



CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
Northampton, Massachusetts

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by Council President Jim Nash at 7:02 p.m. Upon a roll call, the following City Councilors were present:

- |                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| At-Large Councilor Marissa Elkins     | At-Large Councilor Jamila Gore       |
| Ward 1 Councilor Stanley Moulton, III | Ward 2 Councilor Karen Foster        |
| Ward 3 Councilor James Nash           | Ward 4 Councilor Garrick Perry       |
| Ward 5 Councilor Alexander Jarrett    | Ward 6 Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge |
| Ward 7 Councilor Rachel Maiore        |                                      |

Announcement that Meeting Audio/Video Recorded

Northampton Open Media representative David Newland said he was having a technical problem broadcasting the meeting live which he was trouble-shooting as they spoke. Since the meeting was being recorded for later broadcast, he said the council could convene and he would begin live-streaming as soon as the problem is resolved.

Council President Nash announced that the meeting was being audio/video recorded.

Public Hearings

Public Hearings  
None.

Public Comment

Public Comment

Councilor Nash explained the procedure he would use in conducting public comment and opened the floor to comments.

**Laurie Loisel** stated that she wasn't able to change her screen name but that she was here as a resident and not representing the Northwestern District Attorney's office. She has lived in Northampton since 1983. She thanked councilors for the work they put into making these decisions, saying she was here to speak to the cannabis cap. She was happy to see marijuana possession decriminalized and thinks it was right to legalize it for a lot of reasons, but she still thinks they need to enact local regulations to protect the community from the harmful effects of cannabis. It is their job as city leaders to develop public health-conscious regulations taking into account the most vulnerable of those who live and work here, she suggested.

To her, this is about inclusivity and the desire to have a community that welcomes and embraces all of them. She wants Northampton to be family-friendly, youth-supportive and recovery aware.

Why not impose a cap? She asked rhetorically. There is adequate access to cannabis. Legislation allows caps, which are not, by the way, prohibition. It is using the mechanisms allowed by law to fit this new industry into their community in a way that meets their needs and values. Saying that they don't cap the number of coffee shops and clothing stores is disingenuous and cynical in that it ignores legitimate public health concerns around this particular industry. "We face an alarming addiction crisis in our nation right now."

This is about balance. It's asking elected representatives to think about all of their constituents, not just dispensary owners and others making money off of legal weed, but families and youth and people in recovery. "You represent them all."

There is a well-documented addiction and mental health crisis in this country. It is their responsibility to balance the needs of free enterprise with the needs of their residents and to use the regulation mechanisms at their disposal to meet those needs. A cap will hurt nobody but it might help make this community feel a little more hospitable to people most vulnerable to addictive substances like cannabis.

**Rick Haggerty of Florence** thanked everyone for reading all of the data he's sent, saying he greatly appreciates their taking the time to read the information. It's from the heart because he lost his son to an addiction. They know that people from the community have been harmed, such as the young person in West Springfield who was working in a cannabis manufacturing place and so many others who could be and have been harmed. Psychologist and brain disorder specialist Dr. Aemon issued a brain scan comparison showing that five years of smoking cannabis is equal to three years of doing opiates. He is an elementary special education teacher and knows there has been quite a bit of harm though cannabis-laden edibles that are mistaken as candy. As a teacher, he does his best to model fairness, respect, trustworthiness and responsibility and asks that of his students as well. He is asking councilors for that same kind of fairness, respect, trustworthiness and responsibility toward their citizens and would certainly request a cap. He thanked them for all they've done.

**Heather Warner**, too, thanked councilors for all the work they have put into this and all the inquiries they have made to insure they understand the data. They know that youth in Hampshire County are accessing retail products. They know that youth who live in towns with five or more retailers are more likely to use and to use more heavily than those in communities with fewer retail outlets. They also know that there are inequities related to race and income in terms of youth use.

Today, she wants to share some other public health thoughts. The Mayor and others are saying the cannabis market is waning and that the number of establishments will self-regulate. She would pose that they don't know that. The cannabis industry is still new and is going through growing pains in Northampton. The reason they have a cannabis retailer closing and few new applicants may not be a simple equation. The price of cannabis is plummeting and space rental prices are high. As new regulations emerge to limit cannabis canopy in Massachusetts, this may change how retailers view the market. As new products emerge and social cafes come into the market this too will shift the market and may renew interest in opening additional retailers. "We don't know; this is new. We should be thinking proactively about what we want our community to look like." They should not wait until they find themselves reacting to public outcry and stuck in a situation where there are new applicants who have invested money in Northampton and they could risk a lawsuit. Short of setting a cap in 2018, this is now the time to set a cap. If the market is truly saturated, this will do no harm.

Where public health is concerned, being proactive is important.

**Rebecca Busansky of Northampton** urged the City Council to vote in favor of the cap on marijuana dispensaries. She is not opposed to having legalized pot shops in Northampton. She is speaking because she is deeply concerned about the negative impact so many pot shops are having on their kids and on their downtown business district. Northampton has a disproportionately high number of dispensaries per capita, and this increases access and normalizes cannabis use for children. According to the state Cannabis Control Commission (CCC), Northampton currently ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the number of cannabis retailers in Massachusetts, second only to Boston. The Northampton Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) recently reported that proximity matters and that they are seeing this in Hampshire County. The more adult use cannabis retailers middle and high school students report are with a 10-minute drive of where they live, the greater their own 30-day cannabis use. Let there be no confusion, their kids are using more because of the high number of dispensaries in Northampton. While serving as a School Committee member, she was the liaison to the Northampton Prevention Coalition (NPC) from 2017 to 2021. During this time, their middle school administrators began finding NETA cases at Northampton High School (NHS) for the first time ever. This increased access to dispensary products doesn't make their kids safer as some might want them to believe, it increases access and increases use.

She is also concerned about the negative impact this high number of pot shops is having on their downtown. Not only does downtown Northampton need a greater diversity of stores and fewer vacant storefronts, ultimately, the high number of marijuana dispensaries is hurting their downtown and contributing to the number of vacant storefronts by driving up rent.

**Michael Willers**, Florence resident and pediatric cardiologist at Mass General, spoke in favor of the cannabis cap. He is not anti-marijuana; he is however pro-youth and pro-Northampton. They have seen data from SPIFFY gathered right in their hometown that shows that the closer

young people are to a cannabis dispensary, the more likely they are to use. The more cannabis use among young people, the more injury to their brains, hearts and lungs. In particular, cannabis use can cause psychiatric issues in young people, including outright frank psychosis that can last for days. It can also cause neurologic and developmental impairment and addiction. Although the cannabis industry would like you to believe that cannabis is not addictive, don't believe it; the medical literature states otherwise. Closer to home, cannabis can cause cardiac arrhythmia – heart rhythm problems - which he's seen in his own practice. It can cause a sudden drop in blood pressure and loss of consciousness, which he also sees with some frequency. Finally, smoking cannabis leads to the same heart and lung disease that tobacco does. That's been well-documented. They don't exactly know what vaping will do because it is still new, but he can guarantee that in 20 or 30 years they will find that toxic metals and chemicals do not do good things to lungs. From a pro-Northampton standpoint, if they let the market sort it out there will continue to be turnover of storefronts and more storefronts will lie empty. Landlords will keep the rents high, holding out for cannabis stores to come in, and they will continue to see an empty downtown.

The Mayor has said a well-regulated cannabis industry is important to Northampton. If so, then let's regulate it well, he concluded.

**Adele Franks of Florence** said she is here to speak in favor of the financial orders asking to appropriate Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds for affordable housing; in particular, the CPA funds for Habitat for Humanity homes on Burts Pit Road because it represents one of the very few paths to home ownership for low income people.

**Patty Healey of Longfellow Drive**, a registered nurse who has worked in addictions, said she appreciated the comments previous to her and is also speaking in favor of the proposed ordinance to establish the cap. The alcohol industry post-prohibition also became heavily regulated and taxed but it did not stop the amount of underage drinking or the huge amount of alcoholism in their country. Big Tobacco built a profitable cigarette addiction model by suppressing and manipulating health data, and it took 40 years for a public health campaign to counter the disastrous effects of smoking and save lives.

Guess who's investing in the marijuana industry? She shared. The maker of Marlboro cigarettes, Altria, has already invested \$2 billion in the Canadian marijuana company Chronos and another \$12 billion in Jewel in 2019. Imperial Brands is investing as well. Very big tobacco companies are beginning to invest in marijuana production. Altria lobbies U.S. federal lawmakers; clearly, they want to see legalization federally. Altria also owns Canopy Growth - a giant marijuana firm - which just hired house speaker John Boehner to be its chief lobbyist at the federal level. Retail and medical licenses in some states now outnumber food chains. Colorado has more marijuana retail sites than all the McDonalds and Starbucks put together.

**Mimi Odgers, Ward 6**, said she is going to be in the minority tonight because she is speaking *against* a cap on cannabis shops. By capping, it seems as though they are basically creating winners for the people who already own cannabis shops, she explained. In capitalism, they have markets to allow people to challenge businesses, but they are basically protecting all the businesses currently in place because they are not going to have any future competition. They can do whatever business practices they want, including choosing to raise their prices.

