



CITY COUNCIL  
**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON**  
MASSACHUSETTS

Councilors:

- President Gina-Louise Sciarra, At-Large
- William H. Dwight, At-Large
- Michael J. Quinlan, Jr., Ward 1
- Karen Foster, Ward 2
- Vice-President James Nash, Ward 3
- John Thorpe, Ward 4
- Alex Jarrett, Ward 5
- Marianne L. LaBarge, Ward 6
- Rachel Maiore, Ward 7

**Meeting Agenda**  
**On-line Video Conference**  
**Meeting Date: November 18, 2021**  
**Meeting Time: 7 p.m.**

The November 18, 2021 City Council meeting will be held by remote participation. The public can follow the council's deliberations by watching the meeting live on Comcast channel 15, live-streaming it on YouTube or joining the virtual meeting by phone or computer. For the active YouTube link, please see Northampton Open Media's website: <http://northamptonopenmedia.org/>

Live public comment will be available using telephone call-in or video conferencing technology beginning at 7p.m.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR CALLING IN OR JOINING THE MEETING**

Join the meeting: <https://bit.ly/2YEUY4m>

For telephone call-in, call:

+929 436-2866 US

MEETING ID: 835 3368 0163

PARTICIPANT #: #

PASSCODE: 677039

**1. Announcement that Meeting is Being Audio/Video Recorded**

This meeting is being audio and video recorded.

**2. Public Comment**

**3. Roll Call**

**4. Public Hearings**

**5. Updates from Council President and Committee Chairs**

**6. Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors**

**7. Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor**

**8. Resolutions**

**9. Presentations**

**10. Consent Agenda**

**A. Minutes of November 4, 2021 Regular Meeting and  
November 8, 2021 Special Meeting**

Documents:

[11-04-2021\\_City Council Minutes.pdf](#)

[11-08-2021\\_City Council Minutes.pdf](#)

**11. Recess for Committee on Finance (See Separate Agenda)**

**12. Financial Orders (on 1st reading pending Finance review)**

Rule 2.6 requires the Finance Committee to consider certain financial matters.

**A. 21.354 An Order to Surplus City Land for Shared Use Parking at the Roundhouse Parking Lot - 1st reading**

Documents:

[21.354 An Order to Surplus City Land for Shared Use Parking at the Roundhouse Parking Lot.pdf](#)

**13. Financial Orders (on 2nd reading)**

**A. 21.350 An Order to Establish a Tax Classification for FY2022 - 2nd reading**

**History:**

- Positive recommendation, Finance Committee - 11/4/2021
- Passed 1st reading - 11/4/2021

Documents:

[21.350 An Order to Establish a Tax Classification for FY2022.pdf](#)  
[21.350 Classification Tax Allocation Form.pdf](#)

**14. Orders**

**A. 21.351 An Order for District Heating and Microgrids - 2nd reading**

**History:**

- Positive recommendation - 11/4/2021

Documents:

[21.351 An Order for District Heating and Microgrids.pdf](#)

**B. 21.353 An Order for Special Legislation to Eliminate Party Appointments to the License Commission - 1st reading**

Documents:

[21.353 An Order for Special Legislation to Eliminate Party Appointments to the License Commission.pdf](#)

**15. Ordinances (Not yet Referred)**

Rule 5.2.3 provides that no ordinance shall be voted on by the City Council until it has been considered by the Committee on Legislative Matters.

**16. Ordinances**

**A. 21.335 An Ordinance Relative to Stop Signs on Evergreen Road and Chestnut Avenue - 1st reading**

**History:**

- Referred to Legislative Matters (LM) - 10/7/2021
- Positive recommendation - 11/8/2021

Documents:

[21.335 An Ordinance Relative to Stop Signs on Evergreen Road and Chestnut Avenue.pdf](#)

**B. 21.336 An Ordinance Relative to Off-Street Accessible Parking Spaces - 1st reading**

**History:**

- Referred to Legislative Matters (LM) - 10/7/2021
- Motion to amend title to substitute word 'Accessible' for word 'Handicapped' [Note: LM did not replace the word 'handicapped' in the body of the ordinance, i.e. - §312-117 SCHEDULE XVI: On-Street and Off-Street **Handicapped** Parking Spaces, B. Off-street **handicapped** parking spaces are established as follows:]
- Positive recommendation, LM - 11/8/2021

Documents:

[21.336 An Ordinance Relative to Off-Street Accessible Parking Spaces.pdf](#)

**C. 21.337 An Ordinance Relative to Parking on Main Street - 1st reading**

**History:**

- Referred to Legislative Matters (LM) - 10/7/2021
- LM discussed Councilor Foster's language change request but deferred action based on Attorney Seewald's advice that he is undertaking a wholesale ordinance amendment to address this language change throughout the ordinance.
- Positive recommendation, LM - 11/8/2021

Documents:

[21.337 An Ordinance Relative to Parking on Main Street.pdf](#)

**D. 21.338 An Ordinance Relative to a Stop Sign on Cross Path Road - 1st reading**

**History:**

- Referred to Legislative Matters (LM) - 10/7/2021

- Positive recommendation, LM - 11/8/2021

Documents:

[21.338 An Ordinance Relative to a Stop Sign on Cross Path Road.pdf](#)

**E. 21.349 An Ordinance Relative to Parking on Meadow Street - 1st reading**

**History:**

- Referred to Legislative Matters (LM) - 11/4/2021
- Positive recommendation, LM - 11/8/2021

Documents:

[21.349 An Ordinance Relative to Parking on Meadow Street.pdf](#)

**17. Zoning Ordinances (Not yet Referred)**

**Process Note:** M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5 requires the City Council to submit zoning ordinances to the Planning Board for review within 14 days of receipt and for the Planning Board and City Council or a committee designated for that purpose to hold public hearings thereon, together or separately, prior to adoption.

**18. Zoning Ordinances**

**A. 21.318 An Ordinance to Amend §350-17 FFR District and §350 3-4 Zoning Map to Include Recreation Land - 1st reading**

**History:**

- Referred to Planning Board (PB), Community Resources (CR) and Legislative Matters (LM) - 9/22/2021
- Positive recommendation, PB - 9/23/2021
- Positive recommendation, CR - 10/18/2021
- Positive recommendation, LM - 11/8/2021

Documents:

[21.318 An Ordinance to Amend 350-17 FFR District and 350 3-4 Zoning Map to Include Recreation Land.pdf](#)

[21.318 FFR Amended Zoning Map.pdf](#)

**B. 21.319 An Ordinance to Require Installation of EV Charging Stations in Parking Lots over 25 Spaces - 1st reading**

**History:**

- Referred to Planning Board (PB), Community Resources (CR) and Legislative

Matters (LM) - 9/22/2021

- Positive recommendation w/amendment to remove reference to conduit, PB - 9/23/2021
- Positive recommendation from CR as amended by PB - 10/18/2021
- Positive recommendation as amended by PB, LM - 11/8/2021

Documents:

[21.319 An Ordinance to Require Installation of EV Charging Stations in Parking Lots over 25 Spaces - POST PB.pdf](#)

## **19. Information Requests (Charter Provision 2-7) and Committee Study Requests**

## **20. New Business**

## **21. Adjourn**

*Contact: G-L Sciarra, Council President*

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*CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CONDUCTED AS AN ON-LINE ZOOM MEETING  
Northampton, MA*

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Announcement of Audio/Video Recording  
  
Public Comment

A regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by Council President Gina-Louise Sciarra at 7:02 p.m.

Councilor Sciarra announced that the meeting was being audio and video recorded. There being no one present for public comment, Councilor Sciarra moved to the next item on the agenda.

Roll Call

At 7:03 p.m. on a roll call the following City Councilors were present:

At-Large Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra	At-Large Councilor William H. Dwight
Ward 2 Councilor Karen Foster	Ward 5 Councilor Alex Jarrett
Ward 3 Councilor James B. Nash	Ward 6 Councilor Marianne LaBarge
Ward 4 Councilor John Thorpe	Ward 7 Councilor Rachel Maiore

Ward 1 Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr. was absent.

Public Hearings  
Tax Classification Hearing

Public Hearings  
Tax Classification Hearing  
Since it was not yet 7:05 p.m., Councilor Sciarra moved on to the next agenda item.

Updates from Council President and Committee Chairs

Updates from Council President and Committee Chairs  
The next City Council Rules Select Committee meeting will be Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 6 p.m., Councilor Maiore announced. Public comment is encouraged.  
  
The next Community Resources Committee meeting will be Monday, November 15, 2021 at 5 p.m., Councilor Nash advised. Members will be having a 'big picture' discussion of zoning. Office of Planning and Sustainability (OPS) Assistant Director Carolyn Misch will review recent zoning initiatives, provide a brief update on the resilience plan and share details of initiatives to be introduced in the near future. Member of the public are welcome to ask questions. This is an opportunity for people to offer ideas and make suggestions to improve the city's zoning.

Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors

Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors  
Councilor Sciarra thanked everyone who participated in the biennial election Tuesday and congratulated new councilor-elects and those re-elected. She especially thanked and acknowledged everybody who ran. It was a very spirited and active election cycle, which is wonderful for their community and wonderful for democracy, and it was excellent to see that level of participation. Knowing what it takes for someone to put themselves out there, she said she has nothing but the deepest admiration and respect for anyone willing to make that level of commitment to the community.  
  
Councilor LaBarge thanked City Clerk Pam Powers and her staff, Assistant City Clerk Amy Zielinski, Jennifer Larkin and Terry Yusko and all of the election workers that helped at the early voting and polling locations on election day November 2<sup>nd</sup>. She congratulated Council President Gina-Louise Sciarra for being elected as the 45<sup>th</sup> mayor of the great City of Northampton, saying she will see her on January 3<sup>rd</sup> for the swearing in of all elected officials.  
  
Councilor LaBarge thanked all 1,060 residents in Ward 6 who voted for her to represent them as city councilor, pledging to do her job and be there for them. She also thanked candidates who ran for positions in the city, congratulating those who won their seats. Now that elections are over, it is time for all of them to come together to preserve equity and their progressive values. They need to build safety and respect and dignity for all.

