

On motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Mayor stated the health insurance transfer for \$211,500 was due to 14 additional employee enrollments, including new hires, as well as current City employees. The approach that was taken last year to budgeting was an average of the previous year's expense, rather than annualizing the highest month; which is what has been done for the FY 2020 budget. The Mayor stated that the lesson learned, is that they will continue to forecast with the annualization of the highest month.

The transfer of \$71,000 to Public Safety was due to firefighters that were injured on duty, as well as equipment that is typically grant funded; however due to the government shut-down has been delayed.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea; Councilors Bona, Harpin, Hopkins, Laforest, Moran, Wilkinson. Motion passes.



**11,653-5** The President presented Mayor's communication #51 transferring \$76,000 from Transfer Station Reserve Account to Transfer Station Expense Account.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

**11,653-5** The President presented an Order appropriating the sum of \$76,000 from Transfer Station Reserve Account to Transfer Station Expense Account.

On motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson, it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Mayor stated that the reason for the budget shortfall was due in part to solid waste revenue not meeting what was projected. The Windsor Lake, downtown parks, schools, and illegal dumping contributed to unbilled tonnage. There was a higher than usual contamination cost on recyclables, due to users not being educated on what can and cannot be recycled, as well as residents depositing items in black bags such as televisions, batteries, etc. which the City then in turn is billed for the cost of disposal.

The Mayor stated that the City is facing challenges in the recycling market, and is seeing an increased contamination rejection due to the China recycling policy.

The Mayor spoke about a corrective action going forward. The scale rate has been adjusted, to project an additional \$20,000 in revenue. The Mayor stated that the budget includes a contingency of \$15,000 for cost recovery for the contamination issues, \$10,000 in the Miscellaneous line item to cover vehicle maintenance and a hazardous waste day that will be in August. The Mayor also noted that they have purchased new containers that will make everything run much smoother, as well as new signage.

A feasibility study will be done on how to better partner with the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District on outreach and education, as well as a class from Williams College will help examine the pros and cons of looking at joining the district. The City will be looking at our intake for the first two months of the fiscal year; July and August and suggest that we come back to the Public Services Committee in September to see where projections stand; that way if we recognize a shortfall in the income, we can make budget adjustments earlier.

Councilor Hopkins spoke on single stream recycling. The Mayor stated there were pros and cons to it. The Williams class will address this. The City currently has two-stream recycling.

Councilor Hopkins inquired as to what the current balance in the Reserve account was; the Mayor stated there was approximately \$346,000.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea; Councilors Bona, Harpin, Hopkins, Laforest, Moran, Wilkinson. Motion passes.

**11,792** The President presented Mayor's communication #52 regarding a notice of a Special City Council meeting on July 15, 2019.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

The Mayor stated that the meeting will be for internal transfers to close out the FY 2019 budget. The Mayor noted they wanted to present the most accurate picture as they could, and wanted to give the Auditor enough time to do so. He stated that the Councilors will have this information by Friday.

There were no committee reports or community events for this meeting.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, spoke in regards to a property across from the Cole Grove Park School, with overgrowth on the sidewalks, and wanted to know if the City would be taking care of this. Mr. Smith also stated he was pleased with all the good things going on in the City and mentioned the splash park at Noel Field, and the Fourth of July events.

The President called for Mayor's Concerns.

The Mayor praised all the departments that worked on the splash park project, and Fourth of July events. He stated that there is no smoking allowed at park as well as any City property. He also clarified that no dogs, or alcohol are permitted.

The Mayor mentioned the Party in the Park will start Thursday, as well as the Eagle Street Beach party Saturday. The Mayor shared an excerpt from a letter that a visitor to our City had written stating that they started coming to North Adams for Wilco, they still come for Wilco, however, the City has become a favorite place to visit as they enjoy the SteepleCats, Jack's Hot Dog, Public, State Street Tavern, etc.

On behalf of the City of North Adams, the Mayor acknowledged the passing of Mayor Carpenter of Brockton.

The President called for Councilors concerns.

Councilor Wilkinson wanted to praise the work at the waterpark, he stated he was not completely on board with the project in the beginning, however, after seeing the children's excitement and the success of the park, he feels it is a very positive thing for the community.

Councilor Harpin stated she heard that the Cumberland Farms property had been sold, and that was a positive for the City. She inquired as to what the status was on other City properties. The Mayor stated that RFP's will be out in August.

Councilor LaForest thanked the Mayor for cleaning up the area around the Eclipse Mill. He also inquired about several properties and if the City could make a list of abandoned and vacant properties.

The Mayor stated that this would be something that the Inspection Services could put together. The Mayor stated that they meet monthly on public safety issues, and a large part of that is reviewing properties, stating that they are working with absentee owners and have assurances that they have a plan to work on that.

Council President echoed Councilor LaForest, stating a list of abandoned properties would be very helpful, and feels making the list public would be appropriate.

With no further business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was in order.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

A True Record  
Attest,

  
City Clerk



**Office of the City Clerk**  
**City of North Adams**  
10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

**Special Meeting of the City Council**

July 15, 2019

83

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

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Councilors Bona, Harpin, Hopkins, Lamb, LaForest, Moran, Wilkinson, Councilors absent, Councilors Buddington and Cohen.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of July 9, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson duly seconded by Councilor LaForest it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented. Councilor Lamb abstained.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Hearing none, the President moved to the Council papers.

**11,653-6** The President presented Mayor's communication #53 regarding transfers in the amount of \$201,405.23 to close out the Fiscal Year 2019 budget.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

**11,653-6** The President presented an Order appropriating the sum of \$201,405.23 of internal account-to-account transfers required to close out the Fiscal Year 2019 budget.

On motion of Councilor Lamb duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Mayor thanked the Councilors for taking time for a special meeting, allowing time for the finance team to reconcile all accounts for the year. He thanked the finance team as well as department heads for managing their budgets.

Councilor Harpin stated she was happy with the budgeting process and thanked the administration.

Councilor LaForest inquired why there was \$27,000 being transferred from the Public Safety line item. The Mayor stated there was a retirement, and the Lieutenant position coming in was at a lower grade. The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea; Councilors Bona, Harpin, Hopkins, Laforest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Motion passes.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street spoke in regards to the sidewalks in his neighborhood being block by basketball hoops; he would like some follow-up and enforcement on this issue. He also noted that the stop sign past Colegrove Park Elementary School is frequently being ignored by drivers, as well as crosswalks.

The President called for Mayor's Concerns.

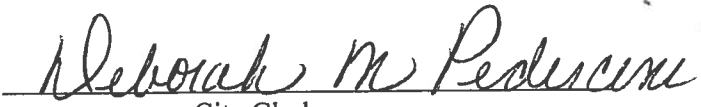
The Mayor stated that Len Radin will be the Grand Marshall for the Fall Foliage Parade this year.

There were no Councilor Concerns.

With no further business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was in order.

On motion of Councilor LaForest duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 7:37 p.m.

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City Clerk



# Office of the City Clerk

## City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

### Regular Meeting of the City Council

July 23, 2019

85

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

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of July 15, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Moran, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented. Councilor Cohen abstained.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Bryan Sapienza, 114 Pleasant Street, spoke in regards to the new police cruiser and inquired if it was a hybrid vehicle.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, spoke in regards to the new police cruiser and stated he was happy to see that the City is replacing vehicles, however stated that maintenance of current vehicles needs to be addressed. He also spoke in favor of the presence of a police officer near the North Adams Public Library walking the street.

**10,674-6** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter Z of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 2.1 entitled Divisions which was postponed at the meeting of May 28, 2019

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of September 10, 2019.

Councilor Lamb stated that he is working with the Office of Community Development and trying to get information to the public for clarity, prior to the public hearing. He stated meetings will be starting the middle of August.

Councilor LaForest inquired if the Council would be updated on the long delayed process? He stated that in March, none of the Councilors were clear on what the process was. Councilor Lamb stated that people should

read and decipher what is being proposed before it comes before Council. If people have specific questions, Michael Nuvalle would be happy to answer them. Councilor Bona stated that there would be Community Development Committee minutes that would be helpful as well.

Councilor LaForest stated that when the Ordinance was first brought to Council last year, there was a presentation; he inquired if Councilors would have an additional presentation? Councilor Lamb stated that there will be information available. Councilor LaForest stated his concerns about restarting the process and refreshing Councilors' memory.

Councilor Lamb stated that there were staffing issues at Berkshire Regional Planning Commission as well as the Office of Community Development which contributed to the delays. He feels that it is important not to rush the process. He stated, as the committee chair, he planned on holding meetings that will include all the information available; committee meetings are much more conversational, and that is important.

The Mayor stated that there was a meeting in May regarding split lots. He stated that there was not enough information available at that time due to the staffing issues; this is a restart process making the information available to all. He stated that the Office of Community Development may also hold its own meetings if there is a sense that is necessary. He stated a joint meeting of the Planning Board and the City Council will again have an additional vetting process and then brought to the Council.

Councilor Harpin inquired as to what the timeline is. The Mayor stated no later than the end of the year.

**11,770-1** The President presented Mayor's communication #54 appropriating \$55,504.93 from Parking Meter Reserve Account to purchase a police vehicle.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

**11,770-1** The President presented an Order authorizing a transfer in the amount of \$55,504.93 from Parking Meter Reserve Account to Public Safety, Police Expenses, Miscellaneous.

On motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Mayor stated that this is a process that the City has followed the past several years as part of the fleet schedule for Public Safety, we tap the Parking Meter Reserve account to purchase a new vehicle for the fleet. Last year there was discussion to pursue a hybrid vehicle; this seemed like the appropriate time to try a hybrid and they are getting good marks of reliability. Last year the Council approved a ground vehicle for Inspection Services, and pushed to consider additional vehicles in the future, and we feel it is a good decision.

Councilor Lamb gave kudos to the City for making the proactive effort to stay in keeping a green community.

The Mayor gave thanks to Public Safety as well for making it a practice to use the sustainability lens in making decisions; they gave options, and recommendations.

Council President wanted clarification on what funds go into the Parking Meter Reserve. The Mayor stated only the parking meter funds, not any fines.

The President stated that he did not feel it would be a conflict of interest for any Councilor who had family members in Public Safety, however, if they wished to abstain from the vote that would be their choice.

Councilor Cohen inquired whether the City has a plan in place to replenish the fleet in a certain amount of years? She stated the account continues to decrease; the Mayor stated the funding is net positive, and is not in danger.

Councilor Lamb questioned if permits were included, the Mayor stated he was unsure.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran. Councilors Harpin and Wilkinson abstained. Motion passes.

**11,793** The President presented Mayor's communication #55 recommending the reappointment of Paul Hopkins to the North Adams Redevelopment Authority for a term to expire June 1, 2024.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to confirm the reappointment.

Councilor Harpin stated that she had a few issues; she stated Councilor Hopkins was a friend of hers and has the utmost respect for him, however she had concerns.

Councilor Harpin inquired as to why there are only 4 members on the North Adams Redevelopment Board, as this board should have five members. The Mayor stated he is working with the Governor's office to fill the seat.

Councilor Harpin stated she had asked recently about posting available openings on boards and commissions. The Mayor answered that he was working on this posting. Councilor Harpin stated her concern was that there needs to be a more diverse population on City boards and commissions. She stated that she requested information from the City Clerk's Office as to the term length of the members, and currently the NARA only has four members. All of the members have served many years and some of the members also sit on other boards. Councilor LaForest interjected while Councilor Harpin referred to Councilor Hopkins as Mister Hopkins and quoted Council Rules stating that Councilors should be addressed as Councilor, and not Mr. Mrs. or Ms.

She stated that this board needs new ideas and new people to be involved in our government. She stated Councilor Hopkins has been on the NARA since 2001 and feels that as a City, we should be encouraging new ideas on our boards and committees as well as diversity.

Councilor Harpin stated that there were recent ethic violations where the NARA was brought up, involving Heritage Park, and it is a good time to get fresh ideas and leadership; she stated she would be voting against Councilor Hopkins to be on this board.

Councilor LaForest commended Councilor Harpin on increasing diversity on all of our City boards; he stated he would be supporting Councilor Hopkins' reappointment to the NARA for several reasons; first, and foremost, he has served the board with competence and dignity, second this board is due to age out in two years, barring any legislative reenactment by the NARA and it does not make sense to remove someone with twenty years of knowledge. He also noted that there were no ethics violations directed at Councilor Hopkins that he is aware of, and felt it to be of no relevance on this reappointment.

Councilor Lamb echoed Councilor LaForest, and stated that it is a systemic issue in the region, people not necessarily engaging in committees and formats; a number of elected positions go unfilled in the county. There is some work being done that municipality boards can post opportunities. He stated Councilor Hopkins has been committed and engaged for decades, and feels maintaining institutional knowledge is valuable, as well as inviting

new talent. He asked the Mayor with regards to the Governor appointee if there is consideration of not currently engaged individuals who may have an aptitude for the work of redevelopment. The Mayor stated yes, and reiterated members of boards and commissions reflecting the diversity of our community is a priority.

Councilor Wilkinson stated he served two terms with Councilor Hopkins, and deserves to be reappointed.

Councilor Harpin wanted to respond that Councilor Hopkins is more than qualified for the reappointment, however, she stated that does not mean that there are not other qualified people as well. She stated that she could come up with a list of five people tomorrow morning, and that to say “no one else is qualified” is just false. She reiterated her concern for diversity.

Councilor Buddington agreed with diversity on our boards and commissions, albeit difficult not to pull from the same pool of candidates. It will require sustained effort. He stated he would support a new perspective, with the understanding that it is reaching its ending.

