

CITY OF NORTH ADAMS
City Clerk's Office
September 2, 2015

I hereby notify that at twelve noon today the following items of business have been filed with this office and will be acted upon at the meeting in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, Tuesday evening September 8, 2015 at seven-thirty o'clock according to Section 8, Rules and Orders of the City Council.

Marilyn Gomeau
City Clerk

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
September 8, 2015

Roll Call
Moment of silent prayer
The Pledge
Approval of the minutes of *August 28, 2015*

Open Public Hearing

Application submitted by PWJ Corp (George Apkin & Sons) for fuel storage at 80R State Street.

Close Public Hearing

An Order granting PWJ Corp (George Apkin & Sons) permission to store (2) 100 gallon tanks, (22) 9 gallon tanks and (3) 22 gallon tanks at 80R State Street.

- 11,439** *Communication submitted by Councilor Wilkinson regarding a new Zoning Ordinance allowing homeowners in a nonconforming lot the ability to rebuild their homes, which was postponed at the meeting of August 11th.*
- 11,439-1** *An Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance entitled Nonconforming Buildings and Uses, Section 12.*
- 11,451-a** *Report of the Public Service Committee submitted by Councilor Moran.*
- 11,451** *Communication submitted by Councilor Buddington regarding the discussion of an Open Checkbook System, which was postponed at the meeting of August 11th.*
- 11,453-1** *An Ordinance amending Chapter 13 entitled Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article IV, entitled Operation of Vehicles, Section 13-41, entitled Obedience to traffic-control signals, which was postponed at the meeting of July 28th.*
- 11,472** *Mayor's communication #31 recommending the appointment of Peter Breen to the License Commission for a term to expire June 1, 2021.*
- 11,473** *Mayor's communication #32 recommending the re-appointment of Jeffrey Polucci to the License Commission for a term to expire June 1, 2021.*
- 11,474** *Mayor's communication #33 regarding a proclamation for "North Adams Recovery Month".*

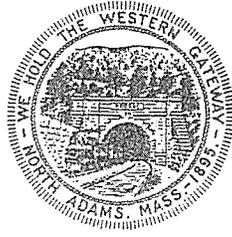
CORRESPONDENCE

LICENSES

An Application submitted by Gary Wandrei, 29 Temple Street, Adams to drive taxi for Tunnel City Taxi.

OPEN FORUM

COUNCILOR & MAYOR'S CONCERNS



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor
Richard J. Alcombright

September 8, 2015

#31

To: North Adams City Council
Re: Appointment to the License Commission

Dear Honorable Councilors:

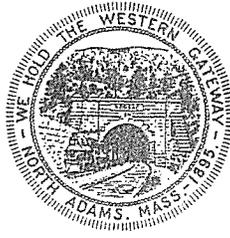
It is with great confidence that I recommend the appointment of Peter Breen to the License Commission for a term to June 1, 2021.

Peter is a retired teacher who has expressed interest in serving the City. I believe his thoughtful demeanor, attention to detail, and will to serve all bode well for him to perform well on this commission.

I respectfully request confirmation.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Alcombright
Mayor



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor
Richard J. Alcombright

September 8, 2015

#32

To: North Adams City Council
Re: Appointment to the License Commission

Dear Honorable Councilors:

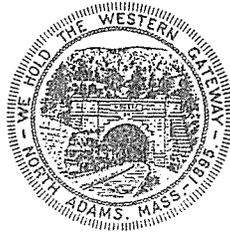
It is with great confidence that I recommend the re-appointment of Jeffrey Polucci to the License Commission for a term to expire June 1, 2021.

Jeff has served on the Commission for many years and his experience and knowledge of law and process within this vital Commission is very much needed.

I respectfully request confirmation.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Alcombright
Mayor



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor
Richard J. Alcombright

September 8, 2015

#33

To: North Adams City Council
Re: North Adams Recovery Month

Dear Honorable Councilors:

Enclosed with this communication, please find copy of "North Adams Recovery Month" proclamation along with two pieces of information regarding our "Voices for Recovery, 2015" Rally, Walk and Vigil to be held on September 12th. I will discuss this more at the meeting.

