



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 Council President Gina-Louise Sciarra. At 7:13 p.m. on a roll call the following City Councilors were present:

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| 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

Councilor Sciarra announced that the meeting was being held via remote participation and audio and video recorded.

Public Comment

Public Comment

Councilor Sciarra opened the floor to public comment. She explained the procedure she would use in conducting public comment and gave directions for making a public comment via zoom.

Hildegarde Freedman of (413) 582-7081, Northampton identified herself as ‘Birdland 2’ and said she is in the throes of beginning concerts for people who have been discriminated against. They are the performers and are going to be paid in large outdoor settings such as a drive-in. The people on the policing commission are welcome to perform. She sang the song, “I was there on that train with a blackened window pane.”

Northampton Youth Commission Chair Noah Kassis, he/him pronouns, 17 years old, said he was speaking in favor of the ‘Vote16 proposal’ for including in charter revisions the move to lower the voting age for municipal elections to 16. As he thinks they all know, the Northampton Youth Commission is strongly in support of this. They have been working on this for some time and are very excited they are ready to go to the legislature. He offered a few points for why this is very important right now – young people have shown during this pandemic more than ever with both the pandemic and the revival of the civil rights movement that they are ready to be involved in politics and they are incredibly passionate and incredibly interested in fighting for positive change. Increasingly the crises they are seeing, whether around racial justice, the climate crisis, etc., are going to hugely determine the lives of young people as they move forward and he thinks it’s incredibly important that they be given a voice.

Adele Jordan, 17, Ward 7, Northampton Youth Commission, said she is in her 4th year on the Youth Commission and has dedicated the past three years to mainly working on Vote 16 Northampton. It is so important to her and her peers because she has seen firsthand how passionate her peers are about local matters and how much they care about improving the local community. Her government class is the most civically-engaged and informed group that she has ever personally witnessed despite their being 16 years old. They are tackling matters that their leaders shy away from yet are still working toward the point where their voices can be heard. They are directly impacted by changes made to municipal government. By lowering the voting age, their voices will be heard on matters affecting them and their community.

Dahlia Breslow, 16, Ward 2, Northampton Youth Commission, said she supports the initiative to lower the municipal voting age to 16. Like everything the city should pass, it would improve their city. Allowing 16 and 17 year olds to weigh in on issues affecting their city would increase the diversity of voices heard. Lowering the voting age would allow them to vote for School Committee members among other things. “We are educated and responsible enough for that right.”

Ezekiel Baskin echoed the words of previous speaks. Lowering the voting age to 16 is a really great idea that will allow a whole new range of civic-minded, informed and motivated voters to participate. As a side note, he feels like there should be a voting member of the student body on the school committee.

