



COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES, VETERANS, CULTURE, AND RECREATION
AND THE NORTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
Councilor Marianne LaBarge, Chair
Councilor Alisa F. Klein
Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra

MEETING MINUTES
Monday April 27, 2015
4:00 pm

City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street
Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building, Northampton, MA

1. **Members present/absent:** Present: *Councilor Marianne LaBarge and Chair, Councilor Alisa F. Klein* Absent: *Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra*
2. **Meeting Called to Order:** At 4:00 pm Councilor LaBarge called the meeting to order.
3. **Announcement of Audio/Video Recording of Meeting:** Councilor LaBarge announced that the meeting would be recorded.
4. **Approval of Minutes from March 16, 2015:** Councilor Klein moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 2 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent.
5. **Claire Higgins presented information on Community Action:**
 - Community Action works with people to provide economic opportunities. Community Action was founded in 1965. The agency works with more than 30,000 people during any one year.
 - Largest program operated by Community Action in terms of employment is the Head Start Program. The program provides quality child care so that parents can work or attend school.
 - W.I.C. is also a Community Action Program. New moms can get information about breast feeding and can also get coupons for food. The goal is to provide nutrition for families in need.
 - Fuel assistance is the largest dollar program run by Community Action. Over 7,000 households are serviced in the area. In general, families get the equivalent of one tank-full of fuel. The service is provided to the elderly, veterans and families. Families who qualify for fuel assistance, are also eligible for home weatherization review free of charge.
 - The program also runs food programs in Shelburne Falls and Franklin County.
 - The Program also provides first steps for help; someone can call and find out the next step to provide continued support.
 - Adult Education and Job Skills-Community Action operates a Harmon Personnel Staffing Service which places qualified individuals in temporary jobs.
 - Money Management-Tax preparation services and financial counseling is available.
 - Youth Program-The organization works to provide free youth development programs for ages 14-21.
 - Conflict Resolution- The Mediation and Training Collaborative provides programs to help students, teachers, and school administrators learn mediation skills and resolve conflicts; the staff are professional mediators who are available to assist in conflict resolution.
 - Healing from Trauma—essentially, this program provides support to victims of crime or trauma, such as those affected by drunken driving, hate crimes, homicide, abuse and more.
 - Family Support: A family center is located in Greenfield.
 - Claire Higgins also distributed the program's Annual Report.
6. **Rebecca Bovat presented information about the Northampton's Veteran's Agency and Tim Daley presented information about the Veterans's Council:**

Information was presented to the group regarding the Northampton Veteran's Appreciation Day that is taking place on May 23rd At Look Park in Florence. The event is free to all veterans and their families and will feature games, food and music.

7. **Public Comment-** None

8. Councilor LaBarge reviewed the upcoming agenda for the May meeting with the committee.

9. **New Business** – None

At 5:50 pm councilor Klein made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 2 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Sciarra).

Respectfully submitted by:

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