Councilor LaForest stated his concerns as well for diversity on all boards and commissions and commended the Mayor for including multiple race, religion and gender identification over the past two years. He also stated that he does not believe that Councilor Hopkins is the only qualified candidate for the position, however there have been very specific agenda items on the NARA. He believes that the current board should be allowed to complete what they have started; specifically, the Heritage State Park purchase and sale agreement as well as the Sons of Italy property.

Councilor Lamb continued that he is in agreeance with diversity, however in this case; Councilor Hopkins would be the proper choice. He also encouraged all people to get involved in our government and serve in any capacity they can.

Councilor Wilkinson made a motion to move the question, stating it was an insult to Councilor Hopkins.

Councilor Harpin stated that she addressed the issue as a respectable Councilor representing the people of North Adams.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen it was VOTED: to move the question.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Cohen, Moran, Wilkinson. Councilors Buddington, Harpin, Lamb, LaForest voted nay. Councilor Hopkins abstained. Motion fails.

Councilor Wilkinson stated he wanted to clarify that when he stated insult, he was not referring to Councilor Harpin. He stated that he would like to vote.

The President called for all in favor, and opposed, Councilors Buddington and Harpin were opposed, Councilor Hopkins abstained.

**11,794** The President presented Mayor’s communication #56 recommending the reappointment of Rachel Branch to the North Adams Housing Authority for a term to expire July 1, 2024.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

The President called for all in favor, and opposed, Councilor Wilkinson voted opposed.



**11,795** The President presented Mayor's communication #57 accepting a gift to the North Adams Police Department.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

**11,795** The President presented an Order accepting a gift of two patrol bicycles valued at \$1,190.60 from Greylock Federal Credit Union in accordance with MGL, Ch. 44, Sec. 53A.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Mayor expressed his appreciation to Greylock Federal Credit Union for the gift, as well as Mr. Holmes from the School Committee, who has done a great deal of work with the Police Department and was instrumental in helping to secure this gift. The Mayor stated it will be a great addition to our community policing.

Councilor LaForest thanked Greylock Federal Credit Union. He stated the presence of police gives a sense of security to our community as well as the engagement with the officers.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, the following responded yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran. Councilor Wilkinson abstained.

The President called for committee reports and minutes.

Councilor Buddington updated Traffic Commission issues regarding parking on Protection Avenue, a minor change on corner of Ashland and Summer Street; as well as looking into how speed limits in the City will work now that we have adopted the new law.

Councilor Lamb stated that full Council did receive a correspondence from the Traffic Commission asking to join them in September.

There were no licenses to approve.

The President called for Open Forum.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, stated his disappointment in regards to Councilor Hopkins' appointment. He stated that no Councilor is wrong in this issue, however he feels that discussion should be in a civil manner.

Bryan Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street, he stated he felt that anyone in the City that cares about their community that expresses an interest in serving, should get involved, and encouraged the community to do so.

The President called for Mayor's concerns.

The Mayor stated in regards to traffic; when he was in Cambridge he noticed 25 MPH, noting this was a good example.

The Mayor mentioned that the Downtown Celebration is Wednesday August 13.

He also commented about the unveiling of the statue at the North Adams Public Library, in memory of Jody Gottwald, Mary Ann Abuisi's sister, and stated what a great gift to the community it was.

The Mayor also thanked all involved at the 29<sup>th</sup> LaFesta baseball exchange.

The Mayor wanted to let the public know that the Big Y Supermarket will be eliminating plastic bags at the end of the month.

He also wanted to reassure drivers that the Phelps Avenue area of construction is being addressed. Mass DOT has spread stone over the potholes and overfilled with gravel for better drainage. The middle of August should show solid pavement.

The President called for Councilor Concerns.

Councilor LaForest commented on the great success of LaFesta baseball exchange. He also thanked the Mayor for the quick response on Phelps Avenue.

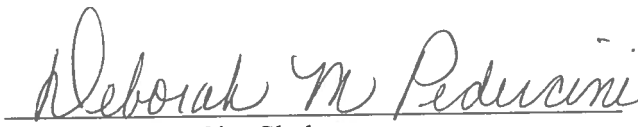
Councilor Wilkinson stated he felt the tax bills are difficult to read, and is unhappy with having two payments on the bill. Also, there is no assessment on the bill; he stated the assessment changes yearly, but you would never know unless you actually call the tax collector. He would like a new format on the billing.

Councilor Lamb stated Downstreet Art is Thursday, as well as the beer garden and bike ride to murals.

With no further business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was in order.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

A True Record  
Attest,

  
City Clerk



# Office of the City Clerk City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

## JOINT PUBLIC HEARING NORTH ADAMS PLANNING BOARD and NORTH ADAMS CITY COUNCIL

August 12, 2019

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, LaForest, Lamb, Wilkinson. Absent Councilors, Bona, Hopkins and Moran.

PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Leary, Taft, Bond, Blackmer, Burdick, Senecal, Miksic, Hanlon, Hollins.

Vice President Lamb called the meeting to order.

Chairman Leary opened the hearing for discussion in regards to property located at 52 Eagle Street and 12 Union Street. He stated that representatives from Colvest were present for any questions.

Jeff Grandchamp, Grinnell Partners, LLC, spoke on behalf of Colvest; he referred to the zoning map that showed the different zones in the Eagle and Union Street area. He stated that the goal was to simply make the area one zone only. Mr. Grandchamp stated that it was his understanding that the proposed changes would be in line with the City's new zoning changes that are already in progress. The purpose of the petition today was due to the timeliness of tenants in this area.

Chairman Leary asked if there were any questions from the Council; hearing none, he asked if there were any questions or comments from the Planning Board. Member Senecal asked how the property was currently zoned. Mr. Grandchamp stated that it was R3, I2, and CB1, and it is proposed to change all zones to CB1.

August 12, 2019

Page 2

Member Blackmer inquired why the entire section was not being changed. Mr. Grandchamp stated that they were not looking to make changes to the entire area at this time; he believed that it may be under the greater zoning changes.

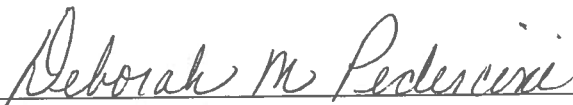
Councilor Cohen asked how this would affect the property in the future in terms of the whole section. William Meranti stated that it is actually the way the City is leaning on changing the entire corner, which is in the proposal which will be discussed at the Community Development Committee's August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting in its entirety. The changes have taken longer than expected, and that is the reason the applicant has decided to come forward. As the zoning officer, he stated he had no concerns with the changes.

Hearing no other questions, Chairman Leary called for a motion to close the meeting.

On Motion of member Blackmer, duly seconded by member Senecal, the meeting was adjourned at 5:36 pm.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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# Office of the City Clerk

## City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

### Regular Meeting of the City Council

August 13, 2019

90

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

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Councilors Bona, Buddington, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson; absent, Councilor Cohen.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of July 23, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Bryan Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street, North Adams, spoke in regards to paper #11,718-1 food access in the West end. He stated it would be advantageous to look into the Adams Hometown Market, as Adams seems to be having a successful operation.

**11,718-1** The President presented a communication from Councilor Lamb regarding food access to the West end, presentation, which was postponed at the meeting of April 23, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington, it was VOTED: to file the communication.

Councilor Lamb stated the project that was scheduled in the west end has been postponed; rather than keep postponing the paper, he felt it was appropriate to file until opportunities shift.

Councilor LaForest responded to Mr. Sapienza's suggestion regarding a supermarket at the old Price Chopper space, stating that economic feasibility studies have been done, and no model has been found that would be sustainable in the space.

Councilor Lamb echoed Councilor LaForest, and stated several markets have looked at the space to no avail. He stated that Adams Hometown Market is a different fit, as Adams does not have any other supermarkets.

**11,796** The President presented Mayor's communication #58 recommending the appointment of election wardens and inspectors for a term to expire August 31, 2020.

On Motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to confirm the appointments.

**11,797** The President presented Mayor's communication #59 recommending the appointment of Leigh A. Harrington Uqdah to the North Adams Housing Authority for a term to expire July 1, 2024.

On Motion of Councilor, Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

Councilor LaForest stated he was happy to recommend her, and felt she would make a significant contribution to the Authority.

Councilor Harpin thanked her for stepping forward and feels she is going to be an asset to the board.

There were no Committee Reports or Licenses to come before Council.

Council President called for Open Forum.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, spoke about the dangers of police vehicles not using their sirens, only lights, as his son was almost hit when an officer was on his way to a call.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, spoke regarding landscaping at the City Yard and felt too much money was being spent paying a landscaping firm. He felt that the building needs repair as well as debris clean-up. He also spoke in regards to the parking fines, and inquired as to when the rates would be changed.

The President called for Councilor Concerns.

Councilor Buddington wanted to recognize the good work that the School department, and food service director, Corey Nichols is doing in regards to the compostable utensils and trays.

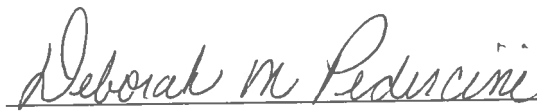
Councilor Wilkinson stated that he received a call from an irate resident stating that he paid his taxes online and was charged \$40.00. Councilor Wilkinson stated he was unaware of the fees. However, after speaking with the City Treasurer, he was informed that there are clearly stated notices when you pay online with a credit card; there is a fee, and it is a percentage of the amount paid. He wanted to make residents aware of this.

Councilor Lamb reminded the public and Council that Wednesday, August 21, there will be a Community Development Committee meeting, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission will be presenting the proposed zoning changes. It will be an overview and anyone who is interested should attend. He also reminded all that tomorrow evening is the Downtown Celebration.

With no further business to come before the Council, the President called for a motion to adjourn.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 7:46.

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Attest,

  
City Clerk



# Office of the City Clerk

## City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

### Regular Meeting of the City Council

August 27, 2019

93

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

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Councilors Bona, Buddington, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Wilkinson; absent, Councilors Cohen and Moran.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the Joint Public Hearing of August 12, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of August 13, 2019

On motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Bryan Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street, spoke in regards to the website and inquired as to the current annual cost of hosting the website.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, inquired what the effect the zoning change, Paper 10,674-7 would have on residents in the Eagle Street area.

Without objection, the President moved Paper 11,798

**11,798** A communication from Councilor Harpin regarding Solarize Mass Plus presentation.

Councilor Harpin stated that North Adams has partnered with Williamstown for a program called Solarize Mass Plus. She introduced North Adams' representative, Adam Galambos to give a presentation of the program.



Mr. Galambos spoke about how North Adams and Williamstown was selected by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center to receive funds aimed at increasing the adoption of small scale solar, battery storage and solar hot water. He spoke about the upcoming question and answer sessions. He stated that our installer is Solar Flare, they are able to work in our rural area, and have 29 other communities.

Several Councilors had questions and concerns for Mr. Galambos and informative discussion continued.

Several Councilors thanked Mr. Galambos for his presentation.

**11,718** The President presented communication from Councilor Cohen regarding food access to the west end, which was postponed at the meeting of May 28, 2019.

On Motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of September 10, 2019.

**10,335-2** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 13-58, entitled Parking meter zones, Ashland Street, which was referred to Public Safety and postponed at the meeting of August 27, 2019.

On Motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

Councilor Harpin questioned if there were any accommodations for handicapped parking; Councilor Buddington stated, there were not. Councilor Harpin stated that in the Traffic Commission minutes there was confusion as to a traffic study, Councilor Buddington clarified the statement was referring to a response to Mr. Maloney wanting a definitive answer as to how many spaces could possibly be there, that is what was referred to.

Councilor Buddington noted that the ordinance does not specify the number of spaces, only parking without location. Councilor LaForest stated that the Chief of Police would determine how many spaces, and handicapped space would be determined by the State. He also stated that the turn lane would not be modified.

**10,674-7** The President presented a Communication from the North Adams Planning Board recommending amending zoning map to extend the CB-1 zone to include 52 Eagle and 12 Union Streets.

The President placed the communication on file.

**10,674-7** The President presented an Ordinance amending the revised zoning map to change zone district to include CB-1 for Map 125, Lot 29.

On Motion of Councilor Wilkinson duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

Councilor Buddington stated he would be opposing this Ordinance due to zoning that is on a case-by-case basis, and would like to take a slower approach as to what the site should look like.

Councilor Lamb stated that the new zoning proposal actually does address this, it matches the other three corners in the City and it seems to make perfect sense. There is going to be some time before the full zoning map comes out and is made official by the City, it would be appropriate to go forward with this as it is the desire of the new owners.

Councilor LaForest stated that if there is an opportunity to facilitate development in the downtown we should do that. Councilor Wilkinson echoed both Councilors and stated it was prime for development. Councilor Lamb addressed Councilor Buddington's concerns, stating that the Planning Board would also be part of the process prior to any business in the area.

The President called for vote, Councilor Buddington was opposed. Motion Carries.

**11,770-2** The President presented Mayor's communication #60 regarding a transfer of \$20,240 from Municipal Technology Fund for the construction of a new City website

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

The Mayor stated the website was out of date and not user-friendly, as well as many other challenges with the current site. He stated that Kathy Lloyd, IT manager would be able to speak to any questions that Councilors may have.

**11,770-2** The President presented an Order appropriating the sum of \$20,240 from Municipal Technology Fund to General Government, MIS Expenses, Services Purchased.

Councilor Wilkinson inquired what the new site will do, that the old site does not. Kathy Lloyd stated that there were so many new additions to what is present now. She stated one feature would be the mobile citizen service request application, whereas you can notify the City of any issues that need attention and it sends notifications to the correct municipal department. There is a document center app where you can create and archive documents, an e-notification, interactive map, etc. Ms. Lloyd spoke about the vital need to become ADA compliant, and continued to speak to the new services available.

Councilor Harpin had positive remarks, and felt this was money well spent.