<p><u>Public Hearings</u> <u>Announcement of</u> <u>Public Hearing on</u> <u>Administrative</u> <u>Order</u></p>	<p><u>Public Hearings</u> <u>Announcement of Public Hearing on Administrative Order</u> Councilor Sciarra read the following announcement: The following Public Hearing is hereby advertised in accordance with The Charter of Northampton, Massachusetts, Article 6 ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION, SECTION 6-1 ORGANIZATION OF CITY AGENCIES. BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL, the Northampton City Council will hold a Public Hearing by remote participation on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 7:05 p.m. Instructions for accessing the hearing may be found on the October 15, 2020 City Council agenda to be posted on the city website (www.northamptonma.gov) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City Council will consider proposed amendments to the City of Northampton Administrative Code, Part II Multiple-Member Appointive Organization, Section 23.0 Public Shade Tree Commission.</p> <p>The City Council will hear all persons who wish to be heard thereon. The City Council meeting begins at 7 p.m.</p> <p>Councilor Sciarra read aloud the letter from Mayor David J. Narkewicz dated September 29, 2020 re: changes to the city's Administrative Code.</p>
<p><u>Announcement of</u> <u>Public Hearing -</u> <u>20.003 National</u> <u>Grid/Verizon New</u> <u>England Pole</u> <u>Petition for</u> <u>Beacon Street</u> <u>(Petition</u> <u>#29215572)</u> <u>Public Hearing -</u> <u>20.109 National</u> <u>Grid/Verizon New</u> <u>England Pole</u> <u>Petition for</u> <u>Prospect Street</u> <u>(Petition</u> <u>#29914250)</u></p>	<p><u>Announcement of Public Hearing - 20.003 National Grid/Verizon New England Pole Petition for Beacon Street (Petition #29215572)</u> Councilor Sciarra made the following announcement: Per M.G.L. Chapter 166, Section 22, a public hearing will be held on Thursday, October 15, 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 (Pole Petition #29215572) - Beacon Street.) The hearing will be held via remote participation. Please see the agenda for the October 15, 2020 City Council meeting for instructions for accessing the hearing.</p> <p><u>Public Hearing - 20.109 National Grid/Verizon New England Pole Petition for Prospect Street (Petition #29914250)</u> Councilor Sciarra introduced the public hearing on the Prospect Street pole petition by reading the legal notice.</p> <p>Councilor Dwight moved to open the public hearing. Councilor Jarrett seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote. The hearing was opened at 7:19 p.m.</p> <p>National Grid representative Lisa Jasinski presented the petition, which is for a stub pole to support existing construction. Right now the pole sits inside Childs Park quite a bit and is guyed to a dead tree. At the time they contemplated removing the dead tree, workers thought if they were going to move that guy they really ought to move the pole itself. The project is replacing existing construction and moving it into the public way.</p> <p>Councilor Sciarra asked if any proponents or opponents would like to speak.</p> <p>As no one spoke, Councilor Dwight moved to close the public hearing. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.</p> <p>Councilor Sciarra offered to entertain a motion to approve the petition. Councilor Dwight so moved. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.</p>
<p><u>Updates from</u> <u>Council President/</u> <u>Committee Chairs</u></p>	<p><u>Updates from Council President and Committee Chairs</u> The council will hold a brief special meeting for a second reading on the November 3, 2020 election warrant since it was inadvertently left off the agenda and the omission was unfortunately realized just a little past the deadline. Councilor Sciarra asked for the council's indulgence for what should be a very brief special meeting next Thursday, October 8th at 5 p.m.</p> <p>Councilor Foster said she has a conflict.</p> <p>The City Services Committee will hold its regular meeting via remote participation on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 4 p.m., Councilor LaBarge announced. City Services will hold a special</p>

meeting within the October 15, 2020 City Council meeting for the sole purpose of making a recommendation on the appointment of Mark Dautreuil as Principal Assessor.

The Community Resources Committee will be meeting on a different date in October – Monday, October 26th at 5 p.m. via remote participation, Councilor Nash advised. Committee members will be continuing to do outreach and gathering information on the plastic reduction & sustainability ordinance.

And, meetings of the Northampton Policing Review Commission (NPRC) have commenced, Councilor Quinlan noted. They have had two meetings and he and Councilor Jarrett were able to participate in both. It looks like they are going to continue to meet on Tuesday for the foreseeable future. Co-chairs Dan Cannity and Dana Olivo have been elected and some work is being done to divide into subcommittees to study the issues in depth in smaller groups.

Finally, the Ordinance Review Committee meeting held its first meeting yesterday and he was elected as chair and Megan Paik as vice chair, Councilor Thorpe related. The next meeting will be October 14, 2020 at 7 p.m.

