



Committee on City Services and the Northampton City Council

Committee Members:

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 15, 2019, 4 p.m.
Location: City Council Chambers
212 Main St., Northampton, Massachusetts

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

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

At 8:04 p.m., Councilor Carney convened the City Services Committee meeting within the regular City Council meeting. On a roll call, Councilors Carney, Bidwell, LaBarge and Nash were present.

Councilor Carney announced that the meeting was being audio and video recorded.

2. MINUTES OF JULY 1, 2019

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the minutes of July 1, 2019. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed with 4 Yes, 0 No.

3. ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

A. 19.111 Appointments to Various Committees - referred by City Council July 11, 2019 Board of Assessors

Margo E. Welch, 349 Coles Meadow Road, Northampton
Term: July 2019-June 2022
Reappointment

Disability Commission

Michal C. Morton, 95 Washington Avenue, Northampton
Term: July 2019-June 2022
To fill a vacancy

Human Rights Commission

Davina Miller, 33 Summer Street, Northampton

Term: July 2019-June 2022

Reappointment

Board of Registrars

Joseph Tarantino, 110 N. Elm Street, Northampton

Term: April 2019-March 2022

To fill a vacancy

Councilor Carney said she corresponded with Margo E. Welch, mostly to express her gratitude for her willingness to continue serving on the Board of Assessors. Attorney Welch is a lawyer with real estate experience who currently serves as an assessor. She can hopefully bring valuable knowledge and a helpful voice to the board. She has also served on the Council on Aging.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the appointment of Margo Welch to the Board of Assessors to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion carried 4 Yes, 0 No.

Councilor LaBarge said she had a lengthy talk with Michal Morton. Michal was on the Disability Commission back in 1999 for several years but had to step down. He now wants to come back to the commission, and she highly recommends him. She has worked with him and he understands many of the issues. She feels he can bring back some valuable knowledge and is very helpful with his voice on the commission.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the appointment of Michal Morton to the Disability Commission with a positive recommendation. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion carried 4:0.

Councilor Bidwell said he spoke with Davina Miller earlier this week. As many know, she was a six-term veteran of the School Committee and has been a member of the Human Rights Commission for three years. She has found it to be quite a wonderful experience. She feels this is a particularly important time in the life of the city and the country to take up the issues before the commission. She looks forward to continuing that and would like to expand the listening sessions/circles held by the committee.

Councilor Bidwell moved to recommend the appointment of Davina Miller to the Human Rights Commission to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion carried by voice vote with 4 Yes, 0 No.

Councilor Nash said he spoke with Joseph Tarantino. Mr. Tarantino is applying for appointment to the Board of Registrars. He is a 1993 graduate of George Washington Law and a member of the District of Columbia (DC) bar. He is originally from Northampton but moved to DC and lived there for about 10 years. He moved home about 20 years ago. He is familiar with administrative law and had a career in finance. He also works as a cameraman for the Yard Goats. He is a registered Republican, which serves the need to have a balance of the two largest political parties in the state on this body. (It is required that two of the four members be Republican.) He found him to be a very pleasant conversationalist and would like to move his appointment

forward with a positive recommendation, Councilor Nash said. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

5. **Adjourn**

Upon motion made by Councilor Bidwell and seconded by Councilor LaBarge, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Prepared By:

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