	<p>Councilor Foster first echoed the congratulations and gratitude to those who ran. The Northampton Kiwanis Club will be installing their first free library at the Jackson Street School on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. She let the community know that, coming soon to an elementary school near them, will be a wonderful free library.</p> <p>Councilor Dwight echoed the gratitude and gracious thoughts relative to the candidates, citizens and those participating in the election. It is worth noting that by 91% - which in his book is by acclamation - the City of Northampton voted to support and allow continued research for establishing a municipal light plant in the city. He has never seen such unanimity reflected in any vote and thinks it is unprecedented. It may be that a very gentle message has been sent to Comcast, he ventured. He thanked everyone who took the time to understand a rather complicated question and then speak so clearly and unequivocally.</p> <p>Councilor Maire thanked their fair city for coming out for a municipal-only election. She let Ward 7 residents know that there is a convenient location for COVID and flu vaccinations at the Elks Club on Spring Street. She encouraged people to take advantage of this location, which can be accessed from the city website.</p>
<p><u>Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor</u></p>	<p><u>Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor</u> None.</p>
<p><u>Public Hearings</u> <u>Tax Classification Hearing</u></p>	<p><u>Public Hearings</u> <u>Tax Classification Hearing</u> Councilor Dwight moved to open the public hearing. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Quinlan absent. The hearing was opened at 7:12 p.m.</p> <p>Councilor Sciarra read the legal notice. Joining them as proponents are Principal Assessor Marc Dautreuil and Finance Director Charlene Nardi, she advised.</p> <p>Mr. Dautreuil asked if all nine councilors had seen at least one of these presentations before. After all nine indicated that they had, he delivered a Powerpoint presentation.</p> <p>As stated, per Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.) Chapter 40, Section 56, the city council and the mayor must decide the percentage of the tax burden to be borne by each class of property, basically, whether to have a split or a single tax rate, Mr. Dautreuil presented. He is a strong proponent of the single tax rate himself.</p> <p>By the Property Classification Act of 1978, city officials must split the tax rate among residential commercial, industrial and personal property.</p> <p>One of the most important factors in deciding whether to go with a split rate or a single rate is knowing the distribution between the property classes. Northampton has traditionally had an 80/20 split between residential and commercial/industrial and personal property. They are now under 20%. Most communities with a split rate have at least a 70/30 split and a lot of commercial property that is heavily industrialized.</p> <p>Since 2018, Northampton's percentage of commercial/industrial/personal property has actually gone down. There was a fairly large decrease between 2020 and 2021, partially because of closures of businesses due to COVID-19 and partially because the City Council passed an order exempting personal property valued at less than \$2,500 from taxation.</p> <p>Mr. Dautreuil showed a slide depicting how the total tax levy of \$70,106,847 was divided between the various classes of property.</p> <p>They have had a steady increase in property values and a large increase from last year to this year, mainly in the residential section, he reported. The value of homes skyrocketed in large part because of a lack of homes for sale and a large demand. They have a lot of folks moving to Northampton from larger cities with more disposable income and that does drive</p>

the market higher. Commercial property was fairly stagnant and in fact was down a little bit. The hospitality industry was definitely hurt by COVID-19 but big box retailers, grocery stores, construction businesses and the industrial sector was not hurt at all.

New growth is the main contributor to an increase in taxable properties within the city, Mr. Dautreuil continued. The city had a lot of new growth last year. Construction was not hurt by COVID-19. They also had a city-wide cyclical inspection this year that picks up small additions such as porches.

Total new growth was \$63,319,160 split evenly between residential and commercial property with new tax revenue of \$1,099,854 generated. He mentioned some of the most significant developments and construction projects contributing to this increased value, including the Syncarpha Solar PILOT and Village Hill residential and commercial development. A huge storage facility on Easthampton Road added more than \$5 million.

\$70,129,409 is the levy limit for FY2022. The \$2.5 million override approved in FY2020 will be factored into the tax rate this year.

As stated, he and the mayor are proponents of the single tax rate or a factor of one, he reiterated. A factor of less than one would shift the burden of the tax levy to commercial/ industrial and personal property tax payers and lower the tax rate to residential homeowners. If they had a factor of more than one it would do the opposite; that is, raise the tax rate to homeowners and lower the rate to the commercial side of things.

Mr. Dautreuil showed Northampton's FY2021 tax rates in comparison to surrounding communities.

The factor of one will result in an estimated FY2022 tax rate of \$17.89 per thousand for all property classifications, an increase of \$0.52 cents from the FY2021 tax rate of \$17.37, he presented. Most cities with a split rate have a heavy industrial base such as Holyoke, Westfield, West Springfield and Agawam. He pointed out that their economies are not as stable as communities with single rates, such as Northampton, Longmeadow or Amherst.

If they were to split the rate, the lowest the residential rate could go is \$15.80, raising the commercial/industrial and personal property tax rate to \$26.84. This would lower the average residential tax bill by \$736, in turn, increasing the average commercial tax bill by \$5,428 and the average industrial tax bill by \$6,809.

Of the 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts, 240 - or about two-thirds - have a split rate, 104 with rates that favor the residential and seven with rates that favor the commercial. With 80% residential property and 20% commercial/industrial, the City of Northampton is just not designed to support a split tax rate. If they ever did decide to split the tax rate it is extremely difficult to revert back to a single rate because folks don't like getting their residential taxes raised.

He briefly reviewed limited mayoral options; namely, the residential exemption and small commercial exemption that are possible ways to give folks some type of a break. Both options offer only small pros in exchange for a larger number of cons, he cautioned. The residential exemption would lower the taxes for a little less than a third of taxpayers while raising the tax rates on two-thirds of taxpayers, hurting middle class taxpayers as well as upper class. It would also increase the overlay reserve to allow people to appeal their status. Non homeowners do not see any benefit and folks living in rental units that tend to be assessed at higher values could actually see their rents go up.

The small commercial exemption reduces taxes paid by owners of properties occupied by small businesses but increases commercial and industrial rates. It benefits landlords far more than actual business owners and again, would require an increase in the overlay reserve.

In summary, he and the mayor recommend a single tax factor for a rate of \$17.89 per thousand.

Councilor LaBarge asked if this would be the right time to offer a split rate with so many businesses having gone under and trying to get back onto their feet and homeowners who have lost their jobs. "I find it to be not the right time to do this because of the economy and what has happened to the city of Northampton," she opined.

In the best of economies he wouldn't recommend splitting the tax rate, let alone right now, Mr. Dautreuil responded.

Councilor Maiore said she is curious about the closing of the Coca Cola plant and whether that had a significant impact this year.

If everything goes as planned and they close in FY2023 they won't likely see this reflected on their tax rolls until FY2024, Mr. Dautreuil advised. They are the biggest industrial tax payer and it is a loss of 230 jobs. It is significant, he acknowledged. That being said, they still have to pay taxes on it until they sell the property. Hopefully someone buys it soon.

Seeing that Northampton is not traditionally an industrial city, it will have less of an effect. Smith College is such a stabilizing force on the tax base. Despite the tax breaks Smith College may get, it is still by far highest tax payer in the city.

Similar to Councilor Maiore, she was thinking about development at Village Hill which for years has been a very reliable source of new growth, Councilor Foster noted. Village Hill is largely developed now. She asked if there are larger projects he can think of coming to fill that void.

There are still 53 affordable housing units to be built in Village Hill, Mr. Dautreuil pointed out. When he did the new growth calculation only about eight were built. There is still a great deal of new growth from Village Hill and Emerson Way. He is not aware of larger building projects on the horizon, although it is something he could speak to the building and planning departments about. The condos on Hawley Street where the Catholic church is located is the biggest project he knows of.

The 53-unit development at Village Hill is getting closer and closer to occupancy, Councilor Foster commented. It's looking fantastic.

Councilor Jarrett asked what the overlay reserve is.

Part of it is used to fund abatements when folks have an issue with their value, Mr. Dautreuil said. He is not 100% sure what else it gets used for.

Councilor Sciarra recognized Board of Assessors Chair David Murphy in case he had anything to add.

If they adopt the single tax rate, he sees that there will be a 3% increase in the tax rate, Councilor Jarrett observed. He expressed his understanding that this does not reflect the change in valuation. He asked if the principal assessor knows the percentage of increase in the average single-family tax bill based on the home's value.

Mr. Dautreuil said the average single-family home value went up by about 6%.

Compared to previous years, Councilor Jarrett said it certainly sounds like people will be seeing a higher tax bill.

Yes, market value went up significantly and the tax rate went up less than expected because of how high the values went, Mr. Dautreuil agreed. They expected the tax rate to go up \$1.11. Because the values went up so high, it drove down how high the tax rate went up. The tax rate went up partially because of the override approved in 2020.

Councilor Nash asked him to explain how taxes can increase by 2.5% but the overall rate per thousand is going up 3%.

Mr. Dautreuil explained the calculation of the new levy limit. City officials take last year's

levy, multiply it by .025, then add new growth and the \$2.5 million override. The overall increase includes the override plus adjusted new growth from the previous year.

Councilor Nash asked why it was a 'con' to shift the tax burden to higher value homeowners, and Mr. Dautreuil explained that the residential exemption does not just shift the burden to five or six filthy rich people, it shifts the burden to over two-thirds of the people in the city including a lot of middle-class and lower middle-class folks.

Mr. Murphy highlighted the actual growth in the levy. \$2.5 million was the override voted a couple of years ago, and the basic 2.5% increase was \$1.5 million. New growth alone contributed another million dollars of tax revenue, so when totaled, they are talking about another \$5 million on the levy. The fact that they are getting close to being a \$4 billion city is actually what tempered the tax rate. The tax rate is a relationship between the \$4 billion valuation and the \$70 million needed to be raised. Even though the levy went up \$5 million, the increase in property value is what kept the tax rate down because it is getting distributed across more valuable property.

Many of the tricks for how communities can adjust the tax rate are designed for other parts of the state such as the cape, he added. The last he knew, about half of the residents in Northampton live in rental property. The residential exemption actually raises the tax rate for properties they live in, thereby raising their rents.

That is absolutely true, Councilor Dwight confirmed. The residential exemption is applied on the cape and in some places in the Berkshires for very expensive second homes. Those are the two regions losing large amounts of population because people can't afford to live there. They are being priced out by the area's desirability as a second home community.

There is a shortage of rental availability and particularly affordable rental availability. They have the challenge of people using properties for Airbnb, which also puts pressure on rental availability. Because of the appeal of this community to COVID flight from urban centers, they are also seeing two and three family homes bought up for conversion to single-family residences, eliminating still more rental options.

Defaulting to his annual single-tax rate presentation, Councilor Dwight noted that one of the most telling graphs the principal assessor presented is the one that compares and contrasts communities in orange with communities in blue (those with a split rate vs. those with a single rate). The communities with split rates were at one time commercial giants. Holyoke itself was actually built around industry as a planned industrial city. When it was booming it was great to have those industries subsidize the community. When they decided to rip the heart out of that community, Holyoke has one of the highest commercial tax rates in the state which is why it has such trouble promoting commercial development to take the schools out of receivership.

Northampton started out as a farming community and county seat and is now a college town that relies heavily on its retail economy. Coca Cola being the largest industry is somewhat telling. Splitting the rate is not something that would help them in any shape or form and would in fact cause them harm. As Mr. Dautreuil mentioned, once the toothpaste is out of the tube it's hard to put it back because it is politically unpopular to raise residential tax rates.

When he first came on the council he was actually in favor of a split tax rate but has since decided it wouldn't make any sense.

In response to Councilor Jarrett's earlier question, Mr. Dautreuil said property bills will go up approximately 9%.

With regard to the impact of splitting the rate, it increases the burden on the commercial/ industrial/personal property side, Mr. Murphy elaborated. When they increase the operating expenses of those properties, their commercial values go down. The impact of the increased taxes actually drops the value of the buildings being taxed so the return starts to decline. If they look at it, it is the beginning of the end for that portion of their tax base.

It creates a substantial increase on the commercial side because it is giving a break to over 80% of taxpayers. "Councilor Dwight is right; once you've done that there is never the political will to reverse it," he confirmed.

Director Nardi clarified that not everybody's tax rate will increase 8.6%. That is an average, so some will go up more and some will go up less.