Councilor Lamb inquired about hacking safety, Ms. Lloyd spoke to the back-up website security, updates and keeping our information safe. She stated nothing is ever guaranteed on the world wide web, however, she feels confident that this program is as good as you will get.

Councilor Hopkins inquired about facilitation of paying bills, the response was that Unipay is still available.

Councilor LaForest inquired if this cost is in line with the programming received. Ms. Lloyd stated that this particular program's price point is where it should be.

Several Councilors spoke about content of the site, and Ms. Lloyd provided responses to the Councilors concerns.

The President inquired what a realistic timeline would be, Ms. Lloyd stated most likely, the first of January, quite possibly March 2020.

The Mayor thanked the IT department for their hard work and enthusiasm, and stated he had full confidence in the project.

On Motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

There were no Licenses to come before Council.

The President called for Committee Reports. Councilor Lamb spoke in regards to the Community Development Committee meeting that discussed the zoning changes. He stated that the new map is in color and is now on the website for 30 days, with expectation that public comments would be made, and a motion will be made at the next Community Development Committee meeting.

The President called for Open Forum.

Rev. Mary Frances Kerns, 153 Corinth Street, spoke about the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of All Saints Church. She invited the community to attend on September 14, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the church on Summer Street, where there will be, music, food, and history, remembering its 150 years.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, spoke in regards to not purchasing locally. He also stated concerns about speeding throughout the City.

Henry Jaesche, 42 Chase Avenue, wished everyone a happy Labor Day, mentioned that school is opening.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, stated his concerns for speeding in the area of Cole Grove School area, and urged the Police to patrol this area.

The President called for Mayor's Concerns. The Mayor thanked Councilor Harpin and Mr. Galambos for their efforts in the solar project. The Mayor congratulated Rev. Kerns on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of All Saints.

The Mayor stated he would start the clock at 30 days on the zoning map on the website beginning August 28, 2019.

The Mayor gave an update about the property located on Houghton Street; the next step is property receivership, if this fails, a last option would be demolition. The Mayor also mentioned 1302 Massachusetts Avenue property, that there has been no response from the owners, but are continuing to pursue.

The Mayor stated that this would be the last week for 1:00 p.m. closings on Fridays at City Hall, however, will be closed on Monday, Labor Day.

The Splash Park will run on its current schedule until Labor Day, once school gets underway, the schedule will be Thursday through Sunday until October 6.

The Mayor spoke about the North Adams Public Library and the many visitors and users of the facility, as well as the book sale at St. Elizabeth's Parish Center on September 13 and 14.

The Mayor wished all the students and faculty a safe and successful school year.

The President called for Councilor Concerns.

Councilor Harpin thanked the members of All Saints Church for coming and congratulated them on their 150 years.

Councilor Lamb thanked Stacey Parsons at NAPS for coordinating trainings for educators and social services. He stated we should continue to do the trainings; they are invaluable.

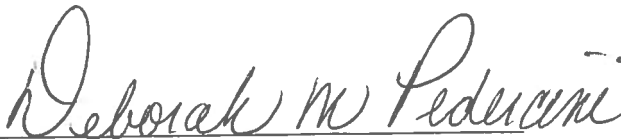
Councilor LaForest inquired what the route would be for the Brayton School students, and if they would be informed prior to the school year. The Mayor responded that the walking school bus would be active, as well as signage.

Councilor Lamb announced that Walk a Mile in Her Shoes is happening September 19<sup>th</sup>. It is a fundraiser for the Elizabeth Freeman center.

With no further business to come before the Council, the President called for a motion to adjourn.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 8:44.

A True Record  
Attest,

  
City Clerk

**A PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 23-27, 2019, AS  
START WITH HELLO WEEK**

*September 10, 2019*

**WHEREAS**, Sandy Hook Promise is a national, nonprofit organization that focuses on preventing gun violence, and other forms of violence and victimization, **before** it happens; and

**WHEREAS**, Sandy Hook Promise has identified social isolation, defined as “the overwhelming feeling of being left out, lonely, or treated like you are invisible,” as a risk factor associated with violent and suicidal behavior, especially in young people; and

**WHEREAS**, young people who experience social isolation may struggle with learning and social development, may become victims of bullying and violence, and may experience symptoms of depression; and

**WHEREAS**, Sandy Hook Promise developed the Start With Hello program to create a culture of inclusion and connectedness within their school or youth organization as well as to educate students in grades 2-12 in the skills they need to reach out to and include those who may be dealing with chronic social isolation; and

**WHEREAS**, the goal of the Start With Hello program is to help young people to build more connected and inclusive classrooms, schools, and communities reflects the mission, values, and commitment of the North Adams Public Schools;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Thomas W. Bernard, mayor of the City of North Adams, do hereby proclaim September 23-27, 2019, as **Start With Hello Week** in the North Adams Public Schools and the City of North Adams, and encourage all city residents to support the efforts of our students and educators in taking action to promote connectedness and inclusion in our schools and throughout the North Adams community.

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Mayor

**A PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2019 AS  
CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

*September 10, 2019*

**WHEREAS**, childhood cancer is the leading disease-related cause of death in children; and

**WHEREAS**, worldwide a child is diagnosed with cancer every two minutes; and

**WHEREAS**, every day five children in the United States will die of childhood cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, childhood cancer treatments lead to more than 95% of childhood cancer survivors developing chronic health problems, with 80% of survivors experiencing severe or life-threatening conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the five-year survival rate for all childhood cancers is now over 80%, the survival rate for certain childhood brain cancers is still less than 1%; and

**WHEREAS**, research and discovery related to childhood cancers is chronically and consistently underfunded, accounting for some 4% of federal cancer funding; and

**WHEREAS**, too many individuals and families in the City of North Adams and beyond continue to be touched by the effects of childhood cancer;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Thomas W. Bernard, mayor of the City of North Adams, do hereby proclaim September 2019 as **Childhood Cancer Awareness Month**, and call on residents to support the efforts of the AYJ Fund and other supporters to increase awareness of and advocacy for childhood cancer research in order to provide more effective treatments and to work toward curing childhood – and all – cancers.

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Mayor

**A PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2019 AS  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

*September 24, 2019*

**WHEREAS**, The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence defines domestic violence as “the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another;” and

**WHEREAS**, one in three women and one in four men in the United States have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner; and

**WHEREAS**, people of color and people who identify with the LGBTQIA+ community are especially vulnerable; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a common link between domestic violence and child abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence against seniors is part of a growing epidemic of elder abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, Here in North Adams and throughout the Berkshires we are fortunate to have a network of partners working together to respond to domestic violence as the public health emergency that it is, led by the Elizabeth Freeman Center and its programs focused on critical incident response, counseling and planning services, advocacy, and outreach to marginalized populations;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Thomas W. Bernard, mayor of the City of North Adams, do hereby proclaim October 2019 as **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**, and call on residents to support efforts to promote hope, health, and healing for everyone who is affected by domestic and sexual violence, and to end the cycle of violence through community mobilization, advocacy, and education.

---

Mayor



**Office of the City Clerk**  
**City of North Adams**  
10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

**Regular Meeting of the City Council**

September 10, 2019

98

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

**COUNCILORS PRESENT:** Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of August 27, 2019.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented. Councilors Cohen and Moran abstained.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Bryan Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street, spoke in regards to the crosswalks throughout the City, he inquired if there was a database stating where the crosswalks were, and if they are removed or replaced.

**11,746** The President presented communication from Councilor LaForest regarding crosswalk on Brickyard Court which was referred to Public Safety and postponed at the meeting of June 11, 2019.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to file the communication.

Councilor LaForest gave a brief history of the paper and how the crosswalk was voted to be removed, however is still in place. He stated that there is no indication that it should not be used. He stated that there is signage encouraging students to go the approved route by the school department.

Councilor Buddington responded to Mr. Sapienza's inquiry of a database of crosswalks, he stated that one does not exist.

Councilor Cohen stated she had concerns about why the crosswalk is still in place.

Councilor Lamb inquired as to the status as to why it is still not removed. The Mayor stated that Public Services is working on it immediately.



- 11,746** The President presented Mayor's communication #46 in response to Councilor LaForest's communication regarding crosswalk on Brickyard Court which was referred to Public Safety and postponed at the meeting of June 11, 2019.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to file the communication.

- 10,674-6** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter Z of the revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 2.1 entitled Divisions which was postponed at the meeting of July 23, 2019

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to file the communication.

Councilor Lamb discussed the outcome of the Community Development Committee meeting; stating that the 90 day period had lapsed and that there would need to be a resetting of the time period. There will be a public hearing with the Planning Board on October 1, 2019.

Councilor Buddington stated he would like to see the old and new map. The Mayor stated that at the October 1 meeting, a larger map can be brought in for viewing the differences.

- 10,674-7** The President presented an Ordinance amending the revised zoning map to change zone district to include CB-1 for Map 125, Lot 29, which was passed to a second reading and published by law at the meeting of August 27, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance.

Councilor Buddington stated his opposition on grounds that he feels zoning laws should be longterm for the City, and this change is to accommodate one entity. He stated he was not against the project, just wanted to have longer discussion as to how the City should look in years to come.

Councilor Lamb stated that this zoning is what is actually proposed and would be accomplishing the same result in that area.

The President called for a roll call vote on the Ordinance, on roll call, the following responded: yea, Councilors, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, Bona, nay, Councilor Buddington. Motion passes.

- 10,335-2** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 13-58, entitled Parking meter zones, Ashland Street, which was passed to a second reading and published by law at the meeting of August 27, 2019.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington, it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance.

Councilor Harpin stated at the beginning of the process, she was opposed, however, it has gone through the process with Traffic Commission and other dynamics that are changing in that area, and will be voting in favor.

The Ordinance was ordained by yea and nay vote, on roll call, the following responded: yea, Councilors, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, Bona, nay, none. Motion passes.

**11,718** The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Cohen regarding the need to access healthy food and gas station in the west end of the City which was postponed at the meeting of August 27, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to file the communication.

Councilor Cohen spoke on the work that was done with several community organizations bringing awareness. She stated that there was a gas station now in the west end. She felt that the community was involved and there has been tremendous work done on this issue.

Councilor Buddington stated that he felt it was important that collectively the Council keep an eye on just how much our residents have access to basic needs in our community.

Councilors LaForest and Harpin thanked Councilor Cohen for initiating this important issue.

**11,799** The President presented Mayor's communication #61 proclaiming Childhood Cancer Awareness Week.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

The Mayor invited Joe and Kathy Arabia to speak about childhood cancer awareness. He thanked them for their commitment. The Mayor read the proclamation.

Kathy Arabia thanked the Mayor and Council; she spoke about how important the awareness is in making a difference. She stated when their daughter was diagnosed there was actually no research being done on this type of cancer. They continue to be connected with new families in our community and beyond our area. She stated that she was appreciative of the community's support and continued efforts in awareness. Joe Arabia stated that they will be traveling to Barcelona, Spain to attend a research conference, and stated there has been significant progress over the last several years.

**11,800** The President presented Mayor's communication #62 proclaiming Start With Hello Week.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

The Mayor stated that last year, the City adopted the Start with Hello Week, which is a Sandy Hook promise. He stated it was a success. The Mayor read the proclamation.

The Mayor invited Superintendent Dr. Malkas to speak. Dr. Malkas thanked the Mayor and City Council. She stated that they have been selected by the Attorney General's office to receive

funding for participating with the Start with Hello. She spoke about wearing green on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, as it was the school colors for Sandy Hook; the Attorney General will be visiting. There will be a walk to school day for all three elementary schools. On Friday of that week, all community leaders are invited to the schools to greet the children, and literally start with hello.

**11,770-3** Mayor's communication #63 transferring \$3,000 from the Tinker Fund to Public Services, Cemetery.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

**11,770-3** The President presented an Order transferring \$3,000 from the Tinker Fund to Department of Public Services, Cemetery, Repairs and Maintenance.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Mayor stated that this is to support the work of Hillside Cemetery project.

Councilor Wilkinson stated he was very much in favor, and stated that the work the group does is phenomenal. Councilor Wilkinson inquired what exactly the Tinker Fund was. The Mayor replied that it was for perpetual care and designated for that use, and there is approximately \$44,000 remaining in the fund. Mr. Roger Eurbin from Hillside Cemetery group stated that there was a mausoleum for Giles Tinker at Hillside, and spoke about his legacy.

Councilor Lamb thanked Mr. Eurbin and his group for the great work they do. He stated it was a very modest amount of funding for the great service they provide.

Councilor LaForest echoed the other Councilors views and thanked Mr. Eurbin.

Councilor Harpin also stated her thanks for all the hard work and efforts and the difference it makes in our community.

The President called for a roll call vote on the Order, on roll call, the following responded: yea, Councilors, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, Bona, nay Councilor Buddington. Motion passes.

**11,801** The President presented Mayor's communication #64 regarding the disposition of property located at 21 Williams Street, Johnson School.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

**11,801** The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor in accordance with MGL, Ch. 30B, Sec. 16. To declare property located at 21 Williams Street, Map 81, Lot 71, 72, & 78 available for disposition.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen it was VOTED: to adopt the Order. The Mayor stated that the Head Start program will be leaving the building on August 1, 2020. Therefore, the City would like to have the RFP state that closing would be in conjunction with this date.

Councilor Harpin inquired if the zoning would be changing in the upcoming zoning changes.

Councilor Wilkinson stated it would not be changing. He stated that the City cannot afford to keep the building. He stated that people had concerns about tearing the building down. The Mayor stated that he feels a potential use would be housing. He stated they would use the same basic description as Sullivan school.

Councilor Lamb stated that reuse is economical to the City to retain the historic structure of the building, even if the interior is completely changed.

Councilor Cohen stated that the location for housing is good, and that this is the perfect time for this.

