



## **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: September 9, 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 4:02 p.m., Councilor Carney called the meeting to order. 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. PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no members of the public present, there was no public comment.

#### 3. MINUTES OF AUGUST 15, 2019

Councilor Bidwell moved to approve the minutes of August 15, 2019. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed by voice vote with 4 Yes, 0 No.

#### 4. ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

##### A. 19.124 Appointments to Various Committees – referred by City Council 7/11/2019

##### Arts Council

**Eamonn Crowley-Edge**, 56 Summer Street, Northampton

Term: July 2019-June 2022

*Reappointment*

##### Central Business Architecture Committee

**Melissa Frydio**, 123 South Street, #2, Northampton

Term: July 2019-June 2022

*Reappointment*

**Bridget Goggins**, 783 Bridge Road, Northampton- (Association of Realtors member)

Term: July 2019-June 2022

*Reappointment*

### Housing Partnership

**Richard Abuza**, 245 Chestnut Street, Florence

Term: July 2019-June 2022

*Reappointment*

### Planning Board

**Euripedes De Oliveira**, 35 New South Street, #205, Northampton

Term: July 2019-June 2022

*Reappointment*

Councilor Carney said she reviewed the reappointment for Eamonn Crowley-Edge. He wrote that he was excited to be reappointed to the Arts Council, enjoys the work of the committee and sees all around the impact of bringing arts to the community. He believes supporting the community and the arts is important and views his service on the council as 'doing his part.' He is looking forward to continuing to serve and building on this service.

Councilor Bidwell moved a positive recommendation for Eamonn Crowley-Edge to the Arts Council. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

He spoke to Melissa Frydio, and she is very experienced as a construction manager and Owner's Project Manager (OPM); in fact she was very much involved in the Nielsen Library redevelopment for Smith College, Councilor Bidwell reported. She is now with her own firm. She would be moving from an alternate member to a full member of the Central Business Architecture Committee (CBAC). She has really enjoyed her time as an alternate and looks forward to serving as a permanent member.

Councilor Bidwell moved to forward the appointment of Melissa Frydio to the CBAC with a positive recommendation. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

He spoke to Bridget Goggins last week, Councilor Bidwell continued. She is one of Pat Goggins' daughters and recently moved back to Northampton to become involved in the family real estate business. She has a great deal of background in historic preservation and the arts. She has really enjoyed her time on the committee and looks forward to continuing. She has been particularly impressed with the new design guidelines being brought forward, he volunteered.

Councilor Bidwell moved to reappoint Bridget Goggins to the Central Business Architecture Committee (CBAC). Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0.

Councilor LaBarge said she had a lengthy talk with Richard Abuza, a candidate for reappointment to the Housing Partnership. Even though he is applying for reappointment, providing new

and maintaining the city's stock of existing affordable housing has always been a difficult challenge, he reported. She read the following written statement:

"Added to that, Northampton has a strong housing market, which makes providing new affordable housing even more challenging. In my three decades of service on the Northampton Housing Partnership (since its inception), I am keenly aware of the complexity of this task. I believe that my insight and experience on the Partnership has meaningfully contributed to our progress on this important work of providing housing opportunities for people across a broad range of income levels.

In addition, my experience as a general contractor and housing renovator has been a useful asset to bring to the Partnership's work. Also, my business experience as a professional property manager and provider of residential rental housing give me real world insight into the realities of the many of the processes at play, which also enhances our work on the Partnership. My experience in having run multiple retail businesses in our community also gives me a unique close connection and insight into that aspect of Northampton. These inter-related issues have bearing on the Partnership's tasks, including on our need to have this housing work broadly supported throughout the entire community.

I continue to look for ways to serve this community we all cherish. I hope to continue my service on the Housing Partnership to further this important work."

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the appointment of Richard Abuza to the Housing Partnership with a positive recommendation. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0.

Councilor Nash said he talked to Euripedes de Oliveira today. They had an interesting conversation, avoiding current topics before the Planning Board. They talked about Sergeant House, the Lumberyard and Valley CDC projects. His general comment was that the edge that he's always working has to do with the community's rights against the private property owner's rights. Councilor Nash really appreciated that he was bringing that perspective in, he shared.

De Oliveira sees himself as a pragmatist and likes to see things get done. He is also a professor at UMass and often encourages his students to come to Planning Board meetings. He found him very competent and just the kind of person he would like to see on the Planning Board.

Councilor Nash moved to forward the appointment of Mr. De Oliveira with a positive recommendation. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Discuss Schedule for October meeting/Councilor Nolan ceremony

Members discussed the schedule for the October 7, 2019 meeting, since former City Councilor Kevin Nolan is planning a media event in Council Chambers that day. Councilor Bidwell said he will be out of town. He suggested inviting former Ward 2 councilors Paul Spector and Frances Volkmann and asked the administrative assistant to relay this suggestion to the Mayor's office. He added that it would also be nice to include the candidate for election to Ward 2, Karen Foster.

**B. Information Requests for Upcoming Meetings**

Councilor LaBarge suggested inviting the director of senior services to the November meeting, and other members agreed. Other ideas included an update on economic development, but it was noted that this was more the purview of the Community Resources Committee.

6. **Adjourn**

**Upon motion made by Councilor Bidwell and seconded by Councilor Nash, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.**

*Prepared By:*

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