She is not here to say that cannabis cannot be problematic. Patty Healey just talked about how in Denver there are more cannabis shops than McDonalds and Starbucks. Well, McDonalds and Starbucks are also really bad for their youth. There are a lot of bad things out there like video games and rock music. There have always been bad things and they have all grown up with bad, challenging things.

She doesn't think choosing the magic number of 12 makes any sense. The magic number of 12 can actually go up because if social equity groups come in, they can open a shop. There could be 20 shops as long as they have social equity owners. She thinks government shouldn't get involved in the business market. If they want to regulate hours or how much THC can be in products, she would be in favor of that. They are stuck with Comcast because governments made an agreement and residents are left paying through the nose for services. She doesn't agree for those reasons. She doesn't think government should be picking winners and losers when it comes to business.

**Jackie Balance of Florence** commented that never in her wildest dreams when she was in college back in the 60's did she dream that she would one day complain that there were too many pot shops in her town. This is the nicest problem anybody should have, but if she had her druthers they would have pot shops in the single digits. She thinks the current number of pot shops are enough to keep Northampton and its visitors high for a long time. She thinks that the sponsors of the ordinance to cap are in touch with their constituents and know what the grassroots wants. If they are really concerned about controlling business they could put a two-year cap on the ordinance. "Right now we're swimming in cannabis," she observed.

**Dick Evans** said he too supports the Habitat for Humanity appropriation for the Burts Pit Road housing project. They are coming together tonight in a cloud of ambiguity with regard to what the cap measure as drafted is all about. Is it to protect the dispensaries from competition as the sponsor declared when she introduced it? Is it to protect young people from legal cannabis when, as they all know, they can't get into licensed stores? Is it to protect the public health by driving consumers to the illegal market where the products are untested? Or is it to allow an unlimited number as long as they are operated by social equity applicants.

Or is it, as some have suggested, to send a message. And if the point is to send a message, why not do so with a resolution that reveals what this measure is all about instead of cluttering up the city code with a prohibitory measure that hasn't been very thoroughly thought through. He asked the council to heed the words of none other than Calvin Coolidge himself who famously declared that it's better to defeat a bad bill than to pass a good one.

**Henry of Ward 5** said he is here to air his opposition to the dispensary cap. The academic literature surrounding youth consumption is inadequate to support this legislation, he claimed. While tobacco retail density may be correlated with youth consumption, there is no research to suggest this is the case with cannabis. Before the City Council can make a decision on this new legislation, they should request new data that is relevant. As a 20-year old who grew up in Northampton, he doesn't see a cap on dispensaries as something that will help their community but he knows what *will* help keep their youth safe and healthy; access to honest, no-nonsense education and harm reduction and safe use; i.e. access to fentanyl test strips and addiction counseling without strings attached to carceral institutions. Largely, the government has lost the trust of the youth community through ridiculous programs like DARE and propaganda campaigns like 'Reefer Madness.' These attempts to stigmatize and use shaming tactics surrounding addiction and public health have proven detrimental to their collective well-being. He asked them to please consider rejecting this legislation and providing real harm reduction infrastructure to their youth.

**Jordana Willers**, who identified herself as an expert and trainer in the field of youth and young adult substance use, said she can attest to the rise in extremely negative impacts of THC use among their youth, including here in Northampton. These negative impacts include worsening mental health conditions, including depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts and psychosis. One in six young people who use marijuana develop a cannabis use disorder. She sees firsthand the suffering of youth and their families who have been severely impacted by marijuana use. Youth who use marijuana are at a heightened risk of using other harder substances such as opioids which can lead to death by overdose, and they have seen this effect in their community. In recent years there has been a huge increase in teenage deaths across the country due to overdoses. She is not only concerned about the future of young people in Northampton but about the future of Northampton itself due to the proliferation of pot shops. Northampton was once known for vibrant arts and music, which is why their family moved here, and is now primarily known for cannabis.

This is not a legacy that she believes is going to serve their children or their community. She highly recommends that the city think hard about what's right for public health and for the future of Northampton by limiting the number of pot shops in the city.

**Jacqueline McCreanor of Northampton**, thanked council members and fellow residents for their excellent comments. She is actually in agreement with almost all of the comments on both sides of the issue but she falls on the cap side and would like to respectfully urge the council to cap the number of dispensaries in their city.

**Bill Dwight of Northampton** said he is concerned about the proposed cap restriction for cannabis retailers. The other night, one of the cosponsors asked why not. Why not pass this ordinance? His most frequent worry is the fact that, as written, this law is vague and unsupported. He believes that, whenever possible, ordinances should expand and protect rights, but, if they're designed to be prescriptive, they should be proposed with a clearly identified and defined threat, an approvable benefit, and enforcement must be clear and fair. All of this elements must be included in the language of the ordinance and that's not the case here. Regardless of where you fall either for or against the cap, it essentially does nothing. At most, it will skew a market in a way they really can't anticipate but it really protects no one from anything real or imagined; it only possibly placates those who have expressed their feelings, and this is not a way to go about making good law. So far, what he's heard is that feelings are being employed as reasons for making this move. There are folks who feel there are too many retailers. There are people who feel that too many cannabis shops inspire minors to feel more complacent about marijuana. The sponsors feel that the limit is fair. There are people who feel that Northampton will be known for things they prefer not to be known for.

Since a tone sounded indicating that his time was up, he said he would leave it at that.

**Anthony Paik, Ward 2** identified himself as a professor of sociology at UMass Amherst and a published researcher on the peer effects of adult smoking and drinking. They have heard from experts on the health side about the effects of cannabis use on adolescents, a time in life when people's brains are changing dramatically. The demographic side is his expertise. He is a believer in cold hard facts. Monitors have been tracking adolescent cannabis use since 1991. In 1991, daily cannabis use in the United States was .8% of 10<sup>th</sup> graders. Currently, in 2020, it is now 4.4%, reflecting a fivefold increase. As a point of comparison, in Europe, daily cannabis use is still around .8%.

He had a chance to listen to some of the theorizing related to the argument that putting on a cap would lead to increased adolescent accessing of the illicit drug market. Where do adolescents get their marijuana? The answer to that is that, a very small percentage of them get it from drug dealers; they get it from their friends. The key issue is whether adolescents get their marijuana indirectly through easy access, such as through recreational dispensaries.

**Mary of Florence**, spoke in favor of the cap. She was a local high school teacher for 25 years and saw the detrimental effects pot use had on her students. Just in terms of social development and motivation, it affected it tremendously. She also feels they don't need as many of these shops; that their community cannot support opening these shops one after another. They moved here 36 years ago and city was a real jewel in the Pioneer Valley. Do they want it to become a mecca for marijuana consumerism? It has that reputation.

They restrict the number of liquor licenses given out. She doesn't see what the problem is in capping the number of marijuana dispensaries. She is sure there have been accidents where children have gotten ahold of these substances in the form of gummies or brownies and even pets have accidentally ingested this stuff. The more pot shops, the more available it becomes. She is definitely in favor of a cap.

**Schuyler Lamb**, who recently moved to **Ward 1** from New York stated that she is in favor of a cap. She doesn't think weed is inherently evil but she thinks if there was equity cause of some sort they should probably focus a lot more on what they should do as a community to repair communities that have been affected by the criminalization of marijuana before they go forward with having more businesses come into town. She thinks kids will probably smoke weed no matter what.

**Jason Weeks, Northampton**, said he is in favor of no cap. He believes the cap will be detrimental to the development of businesses in the town area. It seems unfair to him give that he is sure the cap on liquor licenses is much higher than the cap on dispensaries would be and the comparative damage this would do to their community is not parallel. Alcohol is proven to have much higher consequences. It is more readily available and they are also even allowing for delivery nowadays as has happened over the course of the pandemic. If they are lowering the restriction on alcohol he doesn't see how they could be raising restrictions on the community. To raise these restrictions without properly addressing the inequality of drug laws;

he doesn't know of any minority-owned cannabis businesses in Northampton. If they put a cap right now, they aren't even addressing that and it is hindering them from addressing it.

For a community that bases itself as a place for artists, these two businesses are running parallel so they are kind of cutting some people off.

**Caroline Johnson of Florence**, who said she presented local data on youth cannabis use in various City Council platforms and meetings over the past few months, said she has to say that she is a little baffled about how some local data on marijuana use has been presented both by the media and by some who have been involved in the conversation. Specifically, some have shared how youth use in Hampshire County has decreased dramatically without providing any context whatsoever. In past meetings, she has talked about the role of the pandemic in these trends and she's not sure why this isn't being acknowledged more seriously. The decline in Northampton is generally consistent with 'Monitoring the Future,' which is sponsored by NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse) and conducted by the University of Michigan, which shows that youth substance use fell significantly during 2021 nationally and remained low in 2022. As federal public health officials clearly state on their NIH website, reported use for almost all substances decreased dramatically from 2020 to 2021 after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and related changes like school closures and social distancing. So, because of the ongoing pandemic, rates are lower than they otherwise would be. Which isn't to say that local and national rates aren't reliable; it's simply to say that youth rates changed in response to things like limited social access. They should be very mindful of that when looking at teen use rates over time, especially considering data that show how Northampton teen's perceptions of harm and parental disapproval have declined significantly, which are known and consistent predictors of youth use over time. She asked them to please consider data much more holistically and not in a piecemeal fashion when they consider anything related to cannabis moving forward.

