Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3015

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT 2014

January 1, 2014

The Clerk welcomed everyone to the Organization of Government for 2014.

The Clerk read a few words of wisdom to begin the New Year.

What makes this country great is not that everyone thinks alike but the diversity of its people.
We are gathered today, as members of our community, with the shared belief that we must treat each other with dignity and respect.
I ask you not to bow your heads, but to look up at what you can accomplish by working together in a civil manner.
I ask you not to close your eyes but keep them wide open to the problems that we face as a City.
With your talents and insight you can lead this community to a better future.
As you work together on behalf of all who live in this City, may you draw strength and encouragement from one another through compassion and reason.
Remember, being a member of the majority does not make you right, just part of a group that thinks alike.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Clerk called upon Pastor David Anderson from the First Baptist Church to invoke the Inaugural Invocation.

Pursuant to the City Election on November 5, 2013 the following were elected as
City Councilors for the City of North Adams for a term of two years. Please stand as your name is called and remain standing to take the oath of Office. **Lisa M. Blackmer, Keith J. Bona, Jennifer M. Breen, Eric R. Buddington, Nancy Bullett, Benjamin J. Lamb, Kate H. Merrigan, Joshua J. Moran, and Wayne Wilkinson.**

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau administered the oath of office to the City Council.

The Clerk called the meeting to order.

On roll call the following responded; Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson.

The Clerk called for nomination for President for the year 2014.

Councilor Bullet nominated Councilor Blackmer, seconded by Councilor Bona.

With no further nominations, Councilor Breen motioned to cease nominations, seconded by Councilor Bona.

The Clerk declares Councilor Blackmer as Council President for the year 2014.

The City Clerk administered the oath of office to Councilor Blackmer.

President Blackmer takes the chair.

Councilor Blackmer gave her address to the City Council.

Thank you fellow Councilors. I am truly honored by your support. Thank you to friends, family, colleagues, and all those who are gathered here to witness the 2014 organization of city government for our city, the City of North Adams.

As we embark on 2014, we say goodbye to seasoned veterans and welcome fresh faces and ideas. I look forward to working with the Mayor, Councilors and staff to serve the needs of the residents who elected us. I expect we will be thoughtful and respectful in our deliberations. We will not agree on everything, but we must work and compromise toward the best solutions.

While we continue to face the same challenges: shrinking state and federal funding chasing increased needs, aging infrastructure and stagnant tax-base, we have much to look forward to. The downtown has been revitalized. It is the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Mohawk Trail and the 15th anniversary of MASS MoCA's opening. Work on Conte school will begin. The Greylock Marketplace will move forward. The Berkshire Scenic Railway will begin its North County service. The Hadley Overpass may actually be completed.

Those assets, combined with MCLA and its brand new science center, the Airport, Hospital, great natural beauty and a giving and passionate citizenry make North Adams a great place to live, work and play. I am hopeful that a Council fully engaged in their committee work and community will help to continue to move the City forward. Thank you.

The President calls for nominations for Vice President for the year 2014.

Councilor Bona nominates Councilor Bullett as Vice President.

With no further nomination the President declared the nominations closed.

The Clerk administered the oath of office to Vice President Bullett.

The President presented the Rules of Order for City Council for 2014.

The President announces the Committee assignments for 2014.

Community Development
Wayne Wilkinson Chair
Ben Lamb
Eric Buddington

Finance
Nancy Bullett Chair
Wayne Wilkinson
Lisa Blackmer

General Government
Jennifer Breen Chair
Nancy Bullett
Kate Merrigan

Public Safety
Keith Bona Chair
Kate Merrigan
Ben Lamb

Public Services
Josh Moran Chair
Eric Buddington
Keith Bona

The President announces the Liaison assignments for 2014.

- North Adams School Committee - Kate Merrigan
- McCann Regional Technical High School Committee – Keith Bona
- BART Charter School – Ben Lamb
- Hoosac Water Quality District – Josh Moran
- North Adams Housing Authority – Eric Buddington
- North Adams Planning Board – Wayne Wilkinson
- North Adams Contributory Retirement Board – Jennifer Breen
- Traffic Commission Member – Nancy Bullett

The President called upon the City Clerk to administer the oath of office to the members-elect of the North Adams School Committee, **John Hockridge, Mark Moulton, Heather Putnam Boulger.**

The President called upon the City Clerk to administer the oath of office to the members elect of the Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District, **Paul Gigliotti and Gary Rivers.**

Gary Rivers was not in attendance and will be sworn in at a later date.