The President called for a roll call vote on the Order, on roll call, the following responded: yea, Councilors, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, Bona, nay Councilor Buddington. Motion passes.

**11,802** The President presented Mayor's communication #65 regarding disposition of property located at 367 Houghton Street.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

**11,802** The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor in accordance with MGL, Ch. 30B, Sec. 16, to declare property located at 367 Houghton Street, Map 34, Lot 35, available for disposition.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Mayor gave a brief summary of the acquisition of the property, stating it has been vacant since 2014, and has been transferred to the City by Housing Opportunities, Inc.

Originally the funds came from the Community Development Block Grant, therefore the recaptured funds would go back to the account to be used for CDBG eligible projects.

The City is going to put in the RFP that it requests a preference towards owner occupied purchase.

Council President inquired if the City was maintaining the property, the Mayor stated no, the City was not at this point.

The President called for a roll call vote on the Order, on roll call, the following responded: yea, Councilors, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, Bona, nay Councilor Buddington. Motion passes.

**11,803** The President presented Mayor's communication #66 recommending the appointment of Jason Moran to the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art Cultural Development Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2021.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins, it was VOTED: to accept the appointment.

Councilor Harpin noted that it was the first time the Council had seen an appointment for the Mass MoCA Commission, and inquired if the Mayor could give a basic overview of the duties of the Commission. The Mayor stated the Mass MoCA Foundation operates the Museum the Commission owns the property, any changes to the property or any retailers are reviewed by the Commission. Effectively they are the overview of the City asset.

Councilor Cohen inquired how many members are on the Commission. The Mayor stated that it is a nine member board, eight members, plus the Mayor.

Councilor Lamb inquired how many members are currently sitting. The Mayor responded, four. Councilor Lamb questioned why there were so many vacancies. The Mayor stated timing. Councilor Lamb questioned whether the Commission has previewed the most recent tenants. The Mayor stated yes, Bright Ideas and AOK.

Councilor LaForest called Point of Order, as he felt the Council was venturing off topic.

Councilor Buddington stated he felt the conversation was relevant.

Councilor LaForest again stated that they entered into conversation that was not relevant and felt the open meeting law would be violated.

**11,804** The President presented Mayor's communication #67 recommending the appointment of Dawn Vadnais to the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art Cultural Development Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2021.

On motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor Moran, it was VOTED: to accept the appointment.

**11,805** The President presented Mayor's communication #68 recommending the appointment of Jane Lamarre to the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art Cultural Development Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2022.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to accept the appointment.

**11,806** The President presented Mayor's communication #69 recommending the appointment of Amy Meehan to the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art Cultural Development Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2022.

On motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to accept the appointment.

**11,807** The President presented Mayor's communication #70 recommending the appointment of Gina Puc to the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art Cultural Development Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2022.

On motion of Councilor Cohen duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins, it was VOTED: to accept the appointment.

There were no Committee Reports or Minutes

The President called for Open Forum.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, thanked Mr. Eurbin for the job he is doing at the cemetery, but wanted to recognize the people who are doing the work, he named several volunteers, and stated they have never been recognized. He also stated that he was concerned about the disrepair of sidewalks throughout the City.

Bryan Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street reminded everyone of the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 911. He stated that people that were present during the incident and were involved and he wanted to remind that these people are still living with this tragedy, through illness and mental health.

The President called for Mayor's Concerns. The Mayor stated that there is a food access summit on September 17<sup>th</sup> in Pittsfield at the Zion Church. He stated that the issues are persistent, and he praised Councilor Cohen for raising awareness.

The Mayor stated several residents have been targeted by fraud, claiming to represent a grandchild and asking for money. He wanted residents to be aware of the fraud. The Council on Aging has also done informational meetings in regards to elderly fraud.

The President called for Councilors Concerns.

Councilor Wilkinson gave an update on the park on the corner of Marshall and Main Street. He stated that 68 % of the City is blacktopped. He applauded Mass MoCA for doing the Greenspace and exhibit

Councilor Lamb stated that Thursday September 19 is Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, MCLA City Clean Up day is September 28, and Fresh Grass is on the weekend of September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Councilor Lamb spoke about the hacking of municipalities and schools, keep in mind, don't open any suspicious emails.

The Mayor gave an update about the property located on Houghton Street; the next step is property receivership, if this fails, a last option would be demolition. The Mayor also mentioned 1302 Massachusetts Avenue property, that there has been no response from the owners, but are continuing to pursue.

Councilor Moran spoke about the pilot biking program at the schools, and stated what a positive program it is.

Councilor Cohen stated her concerns about the Dollar Tree storefront, she stated that it has cobwebs, storage eyesore and complete disarray. She feels it is a factor in our economy, and hopes people take more pride in the City.

Councilor Buddington stated his concerns about digital attacks, offline backups are so important, and gave kudos to the City's IT department.

Councilor LaForest mentioned that in regards to 911, sixteen children of firefighters that were killed, are going to be sworn in to the Fire Department of New York on September 11, 2019.

Councilor LaForest stated that if residents have issues with sidewalks, they need to contact DPW.

Councilor LaForest stated that the Cemetery volunteers were indeed recognized at a previous Council meeting, and that he appreciates their efforts.

Councilor Harpin stated that the Redevelopment Authority has jurisdiction over the Dollar Tree. She stated that the Authority may have some progress in the storefront being cleaned up.

The President stated that there have been attempts to contact the owners of Dollar Tree, to no avail. He also stated that the City should be maintaining the City owned properties.

The President echoed Councilor LaForest in regards to the Cemetery crew, he stated that Mr. Eurbini is the spark that got the program going.

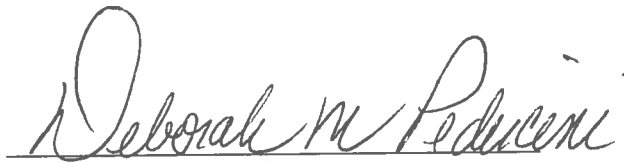
Councilor Hopkins stated he would look into whether or not there were any stipulations put on the storefront when they came before the authority.

Councilor Lamb read the communication in regards to the Joint City Council and Planning Board meeting that will be on October 1, 2019 discussing the new zoning changes.

With no further business to come before the Council, the President called for a motion to adjourn.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 8:51.

A True Record  
Attest,

  
City Clerk



**Office of the City Clerk**  
**City of North Adams**  
10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

**Regular Meeting of the City Council**

September 24, 2019

106

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

**COUNCILORS PRESENT:** Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson.

A moment of silence was observed, remembering Joyce Clark, teacher at Greylock Elementary School.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of September 10, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented. Councilors Cohen and Moran abstained.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Bryan Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street, voiced his concerns regarding the Public Arts Commission and Mass MoCA Commission. He stated there needed to be changes to the Mass MoCA lease agreement as to what jurisdiction the Public Arts Commission would have. Mr. Sapienza stated he was speaking on his own and not as a member of the Public Arts Commission.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, spoke regarding the parking in Center Street parking lot. He gave information regarding other communities and what they charge for parking.

**10,540-4** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 13-61, entitled Fees for parking zones which was postponed at the meeting of June 25, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of November 12, 2019.

Councilor Harpin gave a brief history of the paper that was originally brought before Council in April; she stated that during the months of April and May due to budget, the administration asked for more time to come up with a full fee schedule for the City. Currently the fee schedule is scheduled to come before Council at the October 22, 2019 meeting. She stated she felt it was an important issue and was disappointed in the length of time that has passed.



Councilor Lamb echoed Councilor Harpin's concerns on the length of time that has passed. He also stated that the impact that it has on residents and visitors. He stated that several staff have been working on this issue and is anxious to see the schedule.

Councilor LaForest voiced his concerns that the government is comprised of the Council and the Mayor and should not have such a difficult time obtaining information.

**11,790** The President presented a communication submitted by Council President Bona regarding short term rentals, and the requirement of the City which was postponed at the meeting of June 25, 2019, and VOTED: to refer to the Community Development Committee.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of January 28, 2020.

Councilor Lamb stated that the code has not caught up with the ability to tax, there are only twelve communities that have looked into what they can do in their communities as far as code for short term rentals and there needs to be more research gathering. The state may make changes along the way. He stated that public safety comes into play as well. He would like to have more information before coming back to Council.

**11,809** The President presented Mayor's communication #71 proclaiming Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Without objection the President filed the communication.

Councilor Lamb read the proclamation into the record. Liz Mitchell from Elizabeth Freeman Center gave thanks to the Council and the City. She thanked police chief Jason Wood, the Mayor and Councilor Harpin for their efforts. She gave a brief history and spoke about Walk a Mile in Her Shoes. She gave statistics on domestic violence in Berkshire County.

Several Councilors thanked Ms. Mitchell for her service and efforts.

**11,810** The President presented Mayor's communication #72 regarding a presentation by Berkshire Regional Planning Commission exploring the feasibility of a "Woonerf" streetscape on Eagle Street.

Without objection the President filed the communication.

Eammon Coughlin, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission described the concept of a Woonerf; stating that it is a term for communities to gather, using bicycles, pedestrians, vehicles. He gave a brief presentation on several different concepts that are proposed for Eagle Street. Each concept was varied in parking, narrowing the streets, adding more space for outdoor dining, plantings, or other activities. He also stated that the concepts are prepared with ample space for fire apparatus to enter.

There was a question and answer period, Councilors had concerns about deliveries to businesses, and snow removal; that was addressed with the concepts.

Michael Nuvalle, Director, Office of Community Development, gave a history as to the length of this concept dating back to the late 1980's. Recently, it was discussed again, and Community Development Block Grant funding was able to fund this project design.

Councilor Lamb thanked Mr. Coughlin for all of his hard work and effort in the project.

**11,746-2** The President presented a communication from Councilor LaForest regarding crosswalk removal at Brickyard Court.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to file the communication.

**11,746-2** The President presented an Order requesting the removal of crosswalk located on Brickyard Court.

On motion of Councilor Hopkins, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

Councilor LaForest gave a brief history of the crosswalk, as it had been ordered to be removed in June, and it is still visible. He recommended permanent signage in this area, as it is unsafe.

Councilor Lamb stated he spoke to the Mayor regarding this issue and signage is planned. The City crew power washed the crosswalk from the roadway, however only removed 95% of the paint and the crosswalk is still somewhat visible. He suggested that the Order should be edited as it did not contain verbiage for signage.

Councilor Hopkins thanked Councilor LaForest for his tenacity on the issue, however he felt a phone call would have sufficed, and did not feel an Order was necessary. He also stated he felt signage was a good idea as well.

Councilor Buddington stated he drove by several days ago and felt the crosswalk was substantially removed. Councilor LaForest disagreed, and stated it is still visible.

Councilor Moran stated that possibly a pile of brush would deter crossing, as is used in hiking trails.

Councilor Lamb stated that he agreed with Councilor Hopkins, a phone call would have been best, not an Order.

Councilor Cohen stated she felt the crosswalk was still visible, and wants to make sure that the issue is resolved. She voiced her concern over the length of time it seems to have taken.

Councilor Wilkinson stated, the easy fix would be to roll black paint on the street over the crosswalk.

Councilor Harpin stated that she was in agreeance with Councilor Cohen, the Order should be adopted. She stated that the Mayor and the Superintendent originally requested the Order to remove the crosswalk. She feels that the crosswalk should be fully removed as soon as possible.

Councilor LaForest stated this issue has been in City Council for nine months, and he stated that he has made several phone calls to DPW and the Mayor. He stated the reason for the Order was to once and for all get this issue resolved fully. He stated his initial reason for bringing the paper was for the safety of the children.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, yea, Councilors Bona, Cohen, Harpin, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, nay, Councilors Buddington, Hopkins, and Wilkinson. Motion passes.

**11,811** The President presented a communication from Councilor LaForest requesting a process for appealing to the City Solicitor.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to refer to the General Government Committee, and postpone to the meeting of November 12, 2019.

**11,812** The President presented a communication from Councilor LaForest regarding Public Arts Commission and Planning Board, case number, SPA2019-27, regarding Mass MoCA Foundation, Inc. for property located at 25 Marshall Street.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin it was VOTED: to refer to General Government and Public Arts Commission, and postpone to the meeting of January 28, 2019.

Councilor LaForest stated that there was a process issue on how the topic of the Leu Lot as a parklet space and putting a larger art installation there came to pass. It was discussed at length in the Public Arts Commission when the topic of public facing art came up. There are statutes regarding Mass MoCA, and Ordinances relative to public art, and there seems to be confusion and conflict, therefore he suggests that the Mayor, legal staff, Public Arts Commission and General Government Committee all meet to discuss the proper procedures.

**11,808** The President presented an Order calling the City Election, November 5, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson, it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The President called for roll call vote, on roll, yea Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, Lamb, LaForest, Moran, Wilkinson, nay, none. Motion carries.

There were no Committee Reports or Minutes.

The President called for Open Forum.

Mark Meehan, 55 Main Street, had concerns regarding parking when Mass MoCA events are happening. He had concerns for locals coming downtown with no parking. He stated he would like to discuss a solution to this issue.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, spoke regarding the crosswalk on Brickyard Court. He stated that he felt the Mayor was not being responsive and wanted to see better

communication. He also spoke about a crosswalk near Cole Grove Park, he would like to see the crosswalk return there, the lines are not visible.

Jessica Sweeney, 190 Prospect Street, stated that she respects the Council's efforts, and although it may seem like it takes time, she appreciates the due diligence given. She thanked the Community Development and BRPC for the work regarding the Eagle Street initiative. She previously ran ROOTS and the safety of children crossing the streets there was a concern.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, stated his concerns regarding the children's artwork at Mass MoCA pillars.

Councilor Harpin stated that the Dollar Store has since cleaned up the windows and is an improvement. She thanked Councilor Hopkins for his efforts.

