

CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the City Clerk

Meeting of the North Adams City Council
Tuesday, July 27, 2021
7:30 PM

I hereby notify that at twelve noon today, July 21, 2021, the following items of business have been filed with this office and will be acted upon at the Regular Meeting of the City Council in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, Tuesday evening July 27, 2021 at seven-thirty o'clock according to Section 8, Rules and Orders of the City Council.

This meeting can be viewed live on the Northern Berkshire Community Television station and will be posted to their website as soon as possible.

Cathleen M. King
City Clerk

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
July 27, 2021

Roll Call
Moment of silent remembrance
Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of the minutes of July 13, 2021

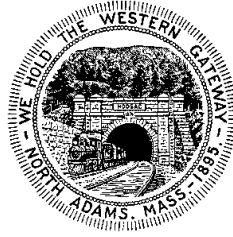
Hearing of Visitors on Agenda

- 11,862 Communication from Councilor Bona regarding the North Adams Youth Council. In City Council on July 13, 2021, it was VOTED to postpone to the Meeting of July 27, 2021.

- 11,982 An order to change the salary for the youth services librarian from Step 1/S13 at \$32,608 to Step 5 at \$40,399. In City Council on July 13, 2021 it was voted to refer to the Finance Committee with a return date of July 27, 2021.

- 11,922 Communication submitted by Council Sweeney regarding the “Not in My County Pledge” for a county-wide campaign coordinated by BRIDGE. In City Council on June 22, 2021 it was voted to postpone to the meeting of July 27, 2021.
- 11,983 Mayor’s communication #45 recommending Alyssa Sporbert for reappointment to the North Adams Public Arts Commission for a term to expire May 1, 2025.
- 11,984 Mayor’s communication #46 recommending Emily Johnson for appointment to the North Adams Public Arts Commission for a term to expire May 1, 2025.
- 11,987 An ordinance amending the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Chapter 2-30 Compensation of Employees Generally, Article III Classification and Pay Plans, section B.
- 11,862-1 An ordinance amending the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Chapter 2 Administration, Article XXXIII North Adams Youth Commission, Section 2-167 Establishment; Composition; Qualifications; Compensation.
- 11,985 Communication from Councilor Lamb to investigate opportunities to help slow traffic speeds and improve pedestrian safety on Eagle Street.
- 11,986 Communication from Councilor Lamb to request a joint review of the concept of artistic crosswalk installations by the Traffic commission and the Public Arts Commission.

OPEN FORUM
MAYOR’S CONCERNS
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES
LIAISON UPDATES AND COUNCILOR CONCERNS
CORRESPONDENCE
ADJOURNMENT



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the City Clerk

**Meeting of the North Adams City Council
Tuesday, July 13, 2021
7:30 PM**

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
July 13, 2021**

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

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Councilors Blackmer, Bona, Harpin, LaForest, Lamb, Oleskiewicz, Sapienza, Wilkinson; Councilor Sweeney was absent.

A moment of silence was held. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the President called for approval of the minutes for the June 22, 2021. On the motion of Councilor Harpin, seconded by Councilor Blackmer, the minutes were approved.

The President called for the hearing of visitors. Trevor Gilman, 45 Meade Avenue, spoke of the ordinance change for wording for membership. He stated that what was published was not in alignment with what had been presented at the meeting. Robert Smith, 163 North Street, addressed paper 11,980, an increase to the Mayor's salary. He agreed that the Mayor should be paid well to attract qualified candidates, yet he stated that a salary increase cannot guarantee the best person will run.

6,150-1 An ordinance to amend the Airport Commission Ordinance, Chapter 2, Article Section 2-108. In City Council Jun 8, 2021, it was VOTED to pass to a second read and publish as required by law.

Councilor Blackmer, with a second from Councilor Lamb, made a motion to accept the amendment. President LaForest read the published copy for clarification. After discussion, Councilor Blackmer rescinded her motion. Councilor Bona made a motion to republish the amendment correctly and postpone the paper until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Harpin. The motion passed unanimously by yay and nay vote.

11,862 Communication from Councilor Bona regarding the North Adams Youth Council. In City Council on June 22, 2021, it was VOTED to postpone to the Meeting of July 13, 2021.