As you know, the City of North Adams like every other community in the Country is battling the disease of addiction fueled by opiate and heroin abuse.....complicated by co-occurring mental illnesses. I am very much hoping that this proclamation will once again affirm the Council's commitment to supporting solutions to eradicate the stigma associated with addiction and mental health issues.

I hope many of you can join me on Saturday, September 12th at the "Voices for Recovery, 2015" event.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Alcombright
Mayor

Josh Bressette Commit to Save A Life and nbCC's Rx/ Heroin Work Group present:

A community event to help raise awareness for recovery from substance abuse.



VOICES FOR RECOVERY 2015 RALLY·WALK·VIGIL

**Saturday, September 12
4:00pm - 8:00pm
Noel Field, State Street, North Adams**

Join the voices for recovery; Visible, Vocal, Valuable!

- A recovery walk led by Mayor Richard Alcombright
- Food available for purchase
- Activities for children
- Participate in the making of a recovery quilt
- Live music and entertainment
- Keynote speakers include **Dr. Jennifer Michaels** and **Chris and Kathi Sullivan**

To share a personal story of loss or recovery and/or a photo, contact Wendy Penner at wpenner@nbccoalition.org.

4:00 to 5:30

Registration, entertainment,
food and activities

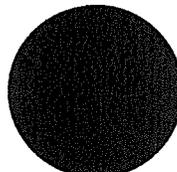
5:30 to 6:15

Walk

6:15 to 7:45

Rally/Speakers
Candlelight Vigil to follow.

northern berkshire community coalition



National
Recovery Month

Prevention Works • Treatment is Effective • People Recover

SEPTEMBER 2015

*Josh Bressette Commit to Save A Life
and nbCC's Rx/Heroin Work Group
present:*

*A community event to help
raise awareness for recovery
from substance abuse.*



**VOICES FOR RECOVERY 2015
RALLY·WALK·VIGIL**

**Join the voices for recovery;
Visible, Vocal, Valuable!**

Saturday, September 12

4:00pm - 8:00pm

Noel Field, State Street, North Adams

- A recovery walk led by Mayor Richard Alcombright
- Food available for purchase
- Activities for children
- Participate in the making of a recovery quilt
- Live music and entertainment
- Keynote speakers include Dr. Jennifer Michaels of The Brien Center and Chris and Kathi Sullivan from Taylorsmessage.com

REGISTRATION FORM FOR WALK (5:30 to 6:15):

Donation for T-shirt: \$ 10.00

Name: _____

Phone#: _____ **Email Address:** _____

Home Address: _____

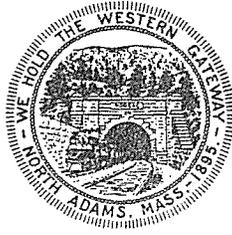
T Shirt Size (circle one): S M L XL

For more info, email: commit2savealife.org

Please mail registration form with check or money order for \$10.00 to:

**Josh Bressette Commit To Save A Life
2345 Skiparee Rd., North Pownal, VT 05260**

To share a personal story of loss or recovery and/or a photo, contact Wendy Penner at wpenner@nbccoalition.org.



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor
Richard J. Alcombright

September 2015
North Adams Recovery Month

Whereas, the citizens of North Adams value their physical and mental health and that of their Families; therefore they are proud to support North Adams Recovery Month; and

Whereas, prescription drug abuse is a national epidemic with well over 16,500 deaths a year from pain killer overdose; and

Whereas, more people now die each year from accidental drug overdose than in auto accidents; and

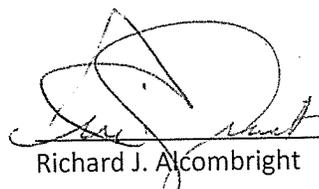
Whereas, the age group most likely to die from a drug overdose is 45 to 54 years old; and that age is dropping dramatically.

