



Committee on City Services Organizational Meeting and the Northampton City Council

Committee Members:

Chair: Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge

Vice-Chair: Councilor Karen Foster

Councilor Rachel Maiore

Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr.

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 4, 2020

Virtual Meeting

Note: The City Services Committee Meeting took place during the City Council Meeting as announced. The City Council Meeting began at 5 p.m.

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

At 10:23 p.m., Chair Marianne LaBarge called the meeting to order. On a roll call, Councilors LaBarge, Foster, Maiore and Quinlan were present. Also present from the City Council was William H. Dwight, Alex Jarrett, James Nash, Gina-Louise Sciarra and John Thorpe.

2. MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2020

Councilor Maiore moved to approve the minutes of March 2, 2020. Councilor Quinlan seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

3. ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

A. 20.050 Appointment of Jonathan Flagg as Building Commissioner

Mayor Narkewicz said it was his great privilege to introduce his appointee to become the next Building Commissioner of the City of Northampton – Jonathan Flagg. Mr. Flagg is currently their Assistant Building Commission and had extensive experience prior to coming to Northampton last fall. He was previously Building Commissioner in the City of Easthampton, Town of Hinsdale, Town of Blandford, City of Westfield and Town of Russell. He also has significant experience in construction running his own carpentry firm and possesses the necessary certifications to hold the office. As many know, long-time Building Commissioner Louis Hasbrouck announced his retirement somewhat earlier than planned to try to help the city during this serious economic situation by preserving and freeing up additional funding in his budget for FY2021. Mr. Hasbrouck strongly supports Mr. Flagg stepping in as the commissioner as does he. It is his pleasure to introduce him and to formally put forward his appointment tonight.

Mr. Flagg said he appreciated the Mayor's endorsement as well as that of his good friend Louis Hasbrouck. Louis and he have a lot of the same background. They got their certifications about 12 years ago at about the same time and have a lot of the same mindset. In working in Westfield

and Easthampton, he and his staff tried to do the best they could to be business-friendly and help developers find ways to advance projects rather than just turning them down. Working with many city planners over the years he has done a lot to encourage development in whatever community he's worked in. He spent five years as Commissioner in Westfield - a city of 45,000 people and 48 square miles - where they were doing about the same number of permits. Northampton is a very busy community - very business-friendly - and he is looking to keep that going as Mr. Hasbrouck has for the past 12 years.

Councilor Quinlan said he is very impressed with Mr. Flagg's reported experience beyond the endorsements of the Mayor and his predecessor. He is very comfortable and thanked him for being there tonight.

Councilor Nash took a quick opportunity to say how terrific his predecessor was and what big shoes he has to fill. Louis was always responsive, thoughtful, brought a lot of detail and really sweated every problem. He was very thoughtful and he really appreciated his bringing that to the Building Department. He is pleased he is Mr. Flagg's ideal for how to fill the job.

Councilor Maiore welcomed Mr. Flagg to the position, and Councilor LaBarge thanked him for taking it. She worked with former Building Commissioner Anthony Patillo and Hasbrouck and both were fantastic Building Commissioners. It will be difficult to fill his shoes, she agreed.

It's the first time he's taken over a position from a Building Commissioner where he actually had time to work with him as a transition, Mr. Flagg related. He has been through some pretty adverse time in different departments and has no doubt he can get the job done, he assured.

Councilor Foster moved to forward the appointment of Jonathan Flagg as Building Commissioner to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Quinlan seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

4. Adjourn

There being no further business, Councilor Quinlan moved to adjourn. Councilor Maiore seconded. The motion carried 4:0 by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

Prepared By:

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