<p><u>Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors</u></p>	<p><u>Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors</u> None.</p>
<p><u>Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor</u></p>	<p><u>Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor</u> None.</p>
<p><u>Resolutions</u></p>	<p><u>Resolutions</u> None.</p>
<p><u>Consent Agenda</u></p>	<p><u>Consent Agenda</u> Councilor Sciarra reviewed the items on the consent agenda, offering to remove any item for separate discussion upon request. Councilor Dwight moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote. The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda: A. <u>Minutes of August 20, 2020</u> B. <u>20.129 Appointment of Marc Dautreuil as Principal Assessor - for referral to City Services Committee</u> C. <u>20.132 Appointments to Arts Council and NHA - for referral to City Services Committee</u> <u>Arts Council</u> Kent Alexander, 174 Island Road, Northampton, Ma Term: October 2020-June 2023 <i>To fill a vacancy</i> <u>Northampton Housing Authority- Board of Commissioners</u> Jeff Jones, UFCW Local 1459, Organized Labor Representative, 76 Woods Road, Florence, MA Term: March 2020-February 2025 <i>Reappointment</i></p>
<p><u>Deliberate and vote on Individual Charter Review Committee Recommendations</u></p>	<p><u>Deliberate and vote on Individual Charter Review Committee Recommendations</u> Councilor Sciarra reminded councilors that they will discuss and act in collaboration with the mayor since changes to the city's charter need to be approved by both branches of government. She recognized the presence of Charter Review Committee (CRC) chair and vice chair Stan Moulton and Sam Hopper. Councilor Dwight moved to recognize CRC member for the purposes of discussion. Councilor Foster seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.</p>

LOWERING THE MUNICIPAL VOTING AGE

Councilor Sciarra read the paragraph from the CRC's executive summary regarding lowering the voting age in municipal elections to 16.

Sam Hopper thanked councilors for their work on the CRC's charter recommendations. The idea of lowering the voting age was first brought to them by Councilor Dwight as the previous council had expressed interest in this idea. Since 2009, average voter turnout has been 38% and was never higher than 58% for city-wide municipal elections, per City Clerk Pamela Powers. Since she presented in 2018, they have had two additional municipal elections and are now up to 39%. A major theme of the CRC was to expand the electorate and maximize participation, and lowering the voting age is one way to do this.

Young people particularly in Northampton are very engaged in local politics. They discussed this at the public forum and wholeheartedly supported it.

One thing discussed is that voting is a right not a privilege. As it is now, the only qualifications are citizenship and age. At the last meeting, they recommended changing the citizenship requirement and they are also recommending changing the age requirement. Voters don't need to own property to vote or demonstrate that they have a knowledge of the issues, pay taxes, etc. - arguments brought up by many against allowing teenagers to vote. Another argument in favor is the importance of civics education for young people. Civics education is a requirement in Massachusetts; in 2018, Governor Baker signed into law a measure to promote and enhance civics education which includes a requirement for student-led civics education projects for grades 8 through 12. Going back to the fact that voting is a right and not a privilege, they are educating students on these topics. Lowering the voting age could really complement the civics education students are receiving from educators. Another benefit is building habits. At 18, a lot of people are in a transitional time in their life and it would be easy to forget to begin voting. If people can start voting at 16, they will be building these habits while they're learning these skills and learning about civics engagement. Also, municipal issues are directly impacting youth, and they wanted to give them an opportunity to have a say.

In the charter now, to run for elected office it just says a person has to be a voter. CRC members discussed whether to lower the eligibility requirement for running too but recommended that the eligibility to run for municipal office should be 18 or over if they lower the municipal voting age. To accomplish this, they would have to redefine voter. Attorney Seewald's suggestion would be to create a new class called "municipal-only voters."

Councilor Dwight moved to accept the recommendation for forwarding to the solicitor. Councilor Maiore seconded.

Councilor Nash said he just wanted to say that this is a great idea. The Youth Commissioners who have engaged them over the years around policing, plastic reduction, etc. have all been so articulate and so engaged. He thoroughly supports this. He actually teared up during public comment, he disclosed.

Councilor Maiore said she feels a lot of pride in the youth in their city. They know voting is a right but if it's something they had to earn they've more than earned it. It's been such a pleasure to be working with the Youth Commission on the plastics ban. The youth in their city are an integral part of local government and that's as it should be. Also, with the looming climate crisis, she thinks young adults more than ever deserve the opportunity to vote on their future.