**Jeff Wagenheim of Northampton** spoke against the cap. He believes it is a move that will essentially be playing to old stigmas and stereotypes about cannabis that do not exist for alcohol and other substances. He is a medical marijuana card holder like many others who use this medicinally. Some would call non-medicinal use recreational but a lot of people would call it adult use. A lot of people have spoken about teen use and while he recognizes there are teens who use cannabis, if you go to a retailer you have to show two id's to prove your age. They're not going to have teenagers running into dispensaries. He thinks the marketplace will take care of whether the city can support enough dispensaries. He believes this is something they can leave up to the marketplace and thinks they should be devoting their efforts toward education for youth and to support people who use any substance in excess. They don't need to cap this business any more than they need to cap liquor stores, coffee shops or anything else people use in their daily life.

**Wendy Foxmyn, Florence**, said she wanted to weigh in on the side of capping. She is lucky to have gotten to know a lot of wonderful people in public health over many years. She has a great deal of respect for their work, their integrity and their caring for youth.

There being no further comments, at 7:48 p.m., public comment ended.

Announcements

Announcements

Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> there will be a joint meeting of the School Committee, City Council and Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School (SVAHS) trustees, Councilor Jarrett announced. At this meeting, the Mayor will be presenting the budget outlook for the year.

This Monday at the Community Resources meeting they will be having a roundtable discussion on neighborhood character, energy and sustainability, Councilor Perry shared. Dorrie Brooks of Jones Whitsett Architects, Tree Warden Rich Parasiliti and Office of Planning and Sustainability (OPS) Director Carolyn Misch will be there.

February 4th at 9 a.m. at SVAHS, the Agricultural Commission will be holding a conference. He attended a few years ago and this will be an opportunity to hear from their farming community.

And, the Survival Center is putting out the word that they need volunteers.

	<p>Councilor Maiore announced that Sunday at 1 p.m. at City Hall there will be a 'bigger than Roe' rally. It is supposed to be 50<sup>th</sup> year of Roe and they clearly need to regroup and be together. Senator McGovern will be there. They need to plan their future and feel a little bit of their own power in this dire time for reproductive justice.</p>
<p><u>Presentations</u> <u>2nd Quarter</u> <u>Financial Report</u></p>	<p><u>Presentations</u> <u>2nd Quarter Financial Report</u> <i>Presentation by Finance Director Charlene Nardi</i></p> <p>Director Nardi will be presenting the quarterly report in greater detail at the next Finance Committee meeting @ 6 p.m. on January 25<sup>th</sup>, Councilor Nash advised.</p> <p>Director Nardi directed attention to the five spreadsheets posted to the agenda: General Fund (GF) revenue, Enterprise Fund revenue, GF and enterprise fund expenses and an overview of hotel/motel, short-term rental and cannabis revenue for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. In her review, she is mainly looking in the second column and wants to see 50% or more for revenue and 50% or less for expenses.</p> <p>Overall, things are looking really good and they are on track for meeting all revenue projections and staying within budget, she reported. She said she would give a more indepth report at the Finance Committee meeting.</p>
<p><u>Consent Agenda</u></p>	<p><u>Consent Agenda</u> Councilor Nash reviewed the items on the consent agenda, offering to remove any item for separate consideration upon request. There being no removals, <b>Councilor Perry moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion carried 9:0 by roll call vote.</b></p> <p>The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda:  A. <u>January 5, 2023 Minutes</u>  B. <u>23.234 Appointment to Disability Commission - for referral to City Services Committee</u>  <u>Disability Commission</u></p> <p><b>Amy Sugihara</b>, 110 Morningside Drive, Florence</p> <p>Term: February 2023-June 2025</p> <p><i>To fill a vacancy</i></p>
<p><u>Financial Orders</u> <u>(on 1st reading)</u> <u>23.222 An Order to</u> <u>Appropriate Free</u> <u>Cash for Road</u> <u>Safety</u> <u>Improvements</u> <u>Surrounding NHS -</u> <u>1st reading</u></p>	<p><u>Financial Orders (on 1st reading)</u> <u>23.222 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash for Road Safety Improvements Surrounding NHS - 1st reading</u></p> <p>She was happy to be at the Transportation and Parking Commission (TPC) meeting Tuesday where they had a robust discussion, Mayor Sciarra reported. Almost every councilor was in attendance. The engineering firm Fuss &amp; O'Neil did a study of the high school area, and the study's primary recommendation is for signalization at the intersections of Elm Street and Woodlawn Avenue. It is too small an area with parkland on either side so it is not suitable for a roundabout but it does meet the warrants for signalization. There is also a recommendation to reopen the street directly in front of the high school to accommodate one-way bus-only traffic. She has made this project and making this area safer a critical priority and would like to move it forward as quickly as possible. The design process is not as fast as one might think. There are also some roadway changes and smaller changes that can be implemented before doing the actual roadwork and signal.</p> <p>To begin the planning and engineering and go out to bid as soon as possible, they brought the proposal to TPC Tuesday and are here today with this order to appropriate \$500,000 in ARPA loss revenue. Significant additional appropriations will be needed as the project moves forward</p>

but she thought this would be a good use of ARPA loss revenue funds to get the process started. There has been a call from the community to do that and rightly so.

DPW Director LaScaleia can speak to the work they are doing to make this a school zone now that the state has allowed high schools to be designated as such. The city has applied for a MassDOT Safe School grant for a school zone speed limit sign for the high school and Smith Vocational and are hoping those will be granted. She gave a quick shout out to Senator Comerford since, although the grant says each community can only apply for one school, when she called her and said they were the only city with two school districts, she agreed and helped get MassDOT to allow the application.

About a year ago, the city engaged Fuss & O'Neil to take a comprehensive look at the roadway network around the high school, the old bus loop in front of the high school and circulation within the actual parking lot, Director LaScaleia elaborated. Any improvements they are looking to implement have to be part of a network of improvements. They asked Fuss & O'Neil to look at a variety of scenarios, including the installation of roundabouts on Route 9, the potential for one-way streets and the potential for closing the intersection of Route 9 and Elm Street with the ultimate goal of improving traffic safety. They were not telling them that they wanted a traffic signal there but were giving consultants a lot of options.

Fuss & O'Neil took a comprehensive look at the area and recommended a variety of changes: traffic signals at Woodlawn and Route 9 and Elm Street and Route 9, realignment of the intersection with Milton and Riverside, reopening of the old bus loop in front of the high school, changing the circulation within the high school parking lot, permanent parking restrictions on Route 9 and other more minor parking changes. It is a basket of recommendations that all work together to increase traffic, bicycle and pedestrian safety in the area. They have a conceptual plan and the next step is to move to a formal design process for the improvements.

A design firm needs to generate actual drawings. They will likely be looking at a design period of about 12 months. She would expect to have close to a final design this time next year. They have limited time to work with as far as the building season and want to avoid working when school is in session. They are asking for two readings so they can engage a design firm to start working on the construction documents needed to put the work out to bid to hopefully start construction in the summer of 2024.

It is unclear if they can complete construction in one construction season. Time is of the essence and they want to move as fast as they can. In the meantime, minor improvements can be made with the city's line striping contract but the substantial changes will come with the next construction season.

Councilor Foster expressed her thanks. It is an understatement that traffic by the high school is in need of safety improvements and the director and the mayor have brought this forward in a timely manner.

Councilor Jarrett thanked everyone for their work. Overall, he thinks the proposed improvements are very good. He thinks more needs to be added because a signalized intersection alone will not solve the speeding problem. There is the question of what can be added and also concern around the timing of this.

He asked what methods they could use to slow the traffic passing through the two signalized intersections and the Riverside, Elm and Milton Street intersection. And, he pointed out that the study is dated December 5th. He heard about it a week ago and immediately requested it. He received it Tuesday and so had a few hours to read it before the TPC meeting but two days is a short timeframe to consider it. He requested that, in the future, they receive reports sooner and have a little more time to consider them.

With regard to speed, they are now able to designate the area around the high school as a school zone, Director LaScaleia reiterated. An ordinance designating the Route 9 corridor for several hundred feet on either side of the high school as well as Elm Street down the hill to Milton Street a school zone went through TPC Tuesday and will move to the council at its next meeting. Upon approval, it will be immediately implemented. Once they are able to install signage, the speed limit will be 20 mph which becomes an enforcement issue.



The DPW receives traffic studies as drafts and there is usually quite a bit of back and forth between her department and the engineering firm to refine it before the recommendations are ready to be made public. The DPW received the draft at the beginning of December and had several meetings to fully vet the report and make sure the data was accurate. They were able to turn it around in roughly a month which is really record time. Typically the vetting of this sort of infrastructure analysis is a very long process.