Councilor Quinlan asked her to make the point that they are setting the tax rate starting in the third quarter of the fiscal year so bills for the first half did not reflect this change, the council president related. They are now implementing the override halfway through the year so the increase will be concentrated in the final two quarters. That's something for people to be aware of.

They are called quarterly tax bills but none of them actually reflect a quarter of the tax bill, Mr. Murphy agreed. The first two quarters are estimated and the last two make up the difference. It is the way the state mandates it be done.

If property owners want to file for an abatement, they need to do it within 30 days of the post date on the actual bill, he added. If folks have a problem with it, they need to take action right away. The statute says property owners have 30 days to apply and if they don't apply within 30 days, assessors can't even hear their appeal. The actual bills will be received in December.

Councilor Foster said she remembers that last year or the year before when bills went out, a lot of people were caught off guard in Easthampton. As a councilor she can certainly communicate with some of her constituents but she wondered if some kind of notice could be given by the city.

Easthampton's override was significantly larger than theirs and their tax rate went up significantly more than 52 cents, Mr. Dautreuil noted. They can put something on the website or in the newspaper. If there are any suggestions, he's all ears.

Mayor Narkewicz said they can certainly look at ways to work on that. He doesn't know if it will be a robo call or an Op Ed in the newspaper. This has been an issue even in years when there's not an override. The way the state makes them do this is very confusing. The January bill is always the catch up bill because the process of setting the tax rate is at the end of the calendar year. This isn't by choice that they're doing this; if there was a way they could spread it out they would. He can certainly look into ways of communicating that.

Councilor Sciarra opened the floor to public comment.

**Gwenevra Lodi-Nabad of Northampton** asked if this will impact low-income properties such as Habitat for Humanity properties and increase their values in the same way,

It will not, Mr. Dautreuil asserted. As long as there is a rider in the deed identifying it as affordable housing, they will assess the home at its sale price, which is usually significantly lower than market value. They can only raise the assessed value by very low percentages.

There being no further comments, **Councilor Dwight moved to close the public hearing. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Quinlan absent. The public hearing closed at 8:03 p.m.**

<u>Resolutions</u>	<u>Resolutions</u> None.
<u>Presentations</u>	<u>Presentations</u> None.
<u>Consent Agenda</u>	<u>Consent Agenda</u>

Councilor Sciarra reviewed the items on the consent agenda, offering to remove any item for separate consideration upon request. **Councilor Dwight asked for removal of 21.341 the appointment of Mi Belitsky to the Arts Council. He moved approval of the consent agenda with the removal. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed unanimously 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Quinlan absent.**

The following item was approved as part of the consent agenda:

A. Minutes of October 21, 2021

**21.341 Appointment of Mi Belitsky to the Arts Council**

**Councilor Dwight moved to approve the appointment of Mi Belitsky to the Arts Council. Councilor Foster seconded.**

Councilor Dwight said his concern is not about the candidate but derives from the recent decision by the Arts Council to cancel the biennial exhibit. The action seems to have been taken without a clear understanding of the rules of Open Meeting Law (OML), and that worries him. He stressed the importance of all candidates as they move onto their appointed committees having at least a comprehensive knowledge of the purpose and intent of the OML, which is to establish transparency and provide the public with an opportunity to know ahead of time what items will be voted on. This way, if they have an opinion, they can at least witness the discussion if not participate in public comment. That was not the case in this instance, which is antithetical to the very intent of the OML. He cited deliberation outside of an open meeting as a related problem, nothing that 'this body' (the City Council) works very hard to abide by the terms of the OML.

He acknowledged this is asking a lot of volunteers but noted that state-mandated laws are critical to conducting their governance with transparency. He would ask that Mi Belitsky be advised of these rules before being inducted into this committee since it would be unfair to have this expectation of them without providing them with the necessary information and knowledge. He will be approving the appointment with that caveat, he advised.

Mayor Narkewicz said he appreciated the concern Councilor Dwight raised. The City Clerk does provide every new board member with information on the OML and ethics law, he confirmed. He did hear the concerns raised by Attorney Newman with regard to that particular meeting. It is an issue that came up even before that in School Committee.

It is a misinterpretation of the OML that it is necessary to list whether there will be a vote on an issue, Mayor Narkewicz clarified. The law says the agenda needs to list all topics anticipated to be discussed. Whether the board decides to take a vote on something related to the discussion point is not in itself a violation of the OML. It recently came up with a School Committee discussion that the item was not listed on the agenda as a vote, but discussion was clearly listed, so members of the public knew there would be a deliberation. The OML does not require you to list all possible actions; it just requires a list of all the items to be discussed, which he thinks Attorney Newman has since acknowledged. He did not actually file a complaint upon reviewing that decision, he pointed out.

**The motion passed unanimously 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Quinlan absent.**

<p><b><u>Recess for Committee on Finance Meeting</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Recess for Committee on Finance Meeting</u></b> The City Council recessed for Finance Committee at 8:12 p.m. The Finance Committee adjourned at 8:21 p.m. The council reconvened at 8:21 p.m.</p>
<p><b><u>Financial Orders (On 1<sup>st</sup> reading)</u></b> <b><u>21.350 An Order to Establish a Tax Classification for FY2022 - 1st reading</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Financial Orders (On 1<sup>st</sup> reading pending Finance Committee review)</u></b> <b><u>21.350 An Order to Establish a Tax Classification for FY2022 - 1st reading</u></b> Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor Foster seconded. The motion passed unanimously 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Quinlan absent.  <b><u>See minutes of November 18, 2021 for second reading.</u></b></p>

Financial Orders  
(On 2<sup>nd</sup> reading)  
21.342 An Order to  
Appropriate  
Senior Center Gift  
Fund Money to  
Financial Aid Fund  
– 2nd reading

Financial Orders (On 2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

21.342 An Order to Appropriate Senior Center Gift Fund Money to Financial Aid Fund – 2nd reading

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion passed unanimously 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Quinlan absent.

The follow order passed two readings:

**City of Northampton**  
MASSACHUSETTS

*In City Council* \_\_\_\_\_  
October 21, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Upon recommendation of the Mayor

21.342 An Order to Appropriate Senior Center Gift Fund Money for Financial Aid Fund

*Ordered, that*

Up to \$3,600 in Fiscal Year 2022 from the Northampton Senior Center Gift Fund be used to provide financial assistance to seniors to attend fee based programs offered at the Senior Center, provided that each participating senior meet financial aid guidelines established by the Senior Services Director and that such assistance be limited to no more than \$180 per person per year.

Passed two readings and enrolled.

21.343 An Order to  
Surplus City Land  
for Affordable  
Housing and a  
Community  
Resilience Hub off  
Crafts Avenue –  
2nd reading

21.343 An Order to Surplus City Land for Affordable Housing and a Community Resilience Hub off Crafts Avenue – 2nd reading

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion passed unanimously 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Quinlan absent.

The following order passed two readings:

**City of Northampton**

MASSACHUSETTS

*In City Council, October 21, 2021*

*Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz and Planning & Sustainability*

**21.343 An Order to Surplus City Land for Affordable Housing and Community Resilience Hub off Crafts Avenue**

WHEREAS, Consistent with the *Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan, Open Space, Recreation, and Multi-Use Trail Plan, Housing Needs Assessment and Strategic Housing Plan, and Unlocking Opportunity: An Assessment of Barriers to Fair Housing*, the city has a comprehensive affordable housing program, including limited development, funding, regulatory incentives, and surplus of city land;

WHEREAS, Consistent with the *Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan, Community Resilience Building Findings, and Mayor's Task Force on Panhandling*, the city has a program to create a Community Resilience Hub as a downtown facility with a coordinated program for frontline communities and any residents who face chronic and acute stress due to disasters, pandemics, climate change, and other social and economic challenges. It will serve the 1% (homeless and those with severe chronic stress), the 15% (below the poverty line), the 40% (housing-burdened and under chronic stress) and the 100% (those at risk of acute adverse events), by providing access to resource, a social network, and building social resilience;

WHEREAS, Downtown studio apartments are especially important to help transition people who are experiencing houselessness or who face extreme housing burdens;

WHEREAS, The city has made offers for the Roundhouse and for St. John Cantius Church and explored other options for a community resilience hub, while exploring a back-up option of developing a hub in a new building, potentially co-located with affordable housing;

WHEREAS, The city's property extending from the Puchalski Municipal Office Building to the Roundhouse bus station driveway to Crafts Avenue, to the southerly most parking spaces in the city hall parking lot potentially is viable for affordable housing studios and/or a community resilience hub;

***Ordered, that***

City Council declares this land surplus to city needs;

Further that the Mayor is authorized to transfer deeds, easements, and/or leases for the land for affordable housing and/or a community resilience hub, subject to restrictions and conditions that the Mayor imposes to accomplish these needs.



Passed two readings and enrolled.

Orders  
21.351 An Order for District Heating and Microgrids - 1st reading

Orders  
21.351 An Order for District Heating and Microgrids - 1st reading  
 Councilor Sciarra read the order.

**Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded.**

The order is somewhat self-explanatory, Mayor Narkewicz suggested. As some may know, there has been discussion related to the Picture Main Street project of planning for future infrastructure needs and one of the ideas that has been put forward is planning for the potential of a non-fossil fuel heating district. Smith College is working on a district heating project on its campus and Eversource, the city's gas supplier, is launching pilot projects. It seemed like a perfect dovetailing of interest in Northampton in looking at this heating source and projects Eversource is piloting.

The order is Northampton's way of enthusiastically volunteering to be part of such a project and offering its downtown Main Street as a potentially perfect pilot, he explained. Experts have testified before the Northampton Energy and Sustainability Commission (NESC) on geothermal heating districts. He understands the concept but having the actual utility company work on this pilot would be ideal as they themselves look to transition away from fossil fuels and toward geothermal networks. He believes it was enthusiastically endorsed by NESC, and Carolyn Misch is here representing the Office of Planning and Sustainability, which is one of the sponsors as well.

It is pretty cool the way this is all coming together, Councilor Nash commented. This idea was thrown out by people at the Picture Main Street forums. His first thought was that it was kind of pie in the sky but here they are entertaining partnering with, of all people, Eversource. Good public process always amazes him with the outcomes they can land on if they all work together. He thinks this is very cool and he very much supports it.

Councilor Sciarra asked if more needs to be done to participate other than enthusiastically volunteering.

He thinks this is certainly an opening, Mayor Narkewicz said. In eastern Massachusetts, Eversource has already identified a series of communities for one of the three pilots. They are contacting business and residential customers and have selected a large list of towns in their service area. He thinks they are planning three such pilots. This will get Northampton on their radar. It might be helpful if similar interest is expressed by other Western Massachusetts (MA) communities, so that may be a secondary part of the campaign. He thinks the utility is receiving a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. They are actively seeking customers in eastern MA. By trying to identify that there is potentially a really dense cluster of customers downtown, Northampton will hopefully attract their attention.

Councilor Sciarra asked if they should be encouraging people who live near downtown to be telling Eversource they are interested.

They certainly could if they wanted, Mayor Narkewicz said. At this point, they are just trying to get Eversource to consider a pilot here.

One of their pitches to them is that they will be providing them with an open trench, Councilor Dwight noted. Since Main Street is already being reconstructed, it will be a shovel-ready opportunity for use as a demonstration.