Councilor Quinlan asked how many potential voters this would add to Northampton's rolls.

Clerk Powers gave them some numbers some time ago of how many youth are pre-registered to vote, Ms. Hopper said. She doesn't have the number but people they spoke to enthusiastically reported that many they knew would be ready to vote.

Councilor Quinlan noted that the two sons in the Quinlan household are both former Youth Commission members and they are so proud of them for that. His son Tucker is one of the youth who presented to the CRC on this very topic. Noah Kassis said participation would be the same for youths as for adults, it wouldn't be lower.

This started well over six years ago when it was introduced to the Youth Commission by former Council President Ryan O'Donnell, Councilor Dwight related. All who first heard and discussed the idea have now been voting for years. Many of them have actually gone into activism, social justice work and even governance. When the state made it allowable for people to register at 16 and get automatic voting rights at 18, the Youth Commission made a big push to get as many as possible registered and were quite successful. There are people queued up and have been people queued up for years now waiting to be enfranchised to participate in decisions that are going to directly impact them. "For us aging boomers – provided we survive the pandemic - our say means less, our skin in the game is diminished," he pointed out. Youths' urgency is amplified by the fact that this is their future. To have people of his age group dictate the terms and conditions they have to endure seems grossly unfair. The arguments they have heard against expanding the democratic base are the exact same arguments that were advanced to prevent women and African Americans from voting. When the phrase one man/one vote was coined; it was one man who owned property which could include other human beings. "We have evolved, our constitution evolves and our democracy evolves," he asserted.

He referred to political arguments that expanding the electorate benefits one party. There are consequences to low voter turnout - serious consequences, including here locally. They have frequently heard the question of whether the government reflects the people it serves. They come up short in a number of ways not the least of which is a younger age group.

He offered his thanks to former Councilor O'Donnell for actually promoting this to start with. The Youth Commission took to this with a zeal he is proud to witness. They knew it was going to be a long slog but the fact is that they are committed. He hasn't seen anything comparable in self-identified adult committees. He couldn't endorse this more strongly and will continue to work to see that this is realized for the city and hopefully the state and even the nation.

There were 878 students in Northampton High School last year so they can assume about half of those will become eligible; they may be looking at 500, Councilor Jarrett offered as a 'back of the envelope' guess. The City Council earlier passed a resolution in favor of lowering the voting age and supported the Empower Act. A key reason for him is that 16 and 17 year olds possess the same critical thinking skills as 18 year olds and in countries where the voting age has been lowered, studies have shown the electorate is no less informed.

She has always supported the Youth Commission and is supporting lowering the voting age, Councilor LaBarge confirmed. She thinks the Youth Commission has done an excellent job. She remembers marching at Northampton High School with all the young students in regard to gun violence. She was extremely proud of all of the students who got together as activists and to raise their voices. "I will support this," she assured. "I think their voices are going to be very, very critical here in our city of Northampton."

Councilor Foster thanked the CRC, Councilor Dwight, former Councilor O'Donnell and the young people who spoke tonight. She is pretty excited about a lot of the work of the CRC and the idea of expanding the electorate is something she's really excited about and proud to be able to vote on tonight. They have this group of people who are asking to be enfranchised. One of her first jobs out of college was as a high school teacher. There's a propensity in their society to be dismissive of young people, but the youth she's had the privilege of working with are engaged, active, thoughtful people. "I agree they should have a say in who represents them locally." Northampton has an opportunity to be a leader here. "We have the opportunity here right in our own community to set policies that reflect the values of our community and I very much look forward to supporting this."

Councilor Thorpe thanked the Youth Commission, former Councilor O'Donnell, Councilor Dwight, Sam Hopper, others on the CRC and everyone who worked on this. He remembers he was working at 16 and also paying taxes, so he is definitely in support of this.