Councilor Jarrett asked if they will be designing the intersections for 20 mph speeds.

Part of the request to the design firm will be that they design this corridor understanding that it is now a school zone with a speed limit of 20 mph by regulation, Director LaScaleia said. "That is part of the design metric," she confirmed.

As someone who has been advocating for changes around the high school for about 20 years, this is really great news, Councilor Nash reflected. Like Councilor Jarrett, he too is really interested in seeing other measures.

"We can do more than just signalize;" he asserted. Up by Smith College things such as crosswalks have been installed. "We could go really aggressive here because it's the high school," he suggested.

Councilor Foster moved to suspend the rule requiring referral to either the Finance Committee or the consent agenda to allow the order to be voted on tonight. Councilor Moulton seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

Councilor Gore moved to approve the order. Councilor Perry seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following order passed final reading:

**City of Northampton**  
MASSACHUSETTS

*In City Council* January 19, 2023

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

**23.222 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash for Road Safety Improvements Surrounding NHS**

*WHEREAS*, safety of pedestrians, bicyclists and traffic surrounding Northampton High School has been an ongoing concern and is of the utmost importance; and

*WHEREAS*, the City commissioned a traffic study to evaluate and recommend safety improvements to the road network surrounding the Northampton High School area; and

*WHEREAS*, the study recommends a range of improvements to the roadway network around the High School including the installation of two traffic signals on the Route 9 corridor;

*Now, Therefore be it Ordered, that*

the sum of \$500,000 be appropriated from the FY2023 General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance (Free Cash) for the design, bidding and construction administration of such safety improvements.

Rules suspended, passed final reading and enrolled.

23.223 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for CT River Greenway Multi-

23.223 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for CT River Greenway Multi-Use Trail - 1st reading  
Ms. LaValley gave an overview of the most recent round of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding. In September, the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) began reviewing

Use Trail - 1st reading

proposals. After extensive review including applicant presentations, site visits (both virtual and in person), public comment sessions and deliberations, members voted to recommend the 11 funding requests before the City Council totaling just over \$1.2 million dollars. CPA funding being recommended will leverage more than \$7 million in funding from other sources. Another round of funding begins in February.

The Connecticut River Greenway multi-use trail project will facilitate design of an accessible, multi-use trail that will connect Hatfield, which has no shared use trails, with the Mass Central Rail Trail and the New Haven and Northampton Canal Greenway, Ms. LaValley explained. It will provide what will soon be a continuous link from Boston to Northampton and down to New Haven and serve both Hatfield and one of the most beautiful sections of the Connecticut River. It will open up to everybody a much underutilized section of the river. CPA funds will be used as the local match for an already-received Mass Trails grant.

The terminus in Hatfield has yet to be finalized. The trail will connect the boat launch area with an area north along the Connecticut River.

**Councilor LaBarge moved to refer the order to the consent agenda. Councilor Jarrett seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.**

See minutes of February 2, 2023 for final reading.

23.224 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for DAR House Electrical Upgrade - 1st reading

23.224 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for DAR House Electrical Upgrade - 1st reading

The 1700's DAR house on South Street also known as the Ebenezer Clapp House is an outstanding example of a Connecticut River colonial dwelling, Ms. LaValley presented. At a site visit CPC members were able to see the extent of the antique wiring and the issues presented by the remaining knob and tube fixtures. Replacement is necessary to allow for insulation and energy efficient upgrades and the use of the building for public programming.

The project was originally intended to be fairly small. The DAR was planning to work with Smith Voke but because of COVID restrictions could not proceed as planned and so came in for the full amount of funding. CPC members agreed the project was worthwhile.

Using CPA funds, the DAR did some really minor work about 12 years ago.

Councilor Jarrett asked if there is any public access to the property.

There are at least monthly events and tours, Ms. LaValley said.

**Councilor LaBarge moved to refer the order to the consent agenda. Councilor Moulton seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.**

See minutes of February 2, 2023 for final reading.

23.225 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to Downtown Affordable Housing Creation Project - 1st reading

23.225 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to Downtown Affordable Housing Creation Project - 1st reading

Councilor Nash read the order.

At its heart, this is a very small local match for a very large state grant award (\$921,300) to allow further development of a design for affordable housing, Ms. LaValley shared. The City Council approved the overall project and disposition of the property in October of 2021. The project is 24 units of climate-resilient studio apartments which will be located in the heart of downtown near services and transit pulse points and close to opportunities for carbon-neutral, fossil-free heating and cooling. It will be designed for passive survivability. The Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) agreed it is an important project and gave it a substantial grant award.

This is the land right behind City Hall, Ms. LaValley confirmed.

It is great that they are continuing to move forward on this, Councilor Nash enthused. This is a really great humanitarian effort by the city to make this happen.

The parcel behind City Hall is .12 acres according to the city solicitor.

Councilor LaBarge moved to refer the order to the consent agenda. Councilor Perry seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of February 2, 2023 for final reading.

23.226 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to Leeds Affordable Housing Creation Project - 1st reading

23.226 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to Leeds Affordable Housing Creation Project - 1st reading

The City Council approved the disposition of this property on Evergreen Road for affordable housing in July of 2021, Ms. LaValley advised. It was originally about an 8,000 square foot property that was developed in 1914 with a 125,000-gallon water tower. In 1945, the northern 3,000 s.f. was sold off and became a part of the property to the west. The water tower remained operational until 1999 when it was removed. Some additional work is necessary to allow it to be transferred development-ready to an affordable housing partner, and this appropriation will allow this due diligence work to happen.

Councilor Maiore said she was at the community meeting about this property with then-Director Wayne Feiden. A Habitat for Humanity representative was there and they weren't really able to commit because of questions around drainage and some rocks that were put there to bolster the water tower. It is an exciting place to put affordable housing and would truly be a welcoming neighborhood. The neighbors did have some concerns but were all very supportive of the idea of it being affordable housing. It is an ideal neighborhood with lots of walkability and young kids.

The site will probably not support more than two units, Councilor Maiore said.

Councilor Moulton moved to refer the order to the consent agenda. Councilor Jarrett seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of February 2, 2023 for final reading.

23.227 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Exterior Structural Rehabilitation of NCMC - 1st reading

23.227 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Exterior Structural Rehabilitation of NCMC - 1st reading

As some may remember, a historic building assessment for 51 Main Street funded by the CPA several years ago first identified and outlined work necessary to secure the building envelope. In 2020, CPA funds were awarded for façade repairs and matched by a state Preservation Projects Fund (PPF) grant. This recommendation will allow important exterior work to continue. This is a partial award. The CPC did not recommend full funding of the application submitted by Smith Charities. It included the feedback that alternate funding sources should be investigated.

Councilor LaBarge recalled great support from Mayor Higgins and Mayor Narkewicz for the Northampton Community Music Center. She is going to support this.

Ms. LaValley said she just realized that she flipped her presentations. She offered to tell them about the music center. The CPC was incredibly impressed by the amount and diversity of support for the community music center. They heard time and time again especially during COVID for people who were feeling isolated that they were able to go there and connect. This work will help to preserve the structure which was a neighborhood school before it was surplus by the city. It will allow NCMC to use it more effectively for its current purpose as a music center and allow for placement of a 30-year historic preservation restriction to provide additional protection.

Councilor Perry moved to refer the order to the consent agenda. Councilor Moulton seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of February 2, 2023 for final reading.

23.228 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Exterior Structural

23.228 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Exterior Structural Rehabilitation of Smith Charities Building - 1st reading

Ms. LaValley referred to her earlier presentation.

Rehabilitation of Smith Charities Building - 1st reading

Councilor Moulton asked if the project is such that it can proceed with only partial funding for the repairs.

Smith Charities is looking at a Preservation Projects Fund grant from the state, Ms. LaValley said. It is an incredibly competitive program with a maximum award of \$50,000. The CPC selected the highest priority items which also included scaffolding so there was a natural place to draw the line on work to be included.

Smith Charities promotes quality of life for Northampton residents through charitable work that was established through the Oliver Smith Will in 1845. The trust supports widows and trades-people, gives mortgages and offers grants to nurses, high school graduates and people getting married.

Councilor Jarrett asked if there is ever an opportunity for people to see inside.

It technically is open to the public but definitely is not fully accessible because it has stairs everywhere, Ms. LaValley said. However, she is sure they would be happy to offer anyone who reaches out a tour of the building.

Councilor LaBarge said that was one of her questions; whether they could tour the building.

It is not a very friendly public space, Ms. LaValley acknowledged. Other than reaching out to Smith Charities she does not know how someone could arrange a visit. Several of the electors under the will came to speak in favor of the application.

**Councilor Maire moved to refer the order to the consent agenda. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.**

See minutes of February 2, 2023 for final reading.