David Pomerantz was talking about microgrids with him 10 years ago, he added. This is a really exciting opportunity if they're favored with selection. "We can serve them while they serve us" by giving them an open trench in which to work and a community that's been committed to this concept for decades.

The beauty of micro grids is that they're more robust and not reliant on a larger system such as the whole northeast grid. If it's localized it's more responsive and more robust.

Councilor Jarrett said he thinks this is very exciting development. As a member of NESC they have been talking about this and have had a presentation on it. He thinks it's a great idea to decarbonize denser urban areas where individual electric heat pumps are not always practical. Only so many air-source heat pumps can operate in the same area because they run out of air to cool. They could do a resolution but he likes that this is an order that the executive branch is joining them in enthusiastically supporting. He wondered if in the future they might be able to operate something like this as a municipal enterprise.

Councilor LaBarge said she is very pleased Eversource is moving forward. She thinks this is great for Northampton. She confirmed the idea of clean energy was brought up many years ago.

**The motion passed unanimously 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Quinlan absent.**

**See minutes of November 18, 2021 for second reading.**

<p><u>Ordinances (Not yet Referred)</u> <u>21.349 Ordinance Relative to Parking on Meadow Street</u></p>	<p><u>Ordinances (Not yet Referred)</u> <u>21.349 An Ordinance Relative to Parking on Meadow Street</u> Councilor Foster moved to refer the ordinance to Legislative Matters. Councilor Maiore seconded. The motion carried 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Quinlan absent.</p>
<p><u>Zoning Ordinances (Not yet Referred)</u></p>	<p><u>Zoning Ordinances (Not yet Referred)</u> None.</p>
<p><u>Ordinances</u></p>	<p><u>Ordinances</u></p>

<p><u>21.345 Ordinance to Delete Ward and Precinct Boundaries from Code Book and Maintain by Council Order - 2nd reading</u></p>	<p><u>21.345 An Ordinance to Delete Ward and Precinct Boundaries from Code Book and Maintain by Council Order - 2nd reading</u>                  Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the ordinance in second reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded.</p> <p>There will be a special meeting Monday, November 8, 2021 at 7 p.m. to approve updated language for the order defining ward and precinct boundaries, Councilor Sciarra reminded.</p> <p>The motion carried 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Quinlan absent.</p> <p><u>The following ordinance passed two readings:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CITY OF NORTHAMPTON</b>                  MASSACHUSETTS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-One</i>                  Upon the Recommendation of City Clerk Pamela L. Powers</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>21.345 An Ordinance                  To Delete Ward and Precinct Boundaries from Code Book                  and Maintain by Council Order</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">An Ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts, Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, City Council assembled as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SECTION 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Delete Chapter 33 Election Districts, Section 1 Division of Wards in its entirety.</i></p>
<p><u>Passed two readings, ordained and enrolled.</u></p>	
<p><u>Zoning Ordinances</u></p>	<p><u>Zoning Ordinances</u>                  None.</p>
<p><u>New Business</u></p>	<p><u>New Business</u>                  None.</p>
<p><u>Motion to Adjourn</u></p>	<p>Upon motion made by Councilor Nash and seconded by Councilor Thorpe, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m. The motion passed 8:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Quinlan absent.</p> <p>Attest: _____ Administrative Assistant to the City Council</p>



*CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CONDUCTED AS AN ON-LINE ZOOM MEETING  
Northampton, MA*

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Announcement of Audio/Video Recording

A special meeting of the Northampton City Council was called to order by Council President Gina-Louise Sciarra at 7:01 p.m.

Public Comment

Councilor Sciarra announced that the special meeting is to approve updated language for **21.352 An Order to Define Wards and Precincts in the City of Northampton**. The meeting is being audio and video recorded, she reminded. As it was a special and not a regular meeting, public comment was not scheduled.

Roll Call

At 7:01 p.m. on a roll call the following City Councilors were present:

At-Large Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra	At-Large Councilor William H. Dwight
Ward 1 Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr.	Ward 5 Councilor Alex Jarrett
Ward 2 Councilor Karen Foster	Ward 6 Councilor Marianne LaBarge
Ward 3 Councilor James B. Nash	Ward 7 Councilor Rachel Maiore
Ward 4 Councilor John Thorpe	

Orders 21.352 Order to Define Wards and Precincts in the City of Northampton – 1st reading

Orders 21.352 An Order to Define Wards and Precincts in the City of Northampton – 1st reading

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor Foster seconded.

She submitted the package for new ward and precinct lines to the Secretary of the Commonwealth and they have accepted all the documents presented, City Clerk Pamela Powers noted. In addition to what they submitted for descriptions of individual precincts, the state has asked them to pull together descriptions of the wards. Essentially, she is asking them tonight to approve the language for all of the boundaries and territories described before as Ward1a and 1b, Ward2a and 2b, respectively, as whole wards with the center line omitted.

The state is sending forward the descriptions of the precincts and the blocks defined for each ward and precinct, she confirmed. They are pretty happy with what they have, they just want them to add descriptions of the wards.

Clerk Powers asked the administrative assistant to amend the order to reflect the new number assigned (21.352). All of the outer boundaries of the wards remain unchanged, she reiterated.

Members discussed how to proceed. Councilor Sciarra confirmed that the entire ward is now described as opposed to the two separate precincts.

At the request of Councilor Foster, they decided to read the new descriptions aloud while the GIS coordinator tracked the boundaries on the posted map.

Councilors took turns reading, with each ward councilor reading the description of the ward they represent and Councilor Dwight reading the preamble.

Members noted the following scrivener’s errors:

- The word ‘feet’ missing from Line 70
- Ward 6 should be ‘F’ and Ward 7 ‘G’
- An extraneous ‘in city council’ on the last page should be removed

Councilor Jarrett asked about the name of the railroad, since it is identified as the ‘Boston and Maine Railroad’ in the description. GIS Coordinator James Thompson said it is technically the Connecticut River mainline branch of the New York, New Haven and

Hartford railroad.

After some discussion, members decided not to change the name since it was not flagged by the state as an error.

Since he last voted on this he has had some conversations with residents who were disappointed that they are changing wards, Councilor Quinlan related. His explanation that this happens every 10 years didn't alleviate the disappointment they felt. He wanted to say that out loud so they would understand that he did hear it and there's nothing they can do about it.

The motion to approve the order in first reading passed unanimously 9:0.

Councilor LaBarge moved to suspend rules to allow a second reading. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following order passed two readings:

**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON**  
**MASSACHUSETTS**

*In City Council November 8, 2021*  
*Upon the Recommendation of City Clerk Pamela L. Powers & City GIS Coordinator James Thompson,*

21.352 – An Order to Define Wards and Precincts in the City of Northampton

**Whereas,**

Northampton City Charter, Article 8 Elections, Section 8-6 Wards, calls for the city clerk to establish 7 wards to consist of nearly an equal number of inhabitants; and

**Whereas,**

Northampton City Charter further requires the City Council to review these wards every 10 years; and

**Whereas**

Northampton is required by law to re-draw ward and precinct lines after the 2020 Federal Census concluded that existing precincts no longer meets the legal standard for equal number of residents per ward and precinct;

Now therefore be it **Ordered** that

The City is hereby divided into seven wards bounded as far as possible by the center line of known streets or ways or other defined limits described as follows:

1       **A. Ward 1**

2

3 All of that portion of Hampshire County bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the point of  
4 intersection of Broad Brook and the base of the Fitzgerald Lake Dam spillway, and proceeding northerly  
5 along Broad Brook to the Hatfield/Northampton town/city line, and proceeding easterly along the  
6 Hatfield/Northampton town/city line to the Hadley/Northampton town/city line, and proceeding westerly  
7 along the Hadley/Northampton town/city line to the Norwottuck Rail Trail, and proceeding southwesterly  
8 along the Norwottuck Rail Trail to Bates Street, and proceeding northerly along Bates Street to the  
9 intersection of Bates Street, Bradford Street, and Industrial Drive, and proceeding northwesterly along  
10 Industrial Drive approximately 1,200 feet to the Northampton Storage Solutions private road, and  
11 proceeding southwesterly along the Northampton Storage Solutions private road to the Boston and Maine  
12 Railroad right-of-way, and proceeding northerly along the Boston and Maine Railroad right-of-way to  
13 Damon Road, and proceeding westerly along Damon Road to King Street, and proceeding southerly along  
14 King Street to Finn Street, and proceeding westerly along Finn Street to Prospect Street, and  
15 proceeding westerly on Prospect Street to Franklin Street, and proceeding southerly along

16 Franklin Street to Elm Street, and proceeding westerly along Elm Street to North Elm Street, and  
 17 proceeding northwesterly along North Elm Street to its intersection with Locust Street/Route 9,  
 18 and continuing westerly along Locust Street/Route 9 to Hatfield Street, and proceeding northerly  
 19 along Hatfield Street to North Elm Street, and proceeding northwesterly along North Elm Street  
 20 to Bridge Road, and proceeding westerly along Bridge Road approximately 335 feet to the  
 21 driveway/parking lot entrance at 572 Bridge Road, and proceeding northeasterly approximately 350 feet  
 22 along the driveway/parking lot to Old Quarry Road, and proceeding northerly along Old Quarry Road to  
 23 its terminus, and proceeding northerly approximately 4,900 feet from the Old Quarry Road terminus to  
 24 the point of beginning.

25  
 26

**B. Ward 2**

28 All of that portion of Hampshire County bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the point of  
 29 intersection with the Hampshire County Jail and House of Corrections driveway and Rocky Hill Road, and  
 30 proceeding northerly along the driveway of the Hampshire County Jail and House of Corrections to its  
 31 intersection with the Department of Food and Agriculture private road, and proceeding northerly along  
 32 the Department of Food and Agriculture private road to its intersection with Burts Pit Road, and  
 33 continuing northeasterly along the Department of Food and Agriculture farm road to the Mill River, and  
 34 proceeding northerly approximately 1,700 feet along the Mill River to Broughtons Brook, and proceeding  
 35 northerly along Broughtons Brook to Federal Street, and proceeding easterly along Federal Street to  
 36 Vernon Street and proceeding northerly along Vernon street to its intersection with Elm street, and  
 37 proceeding easterly on Elm Street to its intersection with Franklin Street, and proceeding northerly on  
 38 Franklin Street to its intersection with Prospect Street, and proceeding on Prospect Street to its  
 39 intersection with Finn Street, and continuing on Prospect Street to its intersection with Tyler Court, and  
 40 continuing on Prospect Street to its intersection with Elm Street, and proceeding easterly on Elm Street  
 41 to its intersection with West Street/Route 66, and proceeding southerly along West Street/Route 66 to its  
 42 intersection with Belmont Avenue, and proceeding southerly approximately 70 feet to Veterans Field  
 43 parking lot road, and proceeding easterly along the Veterans Field parking lot road to the Manhan Rail  
 44 Trail, and proceeding westerly along the Manhan Rail Trail to the Mill River Dike, and proceeding  
 45 northwesterly along the Mill River Dike to West Street/Route 66, and proceeding westerly along West  
 46 Street/Route 66 to Earle Street, and proceeding southerly along Earle Street to Manhan Rail Trail, and  
 47 proceeding westerly approximately 1,270 feet along the Manhan Rail Trail to a brook, and proceeding  
 48 north west approximately 800 feet along the thread of the brook to Grove Street, and continuing  
 49 southeasterly approximately 380 feet to the terminus of the Meadowland Condo access road, and

50 proceeding westerly along the Meadowland Condo access road to Rocky Hill Road/Route 66, and  
51 proceeding westerly along Rocky Hill Road/Route 66 to the point of beginning.