Councilor LaForest spoke about the MMA Fall Breakfast, and he encouraged other Councilors to check out their website for information. He stated 18 Degrees, located at 6 West Main Street, had an opening this morning that he and Mayor Bernard attended. The program serves young adults, aged 18 to 24 that are at proven risk for criminal activity and gang involvement, and helps divert them away from those activities to make it a safer community for all.

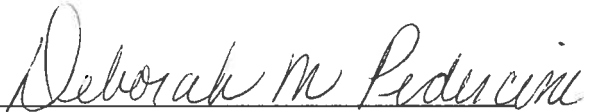
Councilor Lamb reminded the public that the Fall Foliage activities will be starting next week, as well as the community clean-up day. He also spoke on an incident in the city recently with regards to hate crimes, and stated that many times these incidents are not reported, and he encouraged all to be reporting these incidents.

The Council President spoke about the PopCares dinner that is coming up, as well as the Dancing in the Streets, Brew and Chew, along with the Fall Foliage festivities.

With no further business to come before the Council, the President called for a motion to adjourn.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 9:01

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# Office of the City Clerk

## City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

### Joint Public Hearing

#### North Adams City Council and North Adams Planning Board

October 1, 2019

A Joint Public Hearing with the North Adams Planning Board and the North Adams City Council was held at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Councilors Bona, Buddington, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran; Councilors absent, Cohen, Harpin, Wilkinson.

PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Michael Leary, members, Hollins, Taft, Blackmer and Senecal.

OTHERS PRESENT: Nat Karns, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Michael Nuwallie and Zachary Feury, Office of Community Development, William Meranti, Zoning Officer.

The President called the Joint Public Hearing to order.

Nat Karns gave a brief history of the zoning changes, stating that approximately one year ago these zoning changes were brought before the Planning Board and City Council as a clean-up of the map. He stated that there were only minor changes made since the last presentation. He noted that most changes were with the Norad and Greylock Mill, where there were concerns. He stated that they allowed the mill owners decide what zone worked best for their location. There was a use added for craft spirits, distilling; that will be defined according to the ABC regulations and how the state defines the use.

Councilor Buddington had concerns about S-1 changes, and had questions regarding the mill zones. Mr. Karns stated that Greylock Works mill stayed the same, the Norad Mill was changed to I zones. Mr. Meranti stated that the change already reflected the business use in place.

Mr. Meranti stated the changes were not major, and are very positive changes.

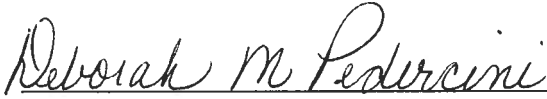
Councilor Buddington inquired about the Windsor Mill, Delftree Mill and Eclipse Mill. Mr. Karns stated there were no zoning changes to those areas.

Michael Nuvallie clarified that all lot owners that were affected were notified, there was also maps on the City's website for public comment. He also stated there have been two subcommittee meetings held for general public's information.

The Council President called for questions or comments; hearing none, a motion to adjourn was in order.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 6:17pm.

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## City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

### Regular Meeting of the City Council

October 8, 2019

111

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

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Councilors Bona, Buddington, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Absent, Councilor Cohen.

The President called for a moment of silence remembering Ernest John Morocco a 46 year veteran of the North Adams Police force retiring after a distinguished 16 year career as the city's Commissioner of Public Safety.

Commissioner Morocco developed North Adams' Dare program, was instrumental in developing the Berkshire County Drug Task Force and was a past president of the New England Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of September 24, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the Joint Public Hearing of October 1, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented. Councilor Harpin abstained.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Roger Eurbin, 677 Ashland Street, spoke in regards to the donation to the Hillside Cemetery Restoration Fund and voiced his appreciation for the gift.

**11,813** The President presented Mayor's communication #73 accepting a gift to the Hillside Cemetery Restoration Project.

Without objection the President filed the communication.

- 11,813** The President presented an Order accepting a gift of \$500.00 from Robert & Joann Muir to the Hillside Cemetery Restoration Project.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Moran it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Mayor acknowledged the gift and recognized the work that the Hillside Cemetery has done.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, yea Councilors Bona, Buddington, Harpin, Hopkins LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay, none. Motion carries.

- 11,814** The President presented Mayor's communication #74 recommending the appointment of Michael Obasohan to the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art Cultural Development Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2021.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Moran, it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

- 11,815** The President presented Mayor's communication #75 recommending the appointment of Robin Meyer to the North Adams Commission on Disabilities for a term to expire December 1, 2020.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

- 11,816** The President presented Mayor's communication #76 recommending the appointment of Eric Wilson to the North Adams Commission on Disabilities for a term to expire December 1, 2020.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment

- 11,817** The President presented Mayor's communication #77 recommending the appointment of Laura Baran to the North Adams Commission on Disabilities for a term to expire December 1, 2021.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment

- 11,818** The President presented Mayor's communication #78 recommending the reappointment of Carrie Crews to the North Adams Commission on Disabilities for a term to expire December 1, 2022.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins, it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment

- 11,819** The President presented Mayor's communication #79 recommending the reappointment of William Meranti to the North Adams Commission on Disabilities for a term to expire December 1, 2022.



On motion of Councilor Moran, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment

- 11,820** The President presented Mayor's communication #80 recommending the appointment of Robert Simon to the North Adams Commission on Disabilities for a term to expire December 1, 2022.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment

- 11,821** The President presented Mayor's communication #81 declaring various vehicles and equipment as surplus and available for disposition.

Without objection the President filed the communication.

- 11,821** The President presented an Order declaring various vehicles and equipment as surplus available for disposition.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED to adopt the Order.

The Mayor stated that the Commissioner of Public Services declared several pieces of equipment not serviceable and this is the process to dispose of them.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, yea, Councilor Bona, Buddington, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran Wilkinson. Nay none. Motion carries.

- 10,674-6a** The President presented Mayor's communication #82 requesting time for a representative from the Planning Board, to present a report on the proposed Zoning Amendments.

Brian Miksic, North Adams Planning Board, stated that at the last Planning Board meeting, they voted to recommend all of the zoning amendments to the zoning plan.

- 10,674-6a** The President presented Mayor's communication #83 regarding Chapter Z of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, zoning changes.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

- 10,674-6a** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter Z of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 2.1 entitled Divisions.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Moran, it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and post as a municipal bulletin as required by law.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to amend Section 8.2, to strike "permitted by right".

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Harpin,

Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay, None. Motion Carries.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Moran, it was VOTED: to amend the two numbers 8.1 and 8.2 at the end of Section 8.2, as they are reversed.

Councilor Buddington explained that the intent was to remove section 8.1 which defines UR-1 zone, and move the 8.2 which defines the UR-2 zone in its place.

There was much discussion as to the confusion in 8.1 and 8.2 amongst councilors. Zachary Feury, Office of Community Development, clarified that Councilor Buddington's amendment is correct and should be amended as requested. The Mayor also clarified the amendment.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay, None.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to amend Section 2.2, Building zone map. The end of the sentence should read: 2.2 instead of 2.1.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay, none.

**11,822**            The President presented Mayor's communication #84 setting the Tax Classification public hearing date of October 22, 2019.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

The Mayor stated this was an annual commitment of the Council to set the hearing date for the tax rate. The finance team will bring forth information to support a recommendation.

There were no committee reports or minutes.

The President presented an application for license to drive taxi for RJ's Taxi, from David E. Bushey, 46 Mill Street, Apartment 1, Williamstown, MA.

On motion of Councilor Lamb duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins, it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President called for Open Forum.

Roger Eurbin, 667 Ashland Street, spoke about the work done on the stones at Hillside, as well as removing debris and brush. He expressed his thanks on behalf of the Hillside Cemetery Restoration to the Drury Football team as well as Coaches Marceau and Jutrus.

Brian Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street, thanked all for the great success of the Fall Foliage event.

Henry Jaescke, Chase Avenue, wished all the Councilors good luck.

Eric Wilson, 116 Brayton Hill, thanked the Mayor and Council for appointing him to the Commission on Disabilities.

The Mayor acknowledged and thanked Public Services, Public Safety, Office of Tourism, and all that helped make the Fall Foliage Parade a success.

The Mayor mentioned it was Fire Prevention Week, and that the American Red Cross is doing smoke detector installations. There will be an open house at the fire station tomorrow from 5:30 to 8.

The Mayor stated that the last day to register to vote is October 16, 2019 at 8:00.

Councilor Harpin wanted to share that, "One Book One Community" the domestic violence task force, "No Visible Bruises", partnering across Berkshire County. There are copies available at the library.

Councilor LaForest acknowledged that two residents were selected to participate in a patriot flight to Washington, DC. They are both Vietnam veterans Greg Armstrong, U.S. Navy, and David Chapmin, U.S. Army medic and a recipient of the Purple Heart traveled to DC for the day and had a police escort all the way to the airport and visited several sites. Several students from the City sent letters to both men, and they were very moved by the gesture.

Councilor LaForest stated that Professor Petty, and students from MCLA, will be holding a debate for City Council and School Committee candidates, October 15 and October 22 at HiLo.

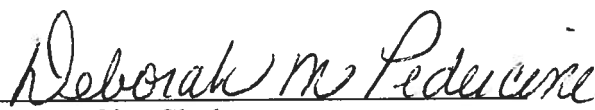
Councilor LaForest voiced his concerns that the vendors for the parade this year were intrusive in the road and would like to see this change next year.

Councilor Lamb spoke about the "One Book, One Community" task force, October 12, will discuss domestic violence at the Mayor's coffee hour. An additional discussion will be on November 6.

With no further business to come before the Council, the President called for a motion to adjourn.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 8:10

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## City of North Adams

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### Regular Meeting of the City Council

October 22, 2019

116

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

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, absent, Wilkinson.

The President called for a moment of silence remembering Karen Briggs, longtime clerk for the Assessor's Office, and Dr. Raymond Lord, long time member of the North Adams Redevelopment Authority and founder of McCann High School's Dental Hygiene program where he served as its Director and instructor.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of October 08, 2019.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented. Councilor Cohen abstained.

The President opened the Public Hearing.

**8,717-38a** The President presented Mayor's communication #85 setting the Tax Classification for FY' 2020.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

The Mayor stated that the presentation would be to set the Tax Classification rate for FY'2020.

Mr. Ross Vivori, Assessor, took a moment to speak about the loss of Karen Briggs and what a great asset she was to the office and to the City, she was voted Clerk of the Year on two occasions. He stated it was an honor to work with her, and that she would be sorely missed by all.

Mr. Vivori continued on to give his slide presentation explaining the statistics used to arrive at the tax rate. During the presentation questions were raised by several Councilors.

Councilor Lamb inquired as to why the large increase in personal property values. Mr. Vivori stated that the bump in the values is largely due to utilities; Berkshire Gas, National Grid, New England Power, and Massachusetts Electric, reporting significant growth.

Councilor LaForest inquired as to whether it was a multi-year process in increasing values on Property. Mr. Vivori stated that statistically they are required to have 2 percent of sales, in order to meet that requirement, they would have to look back at least two years for qualified sales.

He stated that if you are selling at over assessed, obviously assessments need to be raised.

Councilor Harpin stated the commercial increase was 2%, residential 6%, and personal property 21%. She inquired about the TIF agreements; Mr. Vivori stated Tourists, and Greylock Works; but TOG Manufacturing doesn't kick in until next year.

The Mayor spoke about the budgeted tax levy that was passed in June; he stated that there were a number of adjustments that were internal as well as on tax recap, which brings an additional half a million dollars over and above the tax levy.

The two major drivers are on the school side, which were on the Cherry sheets; additional charges in school choice, and an overrun on regional transportation.

Mr. Michael Canales stated that in Fiscal 2019, the State gave the City an additional \$84,000 in regional transportation that was supposed to go to another community. "We immediately reported that we thought it was an error on the State's part. The other community did not report it; they did not realize that they did not receive the funds." "The money was received in the final Cherry sheet in Fiscal 2018, so in Fiscal 2019, the state recognized the error and that they needed the City to give it back, so they took off \$84,000 on the Cherry sheets which meant that the City needed to raise an additional \$84,000."

Councilor Cohen inquired if there has been any effort to even out the school choice numbers, so that the children that are school choice-out has an even number of school choice-in, and how does this affect that number? The Mayor stated that the school appropriated funding for marketing, and it has paid for itself in the sense that there have been students that have choiced-in to the district.

Councilor Lamb questioned about the \$84,000; he inquired if the money was from the year prior, should we not then be able to draw-down on existing reserves.

The Mayor stated that he would rather address it here, and hold the reserves for rainy day purposes.

Councilor LaForest inquired as to why we would have to actually raise the \$84,000. Mr. Canales stated that in Fiscal 2018, \$84,000 was given to our community in error, therefore in Fiscal 2019 we needed to reimburse the state in that amount.

The Mayor stated that the money was spent over the course of the year and they had no way of knowing there was an error until it came to light in July 2019.

Councilor LaForest stated that was not explained properly by Mr. Canales, and that an explanation was in order.

Mr. Canales stated that the \$84,000 did come in 2018; however the City's administration did not believe it was correct, but in the end that money was distributed to the City and had to be in the

2018 calculations to close out the year. Then the State reported that they were taking back the money in 2019.

Mr. Canales stated that \$36,218 in claims in the 2019 budget went to another community that should have come to North Adams. We have corrected this with the State and it will actually come in the Fiscal year 2020. Sometimes these things happen because of the close-out and the years become complicated. He stated once you close out the books, you cannot go back and reopen the books.

Councilor Harpin stated she was disappointed that once you realized the \$84,000 did not belong to the City, you should have moved it to another account that would not be used due to an overage. She stated she was concerned that during the special meeting in July there were several account to account transfers to close out the Fiscal 2019 budget by July 15. At that point in time it was her understanding that the books for 2019 were closed. She had no idea that there was additional money that would be needed and would be included to the tax payers.