Whereas, a quarter of high school teenagers have experimented with misappropriated prescription drugs; and

Whereas, 45% of those who use prior to the age of 14 will later develop an addiction; and

Whereas, the North Adams Recovery Month" Voices for Recovery 2015" is a fitting event to increase public awareness of this important issue among all North Adams residents and will: increase community knowledge on the disease of addiction, provide resources for help for someone currently addicted, provide a place of healing and remembrance for those that have lost a loved one physically or emotionally due to a drug related incident; and celebrate the recovery of local residents.

Now, Therefore, I *Richard J. Alcombright*, Mayor of the City of North Adams, do hereby proclaim September, 2015, **North Adams Recovery Month**


Richard J. Alcombright
Mayor





City of North Adams

In City Council

September 8, 2015

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of North Adams as follows:

Section 12 of the North Adams Zoning Ordinance entitled "Nonconforming Buildings and Uses" is hereby amended as follows:

By deleting Section 12.2 and replacing the Section with the following language:

Section 12.2. Abandonment of a nonconforming use: A nonconforming use which has been abandoned or discontinued for a period of more than two years or has been replaced by a conforming use shall lose the protection set forth above in Section 12.1, except to the extent that the nonconforming use or structure may be authorized by a special permit issued by the Zoning Board of Appeals which will be granted only if the Board finds that the proposed alteration, reconstruction or extension will not be substantially more detrimental to the neighborhood than is the existing nonconforming use, and the real estate taxes on the subject property have been continuously paid and the owner is otherwise in compliance with the all municipal ordinances, rules and regulations, including all Board of Health regulations.

By adding the following Section:

Section 12.3.1. Reconstruction of Nonconforming Structures Damaged By Fire or Other Casualty. A structure which has been destroyed by fire or other accidental or natural causes may be restored to its original condition, regardless of any nonconformity of the structure or its use, but only provided that either such work is started within twelve (12) months of the damage and completed within two (2) years of the date of the damage, and further provided that the reconstruction does not substantially change the character or size of the buildings or the use which they were put prior to the damage.

Committee Members Present:

- Joshua Moran – Chair
- Eric Buddington

City Councilors Present:

- Nancy Bullett

City Employees:

- Dave Fiero
- Mike Canales

Meeting Start: 6:33 PM

Submitted by Joshua Moran, Chair

Councilor Buddington provided the document: North Adams Records Availability (see attached) in order for the Committee and the general public to summarize what the City has for common records and their availability.

Councilor Buddington then reviewed each record and took questions and comments from City Employees and the general public.

Agendas:

No significant comments.

Meeting minutes:

The consensus is that the City Clerk should be the keeper of all meeting minutes, however it was pointed out that the City Clerk is the keeper of all records that are submitted to the office. When residents are looking for minutes that the Clerk does not possess, the person who generated the meeting minutes is responsible for providing meeting minutes.

The committee will look into what it will take to make sure all meeting minutes are supplied to the Clerk's office in a timely fashion.

Ordinances:

Once a year they are updated / hard copies and past approved copies are located at the Clerk's office.

Budget:

No significant comments.

Classification Plan:

No significant comments.

North Adams Committee Reviewing Online Information Access

By Tammy Daniels

iBerkshires Staff

08:55PM / Wednesday, August 26, 2015

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. — The Public Services Committee is considering how to better provide access to city information.

The committee has taken up the issue after inquiries several months ago about the possibility of instituting an "open checkbook" system, technically an accessible online city accounts payable system.

The administration has said the cost to update the city's accounting software and link into the online system could be prohibitive at this point without significant grant funding.

Committee member Eric Buddington told the half-dozen or so attendees on Monday that the initial goal would be to review what is being done now.

"I wanted to expand this topic to records availability generally," he said. "My goal for the evening is to flesh out what records are easily available and have some discussion about what records could be more accessible without much difficulty."

Resident Aaron Crandall said his concern was the accessibility of meeting minutes, where they were stored and the timely manner in which they were turned into the city clerk.

"You shouldn't go there to get minutes and you only get two out of six," he said.

Administrative Officer Michael Canales, who attended the meeting with City Auditor David Fierro Jr. in case there were questions, said, "the clerk is the keeper of the records for all records turned over to her."

