



**Roll Call**

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

A regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by City Council President Gina-Louise Sciarra. At 7:09 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             |                                      |

**Announcement of Audio/Video Recording**

At 7:09 p.m., Councilor Sciarra convened the regular meeting. She announced that the meeting was being held by remote participation and audio and video recorded.

**Public Hearing Announcement of Public Hearing - City Council Budget Hearings June 3rd and 4th, 2020**

**Public Hearing**

Councilor Sciarra read the following announcements:  
**Announcement of Public Hearing - City Council Budget Hearings June 3rd and 4th, 2020**  
BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL, and in accordance with Section 7-4 of the Charter of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts, the City Council will hold a Public Hearing to consider the Proposed FY2021 Budget commencing on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 5 p.m. by remote participation and continuing on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. by remote participation. Instructions for accessing the meetings will be posted on the agendas. The City Council will hear all persons who wish to be heard thereon. The budget is available for inspection by the public on the City of Northampton website at [www.northamptonma.gov](http://www.northamptonma.gov).

**Announcement of Public Hearing - 20.048 National Grid/Verizon New England Pole Petition for Park Hill Road (Petition #25763215 - two petitions, same #) Public Hearing on 20.047 National Grid/Verizon New England Pole Petition for Fox Farms Road (#29597581)**

**Announcement of Public Hearing - 20.048 National Grid/Verizon New England Pole Petition for Park Hill Road (Petition #25763215 - two separate petitions, same #)**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 22, Chapter 166 of the General Laws, a public hearing will be held on Thursday, June 4, 2020 @ 7:15 p.m. on the petition of National Grid/Verizon New England to erect poles and wires upon, along, under or across one or more public ways. The hearing will be held via remote participation. Please see the agenda for the June 4, 2020 City Council meeting for instructions for accessing the hearing.

**Public Hearing on 20.047 National Grid/Verizon New England Pole Petition for Fox Farms Road (Petition #29597581)**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 22, Chapter 166 of the General Laws, a public hearing will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2020 @ 7:05 p.m. on the petition of National Grid/Verizon New England to erect poles and wires upon, along, under or across one or more public ways. Pole Petition #29597581 - Fox Farms Road.

Councilor Dwight moved to open the public hearing. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

Lisa Jasinski of National Grid said the utility is looking for permission to place a pole on Fox Farms Road approximately 215 feet south of the intersection of Bridge Road and Fox Farms Road. The purpose is two-fold – to raise a wire hanging low between two spans and to get a service line off the roof of a house. The service line for 8 Fox Farms Road crosses its roof. They'd like to get it off the roof and they'd also like to correct those low-hanging wires. She reached out to the property owner of the second house on the right-hand side where the pole is to be located but did not hear back.

Councilor Sciarra asked if anyone else wished to speak in favor or against.

There being no further comments, Councilor Dwight moved to close the public hearing. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote. The public hearing was closed at 7:15 p.m.

<p><u>Updates from Council President &amp; Committee Chairs</u></p>	<p><u>Updates from Council President &amp; Committee Chairs</u>                  The June meeting of the City Services Committee will be held during the June 4, 2020 City Council meeting, Councilor LaBarge reminded. It will be an abbreviated meeting to make a recommendation on the appointment of Jonathan Flagg as the Building Commissioner. There will be no regular meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup>, she confirmed.</p>
<p><u>Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors</u></p>	<p><u>Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors</u>                  Councilor Quinlan gave a quick shout out to three people and organizations to thank them for their cooperation and work on the community food distribution project: Heidi Nortonsmith of the Northampton Survival Center, Alisa Klein of Grow Food Northampton and Mary Clare Higgins of Community Action Pioneer Valley.</p> <p>Grow Food Northampton is seeking volunteers Tuesday and Thursday specifically to help pack food packages and deliver them to people in need. It is not a huge time commitment: Tuesday from 9:30 to about 12:30 p.m. and Thursday from 9:30 to 11 a.m.</p> <p>Councilor Maiore invited everyone to join her Saturday morning between 8 and 9 for the Leeds annual clean up sponsored by the Leeds Civic Association. Participants will meet at the Leeds post office. Organizers will be handing out bags while practicing social distancing and people can choose a road and go to their own section if they'd like. She encourage participants to bring garden gloves and a face covering. Trash bags will be provided. .</p> <p>Another Ward 7 announcement is that, sadly, the Memorial Day service they usually have in Leeds on Sunday is cancelled, Councilor Maiore continued. A wreath will be placed, and people may leave a wreath or some sort of message on their own if desired.</p>
<p><u>Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor</u></p>	<p><u>Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor</u>  <u>FY2021 Budget Message</u>                  Councilor Sciarra outlined arrangements for reviewing and approving the FY2021 budget. The City Council will hold its budget hearing beginning with presentations from the five largest departments on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 5 p.m. and continuing on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 7 p.m. After the close of the public hearing, the City Council will begins its deliberation and take its first vote on the budget orders. The second vote on the budget will be on June 18, 2020.</p> <p>An item on the agenda tonight is presentation of the FY2021 budget message, she continued. The council will not be deliberating on the budget tonight but the Mayor may entertain general questions that pertain to the budget message itself, she explained.</p> <p><u>Presentation by Mayor David J. Narkewicz</u>                  The charter specifies that the budget submitted by the Mayor to the City Council 45 days prior to the end of the fiscal year include a budget message, Mayor Narkewicz explained. The tradition has been for the Mayor to deliver that message at a City Council meeting. This is the first budget message he has delivered by zoom. He read the budget message in its entirety. (See attachment to original minutes.)</p> <p><u>Discussion</u>                  Councilor Sciarra thanked Mayor Narkewicz for his message. As sobering as it is for them to hear, she knows it was sobering for him and his team to write, she commented. She is awed that he has been able to pull it together while working remotely and under these conditions. She asked if there were any general questions for the Mayor.</p> <p>Councilor LaBarge thanked the Mayor and Finance Director Susan Wright. It has been very difficult for everybody living in Northampton, and they've done an excellent job with this budget book. She also thanked the Mayor's staff and department heads for their tireless work.</p> <p>She is really impressed with how fast he's turned this around having to switch gears, Councilor Maiore volunteered. She is grateful to be in Northampton and to have his leadership. She has been telling people that, despite the beautiful weather, the rainy day is here. She is just curious if Northampton has ever had to have a budget before where there was no annual increase in</p>