23.229 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Rocky Hill Greenway Multi-Use Trail - 1st reading

23.229 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Rocky Hill Greenway Multi-Use Trail - 1st reading

Partially using CPA funding, the city engaged a consultant several years ago to do a design to about the 25% level as well as to secure all necessary environmental permits, Ms. LaValley related. These documents helped secure \$3.6 million in federal funding for the actual trail construction. CPA funds are now being requested to engage an engineering consultant to finalize and update the plans to include some state and federal requirements that have been added since the initial designs were completed. It is a relatively small investment of city funds that will be able to carry the trail to a ribbon cutting and only represents those costs not eligible for federal funding.

It will allow what's really an informal trail now to extend all the way to the bike path.

**Councilor LaBarge moved to refer the order to the consent agenda. Councilor Perry seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.**

See minutes of February 2, 2023 for final reading.

23.230 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Habitat for Humanity Affordable Housing on Burts Pit Road - 1st reading

23.230 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Habitat for Humanity Affordable Housing on Burts Pit Road - 1st reading

Councilor Nash read the order aloud.

This parcel contained a very dilapidated house that was vacant for many years and formerly part of the state hospital complex, Ms. LaValley related. Using the CPA Affordable Housing Fund and some Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money the structure was able to be demolished and permitting for the housing project secured. The order before them will allow Habitat to construct three new ownership units. As always, the CPC was enthusiastically supportive of this project.

Each home is intended to have three bedrooms.

Councilor LaBarge moved to refer the order to the consent agenda. Councilor Foster seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of February 2, 2023 for final reading.

23.231 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to Acquire 229 Acres in the Saw Mill Hills - 1st reading

23.231 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to Acquire 229 Acres in the Saw Mill Hills - 1st reading

The City Council approved the planned acquisition of this really amazing 229 acres in the Saw Mill Hills last year. The city has an option to purchase the property for \$690,000, and the Office of Planning and Sustainability and Conservation Commission successfully applied for a state Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant for \$400,000 (the maximum award) this fiscal year. This request is for the local funding to complete the funding picture and enable the city to finalize permanent protection. The surplus will be used for surveys, signage and required soft costs. Public ownership will create a multitude of trail opportunities and protect a really critical habitat.

In response to a question, Ms. LaValley said it is being purchased from the Pomeroy family (Barbara Pomeroy). The entrance to the property is directly across from the Mineral Hills Winery.

She believes it is the largest remaining privately-owned piece of property in Northampton. A timber cut is being done which decreased the overall purchase price and really made it affordable for the city. Ecologist Laurie Sanders was impressed with the quality of the timber cut and thought it would increase habitat for some rare birds. Now that some of the vistas have been cleared, there are some really amazing views.

Councilor Jarrett commented on what an amazing resource the Sawmill Hills are. One of his favorite walks is from his house in Florence all the way to a friend's house on Sylvester Road through the hills. It's great to have additional areas with more carbon sequestration, wildlife and public access. It's quite a win.

Kestrel Land Trust is the city's partner in this acquisition, Ms. LaValley noted.

Councilor Moulton moved to refer the order to the consent agenda. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of February 2, 2023 for final reading.

23.232 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to the Affordable Housing Fund - 1st reading

23.232 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to the Affordable Housing Fund - 1st reading

This was sort of an experiment the last time it was funded. Planners spoke to the city's affordable housing partners - Habitat, Valley CDC, Community Builders, etc. - and asked what's holding them back from developing affordable housing. They heard that it's fairly easy to obtain funding for actual construction but that getting shovel ready to the point of grant applications is an impediment. They created this affordable housing fund to complete that due diligence - surveys, permitting, environmental site assessments, septic plans, etc.; i.e., any pre-development work needed to allow them to turn the keys over to an affordable housing developer and allow them to move forward. It has been incredibly successful.

Councilor Nash said he is really excited that this seed money project to get stuff going has been so successful. He thinks they got a lot of bang for the buck out of this. They are not talking about a huge amount of money relative to the projects it will help move forward.

Councilor Elkins moved to refer the order to the consent agenda. Councilor Jarrett seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of February 2, 2023 for final reading.

23.233 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to the Conservation Fund - 1st reading

23.233 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to the Conservation Fund - 1st reading

Similar to the last order, this is for conservation and open space projects as opposed to affordable housing. The conservation fund is an important tool in the Conservation Commission's tool box. Land acquisition projects can be very time-sensitive and the time required to obtain City Council approval would really kill the deal on a lot of land protection

efforts. Having funds readily available for whatever comes up allows some deals to happen. This would be the 14<sup>th</sup> funding of this fund first established in 2009. It has allowed the injection of literally several million dollars in funding opportunities from other funds, including eight state LAND grants, parkland acquisition and renovations grants, trail development grants, wetlands protection grants, etc. She really can't overstate how critically important it is to allow the Conservation Commission the flexibility to act when they need to.

Councilor LaBarge moved to refer the order to the consent agenda. Councilor Moulton seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of February 2, 2023 for final reading.

<p><u>Financial Orders (on 2nd reading)</u></p>	<p><u>Financial Orders (on 2nd reading)</u></p> <p>The following orders were approved as part of the consent agenda: None.</p>
<p><u>Ordinances (Not Yet Referred)</u></p>	<p><u>Ordinances (Not Yet Referred)</u></p> <p>None.</p>
<p><u>Recess</u></p>	<p><u>Recess</u></p> <p>At 9:12 p.m., the council recessed briefly. The council reconvened at 9:22 p.m.</p>
<p><u>Ordinances 22.201 Ordinance Limiting the Number of Retail Cannabis Establishments in the City of Northampton - 2nd reading</u></p>	<p><u>Ordinances 22.201 An Ordinance Limiting the Number of Retail Cannabis Establishments in the City of Northampton - 2nd reading</u></p> <p>Councilor Nash read the ordinance and reviewed the history.</p> <p>Councilor Foster started by thanking everyone who has invested so much time and thought in this discussion. This is what democracy looks like, and these kinds of public discussions are necessary. That being said, she said she wanted to make sure something she has observed as part of this debate does not go unaddressed.</p> <p>She has been in positions of responsibility for a long time and wanted to touch on the subtle ways women are undermined professionally in academia and out in the community. It's unintentional, but it's so baked in that it happens fairly constantly. She has seen that dynamic play out in this debate and wants to make sure they are looking at the substance of the issue. Eminently qualified women with expertise in public health, data and research have shared their knowledge and expertise and taken the time to draw parallels to other industries and break down the trends they're seeing. Most recently, there's been a lot of discussion about the data presented. For months she's seen this expertise be undermined, challenged and ignored. The people she's heard speak up have said, 'we don't know what the data says; it's unclear.'</p> <p>They heard the commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) draw parallels to other industries and speak strongly in favor of limiting. Caroline Johnson took the time to walk them through local data, put it in context and share its nuances, and Heather Warner and Kara McLaughlin have spoken up at their meetings to share their knowledge and expertise.</p> <p>She wants to make that sure when somebody speaks up and says, 'that's not true; the data doesn't bear this out,' but without showing any evidence or research, that it doesn't creep into their thought process.</p> <p>That being said, there are really valid reasons that people will support or grapple with not supporting this ordinance, but it's not a matter of the quality of the data that they're looking at.</p>

They are looking at a bunch of competing priorities. Hers is the call from the public health experts in their midst. She understands there are strong economic arguments and that they're all going to do the work they need to make the best decisions for their city that they can.

The last thing she is hearing that she wants to make sure to address is the perception that youth can't access product from dispensaries because they can't walk in and get it. She drank alcohol before she was 21 years old and she was not making her own moonshine. She had older friends who went into the liquor store and bought it and shared it with their younger friends. Don't mistake that it's not easier to get, she urged. That is where she is coming from with her co-sponsorship of this ordinance.

Councilor Maiore thanked her. There is so much power in naming that and giving voice to something that has been building throughout this conversation in little ways like eye-rolling at professional women, she agreed.

They have been having this conversation for a while. She wants to re-center why she is a sponsor of this ordinance. As Councilor Foster said, their health commissioner and public health leaders have asked for this cap because of broad concern about the correlation between the number of cannabis retail establishments and youth cannabis use. She grew up in the era where they watched whole neighborhoods being decimated by the war on drugs. It was a terrible racist policy. She doesn't think any of them want to go back there or stigmatize or demonize cannabis. She certainly thinks alcohol and cigarettes play on their society in much more profound and negative ways. Legalization is social progress and she thinks this whole conversation is here because of progress. There are many benefits and promising treatments involving cannabis and her big concern is that Northampton residents and visitors have reasonable access to their legal right to legally purchase cannabis and she thinks they've achieved that in Northampton.

While there are benefits, they are seeing this statistically-significantly correlational data. She doesn't understand why this is disregarded but she thinks Councilor Foster has spoken partially to why. With the astronomical cost of entry into the cannabis industry, there's only so low cannabis retail prices will go. She is afraid no amount of cannabis retail establishments will get rid of the unregulated market. She is very disturbed by the notion that they need to keep opening more and more establishments or their youth will be exposed to crime. The same with letting the market decide. There's nothing much free about this market, it's an extremely elite market; there's nothing natural about it.