The President appoints Councilor Merrigan and Councilor Lamb to draw Council seats for 2014.

Seat 1. Councilor Lamb	Seat 2. Councilor Bullett	Seat 3. Councilor Moran
Seat 4. Councilor Bona	Seat 5. Councilor Wilkinson	Seat 6. Councilor Buddington
Seat 7. Councilor Breen	Seat 8. Councilor Merrigan	

The President announces Council is now ready to receive Mayor-elect Richard J. Alcombright and appoints Councilor Bullett and Councilor Moran to escort Mayor-elect to the Council Chambers.

The President called upon the City Clerk to administer the oath of office to Mayor-elect Richard J. Alcombright.

His Honor, the Mayor delivers his inaugural address.

Madam Clerk, Madam President, Madam Vice President, Councilors, School Committee members, Representative Cariddi, City Solicitor DeRosa, Pastor Dave, Father Matt, City and School Administration and Staff, Families, Friends, AND OF COURSE...MOM...WELCOME....

As I begin...I want to extend a very heartfelt "thank you" to the voters in the City of North Adams for returning me to office for two more years.

I also want to thank ALL City and School Staff for their hard work, commitment and dedication to the residents and student of this City.

Despite this VERY cold January day....the sun is shining and the birds are chirping in the City of North Adams as we begin a new year...a new year filled with hope and promise. Hope for better days....and promise of a brighter future.

Some have expressed concern that the number of new Councilors might be problematic. I fail to see the problems but very specifically focus on the many opportunities.

What this Council lacks in municipal experience is made up for in professional experience(s) in so many sectors....education, retail, health care, engineering, management, law, real estate, human services, art, technology....all of these sectors so aptly bundled into what you all bring to this new Council.

This community is very fortunate to have all of you in office....collectively you are a very strong body and I am CERTAIN that we will achieve many wonderful things over the next two years.

And while some of you will have much to learn....I am fully prepared as is my staff to be accessible with respect to any issue that might come before you.

I will work with Council President Blackmer to schedule workshops for the budget, capital needs, setting of the tax rate, VISION 2030 Master Plan and other specific areas of concern to the Council.

You have my assurance that I will continue to come to each and every Council meeting well prepared and that you will get documentation to support your work....so that when you act, when you vote, you will do so in an informed manner.

This new year brings with it some difficult challenges but also some very positive initiatives.

- I am concerned for our hospital and therefore our community. While the hospital continues its fight to provide services and remain fiscally solvent, hard decisions have to be made regarding the reduction of services offered.
- As these discussions continue and decisions are made, I only ask that this community stand by North Adams Regional Hospital knowing that what they are experiencing is real and that while VERY difficult, a decision to reduce services for some.....may be the decision that preserves services for most.
- There are many things that come at me day-to-day....the most frustrating thing for me is the City budget and my quest to close the gaps, balance the budget and begin building reserves.
- We cannot continue chasing our tails, spending so much time and effort managing the books that we lose focus on the ONLY thing that will fix this problem and that is GROWTH.
- I continue with my pledge of strong fiscal integrity.
- Pertaining to growth, I will continue to do everything I can....working with anyone I can to promote growth through private sector capital investment. We have done a pretty good job but I have to do better....
- I am going to do whatever I can to preserve our business base and to help it grow. That could mean more aggressive public sector incentives tied to private sector investment. Things like "Special Tax Agreements" and the "sale of public buildings" with the reward being the creation of jobs and the strengthening of our tax base.
- We have identified many capital projects that we will be facing over the next 20 years, projects that are beginning to reach numbers as high as $36 million dollars. This number does not include a public safety building, a solution to our transfer station issues, a new DPW facility, ADA improvements or further commitments to our airport.

My administration with this Council will be making very difficult decisions over the next several cycles as we prioritize projects and determine the best way to fund them.

The reality is that much of what we need to do...needs to be done sooner than later. And while we have the capacity to take on more debt we simply do not have the cash flow to pay.