	<p>spending.</p> <p>His first budget and second budget was a cut, Mayor Narkewicz said. The original budget submissions in 2014 was a reduced budget which was overturned by an override after the fact. He was a councilor during the so-called great recession when state aid was cut dramatically in the middle of the fiscal year and then-Mayor Mary Clare Higgins had to bring forward some significant cuts. They were facing a \$6 million deficit at that time. This is not unprecedented, he confirmed. These economic crises tend to be cyclical. It definitely tends to be tied to periods of economic downturn where there is some sudden loss of revenue or other severe event.</p>
<u>Presentations</u>	<p><u>Presentations</u> None.</p>
<u>Resolutions</u>	<p><u>Resolutions</u> None.</p>
<u>Consent Agenda</u>	<p><u>Consent Agenda</u> Councilor Sciarra reviewed the items on the consent agenda, asking if anyone wished to remove an item for separate consideration. <b>Councilor LaBarge moved approval of the consent agenda. Councilor Quinlan seconded. The motion passed 9:0 by roll call vote.</b></p> <p>The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda:</p> <p>A. <u>Minutes of May 7, 2020</u> B. <u>Approve Pole Petition - 20.047 National Grid/Verizon New England Pole Petition for Fox Farms Road (Petition #29597581)</u></p>
<u>Recess for Committee on Finance Meeting</u>	<p>At 7:38 p.m., the City Council recessed for the Committee on Finance meeting. The Committee on Finance adjourned at 7:52 p.m. The City Council reconvened at 7:52 p.m.</p>
<u>Financial Orders (on 1<sup>st</sup> reading) 20.052 Order Authorizing Acquisition of Easements for Drainage Improvements on Rocky Hill Road (Route 66) - 1st reading</u>	<p><u>Financial Orders (on 1<sup>st</sup> reading)</u> <u>20.052 An Order Authorizing Acquisition of Easements for Drainage Improvements on Rocky Hill Road (Route 66) - 1st reading</u> Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion carried 8:0 by roll call vote with one absent (Councilor LaBarge).</p> <p>Councilor Dwight moved to suspend rules to allow a second reading. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion carried 8:0 by roll call vote with one absent (Councilor LaBarge).</p> <p>Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Maiore seconded. The motion carried 8:0 by roll call vote with one absent (Councilor LaBarge).</p> <p><u>The following order passed two readings:</u></p>

**City of Northampton**

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council, May 21, 2020

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

**20.052 AN ORDER AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF EASEMENTS FOR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS ON ROCKY HILL ROAD (ROUTE 66)**

WHEREAS, Rocky Hill Road (Rte. 66) east of the intersection of Ice Pond Drive needs significant drainage improvements; and

WHEREAS, the locus sufficiently threatens the highway to qualify for a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant,

WHEREAS, the City has been short-listed for the FEMA Grant to fund such drainage improvements; and

WHEREAS, in order to be eligible for such Grant and in order to perform such drainage improvements, the City must acquire an easement over certain property on the north side of Rocky Hill Road shown as "Lot 29 – Non Building Lot for Culvert Maintenance" on a plan of land entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan Prepared for The Community Builders, Inc.," dated December 16, 2002, revised May 19, 2003 and May 21, 2003, and recorded in the Hampshire Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 196, Page 70; and

WHEREAS, Lot 29 is owned in fractional shares by 20 of the lot owners in the Ice Pond Subdivision and by the original developer, TCB Hospital Hill, LLC; and

WHEREAS, by securing the FEMA grant and performing drainage improvements, the City is undertaking improvements that will significantly limit the landowners' liability for potential damage to the highway.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,**

The City Council hereby authorizes the acquisition by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise of easements over that parcel of land shown as "Lot 29 – Non Building Lot for Culvert Maintenance" on a plan of land entitled "Definitive Subdivision Plan Prepared for The Community Builders, Inc.," dated December 16, 2002, revised May 19, 2003 and May 21, 2003, and recorded in the Hampshire Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 196, Page 70, for the purpose of drainage improvements on Rocky Hill Road (Rte. 66). No appropriation is needed for this acquisition. Nothing herein shall be deemed to otherwise relieve the fee holders of Lot 29 or other responsible parties from their obligation to maintain and repair drainage structures thereon so as to protect the integrity of the highway.

