



Committee on City Services and the Northampton City Council

Committee Members:

Chair: Councilor Maureen T. Carney
Vice-Chair: Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge
Councilor Dennis P. Bidwell
Councilor James Nash

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 4, 2018, 4 p.m.
Location: City Council Chambers
212 Main St., Northampton, Massachusetts

Present: Councilor Maureen T. Carney, Chair
Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge, Vice Chair
Councilor Dennis P. Bidwell
Councilor James Nash

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

At 4:05 p.m., Councilor Carney called the meeting to order. On a roll call, Councilors Bidwell, Carney, LaBarge and Nash were present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no members of the public present, there was no public comment.

3. MINUTES OF APRIL 2, 2018, APRIL 23, 2018 AND MAY 7, 2018

Councilor Bidwell moved to approve all three sets of minutes. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion carried 4:0.

4. ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

A. 18.099 Appointments to Various Boards and Committees - referred to City Services on May 3, 2018

Board of Health

Dr. Cynthia Suopis, 120 Coles Meadow Rd., Northampton, MA

Term: July 2018-June 2021

(Reappointment)

Laurent Levy, 4 School Street, Northampton, MA

Term: July 2018-2021

(Replacing the expired term of Donna Salloom)

Conservation Commission

Jack Finn, 57 King St., Suite B, Northampton, MA

Term: July 2018-June 2021

(Reappointment)

Historical Commission

Barbara Blumenthal, 39 Chapel St., Northampton, MA

Term: July 2018-June 2021

(Reappointment)

Housing Partnership

James Reis, 108 Coles Meadow Rd., Northampton, MA

Term: July 2018-June 2021

(Reappointment)

Human Rights Commission

Joel Morse, 51 Vernon St., Northampton, MA

Term: July 2018-June 2021

(Reappointment)

License Commission

Brian Campedelli, 223 Cardinal Way, Florence, MA

Term: July 2018-June 2021

(Reappointment)

Councilor Bidwell said he spoke with Cynthia Suopis, and she is very pleased to be looking at a second term. She finds it a very good group of professionals. They talked about tobacco and marijuana issues. Board of Health (BOH) members are very proud of setting the stage for moving the smoking age to 21. She is very excited to be part of that discussion, so **Councilor Bidwell moved to forward the appointment with a positive recommendation. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion carried unanimously 4:0.**

Laurent Levy has been a Northampton resident since 2016 and is trained as an environmental engineer specializing in ground water pollution, Councilor Nash said. His interest in the BOH was piqued around the issues of smoking and marijuana and youth. He was approached by Meredith for one of the open seats, and that's what prompted him to submit an application. They talked for about 10 minutes about caps and votes and he is up on all the issues.

Councilor Nash moved to forward the appointment with a positive recommendation. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion carried unanimously 4:0.

She talked with Jack Finn, Councilor LaBarge reported. He feels it is an honor to serve the city on the Conservation Commission and to represent the commission on the Community Preservation Committee. He was born and raised in Northampton and has deep appreciation for the value and benefit of the environment. He has a degree in wildlife biology and continues to learn about the Wetlands Protection Act from fellow commissioners and staff.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the appointment with a positive recommendation. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion carried unanimously 4:0.

She reached out to Barbara Blumenthal, who has served for quite some time on the Historical Commission, Councilor Carney shared. She is a board member and docent for Historical Northampton.

Councilor Bidwell moved to forward the appointment with a positive recommendation. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion carried unanimously 4:0.

Councilor Nash said he'd had some back and forth with James Reis and he is currently out of the country, so he hasn't had a chance to speak with him. This is for a reappointment, so he would suggest a positive recommendation. **He so moved. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion carried 4:0.**

Joel Morse is a candidate for reappointment to the Human Rights Commission (HRC), Councilor Bidwell related. He has found being on the commission a very rewarding experience. He is very involved in Big Brothers/Big Sisters and has a long history with non-profit organizations. He brings quite a breadth of experience to the HRC and **he would move a positive recommendation. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion carried unanimously 4:0.**

Brian Campedelli said he really enjoys serving on the License Commission because it has given him a chance to give back to the community, Councilor LaBarge volunteered. If reappointed, he believes he would continue to serve as chair. **She moved to forward the appointment with a positive recommendation. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion passed 4:0.**