She stated that there was no indication that there were overruns, Councilor Cohen had asked at the meeting in May about snow and ice, as well as Councilor LaForest had asked about school choice, and there was no mention of the overruns. Councilor Harpin was very concerned as to why the Council did not know about these overruns.

The Mayor stated that at the time of the July meeting and close-out of the budget, the City did not have knowledge of the overruns; they came through after the budget close-out. The budget is based on estimates.

Councilor Lamb inquired why the \$36,000 cannot go to the correct community. He stated that this process is obnoxious and stated he never wants to see this again. This needs to be addressed.

Councilor Lamb continued; inquiring as to the timeline in regards to the \$84,000. If we spent the money, it was not our money to spend; it should have been accounted for.

The Mayor stated that at some point in the year it was realized that the funds did not belong to the City, he was unsure as to when this was realized.

Councilor LaForest wanted to clarify that Superintendent Malkas stated that there was a quarter of a million dollars in the revolving account and predicted the funds would stay the same. Could you clarify if there currently is still this amount? The Mayor replied that there was. Why are we then asking the tax payers to be burdened when there is money available in the school revolving account?

Councilor LaForest wanted to point out that our revenue from the state has gone up \$110,000, yet the Governor is sitting on a billion dollars of tax surplus and small rural communities are getting shafted by half of a million dollars. Councilor Cohen echoed Councilor LaForest.

Councilor Harpin wanted to make a point; she stated that Fall River had half a million dollars of snow and ice removal overruns, and it was reported on July 15, 2019. At the close of their books, they knew the total.

The Mayor responded to Councilor LaForest, he stated that the City does have levy capacity to fund this, while protecting our reserves for future need, and for this year it was an important priority.

Councilor Harpin inquired as to why the administration did not know about the snow and ice overrun on July 15. The Mayor responded that they were still closing out the budget, so they had a sense of where they would be, at the same time knew they had the ability to recapture it on the tax rate. Councilor Harpin said there was no communication and it was disappointing.

Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street, stated that the City should take over the bussing and transportation. He also questioned the loss of sand and using chipped stone, with the savings, why overruns.

Mr. Vivori continued with the presentation.

Councilor LaForest asked if it was true that shifts allowing higher rates for commercial and personal property were supposed to be instituted as emergency mechanisms. He stated that North Adams has been challenged most of the last 35 years since Sprague started dwindling down and went out of business and we have had very hard years, it was never meant to be something used year after year, taking the tax burden off the tax payers and putting it on the commercial side. Is there a consideration to go to a single tax rate? If the rate goes to over \$40.00 per \$1,000 we would be the highest in the Commonwealth.

The Mayor stated that the increase would be \$23.78, an additional \$5.00 per thousand to the single tax rate.

Mr. Vivori stated that we are seeing some of the benefits from the investments that we made in North Adams over the past several years; justification for those values going up.

Councilor Buddington stated he would prefer a different variation in taxation rates. He preferred small homes over large homes, small businesses over large businesses. He stated after poking around he has not found any leverage to actually do that.

Councilor LaForest stated that his taxes have gone up 166 percent in the past ten years, and realized his taxes would continue to go up no matter what happens tonight. He stated that we have to continue to make it easier for businesses to do business here, or they will leave the area.

Councilor Lamb stated that businesses are directly being impacted by minimum wage, and Family Medical Leave Act, it is difficult for them to raise their prices. We really need to look at making our community business friendly. He stated that while our commercial tax rate is high, our assessments are low comparatively to other communities in the Commonwealth.

Councilor LaForest stated that the businesses also pay for personal property.

Councilor Harpin stated that in general our community is struggling; they are having a difficult time paying their taxes. Many residents are elderly and on a fixed income. Not everyone can afford extras; they have trouble just going to the grocery store.

Mr. Vivori continued the presentation; the average residential value in 2019 was \$138,779.97, in 2020 the value is \$149,300.83. Tax rate in 2019 was \$19.11 the rate for 2020 is \$ 18.62.

Mr. Vivori completed his presentation and stated that a shift needs to be voted on.

On Motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen it was VOTED: to close the Public Hearing.

The President closed the Public Hearing.

**8,717-38a** The President presented an Order establishing the percentages of tax levy for the various classes of property for FY' 2020.

On Motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

Councilor Harpin questioned why the Council needs to rush to vote on this tonight, as last year the meeting was on November 27, 2018.

Mr. Vivori stated the DOR wants us to bring it in as soon as possible; it is the purpose of the meeting to establish the rate. The Mayor stated that they are not rushing the process. Last year was a bit late, and this gives the proper departments time to get billing done.

Councilor Cohen stated that adjustment should be given to the Council next year much sooner. It is a hard decision to make; we are setting the tax rate for our City. She stated that the Council should vote tonight.

Councilor LaForest stated that there is no wiggle room in our budget, if we want to lower the tax rate; we need to cut the budget. If there is no room, where do you cut? He stated that we are all struggling, but there is some good news, the tax rate is actually going down, and our property values are going up. The City is doing well, new businesses are coming to North Adams, and we are able to help them with TIF agreements, and we are creating jobs.

Councilor Harpin stated that with all the Finance Committee meetings, it would have been nice to know this information ahead of time; there may have been different decisions made. It is hard for her to do her job, as chairman of the Finance Committee if she does not know all of the information. She feels transparency is very important, and would like to see more transparency.

Councilor Buddington thanked the administration for their hard work, and appreciates their efforts. However, he agreed with Councilor Harpin, the numbers should have been available in July.

Councilor LaForest asked if they were to take the \$507,000 out of reserves between revolving account for school choice and the City's reserves, would it affect the tax rate significantly? The Mayor stated he was unsure of the amount, but what it would do is limit our ability to use the reserves down the line when we have no other choice. So this is our alternative, reserves are for a time when we really need to use them.



Councilor Moran stated that he would support the 1.71 shift. The adjustments seem sloppy and large numbers to swallow. Councilor Lamb echoed Councilor Moran, he stated that we need to be more proactive and look at our long term goals.

Councilor LaForest wanted to clarify proposition 2 ½, if we do not raise the levy a certain amount this year, and we have to add some expenditures, does not raising the taxes hinder the ability to raise taxes later. The Mayor stated it does not.

Councilor Harpin stated she will not vote for this shift, she stated that there are abandoned homes in all neighborhoods, and that people cannot afford to stay in their homes.

Councilor LaForest stated he will support the shift. He stated that the City has a collection rate of 98 percent and are doing well.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, yea, Councilor Bona, Buddington, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, nay, Councilor Cohen and Harpin. Motion passes.

**10,674-6a** An Ordinance amending Chapter Z of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 2.1, entitled Divisions which was in City Council, October 8, 2019 and passed to a second reading and posted as a municipal bulletin as required by law.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance.

Councilor Lamb stated he was happy to see the Ordinance come to decision.

The President called for a roll call vote, on roll, yea, Councilors, Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran. Nay none, Motion passes.

There were no committee reports or minutes.

The President called for Open Forum.

Robert Cardimino, 173 Quincy Street, he stated that there was a rumor stating he was not a Korean War veteran. He stated he was a veteran; he has a DD2-14 to prove it. He stated he was not a combat veteran, but a veteran of the Korean War.

Councilor LaForest thanked Mr. Cardimino for his service to our country.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, wanted to point out that reduced speed limit signs in the East Main Street area need to be amended, as times are to 2:30 pm whereas they should be changed to 3:30 pm.

He also wanted to thank the young woman who helped him when he had a fall last week.

Bryan Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street, he reminded everyone to go to the polls on November 5, 2019. It is important to vote.

Henry Jaeske, 42 Chase Avenue, spoke about the tax shift of 1.7.

Jessica Sweeney, 190 Prospect Street, stated that she had to have the police arrest an individual, and wanted to thank the North Adams Police for their training in inclusion. She stated that they made a very uncomfortable situation professional.

Councilor LaForest stated that Justyna Carlson contacted him last week and wanted Mr. Gene Carlson to speak regarding the North Adams Historical Society.

Mr. Gene Carlson, North Adams Historical Society spoke about the opening of the museum on Saturday, November 2, 2019. He wanted to honor Lynette Searcy for inviting them to make the Holiday Inn their new home. He also stated that the museum will be dedicated to Gailanne Cariddi who gave them enough funding to make it extra special. He thanked Robert Campanile as well for putting this together. Mr. Carlson invited the Mayor and City Council to a reception on October 27, 2019 to preview the new museum.

Council President called for Mayor's concerns.

The Mayor thanked the Council for passing the zoning on day 365. He spoke about the road milling and paving running through October 31, no parking. The Mayor reminded all about the off street parking ban on November 1.

The Mayor raised concern as to how City staff are being treated. There have been reports of rudeness, threats, and harassment. The staff of our City should not be subjected to this type of behavior and it will not be tolerated. The City staff will continue to be courteous, if there are incidents that cannot be resolved, they will be trespassed.

The Mayor spoke about the loss of Karen Briggs, clerk in the Assessor's Office. He stated she was no nonsense, had a wicked sense of humor, a call it like she sees it person, she took her work very seriously and was a dedicated City employee for 23 years. The Mayor sends his condolences to Karen's family.

Councilor LaForest spoke about the different forums for City candidates and locations and times. He also stated there would be a North Adams Democratic Committee meeting at the Freight Yard Pub on October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

Councilor Harpin had a request from a citizen as to when the construction would be complete in the Greylock area. The Mayor stated that the majority of construction is complete; the plantings will be completed in the spring.

Councilor Cohen thanked the Mayor for bringing up the concerns in City Hall.

Councilor Lamb announced job opportunities for the 2020 Census. They will be hiring 800 people in Berkshire County. He expressed the importance of being counted, as this affects how much money our community receives.

With no further business to come before the Council, the President called for a motion to adjourn.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 9:12

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City Clerk



**Office of the City Clerk**  
**City of North Adams**  
10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

**Regular Meeting of the City Council**

November 12, 2019

124

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

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, absent, Councilors Harpin and Hopkins.

The President called for a moment of silence remembering Joseph Dragotta who served for over 30 years as a member of the North Adams police force, Ruth Giroux, teacher's aide at Sullivan School and Anthony Mendel, metal fabrication instructor of McCann Technical High School.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of October 22, 2019..

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented. Councilor Wilkinson abstained.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, spoke in favor of the City Council having access to the City solicitor.

Dan Wallace, 81 Church Street, voiced his support for the Sullivan School sale and felt the use of the property would enhance the ongoing economic development.

Andrew Kawczak, spoke in support of the land sale in Pownal, Vermont. He stated that he is an advocate for the conservation of the river, and stated the land was not developable.

**10,540-4** The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Section 13-61, entitled Fees for parking zones which was postponed at the meeting of September 24, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to refer to the Finance Committee and postpone to the meeting of December 26, 2019

**11,811** The President presented a communication from Councilor LaForest requesting a process for appealing to the City Solicitor which was referred to the General Government Committee and postponed at the meeting of September 24, 2019

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to refer to the General Government Committee and postpone to the meeting of December 26, 2019.

Councilor Buddington inquired as to why the paper was being postponed, Councilor LaForest responded that Councilor Hopkins is away, however felt that there would be enough time to wrap it up before the new year.

**11,824** The President presented Mayor's communication #85 designating McCann School Committee members as Special Municipal Employees.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

**11,824** The President presented an Order designating McCann School Committee members as Special Municipal Employees.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Mayor stated that Superintendent Brosnan has asked communities to be consistent for Special Municipal Employees that sit on the committee.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote, yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, nay, none.

**11,825** The President presented Mayor's communication #86 recommending the appointment of Kimberly Brown to the Mobile Home Rent Control Board for a term to expire September 1, 2024.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

**11,620-1** The President presented Mayor's communication #87 regarding the sale of City owned real estate in Pownal, Vermont.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

**11,620-1** The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30B to sell City owned real estate located in Pownal, Vermont.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson, it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Mayor stated that the land has been out for RFP three times since November 2017, this was a proposal that would be used for conservation, and felt that this would be the missing piece of the puzzle on either side of the water shed.

Councilor Wilkinson stated that the land was a fair price for the property and gave his support. He stated that "getting \$800.00 per acre is doing pretty good", and urged the Council to go ahead with the sale.

Councilor Lamb said he would support the sale, he inquired about the timbering of the land. The Mayor stated the funds received from the timbering, is basically a wash with taxes paid.

Councilor Buddington stated his support, he stated that conservation and recreation is the best case scenario.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote, yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, nay, none.

**11,801-1** The President presented Mayor's communication #88 regarding the sale of real estate located at 21 Williams Street, Johnson School.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

**11,801-1** The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30B to sell real estate located at 21 Williams Street, Johnson School.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Mayor spoke about the project that is proposed, stating there will be twenty, high end housing units, developed by Moresi Associates, called Amity Square Apartments. The plan to move forward will be as soon as the tenant vacates the property.

Councilor Lamb stated he felt it was a great project, and what the community needs, creating an elevated quality of housing to bring young families to the area.

Councilor Cohen gave Kudos to Mr. Moresi and the quality work he does.

Councilor Wilkinson stated he has looked at the school and it is in very bad condition and would be costly to the City in the future.

Councilor Buddington stated he had inquired as to the broadband and was concerned that the City could lose points, but he stated he was convinced enough that access can be done by the poles.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote, yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, nay, none.

**11,570-1** The President presented Mayor's communication #89 regarding the sale of real estate located at 151 Kemp Avenue, Sullivan School.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

At this time, Council President Bona recused himself and stepped down due to an appearance of conflict of interest. Council Vice President Lamb recused himself as well.

The City Clerk called for nominations for an interim Council President.