Together....we will figure these things out.

But....back to that shining sun and those chirping birds

- Thanks to many of you here today....we will be building a new school with the ground breaking in the early spring and a completion date in the summer of 2015
- This quarter, the City will unveil its Comprehensive Master Plan....VISION 2030 – a plan that will be our roadmap for growth and sustainability. This plan will allow us too methodically and with purpose, work on everything from economic development to neighborhood revitalization to infrastructure to healthy living.
- Very soon, the Partnership for North Adams will unveil its exciting and visionary plan for growth in our corridor. This privately funded plan will allow us to consider major greening and infrastructure projects as well as ways to promote our City through branding and marketing....all working hand in hand with our VISION 2030 master plan
- Over the next six months, we will continue working with private investors and government partners to finalize the rebirth of Heritage State Park into the Greylock Marketplace ....a project that holds significant promise for the City. The revitalization and privatization of the park has been a priority of mine for two years.....and should be complete by summer of 2015
- With the Marketplace, we will see a new surge of visitors from Mt. Greylock, a new connectivity with MASS MoCA, a tourist rail experience and further design on the bike path coming this way from both Adams AND Williamstown
- I hope to have a GRAND Phase 2 announcement for the Marketplace in several months
- I have not lost sight of the Mohawk Theater and this project continues to be very complex and challenging. I have spoken recently with Senator Markey's office and I hope to begin conversations with other Federal and State leaders on how we can get a project funded and underway. Once again....I still believe the most sustainable model is a theater that fosters the arts through education while providing for significant community use and performances. MCLA remains our most viable partner in this project. I will re-engage in this project over the next few months.

- We have seen significant growth and new jobs in our Route 8 corridor with the investment of Crane Fine Stationary, Walmart, Ocean State Job Lots, Tractor Supply and we are anticipating further investment from Bond Auto and Cumberland Farms in the very near future.
- I continue to work with President Mary Grant and our friends at MCLA to find ways to further connect the campus to the community. Their presence in our downtown.....staff and student infusion in our City and schools.....and investment on and off campus continues to tell their story of commitment here in the City and well beyond.
- With significant policing, we have seen our crime numbers go down. We have had significant drug arrests and have arrested the major players responsible for the many break-ins in the City last year. These arrests in many cases have already led to convictions. While this success is great....we will keep up the pressure to assure that the city is as safe as possible.

So.....As I begin to work with many of you on our challenges and our dreams, I only ask that those sworn here today come to know and understand the issues and that my administration is at your disposal to provide you with any information you may need.

Please....keep an open mind....and let's not spin our wheels in politics but rather move steadily ahead through policy.

Each and every day, I come into City Hall and look at what I do in this way....I am the CEO of a $36 million dollar business with just over 13,000 shareholders and while the day-to-day business of running the City can be complex.....

- policy takes precedence over politics
- sound business decisions override special interests

I trust that you will join me in these principles.

SO....Today....right now....as we move through this ceremony, we are beginning to plan for the days, weeks and months ahead.

Today....right now.....I marvel at all of you who have just been sworn.....and I acknowledge with great thanks, ALL who serve our City.

Today....right now....I feel a renewed sense of spirit....a renewed sense of pride....a renewed sense of commitment.....AND A RENEWED SENSE OF OWNERSHIP

Today....right now....I am confident that we are on the right path and that we have and will continue to see great things happen

AND TODAY....RIGHT NOW....I could not be more excited to be part of this process and this TEAM. Thank you all very much and God Bless the City of North Adams

The President calls upon Father Matthew Alcombright from Mary Mother of Hope Parish in Springfield to give the Benediction.

With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.

VOTED: to adjourn at 11:30am

A True Record
Attest,

Marilyn Gomeau
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3015

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
January 14, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson.

A moment of silent prayer was observed remembering Louis Axt, Jr, former North Adams City Councilor, biology teacher at Drury High School and Assistant Superintendent of the North Adams Public Schools. Armand Perrault, former Franch language teacher at Drury High School. Joan Dumas, former employee of the North Adams School System and an election worker for the City.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Hearing of Visitors, hearing none the President called for the approval of the minutes of the December 23rd meeting.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to approve the minutes as presented.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to amend the minutes to read Councilor Bond as chairman of the Community Development Committee.

