



ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Members

Councilor Jeremy Dubs, Chair
Councilor Garrick Perry, Vice-Chair
Dane Kuttler, Citizen
Molly Moses, Citizen
Councilor Stanley Moulton, III

MEETING MINUTES

Date: December 17, 2025, Time: 6 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** At 6:03 p.m., Councilor Jeremy Dubs called the meeting to order. On a roll call, the following members were present: Councilor Dubs, Chair; Councilor Stanley W. Moulton, III, Member Dane Kuttler and Member Molly Moses. Councilor Garrick Perry, Vice Chair, was not present on roll call but joined at 6:22 p.m. Also present were City Solicitor Alan Seewald and Administrative Assistant Laura Krutzler.
2. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING**
Councilor Dubs announced that the meeting was being audio/video recorded.
3. **MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2025 AND DECEMBER 3, 2025**
Councilor Moulton moved to approve the November 19, 2025 and December 3, 2025 minutes as a group. Member Kuttler seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote with Councilor Perry absent.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
No members of the public were present.
5. **REVIEW AND DISCUSS DRAFT FINAL REPORT**
Members reviewed the draft final report. In response to a comment from Councilor Moulton, Attorney Seewald confirmed that he had amended the final report to indicate that, while the committee held 17 virtual meetings, the June 30th public forum was held in person and via Zoom.

Members indicated they were satisfied with the draft.
6. **RATIFY ATTACHMENTS - EXHIBIT A, EXHIBIT B, MISCELLANEOUS REFERRALS, GENERAL ORDINANCE HOUSEKEEPING AND ZONING ORDINANCE HOUSEKEEPING**
Members reviewed the attachments and approved the following changes:

GENERAL ORDINANCE HOUSEKEEPING SPREADSHEET

- ❖ In Item #2, insert the words “gender-neutral singular and” before “plural pronouns” in the following sentence: “Replace he/him/his and she/her/hers with plural pronouns (they/them) and eliminate other gender-specific references.”

Members reviewed the document entitled, “[Northampton Ordinances Reviewed for Gender/Pronoun Updates](#)” created by Member Moses to serve as an attachment to the General Ordinance Housekeeping spreadsheet.

Attorney Seewald questioned the use of ‘theirself’ in the sentence, “Such registrant shall also furnish to the Police Department a photograph of **theirself**, taken within 60 days immediately prior. . . .” in §245-10B.

Member Kuttler referred to this as a ‘usage in process’ sometimes used instead of ‘themselves’ to maintain subject/verb agreement. This is its only use in the document, Member Moses noted.

Attorney Seewald suggested simply removing the words “of theirself” and Member Moses agreed. She pointed out a similar change should be made to §245-8B to remove “of himself.” Attorney Seewald made the changes to the document.

EXHIBIT A ORDINANCES RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION OR REVISION**Changes approved:**

- ❖ **Voted to add the recommendation to strike §245-13 to §245-20**
- ❖ **Changed the name to Exhibit A Ordinances Recommended for Adoption, Revision or Rescission**

Member Moses raised the question of whether they wanted to recommend a change to [§245-14 Qualifications for applicants for license](#) [to sell fruits and vegetables] to remove the citizenship requirement. Attorney Seewald suggested the possibility of removing §245-14 entirely or even deleting §245-13 through §245-20 [the entirety of Chapter 245 Peddling and Soliciting, [Article II Hawkers or Peddlers of Fish, Fruit and Vegetables](#)].

At 6:22 p.m., Councilor Perry joined.

Discussion ensued. Councilor Moulton suggested simply revising the first sentence to read, “The Mayor and City Council shall have authority to grant the license required by this article to any person of good repute for morals and integrity.” Attorney Seewald pointed out a problem with deleting §245-14 in its entirety in that it removes the discretionary standard for granting the license, however inappropriate it may be. He questioned what standards would replace it. He agreed that, as written, §245-14 is legally indefensible.

Councilor Perry expressed initial discomfort with striking it down entirely.

Member Moses moved to strike Article II. Member Kuttler seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0 by roll call vote.

Councilor Moulton expressed his understanding that this recommendation would become part of Exhibit A.