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53

54 **C. Ward 3**

55 All of that portion of Hampshire County bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the point of the  
56 intersection of the Norwottuck Rail Trail the Hadley/Northampton town/city line, and proceeding  
57 southerly along the Hadley/Northampton town/city line to the Easthampton/Northampton town/city line,  
58 and proceeding westerly along the Easthampton/Northampton town/city line to Mount Tom Road/Route  
59 5, and proceeding northerly along Mount Tom Road/Route 5 to Pleasant Street, and proceeding northerly  
60 along Pleasant Street to Dike Road, and proceeding westerly along Dike Road to Lyman Road, and  
61 proceeding northwesterly along Lyman Road to South Street/Route 10, and proceeding northerly along  
62 South Street/Route 10 to Old South Street, and proceeding northeasterly along Old South Street to its  
63 intersection with Conz Street, and continuing northerly along Old South Street to the Manhan Rail Trail,  
64 and proceeding easterly along the Manhan Rail Trail to Pleasant Street, and proceeding northwesterly  
65 along Pleasant Street/Route 5 to the intersection of Main Street, King Street, and Pleasant Street, and  
66 continuing northerly along King Street to Damon Road, and proceeding easterly along Damon Road to the  
67 Boston and Main Railroad right-of-way, and proceeding southerly along the Boston and Main railroad  
68 right-of-way to its intersection with the Northampton Storage Solutions private road, and proceeding  
69 northeasterly along the Northampton Storage Solutions private road to its intersection with Industrial  
70 Drive, and proceeding southeasterly approximately 1,200 feet along Industrial Drive to its intersection with  
71 Bates Street, Bradford Street and Industrial Drive, and continuing southeasterly along Bates Street to its  
72 intersection with the Norwottuck Rail Trail, and continuing northeasterly along the Norwottuck Rail Trail  
73 to the point of beginning.

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75

76 **D. Ward 4**

77 All of that portion of Hampshire County bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the point of the  
78 Manhan Rail Trail and the Veterans Field parking lot access road proceeding southwestly along the  
79 Manhan Rail Trail to the Mill River Dike, and proceeding northwesterly along the Mill River Dike to West  
80 Street/Route 66, and proceeding westerly along West Street/Route 66 to Earle Street, and proceeding  
81 southerly along Earle Street to the Manhan Rail Trail, and proceeding approximately 1,270 feet westerly  
82 on the Manhan Trail to a brook, and proceeding approximately 800 feet northwest along the thread of  
83 the brook to Grove Street, and continuing southeasterly approximately 380 feet to the terminus of the

84 Meadowland Condominium access road, and proceeding westerly along the Meadowland Condominium  
 85 access road to Rocky Hill Road/Route 66, and proceeding westerly along Rocky Hill Road/Route 66 to the  
 86 Hampshire County Jail and House of Corrections driveway, and proceeding northerly along the Hampshire  
 87 County Jail and House of Corrections driveway to its intersection with the Department of Food and  
 88 Agriculture private road, and proceeding northerly along the Department of Food and Agriculture private  
 89 road to its intersection with Burts Pit Road, and proceeding westerly along Burts Pit Road to Florence  
 90 Road, and proceeding southerly along Florence Road to the Easthampton/Northampton town/city line,  
 91 and proceeding easterly along the Easthampton/Northampton town/city line to Mt. Tom Road/Route 5,  
 92 and proceeding northerly along Mt. Tom Road/Route 5 to Dike Road, and proceeding westerly along Dike  
 93 Road to Lyman Road, and proceeding westerly along Lyman Road to South Street/Route 10, and  
 94 proceeding northerly along South Street/Route 10 to the intersection of South Street, Old South Street  
 95 and School Street, and proceeding easterly along Old South Street to Conz Street, and continuing on Old  
 96 South Street to its intersection with the Manhan Rail Trail, and proceeding easterly along the Manhan Rail  
 97 Trail to Pleasant Street, and proceeding northwesterly along Pleasant Street to its intersection with King  
 98 and Main Street, and continuing northerly on King Street to Finn Street, and proceeding westerly on Finn  
 99 Street to its intersection with Prospect Street, and proceeding southerly on Prospect Street to its  
 100 intersection with Tyler Court, and continuing southerly on Prospect Street to its intersection with Elm  
 101 Street, and proceeding easterly on Elm Street to its intersection with West Street/Route 66, and  
 102 proceeding westerly on West Street/Route 66 to its intersection with Belmont Avenue, and proceeding  
 103 approximately 70 feet southerly to the point of beginning.

104

105 **E. Ward 5**

106 All of that portion of Hampshire County bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the point of  
 107 intersection of Pine Street and Florence Road, and proceeding easterly along Pine Street to Park Street,  
 108 and proceeding northerly along Park Street to Meadow Street, and proceeding easterly along Meadow  
 109 Street to North Main Street, and proceeding westerly on North Main Street to Bardwell Street, and  
 110 proceeding easterly along Bardwell Street to North Maple Street, and proceeding northerly along North  
 111 Maple Street to Sheffield Lane, and proceeding easterly along Sheffield Lane to Hillcrest Drive, and  
 112 proceeding northerly along Hillcrest Drive to Bridge Road, and proceeding easterly along Bridge Road to  
 113 North Elm Street, and proceeding southerly along North Elm Street to Hatfield Street, and proceeding  
 114 westerly along Hatfield Street to Locust Street, and proceeding easterly on Locust Street to its intersection  
 115 with North Elm Street, and continuing along North Elm Street to Elm Street, and continuing on Elm Street  
 116 to Vernon Street, and proceeding southerly along Vernon Street to Federal Street, and proceeding  
 117 westerly along Federal Street to Broughtons Brook, and proceeding southerly along Broughtons Brook to

118 the Mill River, and proceeding southwesterly approximately 1,700 feet along the Mill River to the  
 119 Department of Food and Agriculture farm road, and proceeding southwesterly along the Department of  
 120 Food and Agriculture farm road to Burts Pit Road, and proceeding westerly along Burts Pit Road to  
 121 Florence Road, and proceeding northerly along Florence Road to the point of beginning.

122  
 123

**F. Ward 6**

124 All of that portion of Hampshire County bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the point of  
 125 intersection of Turkey Hill Road and the Westhampton/Northampton town/city line and proceeding  
 126 easterly along Turkey Hill Road to Parsons Brook, and proceeding easterly along Parsons Brook to Sylvester  
 127 Road, and proceeding southerly along Sylvester Road to Ryan Road, and proceeding easterly along Ryan  
 128 Road to Parsons Brook, and proceeding northerly along Parsons Brook to the powerline right-of-way, and  
 129 proceeding easterly along powerline right-of-way to Florence Stream, and proceeding easterly along  
 130 Florence Stream to Florence Pond shoreline, and proceeding easterly along Florence Pond shoreline to  
 131 the Florence Stream, and proceeding easterly along Florence Stream to Florence Road, and proceeding  
 132 easterly along Florence Road to its intersection with Burts Pit Road, and continuing southerly along  
 133 Florence Road to the Easthampton/Northampton town/city line, and proceeding westerly along the  
 134 Easthampton/Northampton town/city line to the Westhampton/Northampton town/city line, and  
 135 proceeding northerly along the Westhampton/Northampton town/city line to the point of beginning.

137  
 138

**G. Ward 7**

140 All of that portion of Hampshire County bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the point of  
 141 intersection of the Williamsburg/Northampton town/city line and the Westhampton/Northampton  
 142 town/city line and proceeding easterly along the Williamsburg/Northampton town/city line to the  
 143 Hatfield/Northampton town/city line, and proceeding easterly along the Hatfield/Northampton town/city  
 144 line to Broad Brook, and proceeding southerly along Broad Brook to the base of the Fitzgerald Lake dam  
 145 spillway, and proceeding southerly approximately 4,900 feet to the terminus of Old Quarry Road, and  
 146 proceeding southerly along Old Quarry Road to the driveway/parking lot of 572 Bridge Road, and  
 147 proceeding approximately 350 feet southwesterly along the driveway/parking lot to Bridge Road and  
 148 proceeding westerly along Bridge Road to Hillcrest Drive, and proceeding southerly along Hillcrest Drive  
 149 to Sheffield Lane, and proceeding westerly along Sheffield Lane to North Maple Street, and proceeding  
 150 southerly along North Maple Street to Bardwell Street, and proceeding westerly along Bardwell Street to  
 151 North Main Street, and proceeding easterly along North Main Street to Meadow Street, and proceeding  
 152 westerly on Meadow Street to Park Street, and proceeding westerly along Park Street to Pine Street, and

153 proceeding westerly along Pine Street to the Mill River, and continuing along Pine Street to its intersection  
 154 with Spring Street, Pine Street, and Florence Pond Road, and proceeding southerly along Florence Road  
 155 to Florence Stream, and proceeding westerly along the Florence Stream to the Florence Pond shoreline,  
 156 and proceeding westerly along the Florence Pond shoreline to Florence Stream, and proceeding westerly  
 157 along the Florence Stream to the powerline right-of-way, and proceeding westerly along the powerline  
 158 right-of way to Parsons Brook, and proceeding southerly along Parsons Brook to Ryan Road, and  
 159 proceeding westerly along Ryan Road to Sylvester Road, and proceeding northerly along Sylvester Road  
 160 to Parsons Brook, and proceeding westerly along Parsons Brook to Turkey Hill Road, and proceeding  
 161 westerly along Turkey Hill Road to the Westhampton/Northampton town/city line, and proceeding  
 162 northerly along the Westhampton/Northampton town/city line to the point of beginning.