B. 18.107 Various Appointments to Committees - referred by City Council 5/17/2018

Agricultural Commission

Robert Vollinger, 460 North Farms Road, Florence

Term: July 2018-June 2021

(Reappointment)

Board of Health

William Hargraves, 26 Crescent St., #G-1, Northampton

Term: July 2018-June 2021

(Reappointment)

Council on Aging

Cynthia Langley, 419 Fairway Village, Leeds

Term: July 2018- June 2021

(To replace the expired term of Jim Spencer)

Jeanne Hoose, 36 South Park Terrace, Northampton

Term: July 2018-June 2021

(To replace the expired term of Barbara Fungaroli)

Jean Petty, 63 N. Loudville Road, Florence

Term: July 2018-June 2020

(To replace the unexpired term of John J Kaczinski, Jr)

Kathleen Bredin, 7 Hampton Terrace, Northampton

Term: July 2018-June 2021

(To replace the expired term of Marlene Marrocco)

Housing Partnership

Michael Roy, 243 Park Hill Road, Florence
Term: July 2018-June 2021
(Reappointment)

Parks and Recreation Commission

Glen Connolly, 49 Platinum Circle, Florence
Term: July 2018-June 2021
(Reappointment)

Public Shade Trade Commission

Jennifer Werner, 16 Winthrop St., Northampton
Term: July 2018-June 2021
(Reappointment)

Molly Hale, 96 Oak Street. Florence,
Term: July 2018-June 2021
(Reappointment)

Planning Board

Mark Sullivan, 83 Maynard Road, Northampton
Term: July 2018-June 2021
(Reappointment)

Alan Verson, 508 Kennedy Road, Leeds
Term: July 2018-June 2021
(Reappointment)

Trust Fund Committee

Katherine Foote Newman, 697 Bridge Road, Northampton
Term: June 2018-June 2019
(To complete the unfulfilled term of David Hershops after his resignation)

She interviewed Robert Vollinger for reappointment to the Agricultural Commission, Councilor Carney advised. He works at Smith Vocational School and has been a farmer for more than 30 years. **Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the appointment with a positive recommendation. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion carried unanimously 4:0.**

William Hargraves is up for reappointment to the BOH, Councilor Bidwell said. He learned that Mr. Hargraves brings a very interesting perspective as an OSHA inspector for 30 years. He learned a lot about how difficult it is to craft regulations and brings a role to the BOH that is a little skeptical. He believes, "We can't quite write regulations for problems until we've seen the problems." He sees their role primarily as protecting kids and thinks they do a pretty good job of it. He thinks this is a valuable perspective and **recommends a positive recommendation. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion carried unanimously 4:0.**

Cynthia Langley's professional career has been focused on programs and services for older adults, Councilor LaBarge reported. She served from 1975 to 1994 as Director of the Council on Aging and another agency in Washington, DC and is very interested in bringing her experience to the council. She admires the participation of so many seniors in senior center programs and activities and believes she will be a champion of the successful volunteer and staff partnership that has been forged. She has been in the forefront of seeking Northampton's designation as an age-friendly community and will expand her activity upon retirement. She looks forward to making a contribution if appointed.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the appointment with a positive recommendation. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion carried unanimously 4:0.

Jeanne Hoose is a new appointee to the COA, Councilor Bidwell reported. She knows Kathy Service well and has gotten up to date. She is kind of excited to be part of the new team and will be supportive of the new director. She is convinced that the brouhaha will be over soon. He thinks she will bring a great deal of wisdom and experience and **recommends a positive recommendation. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion carried unanimously 4:0.**

She and Jean Petty had a conversation about the senior center, and Ms. Petty feels they do need to move on and work together to make the senior center successful, Councilor LaBarge recounted. She believes it will take some time to heal. Whether or not those who have been so angered will come back, Marie is a wonderful woman and deserves support. Ms. Petty is a very active volunteer and would like to be involved in making the senior center come together and be vibrant.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the appointment with a positive recommendation. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion carried unanimously 4:0.