EXHIBIT B TOPICS RECOMMENDED FOR FURTHER STUDY**Changes approved:**

- ❖ **For Item #1 Ordinance Regulating Mobile Food Vehicles §285-4 C, changed ‘special committee’ to ‘select committee.’**

- ❖ **For Item #3 Clearing of Snow and Ice from Sidewalks §285-17, amended the first sentence to read “The committee spent much time on the issue of timely clearing of snow and ice from sidewalks and curb cuts, including driveway curb cuts, and it held a forum on that topic.”**
- ❖ **Voted to move Item #4 Ordinance to Allow ‘All-Access Toplessness’ on Beaches from Topics Recommended for Further Study to Exhibit A**

Regarding Item #3, Councilor Dubs said he feels like the main issue is not just the clearing of sidewalks but the **timeliness** of the clearing. He said he would like some clear language to indicate that it needs to be done sooner than it is now.

Attorney Seewald suggested addressing this by changing the first sentence to read ‘*timely* clearing of snow and ice from sidewalks. . .’

With respect to its referral to the Transportation and Parking Commission (TPC), Ms. Krutzler asked if members wanted to identify specific goals or issues for the TPC to consider. She reminded them that Councilor Perry’s original motion on December 3rd talked about having an addendum with specific goals.

Members discussed. Member Moses mentioned a recent public comment received proposing a two-tiered fine structure with higher fines for owners of multi-unit residential properties and commercial properties/businesses. She thought it was very helpful and would be very much in favor of including it in an addendum.

Councilor Dubs presented the following specific language for consideration: “recommend to come up with a collaborative strategy for clearing our sidewalks and curb cuts in a timelier manner.”

Councilor Perry expressed his understanding that the TPC will review the Ordinance Review Committee’s record, including proposals it received, so he is comfortable recommending they simply ‘dive into it.’ Attorney Seewald agreed he tried to keep it simple since the TPC will go through a process of fact-gathering similar to the one followed by this committee. “You’re just sort of putting this on the plate of the council,” he noted.

Ms. Krutzler offered to add Matt Hoey’s suggestion for a two-tiered fine schedule to the Miscellaneous Referrals spreadsheet to ensure it is preserved as part of the public record, and members agreed.

Councilor Dubs recognized Alex Bowman, who said another of his recommendations is to reduce the time-frame for clearing the sidewalks in the downtown business district and Florence Center to under 24 hours.

Attorney Seewald assured him this was already in the ordinance.

Moving on to Item #4, **Member Kuttler moved to recommend an ordinance to allow all-access toplessness on city beaches. Councilor Dubs seconded.**

Her motion kicked off a lively discussion and a cursory review of existing language related to swimming attire. Member Moses wondered if, given that they are removing the concept of gender from the city ordinance, they could frame it as being regardless of an individual’s body composition or gender.

“Any individual can be topless on any city beach period,” Member Kuttler proposed.

Councilor Perry said last-minute changes make him nervous and jittery. Councilor Moulton said that is why he would argue it requires further study. He is comfortable including it in the report but not necessarily recommending it, he said.

Member Moses drew attention to [§241-3 Nude bathing in public prohibited](#):

“No person shall swim or bathe, unless clothed in a bathing costume, in any of the water surrounding or within the City, so as to be visible from any dwelling house or street.”

She proposed adding Section B to say “Section A should not be interpreted to restrict people from being topless in the water or on adjacent beaches.”

Member Kuttler said she could second that motion.

Councilor Perry said he is finding himself in a place where he would have loved to have discussed this in more depth. He suggested putting it in further study.

Molly wondered if a compromise might be to say that, in alignment with public comment, multiple voices on the committee advocated for a change and a possible place for it would be §241-3. Councilor Moulton agreed the proposal aligns with public comment but said he didn't hear significant public interest.

Members reached a consensus to make a recommendation centered on revising the term ‘bathing costume.’

Attorney Seewald read proposed new language for an Item #7 on Exhibit A aloud:

“The committee heard a proposal to allow all-person toplessness on city beaches. The committee voted to recommend that § 241-3 be revised to clarify the term “bathing costume” and to render the ordinance body neutral.”

Member Moses suggested either to render it or to *specify it as* body-neutral.

Members said the rest looked good.

MISCELLANEOUS REFERRALS SPREADSHEET

Changes approved:

- ❖ **Change column heading from ‘Action Suggested’ to ‘Action Proposed’**
- ❖ **Rename spreadsheet ‘Miscellaneous Proposals.’**

There being no further changes, Attorney Seewald suggested a vote would be in order to accept the final report and to ratify and approve the exhibits as amended tonight.

Councilor Moulton moved to accept the final report and exhibits as amended December 17th. Member Kuttler seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0 by roll call vote.

7. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

Members scheduled a final meeting to approve the minutes for Monday, January 5th @ 9 a.m. Ms. Krutzler committed to having the minutes done on Friday, January 2nd.

8. ADJOURN

Councilor Moulton moved to adjourn. Councilor Perry seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0 by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Krutzler.