On motion of Councilor Moran, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest it was VOTED: to appoint Councilor Cohen as interim President. Councilor Cohen took the chair.

**11,570-1** The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30B to sell real estate located at 151 Kemp Avenue, Sullivan School.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to refer to Finance Committee and postpone to the meeting of November 26, 2019.

There was discussion on which committee to refer to, as President Lamb is on the Community Development Committee and would have to recuse himself.

Councilor LaForest stated there would not be a quorum to vote on the Order tonight.

Councilor Buddington requested to learn more about the sale of the property due to the fact that many people had come to the meeting and felt it would become controversial. Councilor Wilkinson stated that he felt it should be sent to committee and that there is a lot more information that needs to be known before we move forward.

The Mayor stated that the discussion should be reserved for the committee meeting.

Councilor Cohen stepped down and Council President Bona returned to the floor.

**11,826** The President presented Mayor's communication #90 regarding Fee Schedule amendments.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

**11,826** The President presented an Ordinance amending the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams regarding the various fees established in the City Code.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to refer to the Finance Committee and postpone to the meeting of December 26, 2019.

The President called for Open Forum.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, congratulated the Councilors and the Mayor on the election. He also had a concern regarding concrete slabs that were removed near Cole Grove School and felt it was a dangerous situation. He requested that caution signs should be erected.

Roger Eurbin, 667 Ashland Street, spoke about the flags that will be picked up at Southview Cemetery on Saturday. He invited all veterans' organizations and all citizens to participate; all are welcome. He also stated that the Drury Football team and Wreaths Across America will be assisting. They will be meeting at 9:00 am on Cemetery Road on Saturday.

Larry Burdick, 12 Spencer Road, thanked the Council and the Mayor for the support at the Cemeteries, and updated on the number of stones repaired.

The President called for Mayor's Concerns. The Mayor thanked everyone who was involved and participated in the Veterans Day observances. He stated the keynote speaker had all veterans recognized and commented on how powerful it was. He also gave kudos to the Drury High School Band.


The Mayor spoke about the City food drive which benefits the Northern Berkshire Interfaith Action Initiative. Al Nelson Food Pantry will be accepting food and personal care items until November 22<sup>nd</sup>. He stated there were collection boxes in several City locations; and all donations will be weighed in. The Mayor challenged to donate one ton of food and personal care items; double last year's donation. The Annual Tree Lighting will be November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm; in case of inclement weather it will be moved to December 6<sup>th</sup>.

There was no Liaison or Councilors Concerns or Correspondence.

With no further business to come before the Council, the President called for a motion to adjourn.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 8:20

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Attest,

  
City Clerk





# Office of the City Clerk

## City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

### Regular Meeting of the City Council

November 26, 2019

129

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

**COUNCILORS PRESENT:** Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of November 12, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented. Councilors Harpin and Hopkins abstained.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, presented several reasons why the City Council should vote no on the Sullivan School sale. He stated revenue loss and possibly having the property returned to the City in the future.

At this time, the President recused himself, as well as Councilor Lamb due to conflict of interest in regards to the Sullivan School property. Councilor Cohen stepped in as interim Council President.

**11,570-1** Interim Council President Cohen presented an Order authorizing the Mayor under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30B to sell real estate located at 151 Kemp Avenue, Sullivan School which was referred to the Finance Committee and postponed to the meeting of November 26, 2019.

On Motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson, it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

Councilor Harpin gave a report of the Finance Committee meeting, she stated that representatives from Berkshire's Advanced Manufacturing Training and Education Center, Inc. were present at the meeting, along with several City Council members. She stated that minutes were distributed to all Councilors.

The Finance Committee felt that more information was needed in order to make a decision. Some of the issues were; not having a definitive time frame, general information regarding financing, as well as maintenance of the building.

Councilor Harpin stated that Gary Rivers, McCann School Committee, gave a tour of the McCann facility; where similar adult educational classes are held. She felt it was important for people to know that these programs exist, and stated these programs are also offered at Taconic and Berkshire Community College.

Councilor Harpin stated she was concerned as to why they did not reach out to McCann for a recommendation.

Interim Council President Cohen stated she wanted to hear from a representative from BAMTEC who was present. Vice President, Brad Vogel, stated that they are focusing on the local feedback from the community and businesses. He stated that they are currently still gathering information as well as financing resources from State and Federal funds as well as private. He stated that they are trying to meet the needs of the community and training the workforce, along with building a makerspace to attract a creative economy that really would help where North Adams is going.

Councilor LaForest spoke about McCann School and how impressed he was with the facility and recognized that the school is nationally ranked and winning awards in this discipline.

Councilor LaForest stated that he was concerned residents in the Sullivan School neighborhood were not fully aware of the RFP and feels that the City should reach out to see what residents would like to see happen there. He stated that there was some alluding to the zoning process being changed to meet the needs of the project, and stated that would be considered spot zoning.

He also had concerns that previous RFP's for properties have not come to fruition and felt this could be one of them. He stated that it was encouraging that people want to invest in the community and education and manufacturing. He stated that it's not to say that he has concerns with the proposal, however, would like to see the RFP return to the Mayor for some clarification.

Councilor Wilkinson stated he had concerns that there was no business plan; there was communication of \$15,000,000, however, no resources were spoken of. He stated he felt the concept was fabulous, however, did not want to sell the property, and then two years later have the City take custody again only to have to demolish it due to its condition.

Councilor Hopkins stated that he had concerns about process; the Council's role was to consider whether the property was considered excess, the Council agreed with the administration and authorized the sale. However, we would not be getting the RFP if the assessed value was in line. The request that is being considered is a departure from past practice. He stated that he had faith in the administration, and was not sure if the City Council should be getting into the weeds of a project once we determine it as excess.

Councilor Buddington stated he did not share the same concerns as Councilor Hopkins, he

however did not support rezoning a residential area to commercial, because it is quite separated from the existing areas. He also felt comfortable leaving the purchase and sale up to the administration. He stated that the City needs to take risks and be willing to give a project a couple of years to get things lined up.

Councilor Moran stated he felt the project has merit and the support from Richard Alcombright and One Berkshire is great. He stated that these properties cost us money as a city and he would like to see them taken off our hands sooner than later. He stated that we can take a risk, but at the same time a year or two down the road, it's getting into the same thing that we need to put another roof on it, water damage, and now we have a building again, that's falling apart. He voiced his concern for rezoning as well.

Councilor LaForest urged Councilor Buddington to rescind his motion to adopt the Order and encourage a motion to send to the Mayor's Office for clarification and strengthening before it comes back to the Council. He stated the Order needs a two thirds vote and would likely not pass.

Councilor Hopkins inquired from the Mayor as to what the Council could hope for in two meetings from now.

The Mayor responded that he would need some time to digest what he's heard, stating, we are dealing with the RFP as it was provided and the information that was requested, as it was in the Johnson School proposal, as it was in the Pownal proposals that were adopted. So, we're talking about effectively consistent RFP and consistent requirements, however, he stated he was happy to come back and provide a response.

Councilor Hopkins echoed the Mayor's response in consistency; he also stated that he attended the Finance Committee meeting and felt it was very informative and loved the concept. He feels it is a risk worth taking.

Councilor Buddington rescinded his motion.

Councilor LaForest stated that he had grave concerns about the promises of rezoning for promotion of industrial sales which was never suggested in the RFP.

The Mayor stated that he wanted to clarify that the RFP did include a line that stated the City will consider zoning changes if necessary to accommodate a proposal deemed in the best interest of the City; nothing has been promised. He stated his understanding of BAMTEC is as an educational organization, therefore, consistent with current zoning. He stated, should that change, that would be something to consider.

Councilor LaForest stated that comments at the Finance Committee meeting were made suggesting that the group had been told that zoning would be changed to meet their change of use as it progressed.

Councilor Cohen echoed Councilor LaForest's concerns with zoning changes.

Councilor Buddington stated he was at the meeting and did not get the impression that they were promised zoning changes, more of just a hope for it.

Councilor Wilkinson stated you cannot change zoning in the area, it would be considered spot zoning and is illegal.

Councilor Cohen wanted clarification regarding the language that was put into the RFP. The Mayor stated that there actually could be an amendment through the ZBA, but chose not to get into discussion at that time.

Councilor LaForest stated that he would vote no on this Order if there is any chance of going to ZBA, and changing the character of the neighborhood.

On motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington, it was VOTED: to refer to the Mayor's Office for clarification on timeline, financing, maintenance of the property, and zoning of property and was postponed to the meeting of December 26, 2019.

Interim Council President Cohen stepped down and Council President Bona resumed his chair, as well as Councilor Lamb.

**11,827** The President presented Mayor's communication #91, regarding the premium reuse from the sale of bonds or notes.

Without objection, the president filed the communication.

**11,827** The President presented an Order authorizing the use of premiums from the sale of bonds or notes in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 20.

On Motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Mayor spoke on the process of the sale of bonds and notes applying to all the bonds including language retroactive to the past bonds for consistency.

Councilor Wilkinson inquired if the City actually made any money. The Mayor replied, not a large sum, but when we do it would go through this process.

Councilor Buddington inquired if we borrowed money would we be able to use funds to pay the bond early?

Several Councilors discussed and inquired as to what the Order actually entailed. The Mayor responded that it is strictly a process.

Councilor LaForest inquired if we are borrowing money or issuing bonds to pay off. The Mayor stated that when we borrow, the proceeds realized, are used to pay down the borrowing. This is not authorizing new borrowing, just a process for how we conduct the borrowing.

Councilor LaForest referred to a document that he obtained from the State Auditor's Office. He stated that he did not understand the process. Council President suggested that if there are questions, considering that other Councilors are not familiar with the document Councilor LaForest is referring to, then this should be referred to the Mayor's Office for clarification.

Councilor Lamb stated that due to the fact that the rest of the Council does not have all of the information before them; there is a disconnect and it should go to committee.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to refer to the Finance Committee and postpone to the meeting of December 10, 2019.

**11,828**        The President presented Mayor's communication #92 recommending the appointment of Rebecca Choquette to the North Adams Human Services Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2021 to fill the unexpired term of Christine Naughton.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest, it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

Councilor Harpin thanked Rebecca Choquette for her interest in service to the City.

**11,829**        The President presented Mayor's communication #93 recommending the appointment of Anne Rodgers to the North Adams Human Services Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2021 to fill the unexpired term of Rachelle Smith.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins, it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

**11,830**        The President presented Communication submitted by Council President Bona on behalf of Northern Berkshire Community Coalition regarding Complete Street Inventory project with Williams College Environmental students.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington, it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of December 10, 2019.

**11,831**        The President presented Communication submitted by Councilor Buddington regarding Berkshire Scenic Mountain Act.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

**11,831**        The President presented an Order accepting Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 90, Section 17C, Berkshire Scenic Mountain Act.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

Councilor Buddington stated he would like to send this to committee. He described what that Act was; simply, the Act would protect land in higher elevations from development. If it was

adopted, it would be changed through the Conservation Commission and they would be responsible for proposing a map, then it would come back to the Council for approval. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is willing to provide more information and send a representative to clarify the Act.

Councilor Lamb stated that there is a small footprint of property that pertains to the Act, however it is important to maintain the resources' value to the Berkshires.

Councilor LaForest inquired from Councilor Buddington if other communities have adopted the Act. He stated that Central and South County have for certain, however is unsure if our neighboring communities have.

Councilor Moran suggested that when it does go to committee, that the boundaries are identified.

Councilor Cohen rescinded her motion to adopt.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington, it was VOTED: to refer to Community Development Committee and postpone to the meeting of January 28, 2020.

There were no Committee Minutes or Licenses. The President called for Open Forum.

Bryan Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street, wanted to remind residents that plastic bags should not be recycled at the transfer station.

Eric Wilson, Brayton Hill Terrace, wanted to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, and let everyone know that he is working hard as a member on the Commission on Disabilities.

The President called for Mayor's Concerns. The Mayor wished all a Happy Thanksgiving and gave kudos to the Berkshire Food Project for the annual dinner. The Mayor stated that the annual tree lighting will be Wednesday, November 27, with a rain date of December 6.

The President called for Liaison or Councilors Concerns or Correspondence.

Councilor Lamb stated his concerns about making good choices after overindulging in celebration on the eve of Thanksgiving, suggesting a taxi service and being safe.

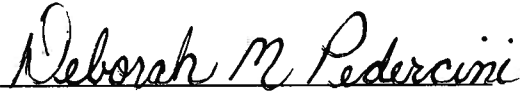
Council President Bona requested an update of the Public Safety building as well as the Notre Dame RFP from the Mayor. He also stated that he would like to see the lights on for the weekend if there is a rainout; could you possibly light the center trees and the larger trees at the later date.

Council President Bona stated he wanted to present a thank you gift to the Councilors. He presented each councilor with an artwork depicting the entire City Council for 2019.

With no further business to come before the Council, the President called for a motion to adjourn.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Cohen, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 8:42 PM.

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Attest,

  
City Clerk



# Office of the City Clerk

## City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

### Regular Meeting of the City Council

December 10, 2019

135

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

**COUNCILORS PRESENT:** Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson.

A moment of silence was observed, remembering Dianne Hein, office manager for the North Adams Board of Health for over 26 years and Robert Delisle who served several years as Sealer of Weights and Measures for the City.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of November 26, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors, there were no comments.

**11,827** The President presented an Order authorizing the use of premiums from the sale of bonds or notes in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 20, which was referred to the Finance Committee and postponed at the meeting of November 26, 2019.

Councilor Harpin stated that the Finance Committee did not meet, due to weather and timing. However, she stated that Councilor LaForest did pass on the information from the Auditor, and stated that basically if there are any premiums then they would be applied to the loans.

The Mayor spoke briefly, stating that it is a section of law that is best practice recommended by bond council. Therefore, if we realize any premium over and above the borrowing amount, that premium is applied to the amount to be borrowed.