The President called for the approval of the minutes of the Organization of Government held on January 1st.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to approve the minutes as presented.

Without objection the President moved the taxi application forward.

The President presented an application submitted by Heath Buffin, 65 River Street to drive taxi for Tunnel City Taxi.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to grant the license.

11,345 The President presented Council Rules of Order for the year 2014, which were presented at the Organization of Government January 1st.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to approve the Council Rules as presented.

11,346 The President presented Mayor's communication #1 regarding workshops for City Councilor's.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to file the communication.

The Mayor thought this is would be a good tool for all Councilor's especially the new Councilor's. The first workshop would be with department heads in January. The second one in February would be infrastructure. March would be the third on the budget process and in April the master plan.

Councilor's all had conflicting dates that would not work for them, Councilor Buddington suggested the Mayor put some dates out and a show of hands would indicate how many would be able to attend.
Councilor Bona wondered if new Councilor's would be able to tour some of the City's departments to see what the buildings and departments are dealing with.
The Mayor said his intent was to bring the department heads to the Councilor's.
Council President noted these workshops have to be posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Law, and there would be no discussion from the public. Councilor Merrigan urged residents interested in learning about City Government to attend even though there will be no public input.
The first workshop is scheduled for January 21st at 7:30pm.

11,347 The President presented Mayor's communication #2 regarding updates for ADA compliance.

The President asked for a motion to amend the paper number to read 11,276-2.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to amend.

On motion of Councilors Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTEDL to file the communication.

The Mayor noted that although the new Councilor's were not familiar with ADA compliance it was what the City had to do to comply with the Department of Justice. Michael Canales, Administrative Officer presented Council with an update on what the City has done. Mr. Canales explained the Council had approved a borrowing order for $250,000 so the work could be started on the green items. He noted the City is moving faster and at a lower cost than expected, allowing some of the yellow items which require more design and possible bidding may also be done. The red items, which includes the Public Safety building, prompted the complaint for the Department of Justice to do the audit.
Councilor Lamb asked what the time line for the Department of Justice was.
The Mayor explained the City has three years to comply, but the Department of Justice will work with municipalities showing progress, however the Mayor noted the Public Safety building needs to begin this year.
Councilor Buddington said looking ahead would the public have input when the red items need to be addressed.
Councilor Wilkinson asked if the estimated cost would be in the millions. Mr. Canales said it would be and the City needs to come up with a plan on how to fund it.

11,348 The President presented Mayor's communication #3 recommending the bonds for various departments for FY'14.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to file the communication.

The Mayor explained this was state law and the amount of bonding was also determined by the state.

11,348 The President presented an Order establishing the bond for the City Treasurer/Tax Collector at $250,000 for FY'14.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson.

11,348-1 The President presented an Order establishing the bond for the Assistant City Treasurer at $62,500 for FY'14.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson.

11,348-2 The President presented an Order establishing the bond for the City Clerk at $15,000 for FY'14.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson.

The President called for any Councilor Concerns, Councilor Bullett said the Friends of the Windsor Lake were holding their third annual snow shoeing on Sunday January 26th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Councilor Bullett also reminded residents to send in their annual census forms.
Councilor Merrigan noted Monday January 20th was Martin Luther King Day at the MCLA Church Street Center at 9:00am and at 12:30 a lunch will be served.
The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Michael Chalifoux, 54 Monroe Street expressed his concerns for the Veteran's. He also remarked on the fact the bridge was still not completed. With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.

VOTED: to adjourn at 8:17pm
A True Record.
Attest

Marilyn Gomeau
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3015

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
January 28, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The President called for the approval of the minutes of the January 14th meeting.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to approve the minutes as presented.

11,349 Mayor's communication #4 recommending a transfer from Parking Meter Reserve Account to Capital Items.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

The Mayor noted he would like to amend the communication to read appropriation, not transfer.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to amend the communication.

The Mayor explained this appropriation was the second payment of a three year lease on three Police cars and the Fire Chief vehicle. The interest rate is 6% and the lease can be bought out at any time, at the end of the lease the buyout is $1.00 per vehicle.