The city clerk keeps the minutes of the City Council, its committees (which may be taken by a member but are submitted to the full council), vital statistics, elections results and certain other records. The clerk also stores any minutes submitted for storage, but other boards may keep their own records.

Several of those attending thought the clerk should be made keeper of all documents, though Canales pointed out the council has no control over other elected or independent boards.

Buddington had a summary of what could and could not be found on the [city website](#), asking for input on anything he might have missed.

Over the last few years, meeting agendas, ordinances, the charter, budgets, classification and compensation plans, application forms and assessment data have been regularly posted online. Meeting minutes have not been, for the most part, although City Council minutes to be approved are often uploaded with the agenda.

Not on the site are contracts, requests for proposals, bids, salaries, other expenses and Board of Health bylaws.

Canales said the Board of Health primarily operates according to state regulations but may pass ordinances "over and above" what the state requires. He said the mayor's office is looking for a technical grant to get those online because there is no general book of regulations and the board has to look up if anything had been instituted in the past. In the case of the building inspector, state building code is followed so there are no separate regulations.

RFPs and bid contracts are kept by the procurement office, but RFPs could be found on [CommBuys](#) (not easily) by looking up the city's listings (the number is 1371).

While the classification and compensation plans are available, salaries are not online.

"The state gives a detailed list with names and number of years on the job," said resident Wayne Goodell. "There are cities and towns also that do that same thing."

Resident Roger Eurbin thought the city should provide more information on revenue streams. Several said the city should offer employment opportunities on the website, not aware those links have been posted for some years now.

Clicking under the "[Employment Opportunities](#)" tab on the city website takes you several direct links to job postings on the school district website, [Berkshire Works](#), [BerkshireJobs.com](#), and others.

"It's very early on in this so we want to get the input," said Buddington. "I think this is a very long-term issue ... the city has been doing paper for a very long time. I'm also very excited if we can get a grant to digitize these records."

He cautioned, however, that there was "no pool of labor to post all this stuff."

Eurbin was concerned that the the elderly and others would be left out if everything was online only.

"It they didn't have computers, they wouldn't know," he said. "Putting everything on a computer is not the answer."

Committee Chairman Joshua Moran said it was more about expanding access.

"It's a big transformation. We've seen information technology jump in the last 10 years," he said. "Things that aren't online may take a little more legwork. I'd say the transparency is met but we need to nudge it along.

"It's there but it may not be right at your fingertips. We still function in a world that takes a little time."

Goodell and Crandall both pointed to the city of Chicopee, which recently joined the [state's open check book system](#). Chicopee with Chelsea, Revere, Brookline and Woburn, as the lead, received nearly \$300,000 in Community Innovation Challenge Grants over two years to upgrade and institute open checkbook.

"We need to look to Chicopee as a model to where we want to be," said Crandall.

Compensation Plan:

No significant comments.

RFPs:

They are located in the Procurement Office. For all RFPs over \$35,000 they can be located online at CommBuys by looking up the City's listing, 1371. For RFPs under \$35,000 they are located only at the Procurement Office.

Contracts:

No significant comments.

Bids:

No significant comments.

Salaries:

Salaries for higher paid City Employees can be found online, however for other salaries they can be obtain but not online.

Other expenses:

No significant comments.

Board of Health Bylaws:

Are not located online and the Administration is looking into grants to help facilitate the process. However for bylaws the City defaults to the State Code except where the City has gone above and behind the state bylaws, these can be found at the Board of Health Office.

Application Forms:

All job applications can be found on the City's website through third party sites such as BerkshireJobs.com.

Assessment Data:

No significant comments.

The Committee also spoke of the preliminary cost of an Open Checkbook System, though it appears to be in the range of a half of million dollars per Dave Fiero, Councilor Buddington express that this is a long term process and would like to try to work with the City to provide as much information as possible to the public via the City's website, without the addition of extra employees for data entry.

The iBerkshires article, North Adams Committee Reviewing Online Information Access, is also attached.

Meeting adjourned: 7:16 PM