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

Financial Orders (on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading) 20.049 Order for FY2020 Budget Transfers – 2nd reading

Financial Orders (on 2nd reading)

20.049 An Order for FY2020 Budget Transfers – 2nd reading

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion carried 8:0 by roll call vote with one absent (Councilor LaBarge).

The following order passed two readings:

**City of Northampton**  
MASSACHUSETTS

*In City Council* May 7, 2020

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

**20.049 An Order for FY2020 Budget Transfers**

*Ordered, that* the following budgetary transfers be made:

Department		Description	Org	Object	Transfer From:	Transfer To:
Auditor	PS	Overtime	11351	513000		\$ 1,635
Auditor	PS	Longevity	11351	514002		\$ 700
Assessor	PS	Overtime	11411	513000		\$ 3,507
Assessor	PS	Working Out of Grade	11411	514007		\$ 4,312
City Clerk	PS	Overtime	11611	513000		\$ 5,085
City Clerk	PS	Regular Salaries	11611	511000		\$ 680
Planning and Sustainability	PS	Regular Salaries	11751	511000		\$ 1,950
Planning and Sustainability	PS	Overtime	11751	513000		\$ 2,025
Planning and Sustainability	PS	Longevity	11751	514002		\$ 1,400
Central Services	PS	Overtime	11921	513000		\$ 11,200
Building	PS	Overtime	12411	513000		\$ 35,050
Snow and Ice	PS	Overtime	14231	513000		\$ 46,398
Health	PS	Regular Salaries	15111	511000		\$ 6,050
Health	PS	Overtime	15111	513000		\$ 91,500
Veterans	PS	Overtime	15431	513000		\$ 6,200
Retirement	PS	Non-Contributory	19111	519101		\$ 470
Legal	OM	Legal	11512	530002		\$ 91,000
Snow and Ice	OM	Snow Removal Supplies	14232	553020		\$ 45,500
Medical Insurance	PS	Employee Medical	19141	519400	\$(227,000)	
Medical Insurance	OM	Professional/Technical	19142	530000	\$ (15,000)	
Interest on Debt	OM	Interest on Notes	17503	592500	\$ (32,000)	
Veterans	OM	Veterans Benefits	15432	577000	\$ (80,662)	
<b>Total Budgetary Transfers:</b>					<b>\$(354,662)</b>	<b>\$ 354,662</b>

Passed two readings and enrolled.

<u>Orders</u>	<u>Orders</u> None.
<u>Ordinances (Not Yet Referred)</u>	<u>Ordinances (Not Yet Referred)</u> None.
<u>Ordinances 20.037 Ordinance Relative to Essential Services and Municipal Facilities – 2nd reading</u>	<u>Ordinances 20.037 An Ordinance Relative to Essential Services and Municipal Facilities – 2nd reading</u> Councilor Dwight moved to approve the ordinance in second reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion carried 8:0 by roll call vote with one absent (Councilor La Barge).  <u>The following ordinance passed two readings:</u>

**City of Northampton  
MASSACHUSETTS**

**In the Year Two Thousand Twenty**

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

**20.037 An Ordinance Relative to Essential Services and Municipal Facilities**

An Ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts, providing that the Code of Ordinances, City of Northampton, Massachusetts, be amended to indicate that within all use and dimensional tables essential services and municipal facilities do not require a minimum lot size, depth or frontage. This change restores the original intended dimensional requirements and corrects an oversight that occurred in more recent table changes that inadvertently eliminated this provision in some districts. For more than 15 years, the zoning ordinance made clear that minimum lot size was not required for these type of essential services provided by the City.

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

1) A footnote to Chapter 350 Attachments 4-8, 18, 24:

\* No Minimum Lot size, depth, or frontage required for essential services or municipal facilities as defined in 2.1. Minimum setbacks for principal buildings as part of municipal facilities are the same as other principal uses in table above. and are the only dimensional lot requirements necessary to be met.

2) Adding a line within 350 Attachment 19 showing municipal and essential facilities are allowed by right.

Passed two readings, ordained and enrolled.

<u>Information (Charter Provision 2-7) &amp; Study Requests</u>	<u>Information (Charter Provision 2-7) and Information Study Requests</u> None
<u>Motion to Adjourn</u>	Upon motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. The motion carried 8:0 by roll call vote with one absent (Councilor LaBarge).  Attest: _____ Administrative Assistant to the City Council