On the motion of Councilor Blackmer, seconded by Councilor Bona,, it was VOTED: to postpone to July 27, 2021.

11,958-1 An ordinance amending Section 12.3, 12.4, 13 and Appendix A of Chapter Z of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams. In City Council on June 22, 2021, it was voted to publish as a municipal bulletin and pass to a 2nd reading as required by law, with a return to Council on July 13, 2021.

Councilor Lamb made a motion to accept the amendment; it was seconded by Councilor Blackmer. After discussion, the motion was rescinded to secure the written opinion of the solicitor. On the motion of Councilor Harpin, seconded by Councilor Sapienza, it was VOTED: to pass to the meeting of July 27, pending written opinion of the solicitor.

11,969-1 Mayor's communication #43 regarding the FY 21 budget closeout: account-to-account transfers.

Without objection, the President moved to file the communication.

11,969-1 An order to finalize the FY 21 budget closeout: account-to-account transfers

Councilor Blackmer moved to adopt the order, seconded by Councilor Bona. The Mayor explained the details of the closeout. City Auditor Fiero provided additional clarification. It was VOTED: to adopt the order by yay and nay vote. The amendment passed unanimously.

11,982 Mayor's communication #44 to change the starting salary of the youth services librarian.

Without objection, the President moved to file the communication.

11,982 An order to change the salary for the youth services librarian from Step 1/S13 to Step 5 at \$40,399.

Councilor Harpin moved to send the order to the Finance Committee; it was seconded by Councilor Lamb. Discussion ensued regarding a need to assess the existing classification and compensation plans, including a salary study, for future hiring. It was VOTED: to refer to the Finance Committee with a return date of July 27, 2021.

11,978 Communication from Councilor Bona regarding voting vs abstaining during City Council meetings.

Without objection, the President filed the communication and asked for discussion or comments. Councilor Bona stated that the communication is self-explanatory.

11,979 Communication from Councilor Bona regarding the rule(s) to approve committee minutes.

Without objection, the President filed the communication and asked for discussion or comments. On the motion of Councilor Bona, seconded by Councilor Harpin, it was VOTED: to send the communication to General Government for further discussion, with a return date of the second meeting of August 2021.

11, 980 Communication from Councilor Harpin to review and discuss the importance of raising the Mayor's salary.

On the motion of Councilor Harpin, seconded by Councilor Bona, it was VOTED: to forward to the Finance Committee for discussion, with a return date of the second meeting of August 2021.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak during Open Forum.

Trevor Gilman, 45 Meade Avenue, stated he was ready to attend a Finance Committee meeting to discuss airport finances, at the convenience of the Councilors.

Joseph Smith, 140 Pleasant Street, stated that it would be a worthy goal for the Council to provide live streaming of the meetings, beyond cable television.

The President called for Mayor's concerns. In the absence of the Mayor, the President called for committee reports and minutes. Councilor Bona stated that the Public Services Committee had discussed extending public water/sewer lines to the homes on Woodlawn Avenue. The City will run water to meet the homes, and the residents will take care of individual connections.

Councilor Lamb stated that the Community Development Committee met regarding short term rentals and accessory dwelling units; and ordinance and minutes are forthcoming.

The President called for liaison updates and councilor concerns. Councilor Sapienza stated that the Public Arts Commission master plan draft is still available to review on the City's website. Public comments are welcome. Councilor Harpin inquired about a report/review from the diversity training previously held. Councilor Lamb stated that the IDEA working group was creating a document that would be useful to the City.

Seeing that there was no correspondence to address, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm on the motion of Councilor Lamb, seconded by Councilor Blackmer

A True Record
Attest,

s/Cathleen M. King
City Clerk



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor
Thomas W. Bernard

Communication #	Subject	Date
45	Reappointment to the North Adams Public Arts Commission	July 27, 2021

Honorable Members of the City Council
North Adams, Massachusetts

Dear Honorable Councilors:

I am pleased to recommend Alyssa Sporbert for reappointment to the North Adams Public Arts Commission for a term to expire May 1, 2026. **This recommendation is presented for Council approval.**

I believe Ms. Sporbert will continue to provide valuable insight and practical experience to the commission and its work.