The market didn't elect a representative. Similar to restricting plastics, they step in with the market, they don't just feed their community to the market without thought. She hears the concern about social equity candidates being able to sell their licenses. At least resources have a better chance of passing through the hands of social equity owners.

She acknowledged that it is quite late in the game to be trying to come up with the ideal number of pot shops. But here they are. She really urged them to not let the perfect be the enemy of the good. She understands the concern about licenses being overinflated. She did call a couple of municipalities that have caps and didn't hear that concern.

It gets back to why not have a reasonable cap. She doesn't see how it can be denied that there are legitimate concerns about unintended consequences on their youth from the intense saturation of dispensaries. And there are reasonable concerns about the glaring lack of social equity, one of their shining community values. She doesn't see anywhere else where these two issues are being addressed except in this ordinance.

They as a council and as a community have to decide where their priorities are. It's time for them to state their priorities. As their stack of home rule petitions can attest, the state of Massachusetts does not give power to municipalities lightly. They have given them this one and most municipalities have taken them up on it.

"This is no overreach. This is our showing up and taking responsibility for the direction of our community development," she asserted.

It is incumbent on them to be in the driver's seat as they balance business interests, tax revenue, local culture, their community, social equity values and goals and the health of their young people, their next generation. "It is in this spirit that we submit this ordinance," she concluded.

Councilor LaBarge thanked councilors and residents, cosponsors and the city solicitor. A lot of research has been done. She cited the data presented by Caroline Johnson of SPIFFY and the reminder from Health Commissioner Merridith O'Leary that she was in favor of a cap in 2018 and recommends one now. There have been some discrepancies in the information sent to them. She has to say, she found the email received from the proponent of the 'No' vote not to have the research to back some of its contentions.

She found Caroline Johnson's research to be right to the point about heavier use among teens. She presented five charts to the full council with excellent explanations and recently sent another breakdown of teens reporting using cannabis in the past 30 days.

She asks anti-cappers how they understand the difference between Northampton adolescent marijuana use rates and the national rates. It appears that the effort to block the ordinance is not just an argument for letting the free market take care of things; it looks more like interested parties just want to protect their ability to amass wealth through the legalization of cannabis and by saturating Northampton with shops on every corner. She has heard from many people who live in the city about the number of shops - too many shops.

"Something needs to be done. We need a cap." Some have even approached her recently to say that if it doesn't pass they will put it on the ballot.

Slowing the growth of marijuana shops is in service to so many people in their city. As city councilors, they are not anti-business; they have a job and have heard from so many people to place a cap. An alternative for any mayor would be to protect the diversity of businesses in their small city. Anybody who studies urban development can tell a mayor that developing any city around one industry is a recipe for disaster. They need to balance the benefits of cannabis legislation with public health and equity.

Councilor Jarrett sought clarification from the city solicitor about the length of the terms of Host Community Agreements (five years) and the licensing process.

He threw out a possible amendment to the ordinance to require that a host community agreement be signed within a year since, as written, all the current language requires to exempt an applicant from the cap is to have a lease.

He also asked the city solicitor to speak to B (1), the exception for social equity applicants.

Social equity applicants are applicants who have been victimized by the illegality of cannabis over the years, Attorney Seewald advised. The Social Equity Program is a program of the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC). The CCC offers technical assistance and expedited review of the application. It is not a different type of license but has all the attributes of a general license. It is just the CCC process that is affected by the status of social equity.

Once a social equity applicant is issued a license, it is like any other establishment.

Councilor Foster reviewed an amendment sponsors are proposing to help clarify the second section of the ordinance. She screen-shared the amendment as follows:

***This ordinance shall not apply to a retail establishment or a proposed retail establishment with either:***

- ***A Host Community Agreement executed by the Mayor as of January 19, 2023.***
- ***An establishment or a proposed establishment that has a signed lease agreement or has purchased property for an establishment as of January 19, 2023. The establishment shall produce such documentation of the lease or purchase as is requested by the City to establish the lease or purchase of such property.***



- *To an HCA executed after January 19, 2023, solely for delivery or courier of cannabis products other than delivery to the consumer over the counter at a retail cannabis establishment.*

Councilors discussed the amendment. Councilor Jarrett suggested that it would be much cleaner to simply have the exemption apply to applicants with a signed HCA, and Councilor Moulton agreed. The other exemption "you could drive a huge truck through," he suggested

Attorney Seewald pointed out that an HCA is executed very early in the process as it is needed for an application.

Councilor Foster said she personally would be fine with an amendment to tie the exception to an HCA instead of a lease, and Councilor LaBarge and Councilor Foster agreed.

With this change, the proposed amendment basically would just exempt an establishment with an HCA. Councilor Foster said she would work on specific language.

Councilor Nash apologized if he came off as if he was inappropriately doing anything to anybody. He remains very dubious of supporting this. He thinks part of what has them so fraught right now is the nature of the tool they're trying to work with; that is, a cap. With it comes all these feelings and aspirations, and it's a really imperfect tool to address the concerns they're talking about.

He thinks everybody participating in these meeting is super concerned about kids and also concerned about the business community and empty storefronts. There rightly should be some concerns about what adults are doing in their community and how their behavior affects kids.

He shared a chart with folks outlining data that reflects what has been collected for Northampton High School. He is glad they have that. They've been talking about data about what's going on in the hill towns and other communities and the fact of the matter is, they have data right here. When they embarked on this, they didn't have a lot of data to look to and that remains true. A lot of academic papers and research has been sent to them but the fact of the matter is; "it's not us."

He agrees with Caroline's assessment that 17% is on the low side and probably reflects the fact that it's been hard to collect data. But what he sees is level numbers despite the fact that they have 12 dispensaries. He has a really difficult time with the notion that, if kids know what their parent's perception of cannabis is and that they have some positive views, that's a bad thing for them.

When he looks at the data, he sees their parents, their community and their prevention specialists all doing their job. He knows there is a lot of concern about kids and addiction. He doesn't think having a cap is going to solve it. He's on board with looking at other things such as signage and advertising.

He thinks the intentions here. . . he thinks they all like kids; they all care about their community; he just doesn't think this is the way to do it.

Councilor Perry thanked all the councilors for their deep discussions and thoughts and thanked everyone in the public. All the councilors have received a lot of correspondence on this issue.

He is not against the idea of a cap but he is firmly against this cap as presented. This does not address any of the issues. Something that has disturbed him about this discussion is he thinks it has been framed with the subtle insinuation that if you are not in favor of this specific cap then you are somehow against the youth.

If the idea that youth consumption and density in their city is the issue then this does not reduce the number of dispensaries. What this does is set them up for possibly having 12 dispensaries in perpetuity. It's likely to disrupt a market that's working itself out. If he owned a dispensary, the first thing he would do with the introduction of a cap is to get on the phone with a multi-state operator (MSO). He would try and leverage his license for more money. Instead of closing, he

thinks they will find a bunch of dispensaries will hold on in the hopes that someone will come in and save them.

The underground market is real, he stressed. Most people get weed from their friends but the question is where their friends are getting it.

This will also not help any social equity applicants. There's no assistance.

The war on drugs has destroyed inner cities and youth. Sentencing on drug crimes has ruined black and brown communities.

They've also just seen that ultimately the mayor has the final decision, so he feels like there is some control. The mayor did not sign a Host Community Agreement. For him, this feels like a message. He does not think writing this ordinance is the way. A resolution, sure. He can't see what this ordinance in its current form accomplishes.

Some of this discussion is a little disheartening, he added. There's a lot of talk about Northampton being a weed capital. He sees them kind of stepping into a mistake they made before with liquor licenses. As someone who has worked all his adult life in the entertainment industry, he has struggled against a system where one person in their community owns the majority of liquor licenses because they can afford it. He doesn't want to see them repeat these mistakes.

A lot of this discussion doesn't seem very forward-thinking. A cap would have been great in the past. He would rather them think about what the future of the market is, whether it's social consumption or the diversification of what marijuana dispensaries look like. Looking to provide real harm reduction is where they should be going and this does not do that.

Northampton is known as a progressive town. They have a chance to really be a beacon of hope. Personally, none of this is very forward-thinking. "It feels like we got caught flat-footed and we're just trying to show that we do know that there's concerns, but it really does not address those concerns."

Councilor Maiore said she doesn't think it is either/or and she is very sure this council would support everything put in front of them.

Councilor Elkins offered her remarks, starting by thanking sponsors for bringing this forward. Before this was raised and certainly since Euphorium, she has consistently heard concerns about the number of dispensaries in Northampton. Everybody is concerned about the public health aspect and the effect on kids. Some folks are concerned about the town and its image and some about the business aspects and vacant storefronts. Some concerns she shares and some she finds less persuasive.

She is very much in favor of regulation of the cannabis industry, most especially product testing, purity and dosage and in favor of regulation at the retail level to make sure folks are safe and that youth don't have access. She does see some connection and causation with advertising and marketing. When everybody in the city got mailers and coupons from the East-hampton establishment Fire Ants she was appalled. Advertising and marketing is literally a message.