11,349 The President presented an Order appropriating the sum of $49,860.75 from Parking Meter Reserve Account to Unclassified, Capital Items; Police cars and Fire Chief Vehicle.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

Councilor Lamb questioned after the three years, where does the parking meter money go to.

The Mayor said under ordinance the monies can be used for Public Safety.

Councilor Buddington questioned if this funding was solely from the Parking Meter Account.

Councilor Lamb asked if there was a projection of revenue from the parking meters.

The Mayor said the bulk of revenue comes from parking passes. The Mayor noted that this appropriation would leave about $30,000 in the account. We are anticipating it will replenish itself to $60,000 by fiscal year's end.

Mark Trottier, 131 Woodlawn Avenue asked if the 6% interest rate was on a short term loan, and was this loan done locally.
The Mayor noted it was done through the dealership.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson.

11,350 The President presented Mayor's communication #5 recommending the appointment of Jay Walsh to the Planning Board for a term to expire February 1, 2016.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

Councilor Wilkinson noted it should be to fill the unexpired term. The Mayor said he was going to make that amendment, and thanked Councilor Wilkinson for 22 years of service. Councilor Wilkinson felt this was an excellent choice. Councilor Merrigan asked the Mayor if he would elaborate on Jay Walsh's qualification. The Mayor said Mr. Walsh has significant experience in agriculture, energy, sustainable community development and urban design. Councilor Moran and Councilor Buddington agreed Jay Walsh was an excellent choice.

11,345-1 The President presented a communication submitted by Council President regarding Council Rule #8.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to accept.

Several Councilor's pushed for the earlier deadline, allowing them more time to review their papers. Councilor Buddington said the extra time was important and extremely useful. Councilor Moran also expressed it was helpful to get the papers early, since he often leaves town on a Friday and does not return until Sunday night, which does not allow enough time to review the papers.
The Mayor said many times it is difficult for the administration to prepare the documents, noting a Monday holiday can complicate things.
Councilor Buddington noted the extra time was important and extremely useful; it does not leave much time to research because City Employees are not available on week-ends. Councilor Breen thought the delivery of packets by the police was not using the officers efficiently, she said that she was in favor of electronic delivery. Councilor Wilkinson speaking from experience, he prefers to pick his packet in the Clerk's office when they are ready. Councilor Bullett expressed that she does not like electronic delivery and she sees no problem with the way it is.Councilor Bona said he was okay with later, since if papers need more research it can always be referred to committee.
Council President reminded Councilor's it is your right and duty to do your own research.

Mark Trottier, 131 Woodlwan Ave said the agenda item had not been properly posted and questioned the Rules of Order, saying it was part of the City Charter. Council President responded saying the Rules of Order can be changed and accepted at the beginning of each term by the Council President.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to amend the rule.

The President called for a roll call vote on the amendment to Council Rule #8, yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson, Nay Councilor Buddington.

The President reminded the Mayor to stick to the deadline.

The President presented an application submitted by Dominic Mondia, Jr., 157 East Quincy Street to drive taxi for Tunnel City Taxi.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President presented an application submitted by Jonathan Miner, 335 State Street to drive taxi for Tunnel City Taxi.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Mark Trottier, 131 Woodlawn Avenue was in disagreement with several of the Council Rules.

The President called for any Councilor Concerns, Councilor Bona congratulated the Drury band for their recent performance. Councilor Bona supported the professional hockey league coming to North Adams. Councilor Bullett said there was going to be a second snowshoeing event on February 9th at Windsor Lake starting at 1:00pm. Councilor Breen also commented on the Black Bears coming to North Adams. Councilor Wilkinson noted that Council meetings could also be viewed on the NBCT web site.
Councilor Buddington noted that he would make sure information that residents were looking for would be on the web site. Councilor Lamb noted North Adams was one of the top places for vacation and MCLA was listed in the top 10 for Liberal Arts Colleges in Redbook, this is very positive for North Adams.
The Mayor also was in support of the Black Bear pro hockey team. The team is still in the talking stages for the use of the rink with the City and the State Department of Conservation and Recreation, which owns the facility. They require showers and locker rooms, among other things.
The Mayor warned Councilor's the City is in for a rough ride for this budget season. The Governor's budget calls for no increase in unrestricted local aid. Unless things change the City is going to be in a situation that none of us want to be in. The Mayor said "State Aid is the life blood for the City" and has been for years.
With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.

