



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: December 5, 2019
Location: City Council Chambers
212 Main St., Northampton, Massachusetts

Note: The City Services Committee Meeting took place during the City Council Meeting as announced. The City Council Meeting began at 7 p.m.

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

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

At 10:31 p.m., Councilor Carney called the meeting to order. On a roll call, Councilors Carney, Bidwell, LaBarge and Nash were present. Also present from the City Council were William H. Dwight, Alisa F. Klein, David Murphy and Ryan O'Donnell. Councilor Sciarra was absent.

Councilor Carney noted they are meeting now because they had to cancel Monday's meeting due to a snowstorm.

2. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 4, 2019

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

3. ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- A. 19.168 Appointment to the Conservation Commission, referred by City Council - 11/7/2019

Conservation Commission

Alec Bernstein, 266 Grove Street, #7, Northampton

Term: October 2019 to June 2022

To fill a vacancy

Councilor Bidwell reported on the results of his interview with Mr. Bernstein. Mr. Bernstein is a hydro systems manager at UMass/Amherst with extensive experience as a watershed engineer. He is eager to apply his professional experience to Conservation Commission issues.

Councilor Bidwell moved to forward his appointment to the Conservation Commission with a positive recommendation. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed by voice vote with 4 Yes, 0 No.

B. 19.175 Appointment to Various Committees, referred by City Council - 11/21/2019

Disability Commission

Marilyn E. Clare, 256 Pleasant St. #414, Northampton

Term: November 2019 to June 2022

To fill a vacancy

Public Shade Tree Commission

David Lukens, 45 Ridgewood Terrace, Northampton

Term: November 2019 to June 2022

To fill a vacancy

Councilor LaBarge said she had a lengthy talk with Marilyn, whose knowledge was formed by her own experience being disabled and using a wheelchair and power chair. Ms. Clare feels her experience brought to her attention some of the problems that can occur in Northampton being disabled. She has lived in the city for six years and really enjoys living in Northampton. She feels she could bring sensitivity to the challenges faced by a vulnerable population and intense curiosity about the goals of the Disability Commission. She is retired and has the time to be involved. She has a Master's in clinical social work and graduated from Wesleyan in Middlebury, VT.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the appointment of Marilyn Clare to the Disability Commission with a positive recommendation. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with 4 Yes, 0 No.

Councilor Nash spoke to Mr. Lukens Monday morning. He is a former Ward 3 resident who he knows through his work at the Montessori School and many comments related to trucks in Ward 3. He is a lawyer in the area of land protection. He has already immersed himself in the areas of zoning and tree protection and is prepared to start that conversation.

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

4. NEW BUSINESS

None.

5. Adjourn

Upon motion made by Councilor Bidwell and seconded by Councilor Nash, the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 p.m.

Prepared By:

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