Kathleen Bredin is a teacher and he hasn't actually spoken to her because their schedules haven't synced, Councilor Bidwell said. She was the social worker of a COA and director of the COA in Chelsea, MA before moving into the teaching profession. Her mother lives at Michael's House. He has a great deal of confidence in what she would bring to the COA and **moves a positive recommendation. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion carried unanimously 4:0.**

Michael Roy was really interesting to talk to, Councilor LaBarge related. He has participated on the Northampton Housing Partnership, which has been a very meaningful and interesting experience. The issues surrounding affordable housing are numerous and complex and he feels his first term helped him build a solid foundation of housing knowledge. He believes he will be able to leverage this knowledge going forward to be an even more effective member. He believes in the importance of the city being accessible to families of all income levels thereby contributing to the diverse and thriving community they enjoy. Northampton is blessed with endless entertainment options and racial diversity; while this draws many to Northampton, higher housing prices follow. His vision is to continue to look for ways for Northampton to remain in an income bracket for a range of residents. **She moved a positive recommendation. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion carried unanimously 4:0.**

Glen Connoly is a candidate for reappointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission, Councilor Carney shared. Prior to that, he was a volunteer for a lot of youth sports, a commitment that put him on the playing fields most days. He wrote that he is looking forward to staying on.

Councilor Bidwell moved to forward the appointment with a positive recommendation. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion carried unanimously 4:0.

Re: Jennifer Werner and Molly Hale, she worked with Jen Werner for a number of years when they were both at Smith Vocational, Councilor Carney said. She is now a professor of landscaping and horticulture at STCC. They are lucky to have her.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the appointment of Ms. Werner to the Public Shade Tree Commission with a positive recommendation. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion carried 4:0.

Molly Hale has been on the tree committee since its beginning, Councilor Carney continued. She expressed the understanding that most of them knew her.

Councilor Bidwell moved to make a positive recommendation. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion carried unanimously 4:0.

Mark Sullivan has served on the Planning Board for 10 years and is the senior member on the board, Councilor Nash volunteered. He has also served as chair. He said he still very much enjoys the volunteer work and has a good understanding of the process and brings a knowledge base to the discussion which he believes is valuable. He would like to continue his service for the foreseeable future.

Councilor Nash moved to make a positive recommendation. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion carried unanimously 4:0.

Regarding his request for reappointment to the Planning Board, Alan Verson says he enjoys dealing with interesting issues such as those found on the Planning Board. He has personal experience in developing property and owns commercial properties in town and is known for asking challenging questions. **Councilor Nash moved to forward the name with a positive recommendation. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion carried unanimously 4:0.**

Members mentioned that he was recently promoted from an associate member to a full member.

Councilor LaBarge said she would like to abstain on the appointment of Katherine Foote Newman because she is a family member.

Ms. Newman is interested in serving because she would like to give back to the community she was born and raised in, Councilor Nash shared. She believes her experience as a fully-licensed financial advisor working in the investment community would benefit the Trust Fund Committee. She serves on the board of Cutcheons and as part of the Finance Committee. He loves the questions she asks and the level of expertise she brings to the table.

Councilor Nash moved for a most positive recommendation. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion carried 3:0 with one abstention (Councilor LaBarge).

5. **New Business**

Members discussed the date of the July meeting (July 2, 2018) and agreed to meet as scheduled.

Councilor Bidwell renewed a request he first made a month ago to see if other councilors wanted to give any consideration to a more accelerated approach for addressing the city's paving needs. He raised the issue because it came up so many times in the Mayor's budget meetings. He wondered if it might make sense to invite the Mayor and DPW Director for a conversation about the magnitude of paving needs. What is the five-year plan for trying to catch up? He wondered.

Councilor Nash agreed it makes sense to have that discussion. He suggested asking for two things: for DPW officials to more firmly lay out the five-year plan so people will know what is to be addressed and whether there is any way to accelerate the process.

Members agreed to issue an invitation to the Mayor and DPW Director to attend a meeting to discuss paving issues. Councilor Carney said she would send a brief email to the Mayor saying some councilors would like him and Director LaScaleia to participate in a discussion of paving issues across the city. At Councilor LaBarge's request, she said she would also ask them to discuss the storm water ordinance.

Councilor Bidwell said he will not be present for the August meeting. If nothing is referred to the committee on July 12th they can likely refrain from having an August meeting, Councilor Carney pronounced.

Councilor LaBarge noted that she invited Councilor Nash to meet with one of his residents and they talked about the cap on retail marijuana. Councilor Nash is going to be talking to Chief Kasper and she is going to be talking with Meredith. Jim Armstrong had some very good suggestions about working with the BOH. Councilor Carney pointed out that this is not on the agenda.

6. **Adjourn**

Councilor Bidwell moved to adjourn. Councilor Nash seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Prepared By:

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