**Further ordered that each ward shall consist of two precincts per ward as described in City Council, October 21, 2021:**

- Ward 1 shall consist of Ward/Precincts 1A & 1B**
- Ward 2 shall consist of Ward/Precincts 2A & 2B**
- Ward 3 shall consist of Ward/Precincts 3A & 3B**
- Ward 4 shall consist of Ward/Precincts 4A & 4B**
- Ward 5 shall consist of Ward/Precincts 5A & 5B**
- Ward 6 shall consist of Ward/Precincts 6A & 6B**
- Ward 7 shall consist of Ward/Precincts 7A & 7B**

163

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

<u>Zoning Ordinances</u>	<u>Zoning Ordinances</u> None.
<u>New Business</u>	<u>New Business</u> None.
<u>Motion to Adjourn</u>	Upon motion made by Councilor Foster and seconded by Councilor Dwight, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.  Attest: _____ Administrative Assistant to the City Council

# City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

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## *In City Council, November 18, 2021*

*Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz and Planning & Sustainability*

### 21.354 An Order to Surplus City Land for Shared Use Parking at the Roundhouse Parking Lot

WHEREAS, As part of the 2021 reconstruction and expansion of the Roundhouse Parking Lot, the city reviewed the history of the overall parking layout and management;

WHEREAS, When the Roundhouse Plaza (a/k/a Peter Pan bus terminal) was first developed on the site of a DPW maintenance building, the city permitted the owner to locate a portion of its adjacent parking lot on city property, both to encourage the redevelopment and to improve inter-urban bus access;

WHEREAS, An extensive search of city and registry records as part of the Roundhouse Parking Lot project revealed that the long-term lease agreement between the city and property owner for that additional land was never formally executed; and

WHEREAS, The eight parking spaces on the southernmost edge of the Roundhouse Plaza building, which are located on city land, remain integral to the successful operation of the bus terminal and offices and the owner wishes to continue that historical use and is willing to execute a proper 30-year lease with the city, consistent with MGL 30B, the Uniform Procurement Act; and

WHEREAS, Those eight spaces are heavily used during the day by the Roundhouse Plaza, but have a high vacancy rate after office hours and on weekends, the times when the public parking system is most stressed;

WHEREAS, The Roundhouse Plaza property owner supports a lease that would limit use of the eight parking spaces by its tenants to office hours while allowing the city to utilize the spaces for public parking when needed most at nights and on weekends;

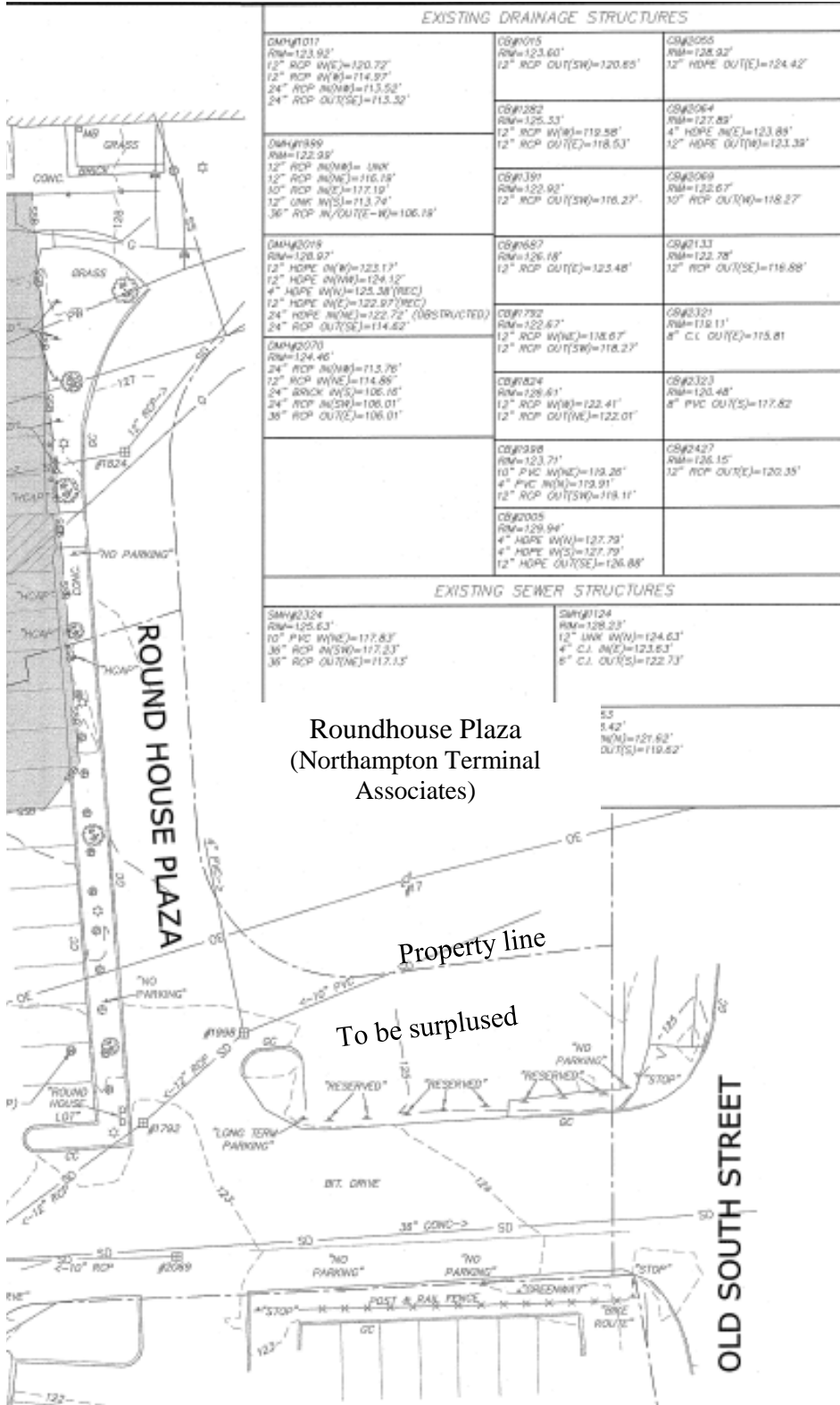
WHEREAS, The property owner would continue to be responsible for all of the maintenance, landscaping, and snow removal in and around the eight parking spaces resulting in no additional maintenance costs to the city as a result of any lease agreement;

***Ordered, that***

City Council declares the land on which those eight Roundhouse Plaza parking spaces sit surplus to city needs;

Further that the Mayor is authorized to sign a lease for parking during office hours on those eight spaces, subject to restrictions and conditions that the Mayor imposes to accomplish these needs.





**Tighe & Bond**



*Handwritten signature and date: 4/27/21*



*Handwritten signature and date: 4/27/21*

Roundhouse Plaza  
(Northampton Terminal Associates)

**Roundhouse  
Parking Lot  
Rehabilitation  
Project**

Central Services  
Department

Northampton, MA

# **City of Northampton**

MASSACHUSETTS

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**In City Council**

November 4, 2021

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Upon recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz

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**21.350**

**An Order**

**To Establish a Tax Classification for FY2022**

**Ordered, that**

The Northampton City Council approves a Residential Factor of One (1) for Fiscal Year 2022.

**CLASSIFICATION TAX ALLOCATION**  
**Fiscal Year 2022**

1. The selected Residential Factor is 1.000000

If you desire each class to maintain 100% of its full values tax share, indicate a residential factor of "1" and go to question 3.

2. In computing your residential factor, was a discount granted to Open Space?

Yes  No

If Yes, what is the percentage discount? 0

3. Was a residential exemption adopted?

Yes  No

If Yes, please complete the following:

<u>Class 1 Total Assessed Value</u>	=	<u>3,177,695,139</u>	X	<u>0</u>	=	<u>0</u>
Class 1 Total Parcel Count *		0		Selected Res. Exemption %		Residential Exemption

\* Include all parcels with a Mixed-Use Residential designation

Applicable number of parcels to receive exemption 0

Was a Senior Means Tested exemption adopted?

Yes  No

If Yes, please complete the following:

Total Eligible Parcels	0	Total Value Exempted nbsp;	0
<b>Combined Exemptions</b>			
Total Value Exempted, Residential + Senior Means Tested	0		
Total Residential Value after exemption(s)	3,177,695,139		

4. Was a small commercial exemption adopted?

Yes  No

% Selected 0

If Yes, please complete the following:

No. of parcels eligible	<u>0</u>
Total value of parcels	<u>0</u>
Total value to be exempted	<u>0</u>

5. The following information was derived from the LA-7. Please indicate in column D percentages (accurate to 4 digits to the right of the decimal point) which result from your selected residential factor. (If a residential factor of "1" has been selected, you may leave Column D blank.)

A Class	B Certified Full and Fair Cash Value Assessments	C Percentage Full Value Shares of Total Tax Levy	D New Percentage Shares of Total Tax Levy
Residential	3,177,695,139.00	81.0890%	81.0890%
Open Space	0.00	0.0000%	0.0000%
Commercial	517,692,188.00	13.2106%	13.2106%
Industrial	113,346,767.00	2.8924%	2.8924%
Personal Property	110,038,800.00	2.8080%	2.8080%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3,918,772,894.00</b>	<b>100.0000%</b>	<b>100.0000%</b>

**CLASSIFICATION TAX ALLOCATION**  
**Fiscal Year 2022**

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**NOTE : The information is preliminary and is subject to change.**

Gina-Louise Sciarra, Council President \_\_\_\_\_

William H, Dwight, Councilor-At-Large \_\_\_\_\_

Michael Quinlan, Jr., Ward 1 Councilor \_\_\_\_\_

Karen Foster, Ward 2 Councilor \_\_\_\_\_

James Nash, Ward 3 and Council Vice-President \_\_\_\_\_

John Thorpe, Ward 4 Councilor \_\_\_\_\_

Alex Jarrett, Ward 5 Councilor \_\_\_\_\_

Marianne L. LaBarge, Ward 6 Councilor \_\_\_\_\_

Rachel Maiore, Ward 7 Councilor \_\_\_\_\_

**CLASSIFICATION TAX ALLOCATION**

**Fiscal Year 2022**

7. We hereby attest that on (date), (time), at (place) in a public hearing on the issue of adopting the percentages for fiscal year 2022, that the Board of Assessors presented information and data relevant to making such determination and the fiscal effect of the available alternatives, and that the percentages set forth above were duly adopted in public session on (date).

8. The LA-5 excess capacity for the current fiscal year is calculated as 22,561.93

The LA-5 excess capacity for the prior fiscal year is calculated as 2,509,273.39

For cities : City Councilors, Aldermen, Mayor

For towns : Board of Selectmen

For districts : Prudential Committee or Commissioners

**Signatures**

No signatures to display.

**Documents**

No documents have been uploaded.

# City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

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## *In City Council, November 4, 2021*

*Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz, Planning & Sustainability, and Energy and Sustainability Commission*

### 21.351 An Order for District Heating and Microgrids

WHEREAS, The *Climate Resilience and Regeneration Plan*, an element of the *Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan*, acknowledges that natural gas leaks and generation results in higher greenhouse gas emissions than is often disclosed and creates a goal of replacing natural gas for building and water heating with renewable and potentially renewable energy sources;

WHEREAS, In endorsing that plan, and other City Council orders and resolutions, City Council has gone on record numerous times to support efforts and innovations to reduce the city's carbon footprint, while helping the city thrive even with climate change; and

WHEREAS, Eversource, which provides natural gas to a majority of buildings in the city, is undertaking a pilot study of networked geothermal systems for heating and cooling potential, potentially combined with other sources of waste heat, which could reduce or eliminate the need for natural gas;

WHEREAS: Replacing fossil fuel sources with geothermal for building water and space heating and cooling can reduce building carbon emissions by about 60 percent;

WHEREAS: Northampton's participation in the geothermal pilot can significantly advance progress toward the City's climate goals and advance Eversource's offerings;

WHEREAS: The city is exploring options for extraction and distribution of ground source (geothermal) energy, which could potentially include Main Street which will be open during the Picture Main Street construction project and which already supports diverse energy use demands;

### ***Ordered, that***

City Council enthusiastically supports participating in the Eversource Geothermal Pilot, including for Main Street; and

The City Clerk is requested to forward a certified copy of this order to the Eversource Geothermal Pilot and the state legislative delegation.