Councilor Sciarra noted she is part of the old guard of councilors who have been working on this with resolutions and supporting this for years. She has been amazed and astounded by the thoughtfulness and eloquence that the youth of Northampton have shown around this issue and in general. She was at the meeting where they presented to the CRC and that conversation, the back and forth that they had with the commission, was truly astounding. Their comprehension

and their thoughtfulness, how much work they have put into it and how deeply they have internalized this message, understood it and been able to express it is something she is incredibly envious of and would be proud to emulate. She is glad they are one step closer to moving this forward.

The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

She asked if Mayor Narkewicz had anything to add. This is something the Mayor's Youth Commission has been working on for a number of years and he is fully supportive of it, Mayor Narkewicz confirmed.

MAILING BALLOTS TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

Councilor Sciarra read the paragraph summarizing the recommendation to approve mailing ballots to all registered voters from the CRC's executive summary. The pandemic has really accelerated this conversation, she observed.

Councilor Dwight moved to accept the CRC's recommendation. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

She wanted to go back to the average turnout for municipal elections being 39% and reiterate that a major theme of the CRC was expanding the electorate and maximizing voter participation, Sam Hopper reminded. Mailing ballots to all registered voters is another opportunity to be seized. This was brought to them by City Clerk Pamela Powers. When they made this recommendation they certainly didn't anticipate a global pandemic. The provision for mailing ballots this year was only done for 2020 elections. There is legislation pending to make it available to all registered voters but she believes it was sent to study.

With this change, ballots would be mailed to every registered voter in the city in the hopes to increase voter participation. Clerk Powers raised the following important questions in making her presentation, and she wanted to repeat them. How does Northampton assure that every voice is heard? How do they insure that the elderly, infirm, over-scheduled parents and caregivers, people with disabilities and others in their city who are most vulnerable but still have a right to cast their vote are provided with the most convenient opportunity? How do they remove nearly every barrier to voting? The answer can be mailing everyone a ballot. They discussed that mailing ballots is not new; it is done in other states, most prominently, Oregon.

Clerk Powers shared at the forum that the estimated cost to run the city's election is \$30,000 whether one voter shows up or 20,000. By maximizing voter turnout, they would be maximizing the city's cost to run elections.

Being mailed a ballot is a prompt. Clerk Powers was joined by a couple of members from the Board of Registrars who noted that, as registrars, their objective is to engage the electorate in the election process, maximize voter participation and protect the integrity of the ballots cast. CRC members wholeheartedly supported making it easier for everyone to vote.

As he alluded to before, they've been watching a very graphic and grotesque demonstration of the tactics that are applied by cynical people who think that a depressed voter turnout is a successful voter turnout for them, most grotesquely by the president who is trying at every turn to cast doubt on the security and viability of a mail-in ballot, Councilor Dwight observed. One of the most important things that they've all discovered as they've had an opportunity to vote with a mail-in ballot is that Clerk Powers was able to pull it off seamlessly and voter turnout was unprecedented for the primary. The turnout was loud in volume and he can only hope that the next round is equally so for the rest of the nation. To the clerk's credit – we have a clerk who is devoted to the very ethos of what an election should be and what democracy should be, and she takes it very seriously – she didn't have to advance these. In some cases, the proposals will involve extra work on her part and her office. He is very proud that they have the clerk that they have at this time at this most critical juncture while they all get an education on the value of a ballot. "I can't think of a better person to be our shepherd here locally," he attested.

Councilor LaBarge echoed what Councilor Dwight said about their city clerk – she has worked tirelessly. You can go down to the center of Northampton early in the morning and there is her car and she's there every day until late evening. She also wanted to thank her staff and thinks it's important that they be recognized. She is not happy about COVID-19 but thinks mail-in voting is

the right way to go someday. She had so many people tell her how happy they were to receive their ballot in the mail. She thanked Ms. Hopper for coming out and educating the public.