I request Council confirmation of this appointment recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Bernard
Mayor

TWB/me



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor
Thomas W. Bernard

Communication #	Subject	Date
46	Appointment to the North Adams Public Arts Commission	July 27, 2021

Honorable Members of the City Council
North Adams, Massachusetts

Dear Honorable Councilors:

I am pleased to recommend Emily Johnson for appointment to the North Adams Public Arts Commission for a term to expire May 1, 2025. **This recommendation is presented for Council approval.**

Ms. Johnson has expressed a sincere interest in the work of the PAC and a commitment to advance the goals of the commission and its work.

I request Council confirmation of this appointment recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas W. Bernard
Mayor

TWB/me



City of North Adams

In City Council

..... July 27, 2021

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

An ordinance to amend the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams, Chapter 2-30 Compensation of Employees Generally, Article III Classification and Pay Plans, section B.

2-30 Compensation of Employees Generally

b. All new employees, subject to the provisions of this article, shall be paid at the minimum rate of compensation for the position held as set forth in the compensation plan.

After “plan,” amend by inserting the following language:

“or at a step commensurate with education, certifications and experience, subject to approval of the Mayor and City Council.”



Benjamin Lamb
North Adams City Councilor

July 27th, 2021

Dear Fellow Councilors,

As many likely remember, for several years, those walking around downtown North Adams found intrigue and a level of aesthetic beauty in the uniquely designed and painted crosswalks that we had throughout our downtown. The Art About Town volunteer efforts to create whimsy and fun through the integration of art in our downtown was not only a great way to inject high-contact visuals into the City, but it also represented a community bonding activity through their installation, and the use of a practice for traffic slowing to help make downtown more pedestrian and bike friendly.

Unfortunately, over time, the City changed its approach, and determined that these artistic crosswalk installations could no longer be permitted, restored, or re-done based on administrative interpretations.

While I don't argue here that it is the right of the City to make determinations of this type, I do wonder why so many other communities, most notably near to us in Great Barrington, Pittsfield, and Northampton, have been able to establish or make plans for art infused crosswalks without similar conflict. In discussing this with the Mayor, he agreed that a more comprehensive review and long-term policy decision would be beneficial for deciding what the future might hold along these lines.

I believe there is a way to allow, and to in fact motivate, the use of this approach again here in North Adams and I would like to request a joint review of the concept of artistic crosswalk installations by the Traffic Commission and the Public Arts Commission, to include an opinion from KP Law as the City Solicitor. The goal being to review the specific issues that such installations would present, what methods we have at our disposal to mitigate those issues, and if the risks associated create a true impasse to pursuing artistic crosswalks.

I kindly ask that the Council refer this matter to both Commissions and then to the Administration for a decision that can be set as policy going ahead.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,
Councilor Lamb



Benjamin Lamb
North Adams City Councilor

July 27th, 2021

Dear Fellow Councilors

Over the recent weeks I have had numerous residents and business owners share with me their very real concerns about the driving behaviors of vehicles traveling down the downtown section of "Historic" Eagle Street. This section of downtown remains one of our oldest social and economic corridors in the City, and in recent years has seen new activity and a number of new, pedestrian friendly businesses opening their doors. With this increase in foot traffic on the street, the fast speeds by which people continue to travel this area are a real risk to the safety of the public. Incidents of "near misses," including women with baby carriages, elderly individuals, and especially individuals crossing the street near dark, have all been raised as specific examples experienced in recent times.

It is important that we do our best to ensure the safety of the public and support small businesses choosing to open and operate in the city. To do so in this case, I believe we must offer short-term infrastructure improvements while the city continues thinking and planning for longer-term, more comprehensive solutions to make our downtown more pedestrian friendly.

To these ends, I am requesting the Council please refer this matter to the Traffic Commission and the City Council Public Safety Committee. Specifically, I ask that these two bodies investigate and work with City departments to seek opportunities to help slow traffic speeds and improve pedestrian safety on this strip of road. Based on my experience and research these components may include but are not limited to: posting 25mph speed limits as adopted into ordinance in 2019 , the installation of speed bump infrastructure at key spots along this segment of road, the use of temporary bollards to narrow the northern entry into this corridor, and the "ladder painting" of the existing crosswalks verses just the two-parallel-line style to improve their prominence and visibility.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Councilor Lamb