Councilor LaForest stated that upon further review and explanation from Michael Canales, it is simply a matter of extending short term borrowing into long term bonding, which makes the best sense for the City, no objection.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote, yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, nay, none. Motion passes.

- 11,830** The President presented a communication submitted by Council President Bona on behalf of Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, regarding Complete Street Inventory project with Williams College Environmental students which was postponed at the meeting of November 26, 2019

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

Amanda Chilson, Health and Wellness coordinator for the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, stated she had worked closely with the Williams College students on the Complete Street Inventory project. She stated the goal was to create a living document that would be helpful for our locally owned streets for DPW's use, and stated they were only recommendations.

The students gave a presentation demonstrating the research they had done in regards to the redesigns of key downtown streets to make them safer and more complete. Complete Streets is a design philosophy that designs streets for all types of users; pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. The presentation showed the current street designs that are much wider and more geared towards predominantly vehicles. The new proposed designs highlighted different scenarios with the inclusion of bike lanes and dividers, as well as addressing traffic calming effects.

The City of North Adams has been approved for a Complete Streets grant which means that there will be funding for the design of these streets available. There currently is a Complete Streets committee in place for North Adams and is actively meeting.

After the presentation, there was a brief question and answer period.

There were concerns for snow removal if the roads were to be narrowed, as well as delivery issues.

- 11,832** The President presented Mayor's communication #95 regarding a presentation by Williams College environment workshop regarding the North Adams Transfer Station.

The President placed the communication on file.

There were technical difficulties with the presentation, therefore the President moved to paper #11,834

- 11,834** The President presented Mayor's communication #97 regarding approval of an overhanging sign for property located at 55 Union Street.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

- 11,834** The President presented an Order granting permission to install an overhanging sign for Very Good, LLC, located at 55 Union Street.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.



Councilor Hopkins inquired as to how the sign would be lit, stating that at some point they will have to go before Planning Board.

Councilor Harpin stated that the application was signed off by the City Solicitor.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote, yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, nay, none. Motion passes.

**11,835** The President presented Mayor's communication #98 accepting a grant in the amount of \$15,034, to the North Adams Police Department.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

**11,835** The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to accept a grant in the amount of \$15,034 from Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program to the North Adams Police Department pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53A.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Mayor gave a brief description of the grant, stating that the grant funds will be used for programs aimed at preventing crime and inducing public safety. They will be upgrading hardware at the police department and use the balance of the funds to look at two community programs; online camera registration and a telephone reassurance software program, "Are You Okay", geared toward seniors and others who are living alone.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote, yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, nay, none. Motion passes.

**11,836** The President presented Mayor's communication #99 accepting a grant in the amount of \$36,351 from the Department of Environmental Protection.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

**11,836** The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to accept a grant in the amount of \$36,351 from the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53A.

On motion of Councilor Harpin, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Mayor gave a brief description of the grant, stating the grant would be for a program recycling residential mattresses.

Councilor Cohen inquired as to whether or not you would need a transfer station sticker to utilize the program; the Mayor responded, yes.

Councilor Lamb stated he felt it was a good program, even though you would need the sticker;

he stated that mattresses are one of the main items illegally dumped.

Councilor Buddington inquired as to how the City acquired the grant. The Mayor stated that there are a number of grants available through DEP, and currently there is a Community Compact portal making it much easier to locate funding opportunities.

The Order was adopted by ye and nay vote, ye, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, nay, none. Motion passes.

The President requested to proceed with the presentation by Williams College environmental workshop regarding the North Adams Transfer Station.

The students introduced themselves and stated the purpose of the presentation is mainly the idea for the City of North Adams to join the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District.

The students gave a description of NBSWMD, stating that the City of North Adams was once a member of the organization several years previous; however decided to no longer participate in the program. Currently there are changes since 2018; China has stopped buying from the United States, due to contamination, which made recycling difficult to be profitable. In response to this, Casella Waste Systems has been integrating into the region. The Department of Environmental Protection is giving out many grants, however they are also changing regulations in Massachusetts waste. There has been a huge decrease in the amount of materials coming through the North Adams Transfer Station, therefore finances have declined.

The students stated several reasons why the City should consider joining the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District, increasing revenue, education of the residents on recycling, Green Team in schools, and community outreach.

Councilor Buddington inquired if North Adams increases the number of area residents, would there be stricter regulations from the state, since the elimination of commercial haulers.

Michael Canales stated that by joining the NBSWMD it should not have any impact on the regulations.

Councilor Harpin inquired as to why the City left the district; the response was that there is not a record of this; however, waste was unregulated then and the City was making over \$300,000 a year; being part of a district had a lot of ties that did not make sense at the time.

Michael Canales stated that by joining the district, it would allow us to stay out in front of the realities of today with the changes in waste.

Councilor Moran stated that with regulations getting stricter, it makes complete sense to join the district and offering the residents more services.

Council President inquired about the plastic bag ban, to be spent on recycling education and programs; would the City be using these funds for the districts programs.

Councilor Lamb stated the regulations are unclear at this time, but there are a lot of opportunities available.

- 11,833** The President presented Mayor's communication #96 regarding a presentation by the Office of Community Development regarding the outdoor theater park.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

Zach Feury, Office of Community Development, delivered a presentation regarding the feasibility study for an outdoor theater park that was developed with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

This presentation is a requirement of the scope of work for the study in relation to the City's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Feury discussed the several phases of the project, first being community engagement. A survey was conducted relating to green space in the downtown area; receiving 78 responses, there were two public forums held. The second phase included a review of existing conditions, analysis of downtown parking and traffic, bike and pedestrian utilities; findings were used to inform the third phase. In phase three, five locations were identified, the descriptions and pro-con lists were generated for each location and were ranked in order of suitability. Within the City's comprehensive plan, are several recommendations including reducing excessive pavement in the downtown.

He spoke about the 2020 vision plan and how the outdoor park would achieve these goals. Mr. Feury gave examples of other communities and how they are using the outdoor parks and their successes. He discussed the existing conditions and spoke about each of the five locations, River Grove Park, Leu Lot, American Legion, Northern Movieplex Steeple City Plaza, Cole Grove Park. The highest scoring was the Steeple City Plaza, second, the Leu Lot, third was the American Legion area, Mr. Feury gave descriptions of each site with reasoning for ranking.

Councilor Buddington inquired if traffic noise was considered; Mr. Feury replied that it was taken into consideration.

Councilor Harpin inquired if the park would only be seasonal, or would the park accommodate winter activities such as skating rinks. Mr. Feury stated the study was strictly for a location at this time. However, if the project goes to the next phase, those issues would be vetted and included.

Councilor Buddington stated his support for the project.

Council President stated that the Steeple City Plaza was not a City owned property and would also take parking away from the downtown. Mr. Feury stated that the parking study shows that the downtown parking is underutilized.

- 11,837** The President presented Mayor's communication #100 accepting a Safe Routes to School grant in the amount of \$598,255 from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

- 11,837** The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to accept a grant in the amount of \$598,255 from the Safe Routes to School Program of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 53A

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Hopkins it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Mayor spoke about the efforts made, including analysis of traffic patterns, crossing improvements, bike accommodations, in the grant from Massachusetts DOT. The City was one of 14 communities to be chosen. The grant will address these needs.

Councilor Lamb stated he would abstain from the vote, his wife assisted in the grant.

Councilor Buddington gave kudos on the receipt of the grant.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote, yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Moran, Wilkinson, Councilor Lamb abstained, due to family member school employee, nay, none. Motion passes.

There were no Committee Reports or minutes. There were no licenses.

The President called for Open Forum.

Bryan Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street, congratulated the students on their presentations; he did have one concern about narrowing streets, for tractor trailer truck traffic.

Robert Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, had concerns for deliveries on the narrower streets. He also stated that he was happy with the grants; however, he stated the City should not be reliant on them. He spoke about the need for disposition of city owned properties.

Eric Wilson, Brayton Hill Terrace, stated his support for recycling, he spoke about how he is working hard to help those with disabilities, and thanked the Mayor and Councilors.

Michael Canales distributed ornaments made from recycled materials to the City Councilors that were made by the Green Team, Youth Center, Inc.

Jessica Sweeney, 190 Prospect Street, wanted to share that Common Folk on Main Street had over \$5,000 visitors in 2019, a lot of those numbers happen after four o'clock and they are open until eight pm.

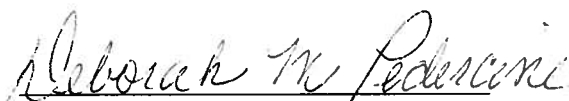
Anthony Pisano, Front Street, wanted to thank the students for the presentation. He is part of Green North Adams and is interested in the composting. He stated that while he was at the transfer station he noticed that residents are not recycling properly. He inquired whether the City was reimbursed for metal. He also stated that the narrowing of streets could deter the speeding, as he is also involved in the downtown bike around.

Henry Jaescque, 62 Chase Avenue, thanked the students for presentation. He wished holiday greetings and wished the outgoing and incoming Councilors good luck.

With no further business to come before the Council, the President called for a motion to adjourn.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 9:20 PM.

A True Record  
Attest,

  
City Clerk



# Office of the City Clerk

## City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109  
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247  
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

Deborah M. Pedercini  
City Clerk

### Regular Meeting of the City Council

December 10, 2019

135

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

**COUNCILORS PRESENT:** Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson.

A moment of silence was observed, remembering Dianne Hein, office manager for the North Adams Board of Health for over 26 years and Robert Delisle who served several years as Sealer of Weights and Measures for the City.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of November 26, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Cohen, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

The President called for Hearing of Visitors, there were no comments.

**11,827** The President presented an Order authorizing the use of premiums from the sale of bonds or notes in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 20, which was referred to the Finance Committee and postponed at the meeting of November 26, 2019.

Councilor Harpin stated that the Finance Committee did not meet, due to weather and timing. However, she stated that Councilor LaForest did pass on the information from the Auditor, and stated that basically if there are any premiums then they would be applied to the loans.

The Mayor spoke briefly, stating that it is a section of law that is best practice recommended by bond council. Therefore, if we realize any premium over and above the borrowing amount, that premium is applied to the amount to be borrowed.

Councilor LaForest stated that upon further review and explanation from Michael Canales, it is simply a matter of extending short term borrowing into long term bonding, which makes the best sense for the City, no objection.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote, yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, nay, none. Motion passes.

- 11,830** The President presented a communication submitted by Council President Bona on behalf of Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, regarding Complete Street Inventory project with Williams College Environmental students which was postponed at the meeting of November 26, 2019

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

Amanda Chilson, Health and Wellness coordinator for the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, stated she had worked closely with the Williams College students on the Complete Street Inventory project. She stated the goal was to create a living document that would be helpful for our locally owned streets for DPW's use, and stated they were only recommendations.

The students gave a presentation demonstrating the research they had done in regards to the redesigns of key downtown streets to make them safer and more complete. Complete Streets is a design philosophy that designs streets for all types of users; pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. The presentation showed the current street designs that are much wider and more geared towards predominantly vehicles. The new proposed designs highlighted different scenarios with the inclusion of bike lanes and dividers, as well as addressing traffic calming effects.

The City of North Adams has been approved for a Complete Streets grant which means that there will be funding for the design of these streets available. There currently is a Complete Streets committee in place for North Adams and is actively meeting.

After the presentation, there was a brief question and answer period.

There were concerns for snow removal if the roads were to be narrowed, as well as delivery issues.

- 11,832** The President presented Mayor's communication #95 regarding a presentation by Williams College environment workshop regarding the North Adams Transfer Station.

The President placed the communication on file.

There were technical difficulties with the presentation, therefore the President moved to paper #11,834

- 11,834** The President presented Mayor's communication #97 regarding approval of an overhanging sign for property located at 55 Union Street.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

- 11,834** The President presented an Order granting permission to install an overhanging sign for Very Good, LLC, located at 55 Union Street.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

Councilor Hopkins inquired as to how the sign would be lit, stating that at some point they will have to go before Planning Board.

Councilor Harpin stated that the application was signed off by the City Solicitor.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote, yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, nay, none. Motion passes.

**11,835** The President presented Mayor's communication #98 accepting a grant in the amount of \$15,034, to the North Adams Police Department.

Without objection, the President placed the communication on file.

**11,835** The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to accept a grant in the amount of \$15,034 from Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program to the North Adams Police Department pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53A.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor LaForest it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Mayor gave a brief description of the grant, stating that the grant funds will be used for programs aimed at preventing crime and inducing public safety. They will be upgrading hardware at the police department and use the balance of the funds to look at two community programs; online camera registration and a telephone reassurance software program, "Are You Okay", geared toward seniors and others who are living alone.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote, yea, Councilors Bona, Buddington, Cohen, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, nay, none. Motion passes.

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The Mayor gave a brief description of the grant, stating the grant would be for a program recycling residential mattresses.

Councilor Cohen inquired as to whether or not you would need a transfer station sticker to utilize the program; the Mayor responded, yes.

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Councilor Lamb stated he would abstain from the vote, his wife assisted in the grant.

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There were no Committee Reports or minutes. There were no licenses.

The President called for Open Forum.

Bryan Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street, congratulated the students on their presentations; he did have one concern about narrowing streets, for tractor trailer truck traffic.

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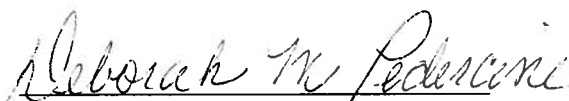
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Henry Jaescque, 62 Chase Avenue, thanked the students for presentation. He wished holiday greetings and wished the outgoing and incoming Councilors good luck.

With no further business to come before the Council, the President called for a motion to adjourn.

On motion of Councilor LaForest, duly seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 9:20 PM.

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