Councilor Foster echoed that she was impressed to hear about the big increase in voter turnout with the mail-in voting. She can attest to Clerk Powers commitment to making it possible for everyone to vote as she witnessed the lengths she went to to get one of her residents a ballot the Saturday before the election. As to the point about who they are enfranchising, in 2016, when Trump was elected, she was working on a contract at nature's classroom to support an elementary school student on a class field trip. The child has pretty severe disabilities and is one of three children with disabilities. They were talking about the election and, toward the end of the day, somebody asked the mom if she had voted yet. She said she just couldn't make it happen because one child had a medical need, the others needed dinner and another needed to go to bed. It was heartbreaking. Imagine if this very overwhelmed, very caring woman had received a ballot in the mail and had just voted. Any opportunity they can give people to participate is one they should take and mailing ballots is one. It sounds simple, just go to the polls on election day, but it is not that simple for an awful lot of people, she stressed.

Councilor Jarrett said he is very much in support of this. Nine states including California will be mailing ballots to all registered voters and five states did this before COVID, he noted. Voter fraud is exceedingly rare, including in states where voters vote almost entirely by mail. Oregon has voted by mail since 2000 and has reported only 14 fraudulent votes attempted by mail as of 2018. There is research from the National Academy of Sciences which says that universal vote by mail does not seem to affect either parties share of turn out or increase either party's vote share but does modestly increase average turnout rates. This debunks many claims floating around right now.

Mayor Narkewicz said he supports this and agrees with what others have said and the reasons Clerk Powers advocated for this. They certainly had clear evidence that there was support for this in Northampton. Almost 70% of those who voted chose to vote by mail. If they add up the percentages of those who voted early or by mail it was over 70%. Clearly they see that it has worked, especially with the technology that they have now to track ballots. In terms of being able to assure voters that their ballot has arrived and that there's not more than one ballot, that's really easy with technology.

Councilor Sciarra reminded councilors that they passed a resolution in early May supporting state legislation to allow vote by mail. If they believe it should happen at the state level, it would surely be in line to support it at the municipal level.

The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

REMOVING THE NEED TO CITE A SPECIFIC REASON TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Councilor Sciarra read the paragraph recommending the proposal from the CRC's executive summary.

Councilor Dwight moved to accept the recommendation. Councilor Maiore seconded.

This was another proposal presented by Clerk Powers. If mailing ballots is not enacted, this would be the next choice, Ms. Hopper explained. As of now, if someone wants to vote absentee they have to qualify. Three reasons are accepted: being away from the city or town on election day, having a disability that keeps you from voting at your polling place, or having a religious belief that prevents you from voting at the polling place on election day.

Being able to vote absentee without an excuse would enable more voting options and maximize voter participation if mail-in ballots are not approved.

Massachusetts is still is one of the most restrictive states in terms of the criteria voters need to meet in order to request an absentee ballot, Councilor Sciarra advised.

As Sam said, this is basically the belt and suspenders version of a charter recommendation, Councilor Dwight commented. If the state fails to see the wisdom of mail-in ballots, at the very least it should lower the criteria for qualification for absentee voting. Qualifications for absentee

voting are for privileged people and do not take into account the myriad of reasons other people might not be able to make it to the polls. He is enormously proud of the fact that they have a city clerk who really understands the moral weight of her job. He is only too glad to support her recommendations.

Councilor LaBarge said she is very happy about this change. "I find it very restrictive." It is also a civil rights issue to her. She thinks people have the right to vote any way they want to. "I am very happy to support this," she concluded.

This would be for all municipal elections, Ms. Hopper clarified. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

Mr. Moulton said he wanted to take a moment on behalf of the committee to thank the council for its thoughtful consideration of all its recommendations. He knows that many of them before even being elected took an interest in what they were doing on the committee. Members sincerely appreciate the seriousness with which they considered the recommendations and the careful questions asked. The fact that all recommendations – major and minor – were accepted by the council is very validating of their work. He thanked the mayor for his help and for the support of his staff; Lyn Simmons was a very valuable member and Annie Lesko was invaluable in taking minutes of their deliberations. Not only was Solicitor Seewald's legal wisdom extremely helpful, but his experience with the charter and good humor really helped them through this daunting process. He thinks they should take a minute to acknowledge the sweeping nature of the package. He is not aware of another community that has put together all of the recommendations as a package as they have done. He thinks the fact that the City Council and CRC adopted all these unanimously without dissent is remarkable. There is obviously a lot of work ahead to get this through the legislature, but he thinks this is a significant moment and he hopes the local history books recognize its significance.