VOTED: to adjourn at 8:16pm
A True Record.
Attest

Marilyn Gomeau
City Clerk

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City of North Adams

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City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
February 11, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson.

A moment of silent prayer was observed, remembering Janice O'Keefe, wife of former City Councilor Clark Billings, and former member of the North Adams Historical Commission and Human Services Commission. Connie Vecellio, former manager of the East School cafeteria and Food Service Program at McCann Technical High School. Samuel Fulginiti, father of Nancy Canales, Assistant City Clerk and grandfather of Administrative Officer Michael Canales. Kristine Fierro, sister of City Auditor David Fierro.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The President called for the approval of the minutes of the January 28th meeting.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to approve the minutes as presented.

11,351 Mayor's communication #6 requesting time to deliver his State of the City address.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

The Mayor gave his State of the City address.

11,352 The President presented Mayor's communication #7 recommending the appointment of Shaun Dougherty to the Airport Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2017.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

11,353 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Merrigan regarding Chapter 23, Section 23-14 Qualifications for taxicab drivers.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to place paper on the floor for discussion.

Councilor Merrigan said she was interested in reviewing the process of the licensee coming to the Council meeting, we do not ask any questions of the applicant. The application already has the approval of the police department.

Councilor Bona would like to see this referred to the Public Safety Committee, there are also other licenses that come before Council for approval, and I would like to review them also.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to refer to the Public Safety Committee and postpone to the meeting of March 25th.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Joshua Field, 29 Holbrook Street said he has a petition regarding the sale of St. Francis Church. He feels demolishing it is not the right position for the City; it is part of architectural history.

The President called for any Councilor Concerns, Councilor Bona reminded everyone about Winter Fest this Saturday February 15th from 10:00 to 4:00. There will be ice sculpturing and the chowder fest. Councilor Bullett thanked everyone who took part in the 2nd snowshoeing event at Windsor Lake. Councilor Lamb also thanked Councilor Bullett for her efforts in this event, it was great fun. Councilor Lamb reminded people about the adult prom to be held on February 22nd at the Elks Lodge. Councilor Buddington noted that the concerns some people had about the accessibility for the meetings being on the web site have been addressed. Thank you to the City Clerk for showing me how to navigate the site to find the information. Councilor Buddington also thanked Peter Gentile and Paul Marino for making the meetings available. Councilor Merrigan noted Childcare of the Berkshire is sponsoring a bowl-a-thon, February 27th, and the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition is holding a meeting Friday February 14th from 10:00 to 12:00 at the Baptist Church. Councilor Moran thanked businesses and residents who shoveled their sidewalks in the recent snow storm, but for those who have not, please grab a shovel and shovel your walks, it is very difficult and unsafe to walk in the roads. Councilor Moran also noted for those having trouble with health insurance they can get help from Ecu-Health Care.
With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.

VOTED: to adjourn at 8:01pm
A True Record.
Attest

Marilyn Homeau
City Clerk

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

February 11, 2014

As I come into my fifth year in office, I am here tonight to give you my thoughts relative to our fine City for this year to come.

Over the past several cycles, we faced many fiscal challenges as we tried to strengthen our financial position. We have had modest success however our quest, working towards a truly balanced budget and strong reserves, continues to provide me and our finance TEAM considerable frustration.

My last four budgets have increased each year on average less than 1%. We have made cuts, consolidated departments, reduced staffing through attrition, cut health insurance costs through reform, and made significant and unfortunate cuts to our schools.

Reserves have been fully utilized to balance the budgets, taxes have been raised, water and sewer rates have increased, but not enough to offset reductions in unrestricted state and school aid coupled with increases in state assessments, utility costs, capital expenditures and rising salary and pension costs....just to name a few.

As we begin to build our FY2015 budget, I must be certain that this Council and residents understand that this will undoubtedly be the most difficult budget this City has seen in recent memory.