With regard to Councilor Foster's comments about the data and how some of it has been received, she too has taken some issue with that. She keeps hearing over and over again that density is correlating with higher use. If so many people are saying that what they have is too much, is their goal to reduce or to keep the status quo?

If the goal is fewer, she would suggest that the case has not been made that this legislation is going to achieve that. In more likelihood she is really concerned that what they are going to do is freeze the market as it is. In the case of liquor licenses, they have a situation where she thinks they would have more restaurants serving alcohol and it has suppressed the number. She is really afraid that a cap at this point is going to freeze the market and actually have the effect that they now have 12 and will always have 12.

"We also definitely are going to have a secondary market." It will pervert the market and inhibit the natural contraction that they already see happening, she suggested.

With this legislation, she understands the intent behind the social equity issue but it is definitely written into the law that there is a mechanism for more shops to open. They don't have any control over whether big cannabis from out of state incentivizes that. It definitely creates incentives for existing proprietors to sell to big cannabis rather than allowing the market to do what it's already doing.

Assuming correlation equals causation, what number is going to diminish this correlation? She doesn't doubt the data but doesn't know the number that would reverse these things.

She is concerned that this ordinance is sponsored by councilors representing wards that have no dispensaries. It is significant to her that this is the case.

It makes sense to her that the market is going to freeze and one thing that seems really clear to her is that the *locations* will freeze. In terms of what is in Florence and in Wards 1, 3 and 4, that's exactly where it's going to stay. It means the licenses for the existing locations are going to become much more valuable and social equity candidates are going to be priced out. Whether or not they want access or they want fewer establishments in Wards 1, 3 and 4, this is going to freeze what's existing.

She doesn't question or deny the negative health effects of cannabis use for kids. The question becomes harm reduction. It's always going to be illegal for minors to possess or use cannabis, regardless of the source. The legalization means the product in the market can all be regulated and tested. It really does matter that the product in the market be regulated and tested.

It is disappointing to hear the concerns she raised about the crime associated with the sites of illegal drug distribution dismissed, she continued. We only disregard that the illegal market happens from a position of privilege, she stated. It's not true for all their neighbors.

In the end, she appreciates the intent behind this and the concern that's been raised. She is not questioning the data. Her issue is that this is economic legislation aimed at a public health issue and it's going to have unintended consequences that she fears are going to go in an opposite direction and actually inhibit a contraction that otherwise might be happening. With great respect for the sponsors that brought it forward, she would urge her colleagues to vote 'no' on this legislation.

Councilor Gore said she has been going back and forth. There is a saturation of the market downtown. She personally feels that 12 shops is quite a bit for their downtown. She thinks of it more from an economic point of view. She agrees more retail shops will not necessarily get rid of the black market and agrees a secondary market is not good.

She is still grappling with it. She thinks having a cap is doing something proactive and not having a cap is just not addressing something they need to address. She also feels for the members of the sober community who have spoken out to say how the saturation of dispensaries is negatively affecting them.

She has a 'maybe we can try it' kind of idea. Maybe they could come back and review it in two years. They have tried for four or five years without a cap.

Councilor Jarrett said he has been trying to hold the space open and not be predisposed. As he said in Legislative Matters, the most compelling case to him is that public health officials and professionals are really cautioning them and asking for a pause to be put on the numbers. Maybe they already are at a pause. To respect what they have seen in terms of tobacco and alcohol and retail density and the precautionary principle - an approach for addressing unknown harms - putting a pause on the number of outlets will allow them to gather a bit more data and decide how to proceed. This ordinance doesn't take a prohibition stance. No one should be punished or stigmatized for using cannabis. But it doesn't mean that it's without harm and that the normalization has impacts. He thinks the industry's profit motives are in conflict. That pause will give them more time to see what happens. It is a 'soft cap' because of the social equity exception. It is essentially a slowing rather than a hard stop at 12.

It's not an easy decision. It is about balance. He hears the equity concerns about the locations. He is coming down in support. He thinks this is a pretty moderate approach and leaves them at the very top of municipalities. It balances public health and social equity and economics, so he intends to support it.

Councilor LaBarge noted that, although it has just been sitting there, Willard's gravel pit was bought by a group to open up a marijuana factory. Also, there's a possibility something could happen with Jim's Variety Store in Ward 6. No matter what, she thinks every ward could be affected.

Councilor Moulton said he too appreciates the careful discussion they have had over the past six months. They have had hours of testimony at all four committees of the council. In reflecting on this ordinance, as others have said, to him it is a balancing act. When he looks back at the effort four years ago to place a cap at 10, he doesn't recall anyone predicting that over the course of the first four years there would be as many as 12 opening; he thinks it was felt that 10 would be the ceiling. He thinks it is very difficult to predict where the market is going. He's not satisfied to let the market play out and thinks it would not be in the community's best interest to take another two years of seeing where the market goes.

He is feeling like this is a moderate approach. This is not radical. They would join some 60 other municipalities in the state that have placed a cap on dispensaries including their most immediate neighbors, Amherst, Easthampton, Southampton and Williamsburg.

He likes to look at local data as compared to national data. When Commissioner O'Leary called for a pause, she cited a Rand Corporation study published in the American Journal on Addictions. That was a study done in Los Angeles County which found the density of marijuana outlets associated with young adults' heavy use and intention to use. This backs up what he has found very credible in the data produced by SPIFFY. Most recently, they have looked at Northampton-specific data separated out from the category of communities with five or more dispensaries. So they know Northampton teens report that they are more likely both to smoke weed and obtain edibles because they have been legalized. 12<sup>th</sup> graders in Northampton when surveyed last year reported heavier marijuana consumption compared to those county-wide. They have local data that indicates that what they're doing here is not a draconian proposal. They are essentially establishing the status quo and are going to allow further data to be gathered. To him, that is the safest approach for the entire community.

He is supporting this ordinance.

With regard to the data that's been shared, Councilor Nash said he is not seeing that same conclusion around how Northampton is standing out from other cities and towns county-wide. He sees a drop in the reporting from the other prevention communities that don't have dispensaries. The population for these surveys has dropped. The surveys in 2015 and 2016 were nearly double from the ones from which they're getting information now. He suspects what's going on with those neighboring towns is that there is underreporting.

What's left out of this whole discussion is the impact of this discussion. He thinks this conversation has an impact.

With regard to Councilor Perry's argument that there already is a stopgap with the mayor, Councilor Foster said she is cautious about handing over the authority of the legislative branch to the executive.

Councilor Foster reviewed the language of a revised amendment as follows:

**B. The following shall be exempt from the limitations set forth in this ordinance:**

1. Owner applicants who qualify as Social Equity Candidates as defined by the Cannabis Control Commission of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall be exempt from this ordinance<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Cannabis Control Commission, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, [Equity Programs](#)

	<p>2. This ordinance shall not apply to a retail establishment or a proposed retail establishment for which a Host Community Agreement has been signed by the Mayor as of the date of this ordinance.</p>
<p><u>Recess</u></p>	<p><u>Recess</u> The City Council recessed briefly at 11:28 p.m. The council reconvened at 11:34 p.m.</p>
<p><u>Ordinances</u> <u>22.201 Ordinance</u> <u>Limiting the</u> <u>Number of Retail</u> <u>Cannabis</u> <u>Establishments in</u> <u>the City of</u> <u>Northampton - 2nd</u> <u>reading</u></p>	<p><u>Ordinances</u> <u>22.201 An Ordinance Limiting the Number of Retail Cannabis Establishments in the City of Northampton - 2nd reading (continued)</u> Upon return, Councilor Foster shared an additional exception as follows:</p> <p>3. A Host community agreement executed after the effective date of this ordinance solely for delivery or courier of cannabis products other than delivery to a consumer over the counter at a retail establishment.</p> <p>Councilor Maire clarified that this language was added after they switched to using a signed lease instead of an HCA as the basis for exemption. She said she is looking to the city solicitor to see if it is still needed if they are going back to the HCA.</p> <p>Attorney Seewald said he thought it should be added in any case.</p> <p>Councilor Jarrett moved the amendment as shown. Councilor Moulton seconded.</p> <p>Councilor Jarrett withdrew his motion after it was noted that a motion for approval was not yet on the floor.</p> <p>Councilor Moulton moved approval of the ordinance as amended by Councilor Foster. Councilor Maire seconded. The motion to approve as amended passed 6:3 by roll call vote with Councilors Nash, Perry and Elkins opposed.</p> <p>Councilor Jarrett asked about the process if the Mayor vetoes the cap.</p> <p><u>The following ordinance passed final reading:</u></p>

**City of Northampton  
MASSACHUSETTS**

**In the City Council, December 15, 2022**

Upon the Recommendation of Councilors Karen Foster, Marianne LaBarge and Rachel Maiore

**22.201 AN ORDINANCE LIMITING THE NUMBER OF  
RETAIL CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON**

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Northampton’s Department of Health and Human Services has called for the City to institute an upper limit on the number of retail cannabis establishments in the City, and

WHEREAS, the pursuit of social equity is a core value consistently expressed by both our Municipal government and community members,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

Add the following to the Code of Ordinances as Chapter 152 Cannabis, §152-1 Limit on Retail Cannabis Establishments:

- A. In accordance with Mass. Gen. Laws, c. 94G, § 3 (a)(2), there shall be no more than twelve (12) retail marijuana establishments in the city of Northampton. The limit shall not apply to marijuana establishments other than those operated by a “marijuana retailer” as that term is defined in Mass. Gen. Laws, c. 94G, § 1.
- B. The following shall be exempt from the limitations set forth in this ordinance:
  - 1. Owner applicants who qualify as Social Equity Candidates as defined by the Cannabis Control Commission of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall be exempt from this ordinance<sup>1</sup>.
  - 2. A retail establishment or a proposed retail establishment for which a Host Community Agreement has been signed by the Mayor as of the effective date of this ordinance.
  - 3. A Host Community Agreement executed after the effective date of this ordinance solely for delivery or courier of cannabis products other than delivery to the consumer over the counter at a retail cannabis establishment.