Councilor Sciarra thanked Mr. Moulton and Ms. Hopper for their leadership in this process.

Councilor Dwight facetiously proposed that Mr. Moulton and Ms. Hopper be made chairs of all future committees. The fact that the process was so successful is almost exclusively due to both their leadership and their hard work.

Councilor Sciarra checked in with Attorney Seewald to see if he needed any further clarification. When he needs clarification, they will be hearing from him, he assured. He is going to get working on it forthwith.

<p><u>Recess for Committee on Finance Meeting</u></p>	<p>At 8:27 p.m., the City Council recessed for the Committee on Finance. The Committee on Finance adjourned at 8:29 p.m. The City Council reconvened at 8:29 p.m.</p>
<p><u>Financial Orders (on 1st reading pending Finance review)</u></p>	<p><u>Financial Orders (on 1st reading pending Finance review)</u> None.</p>
<p><u>Financial Orders (in 2nd reading)</u> <u>20.118 Order to Appropriate \$54,075 in CPA Funds for West Farms Road APR Project – 2nd rdg</u></p>	<p><u>Financial Orders (in 2nd reading)</u> <u>20.118 An Order to Appropriate \$54,075 in CPA Funds for West Farms Road APR Project – 2nd reading</u> Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote. <u>The following order passed two readings:</u></p>

City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council, September 17, 2020

Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee

20.118 An Order to Appropriate \$54,075 in CPA Funds for West Farms Road APR Project

Ordered, that

WHEREAS, The Northampton Conservation and Agricultural Commissions, and the Office of Planning & Sustainability submitted a Community Preservation Act application for protection of 36.1 acres at the Hickory Dell Farm on West Farms Road within the Mineral Hills Greenway with a permanent Agricultural Preservation Restriction;

WHEREAS, the project meets the goals of the Sustainable Northampton Plan, Northampton Community Preservation Plan, and Open Space, Recreation and Multi-use Trail Plan to protect open space and agricultural land in active production, and protect heritage landscapes;

WHEREAS, CPA funds will provide the required local match for \$559,550 in Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources funds;

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2019, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously to recommend that \$54,075 in new Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project (in addition to \$21,375 funds on hand from previously appropriated CPA funds).

Ordered, that

\$54,075 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to the Office of Planning and Sustainability for the West Farms Road Agricultural Preservation Restriction Project. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$54,075 is appropriated from the CPA Open Space Reserve (account #2344930-359931).

Further, that the City, acting through its Conservation Commission is authorized to purchase or otherwise acquire for conservation, agricultural and passive recreation purposes, as provided by Section 8C of Chapter 40 of the General Laws, the Community Preservation Act, and Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, the above-described agricultural preservation restriction as defined in Section 31 of Chapter 184 of the General Laws, and that the City Council hereby approves such restrictions.



Passed two readings and enrolled.

20.122 Order to
Appropriate FY21
CPA Funds for
Community Preser-
vation Purposes –
2nd reading

20.122 An Order to Appropriate FY2021 CPA Funds for Community Preservation Purposes - 2nd reading

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

The following order passed two readings:

**City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS**

In City Council, September 17, 2020

Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee

20.122 An Order to appropriate FY2021 CPA Funds for Community Preservation Purposes

Ordered, that

The following amounts be appropriated or reserved from fiscal year 2021 Community Preservation Fund estimated revenues \$1,640,680 (\$1,390,407 FY21 local assessment estimate, plus \$250,273 estimated state match) for fiscal year 2021 Community Preservation purposes:

\$180,475 from FY21 Total Estimated CPA Revenue to the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve (account # 2344930-359931)