**City of Northampton**  
**MASSACHUSETTS**

*In City Council, November 18, 2021*

*Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz*

21.253 An Order for Special Legislation to Eliminate Party Appointments to the License Commission

***Ordered, that***

WHEREAS, M.G.L. c. 138, § 4 provides that “[o]ne member [of the License Commission] shall be appointed from each of the two leading political parties and the third member may also be appointed from one of said parties”; and

WHEREAS, Section 8-5 of the Northampton City Charter provides for non-partisan elections in the city; and

WHEREAS, Appointments to the License Commission on the basis of party affiliation does not serve the interests of the City of Northampton.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED

*Voted, to petition the General Court to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows. The General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the mayor approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court. The mayor is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.*

**AN ACT EXEMPTING THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON FROM APPOINTMENTS TO THE NORTHAMPTON LICENSE COMMISSION ON THE BASIS OF PARTY AFFILIATION**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the second sentence of section 4 of chapter 138, the mayor of the city of Northampton may appoint members to the Northampton License Commission without regard to party affiliation.

SECTION 2. The remaining provisions of section 4 of chapter 138 shall continue to apply to appointments to the Northampton License Commission.

This act shall take effect upon its passage.

**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON  
MASSACHUSETTS**

*In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-One*

Upon the Recommendation of the Transportation and Parking Commission

**21.335  
AN ORDINANCE**

**RELATIVE TO STOP SIGNS ON  
EVERGREEN ROAD AND CHESTNUT AVENUE**

An Ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts. Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

SECTION 1

*That the § 312-113 of the Code of Ordinances be amended as follows:*

§ 312-113 Schedule XII: Stop and Yield Intersections.

D. Multiway stop signs. Multiway stop intersections are established at the following locations:

Location	Direction of Travel	At the Intersection of
<b><u>Evergreen Road</u></b>	<b><u>East/West</u></b>	<b><u>Chestnut Avenue and Chestnut Avenue Extension</u></b>
<b><u>Chestnut Avenue</u></b>	<b><u>North</u></b>	<b><u>Evergreen Road and Chestnut Avenue Extension</u></b>

**CITY OF  
NORTHAMPTON  
MASSACHUSETTS**

*In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-One*

Upon the Recommendation of the Transportation and Parking Commission

**21.336  
AN ORDINANCE**

**RELATIVE TO OFF-STREET  
ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES**

An Ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts. Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

SECTION 1

*That the § 312-117 of the Code of Ordinances be amended as follows:*

§ 312-117 Schedule XVI: On-Street and Off-Street Handicapped Parking Spaces.

B. Off-street handicapped parking spaces are established as follows:

Parking Lot	Location
<b>Florence Recreation Fields – West Lot</b>	<b>Three spaces on the northern edge, closest to the bathrooms, abutting the pedestrian crosswalk, one being van-accessible.</b>
<b>Florence Recreation Fields – East Lot</b>	<b>Six spaces dispersed along the western edge of the parking lot, one being van-accessible.</b>
<b>Sheldon Field – West Lot</b>	<b>Three spaces in the northwest corner, one being van-accessible.</b>
<b>Sheldon Field – East Lot</b>	<b>One van-accessible space abutting south of the entrance to the basketball court.</b>
<b>Maines Field</b>	<b>Two spaces on the southwest corner of the paved parking area, one being van-accessible.</b>
<b>Arcanum Field – North Lot</b>	<b>One van-accessible space on the southeast corner.</b>
<b>Arcanum Field – South Lot</b>	<b>Three spaces on the southeast corner, one being van-accessible.</b>
<b>Veteran’s Field</b>	<b>Two spaces on the southwest corner abutting the sidewalk to the skate park, one being van-accessible.</b>

<b>Broad Brook-Fitzgerald Lake Greenway</b>	<b>One van-accessible space on the northeast corner abutting the information kiosk.</b>
<b>Musante Beach – North Lot</b>	<b>Two spaces on the northwest corner, one being van-accessible.</b>
<b>Musante Beach – South Lot</b>	<b>One van-accessible space on the northwest corner, abutting the parking lot entrance.</b>
<b>Ray Ellerbrook Fields</b>	<b>Two spaces on the southeast corner abutting the western edge of the baseball diamond, one being van-accessible. One space on the northern edge closest to the soccer field.</b>
<b>Smith Vocational Agricultural Fields</b>	<b>Two spaces on the northwest corner, abutting the trail entrance, one being van-accessible.</b>

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**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON  
MASSACHUSETTS**

*In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-One*

Upon the Recommendation of the Transportation and Parking Commission

**21.337  
AN ORDINANCE**

**RELATIVE TO PARKING  
ON MAIN STREET**

An Ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts. Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

SECTION 1

*That the § 312-102 of the Code of Ordinances be amended as follows:*

§ 312-102 Schedule I: Parking Prohibited All Times.

Location	Side	From	To
<b><u>Main Street</u></b>	<b><u>Northwest</u></b>	<b><u>Point 190 feet northeast of Crackerbarrel Alley</u></b>	<b><u>Point 238 feet northeast of Crackerbarrel Alley</u></b>
Main Street [Added 12-7-2017 by Ord. No. 17.376]	North-westerly	Center Street	Point 34 <b><u>58</u></b> feet southwesterly from Center Street
<b><u>Main Street</u></b>	<b><u>Southeast</u></b>	<b><u>Point 188 feet northeast of Old South Street</u></b>	<b><u>Point 235 feet northeast of Old South Street</u></b>

SECTION 2

*That the § 312-109 of the Code of Ordinances be amended as follows:*

§ 312-109 Schedule VIII: On-Street Parking Meter Zones.

14

Location	Side	From	To	Time Limit/ Class
Main Street [Added 12-7-2017 by Ord. No. 17.376]	North- west	Point 40 feet northeasterly from Crackerbarrel Alley	<del>Point 34 feet southwesterly from Center Street</del> <b>Point 172 feet northeasterly from Crackerbarrel Alley</b>	2 hours/Class 1A
<b><u>Main Street</u></b>	<b><u>North- west</u></b>	<b><u>A point 238 feet northeasterly from Crackerbarrel Alley</u></b>	<b><u>Point 58 feet southwesterly from Center Street</u></b>	<b><u>2 hours/Class 1A</u></b>
Main Street [Added 12-7-2017 by Ord. No. 17.376]	South- east	Point <del>202</del> <b>246</b> feet northeasterly from Old South Street	Point 428 feet northeasterly from Old South Street	2 hours/Class 1A

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SECTION 3

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19 *That the § 312-117 of the Code of Ordinances be amended as follows:*

20

21 § 312-117 Schedule XVI: On-Street and Off-Street Handicapped Parking Spaces.

22

Street	Side	Location
<b><u>Main Street</u></b>	<b><u>Northwesterly</u></b>	<b><u>14<sup>th</sup> space northeast of Crackerbarrel Alley, van accessible</u></b>

23

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**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON  
MASSACHUSETTS**

*In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-One*

Upon the Recommendation of the Transportation and Parking Commission

**21.338  
AN ORDINANCE**

**RELATIVE TO A STOP SIGN ON  
CROSS PATH ROAD**

An Ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts. Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

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2  
3  
4  
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8

SECTION 1

*That the § 312-113 of the Code of Ordinances be amended as follows:*

§ 312-113 Schedule XII: Stop and Yield Intersections.

Location	Direction of Travel	At the Intersection of
<b><u>Cross Path Road</u></b>	<b><u>North</u></b>	<b><u>Riverbank Road</u></b>

**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON  
MASSACHUSETTS**

*In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-One*

Upon the Recommendation of the Transportation and Parking Commission

**21.349  
AN ORDINANCE**

**RELATIVE TO PARKING ON  
MEADOW STREET**

An Ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts. Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

SECTION 1

*That the § 312-102 of the Code of Ordinances be amended as follows:*

§ 312-102 Schedule I: Parking Prohibited All Times.

Location	Side	From	To
<u>Meadow Street</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Spring Street</u>	<u>A point 315 feet east of Spring Street</u>

# City of Northampton

## MASSACHUSETTS

### In the Year Two Thousand Twenty One

Upon the Recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz and Planning & Sustainability

### 21.318 An Ordinance to Amend §350-17 FFR District and §350 3-4 Zoning Map to Include Recreation Land

An Ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts, providing that the Code of Ordinances, City of Northampton, Massachusetts, be amended by changing Section 350-17 & 350 3-4 Zoning Map in order to accurately reflect the status of lands in Northampton permanently protected from development.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

Amend as shown

#### § 350-17 **Farms, Forests and ~~Rivers~~ & Recreation District (FFR)**

##### § 350-17.1 **Purpose.**

The purpose of this article is to protect sensitive open space and ecologically important features, to preserve the farms, forests, river corridors, ecological habitat, and recreational lands of Northampton, and to allow landowners the ability to develop their property in a manner that is sensitive to these unique resources.

FFR is comprised of three different types of protected open space.

- 1) Rural publicly owned open space and greenways.
- 2) Lands permanently protected with conservation or agricultural restrictions
- 3) Urban Parks including those for organized recreational uses.

##### § 350-17.2 **Uses.**

Uses in the FFR are limited to any of the following so long as

1. No more than 25% of a parcel may be developed as building lots, roads, sewage disposal or drainage facilities, or other development and, where possible, all improvements shall be spatially concentrated to preserve the protected resource. The Planning Board, through Site Plan Review may approve more than 25%

developed areas only when created to enhance or expand the function of urban parks or recreational facilities.

2. All site improvements shall be laid out and constructed to minimize environmental and other impacts on protected resources.

4.3. Open space shall be laid out to maintain views of agricultural lands and open space, and to maintain distant vistas across open space from both on and off the site.

2.4. **(3)**

3.5. Development shall be integrated into the existing landscape through the use of building placement, landform treatment, and visually compatible existing or new screening. When possible, development should be placed within existing woodlands and not in open fields, to preserve views and minimize visual impact.

÷

A. Passive recreation, including site improvements to allow for such use that could include trail building, stream crossing components, wildlife viewing stations and the like. Supporting structures including temporary or permanent buildings.

B. Active recreation, including temporary or permanent buildings and structures necessary to support such uses. These may include but are not limited to permanent or temporary bathrooms, storage buildings, water fountains, snack bars, safety netting, seating, play or exercise structures and foundations, and parking areas. Site improvements to support such activities including trail building, stream crossings.

C. Agriculture and accessory structures, farm stands etc.

D. Land Conservation and restoration.

ED.

1. All Water Supply Protection District regulations related to prohibited uses, restrictive uses, drainage, uses by special permit, and design and operations guidelines (§§ 350-15.4 to 350-15.8) shall apply. Events and/or other operations that support underlying agricultural uses. Such uses shall be accessory and in accord with requirements herein.

B. E. Social functions, such as special events, concerts, weddings, with service of food and beverage to support the primary function of protecting open space/resource area.