<sup>1</sup> Cannabis Control Commission, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, [Equity Programs](#)

**Passed final reading, ordained and enrolled.**

Ordinances  
(continued)  
22.220 Ordinance  
Relative to Parking  
on Hawley Street –  
2nd reading

Ordinances (continued)  
22.220 An Ordinance Relative to Parking on Hawley Street – 2nd reading  
This ordinance extends the ‘No parking’ zone at the exit to Butler Place, Councilor Nash explained.  
Councilor Jarrett moved to approve the ordinance in second reading. Councilor Perry seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.  
The following ordinance passed final reading:

22.221 Ordinance  
Relative to Stop  
Signs on Middle  
Street, High Street  
and Clement Street  
– 2nd reading

**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON  
MASSACHUSETTS**

*In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two*  
Upon the Recommendation of the Transportation and Parking Commission

**22.220  
AN ORDINANCE**

**RELATIVE TO PARKING ON  
HAWLEY STREET**

An Ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts. Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

1 SECTION 1  
2  
3 *That the § 312-102 of the Code of Ordinances be amended as follows:*  
4  
5 § 312-102 Schedule I: Parking Prohibited All Times.  
6

Location	Side	From	To
<u>Hawley Street</u>	<u>Northeast</u>	<u>Butler Place</u>	<u>A point 50 feet southeast from Butler Place</u>

7  
8

Passed final reading, ordained and enrolled.

22.221 An Ordinance Relative to Stop Signs on Middle Street, High Street and Clement Street – 2nd reading

The stop signs have been positively recommended by the Transportation and Parking Commission (TPC), have met the warrants for stop signs and will provide safety at these 'T' intersections, Councilor Jarrett advised.

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

The following ordinance passed final reading:

**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON  
MASSACHUSETTS**

*In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two*  
Upon the Recommendation of the Transportation and Parking Commission

**22.221  
AN ORDINANCE**

**RELATIVE TO STOP SIGNS ON  
MIDDLE STREET, HIGH STREET, AND CLEMENT STREET**

An Ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts. Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

1 SECTION 1  
2  
3 *That the § 312-113 of the Code of Ordinances be amended as follows:*  
4  
5 § 312-113 Schedule XII: Stop and Yield Intersections.  
6  
7 A. Isolated stop signs. Stop intersections are established at the following locations:  
8 [10-15-1981; 10-15-1987; 5-18-1989; 5-6-1993; 11-5-1998; 1-7-1999; 3-6-2003;  
9 12-2-2004]  
10

Location	Direction of Travel	At the Intersection of
<u>Middle Street</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>Chestnut Street</u>
<u>High Street</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North Maple Street</u>
<u>Clement Street</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>Burts Pit Road</u>

11

Passed final reading, ordained and enrolled.

<u>Zoning Ordinances</u>	<u>Zoning Ordinances</u> None.
<u>Resolutions</u>	<u>Resolutions</u> None.
<u>New Business</u>	<u>New Business</u> None.
<u>Adjourn</u>	<u>Adjourn</u> Councilor Perry moved to adjourn. Councilor Foster seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.  Attest: _____, Administrative Assistant



## EXHIBIT A

List of Documents Reviewed at January 19, 2023 Northampton City Council Meeting:

1. January 19, 2023 Agenda
2. Minutes of January 5, 2023
3. Email from Council President Jim Nash to City Council Administrative Assistant Laura Krutzler dated January 17, 2023 Re: Northampton Only Cannabis Use Numbers, including chart provided by Caroline Johnson, Ph.D.
4. Second Quarter Financial Report for period ending December 31, 2022 (Four spreadsheets summarizing General Fund and Enterprise Fund Revenue and Expenses)
5. 23.234 Appointment to Disability Commission - Memo from Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra to City Council Dated January 19, 2023 re: Appointment to Boards, Committees, and Commissions proposing the appointment of Amy Sugihara to the Disability Commission.
6. 23.222 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash for Road Safety Improvements Surrounding NHS
7. 23.223 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for CT River Greenway Multi-Use Trail
8. 23.224 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for DAR House Electrical Upgrade.
9. 23.225 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to Downtown Affordable Housing Creation Project.
10. 23.226 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to Leeds Affordable Housing Creation Project.
11. 23.227 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Exterior Structural Rehabilitation of NCMC.
12. 23.228 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Exterior Structural Rehabilitation of Smith Charities Building.
13. 23.229 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Rocky Hill Greenway Multi-Use Trail.
14. 23.230 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Habitat for Humanity Affordable Housing on Burts Pit Road.
15. 23.231 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to Acquire 229 Acres in the Saw Mill Hills.
16. 23.232 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to the Affordable Housing Fund.
17. 23.233 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to the Conservation Fund.
18. 22.201 An Ordinance Limiting the Number of Retail Cannabis Establishments in the City of Northampton
19. 22.220 An Ordinance Relative to Parking on Hawley Street
20. 22.221 An Ordinance Relative to Stop Signs on Middle Street, High Street and Clement Street

Record of City Council Votes for January 19, 2023		Elkins	Foster	Gore	Jarrett	LaBarge	Maio	Moulton	Nash	Perry	Total	
Roll Call by Council Administrative Assistant Laura Krutzler @7:02p.m.		Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	9 Present; 0 Absent	
Approval of Consent Agenda:		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to open Yes	Motion carried 9:0; roll call	
Minutes of January 5, 2023												Consent
23.234 Appointment to Disability Commission - for referral to City Services Committee												Consent
23.222 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash for Road Safety Improvements Surrounding NHS - 1st reading		Suspend Rules	Yes	Motion to suspend	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Yes	Motion carried 9:0; roll call	
		2nd reading	Yes	Yes	Motion to approve	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Motion carried 9:0; roll call	
23.223 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for CT River Greenway Multi-Use Trail - 1st reading		Refer to consent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Motion to refer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion carried 9:0; roll call	
23.224 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for DAR House Electrical Upgrade - 1st reading		1st reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to approve	Yes	Second Yes	Yes	Motion carried 9:0; roll call	
23.225 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to Downtown Affordable Housing Creation Project - 1st reading		1st reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to approve	Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Motion carried 9:0; roll call	
23.226 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to Leeds Affordable Housing Creation Project - 1st reading		1st reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to approve	Yes	Motion carried 9:0; roll call	
23.227 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Exterior Structural Rehabilitation of NCMC - 1st reading		1st reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Yes	Motion to approve	Motion carried 9:0; roll call
23.228 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Exterior Structural Rehabilitation of Smith Charities Building - 1st reading		1st reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Motion to approve	Yes	Yes	Motion carried 9:0; roll call	
23.229 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Rocky Hill Greenway Multi-Use Trail - 1st reading		1st reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to approve	Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Motion carried 9:0; roll call	
23.230 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Habitat for Humanity Affordable Housing on Burts Pit Road - 1st reading		1st reading	Yes	Second Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to approve	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion carried 9:0; roll call	
23.231 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to Acquire 229 Acres in the Saw Mill Hills - 1st reading		1st reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Yes	Motion to approve	Yes	Motion carried 9:0; roll call	
23.232 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to the Affordable Housing Fund - 1st reading		1st reading	Motion to approve	Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion carried 9:0; roll call	
23.233 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to the Conservation Fund - 1st reading		1st reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to	Yes	Second	Yes	Motion carried 9:0;	
22.201 An Ordinance Limiting the Number of Retail Cannabis Establishments in the City of Northampton - 2nd reading <b>Approved as amended on the floor by Councilor Foster</b>		2nd reading	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Second Yes	Motion to approve as	No	No	Motion carried 6:3 (Elkins, Nash and
22.220 An Ordinance Relative to Parking on Hawley Street - 2nd reading		2nd reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to approve	Second Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion carried 9:0; roll call
22.221 An Ordinance Relative to Stop Signs on Middle Street, High Street and Clement Street - 2nd reading		2nd reading	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to approve	Second Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion carried 9:0; roll call
Adjourn			Yes	Second Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Motion to close	Motion carried 9:0; roll call