\$180,475 from FY21 Total Estimated CPA Revenue to the Community Preservation Fund Historic Preservation Reserve (account # 2344930-359932)

\$180,475 from FY21 Total Estimated CPA Revenue to the Community Preservation Fund Affordable Housing Reserve (account # 2344930-359933)

\$75,000 from FY21 Total Estimated CPA Revenue to the Community Preservation Fund Administrative Account (account # 2344930-359934)

\$1,024,255 from FY21 Total Estimated CPA Revenue to the Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve (account # 2344930-359930)

Also, the following amounts be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve (account #2344930-359930) for FY21 Community Preservation bonding repayment purposes:

\$60,000 for principal and \$7,875 for interest for Bean Farm bond (account #3100931-393102-11)

\$90,000 for principal and \$18,900 for interest for Florence Fields bond (account #3100931-393103-12)

\$265,000 for principal and \$7,950 for interest for Pulaski Park I bond (account #3100931-393104-15)

\$65,000 for principal and \$15,400 for interest for Pulaski Park II bond (account #3100931-393105-16)

Passed two readings and enrolled.

Orders
20.130 Order to Designate Northampton Policing Review Commission Members as Special Municipal Employees - 1st reading

Orders
20.130 An Order to Designate Northampton Policing Review Commission Members as Special Municipal Employees - 1st reading

Councilor Sciarra read the order.

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

This designation is allowed under Mass. General Law and given to most of their boards and commissions, Mayor Narkewicz explained. They have a long list of them – everything from the Planning Board to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Boards have many people who are professionals - lawyers, architects, etc. Without designation as a special municipal employee (SME) they would essentially be prevented in their professional lives from doing work in the City of Northampton. It is a very common exemption. The city solicitor actually suggested it and pointed out that the council did something similar for the Charter Review Commission. This would extend the same legal status to the newly-appointed members of the policing review commission.

Councilor Jarrett noted that, in the past when they did this designation, they did it by ordinance.

If he could go back in time, he would probably not have done it that way, Mayor Narkewicz said.

They used to do it by order. They actually moved it into the ordinance so it would be easy to find in one place but it was really intended for standing committees. They thought that because this was an ad hoc committee, putting it in the ordinance didn't make a lot of sense. Bodies like the Select Committee on Pesticide Reduction (SCPR) will be in ordinance even when it no longer exists. At some point they may go back and amend the ordinance to remove SCPR.

Councilor Jarrett noted they might want to consider extending the designation to the Ordinance Review Commission.

Councilor Maiore asked councilors serving on the NPRC to let other members know. The Conflict of Interest Law covers all municipal employees but sections of the law apply less restrictively to unpaid employees and members designated as SME's. If you work for the city you can't serve two masters; you can't represent someone else before the city in any matter. Without the designation, many people would be disqualified from serving on city boards.

SME status just adds to the exemptions available to commission members, particularly contract-related exemptions. Councilor Dwight noted that the status does not apply to elected officials on this committee. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

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

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

The following order passed two readings:

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council October 1, 2020

Upon recommendation of the Mayor and City Council President

20.130 An Order to Designate Northampton Policing Review Commission Members as Special Municipal Employees

Ordered, that

Members of the Northampton Policing Review Commission - jointly appointed by the Mayor and City Council - are designated as special municipal employees in accordance with MGL c. 268A, § 1(n).

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

<u>Ordinances (Not Yet Referred)</u>	<u>Ordinances (Not Yet Referred)</u> None.
<u>Ordinances</u>	<u>Ordinances</u> None.
<u>New Business</u>	<u>New Business</u> None
<u>Information (Charter)</u>	<u>Information (Charter Provision 2-7) and Information Study Requests</u> None

Provision 2-7)
& Study Requests

Motion to Adjourn

Upon motion made by Councilor Dwight and seconded by Councilor Jarrett, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m. The motion carried unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

Attest: _____ Administrative Assistant to the City Council