



# 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 24, 2020

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

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Councilors Blackmer, Harpin, Hopkins, LaForest, Oleskiewicz, Wilkinson, absent, Councilors Bona, Lamb and Sweeney.

Council President Hopkins read the following statement regarding COVID-19. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the North Adams City Council is being conducted via remote participation and in City Council Chambers. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order.

A moment of silent remembrance was held remembering Chief Kenneth Gamache who served the North Adams Police Department for thirty years, the last ten as Chief.

The President called for a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting of November 10, 2020.

On motion of Councilor Oleskiewicz, duly seconded by Councilor Blackmer, it was VOTED: to approve the minutes.

The President called for hearing of visitors, hearing none.

**11,913** The President presented Mayor's communication #66 regarding disposition of property located at 568 Mohawk Trail.

Without objection, the President filed the communication.

**11,913** The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to declare property located at 568 Mohawk Trail, Map 122, Lot 5, available for disposition in accordance with MGL Chapter 30B, Section 16, provisions to execute a purchase and sales agreement.

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

Councilor Wilkinson inquired if this was a conforming or non-conforming use parcel and what the zoning was. The Mayor stated it was conforming and B-1 zoning.

The Order was adopted by ye and nay vote, ye, Councilors Blackmer, LaForest, Harpin, Hopkins, Oleskiewicz, Wilkinson, nay none.

**11,914** The President presented communication submitted by Councilor Wilkinson regarding North Adams Housing Authority's financial agreement with the City of North Adams.

Councilor Wilkinson stated that he spoke to Steve Nary, on behalf of the North Adams Housing Authority and thought it was premature to come before Council at this time, therefore has decided to postpone.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Blackmer, it was VOTED: to withdraw without prejudice.

There were no licenses to come before Council.

The President called for open forum.

Bryan Sapienza, 113 Pleasant Street, wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

The President called for Mayor's Concerns.

The Mayor reminded the residents that municipal offices would be closed November 27, 2020 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Mayor gave a report on COVID-19, and stated his concerns about the capacity of our healthcare system as cases are rising. The local health alliance and school district team as well as MCLA has been an asset since March and wanted to thank them for their efforts. He spoke about travel orders and holiday celebrations and following guidelines. He stated that his Thanksgiving wish to all is that "the steps we take this year ensure that we are all together to celebrate next year".

He noted that the annual tree lighting ceremony will be virtual and televised on NBCTV and on line at IBerkshires on Wednesday, November 25, 2020.

The Mayor thanked the donors of the Christmas trees on Main Street; Beth and Marcus Webb, tree near Library and Debbie Sullivan, tree near City Hall, in memory of Elizabeth Lavigne Patterson. He also gave thanks to the Public Services, Community Development, Public Safety

and other city departments for their efforts as well as the many organizations that are keeping our city safe. He gave his thanks to everyone for making sacrifices, for scaling down the holiday gatherings, supporting friends and neighbors as well as local businesses. He wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilor Harpin thanked the Mayor for all of his efforts in helping the homeless and those that are struggling. She spoke about Northern Berkshire Sheltering for Individuals and Families for residents experiencing homelessness. She stated this initiative involved bringing many community members together to create the program and is very appreciative of their efforts.

Councilor Oleskiewicz spoke about the EMS toy drive and asked residents to consider buying a toy for a child and to donate them at the North Adams Fire and Police departments as well as North Adams Ambulance and wished all a safe and happy holiday season.

Councilor Hopkins stated he would be putting a communication together regarding the City Clerk search. He wished all a happy Thanksgiving.

The President called for a motion to adjourn. On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Oleskiewicz, it was VOTED: to adjourn at 7:47 pm.

A True Record  
Attest,

  
City Clerk