F. With Site Plan Approval by the Planning Board the construction or use of a building as a caretaker's residence.

~~Development with a special permit issued under § 350-10.5 [open space residential development (cluster)]; provided, however, that the Planning Board finds that the following conditions are met, to the maximum extent possible, before granting a special permit for a cluster development in the FFR District:~~

~~(1)~~

~~If all or a portion of the protected open space is or could be used for farmland, all buildings, roads, drainage systems, utilities and other development shall be laid out in a manner to provide the least disturbance to actual or potential farm operations, to minimize potential conflicts between agricultural and nonagricultural uses, and shall be located on the soils least suitable for the production of crops.~~

~~(2)~~

~~(4)~~

### ~~§ 350-17.3~~**Transfer of development rights (TDR).**

~~The Planning Board shall grant an owner of land in the Farms, Forests and Rivers district a special permit to transfer the right to develop residential units from the FFR District (sending or donor parcels) to the Planned Village District (PV). (See § 350-10.15.) or other receiving parcels as allowed by this Zoning Ordinance in accordance with the criteria below. The Planning Board shall base its decision on the criteria in this section and the requirements for site plan review for the sending zone, not the receiving zone. The special permit criteria of § 350-10.1C shall not apply.~~

~~A.~~

~~The maximum number of dwelling unit development rights that can be transferred is the greater of the following:~~

~~(1)~~

~~The number of dwelling units allowed by a current valid definitive subdivision approval or open space residential development (cluster) special permit issued for the sending parcel;~~  
~~or~~

~~(2)~~

~~Sixty percent of the number of dwelling units that could potentially be developed based on the maximum number of dwelling units allowed in a cluster, in accordance with § 350-11.4E(1), and including deductions for wetlands but excluding deductions for roadways.~~

~~B.~~

~~Development rights may not be transferred from land which may not be otherwise be developed for a residential subdivision because of ownership status, deed restrictions, easements, or prior transfer of development rights, including:~~

~~(1)~~

~~Land with conservation restrictions or agricultural preservation restrictions;~~

~~(2)~~

~~Land owned by a government agency for permanent park, agricultural or conservation purposes;~~

~~(3)~~

~~Land owned by a nonprofit corporation, a principal purpose of which is conservation or preservation of open space or farmland;~~

~~(4)~~

~~Land where the development rights have already been transferred out of the parcel.~~

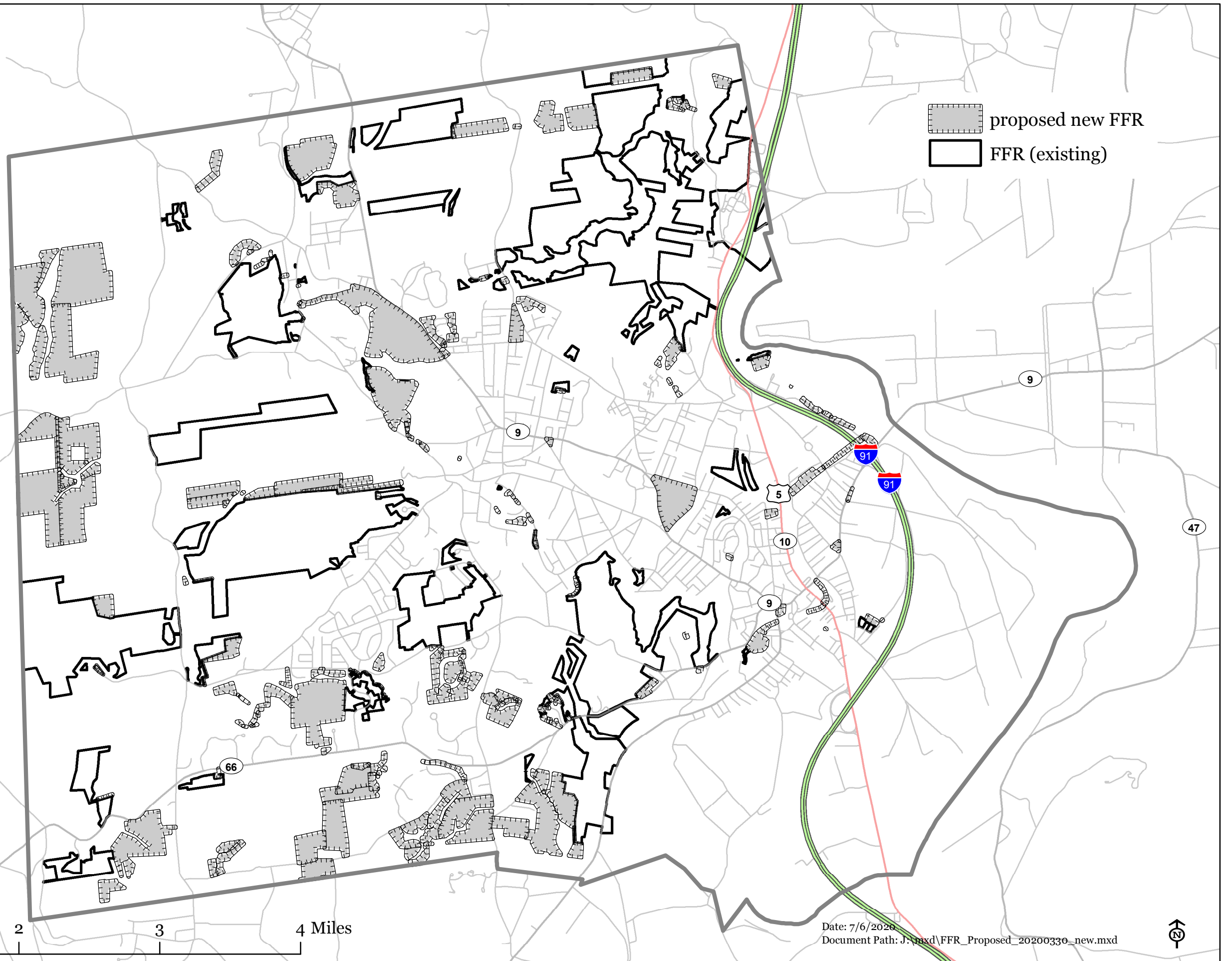
~~C.~~

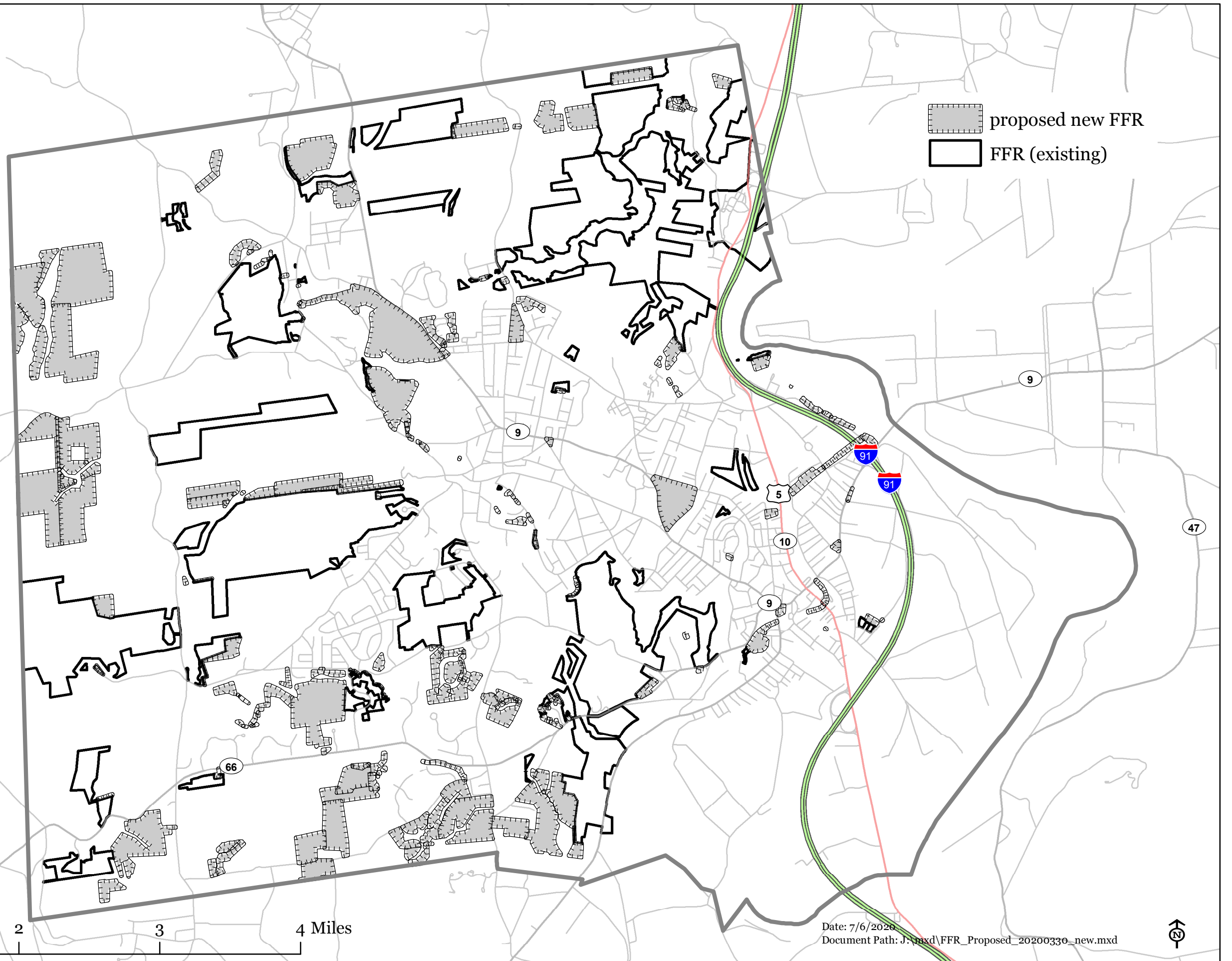
~~Transfer of development rights is contingent on placing a permanent conservation restriction or agricultural preservation restriction, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, on the land from which the development rights were transferred (sending parcel) and restricting the use of the land to agriculture, forestry, or undeveloped open space open for passive recreation only, or deeding the land to the City as permanent park or conservation land with no acquisition cost (but only with the consent of the City Council and the Conservation or Recreation Commission, as appropriate).~~

~~D.~~

~~Development rights may be transferred from a sending parcel and held indefinitely before being assigned to a receiving parcel. Development rights may be transferred by sale or other means and may subsequently be transferred to any owner of receiving parcels allowed by this chapter.~~

**Chapter 350-3.4** Amend by including the parcels show in the attached map into the FFR layer.





# City of Northampton

## MASSACHUSETTS

**In the Year Two Thousand Twenty One**

Upon the Recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz and Planning & Sustainability

### 21.319 AN ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE INSTALLATION OF EV CHARGING STATIONS IN PARKING LOTS OVER 25 SPACES

An Ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts, providing that the Code of Ordinances, City of Northampton, Massachusetts, be amended to require installation of Electric Vehicle Charging stations and supporting conduit in parking lots larger than 75 spaces.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

**Add New Subsections to Chapter 350-8.9 as follows**

- I. For new or expanded parking lots that result in the provision of 25 or more spaces, one electric vehicle charging ~~port-space~~ per 25-15 parking spaces shall be installed.
- J. ~~For new parking lots that create a parking area of 25 or more spaces, conduit to support installation of electric vehicle charging ports at a ratio of one charging location per 15 parking spaces shall be installed.~~