As you know, the Governor recently unveiled his FY2015 budget with no increase in the Unrestricted Local Aid. This is the lifeblood of municipalities.....especially those like us. Without yet getting into the numbers, that announcement will be the "inaction" that will immediately put our next budget significantly out of balance.

At the Mass Municipal conference a couple of weeks ago House Speaker DeLeo in his remarks to the membership recognized the Governors omission of increased funding, assuring us that the "Legislature would do better". But what is "better"? I guess only time will tell.

With State revenues pacing some 8% ahead of projections and state reserves now at some $1.2 billion, it is very hard to understand why Unrestricted Local Aid was not increased.....substantially.

My past four years of tough fiscal policy....significant sacrifice by staff.....programmatic cuts and consolidations....while difficult proved to have kept this City's fiscal position in check.

Taking our deficit from $2.6 million four years ago to some $300K this cycle gave us a lot of satisfaction HOPING that we MIGHT have a balanced document this year. Couple all of this with our infrastructure woes and we have a lot of work to do....

I am hoping that the numbers will change as the Legislature and Senate with strong support from our Berkshire Delegation, will bring forward better revenue expectations. I will continue to keep this Council very well informed.

I am very happy to report:

- That the Hadley bridge will be completed by June 1st
- That the privatization of Heritage State Park continues to move ahead through discussion with the principals of the Greylock Marketplace.
- That our solar project on the site of the capped landfill and along the northerly edge of the Airport continues to move forward.
- That the Conte School renovation is out to bid and we hope to see construction begin within the next 60 days.
- That further development along the Rte. 8 corridor with Cumberland Farms and Bond Auto gives me hope for more commercial development in that area.

This year, we have applied for a grant to help craft a formal capital plan outlining the short, mid and long term needs of the City. This list will include everything from vehicles to building infrastructure to our water and sewer systems and will allow us to proactively plan projects and seek grants.

Public Safety will continue to be a priority as the City continues to deal with crime issues that are pervasive in more urban communities, not least of which are the crimes resulting from addiction. As a community, we need to embrace the reality that to simply lock up addicts is a very small part of the solution to a greater problem.

Opiate use that leads to heroin addiction is everywhere in our community, greater community, region, state and country. Anecdotally, I can say with great confidence that addiction and the underlying mental health issues that contribute to the addiction is one of the largest and fastest growing social issues in this country.

What are we doing about this in North Adams? First and foremost....more policing....more arrests....more convictions.

Last summer, we engaged with several local law enforcement agencies as well as the District Attorney to truly crack down on the drug activity in the City. This action brought about a significant number of arrests, confiscations and convictions. Both street and higher level dealers were arrested with several still awaiting trial. Significant amounts of heroin and marijuana was seized and to this day, these efforts are ongoing. Yet despite these efforts, the problem persists because addiction persists. It persists in our families and our neighborhoods and as I am responsible to this community for enforcement, I am also responsible for education.

Last year saw the creation of the Prescription Drug/Heroin Abuse Task Force, the Systems of Care Committee, and nb21.....all efforts that deal with prevention, education and eradication and the stigma surrounding mental health and addiction. I actively sit in on all three of these groups.

Through these efforts, conversations are FINALLY being had on traditionally hidden and sensitive subjects. Think about it....no one wakes up one day choosing a life of addiction....quite honestly I very strongly believe.....that addiction chooses them. Mental Health "illness" and the "disease" of addiction that are prevalent in every socio-economic class, age, race, and gender need to be seen and addressed as such, and as a community we need to discuss these issues and help create solutions.

I am very pleased to see our North Adams Chamber of Commerce getting off the ground in partnership with the Franklin County CDC and our Office of Tourism. This combined effort located on Main Street should be an invaluable resource to our every growing small business community.

I continue to work with our community partner MCLA, on a sustainable project that will breathe life into the Mohawk Theater. With continued engagement and commitment of state and federal governments for additional funding, I am very hopeful that we will be able to announce a solution. MCLA as a partner guarantees a project with long term sustainability providing daily use, revenue, management, programming and other attributes that will assure success.

We have significantly completed our Master Plan "Vision 2030". This process through the efforts and ideas of many is creating the roadmap that will allow the City to move forward. The plan addresses many issues concerning development, environment, neighborhoods, education, culture, recreation, healthy living and other topics vital to a healthy community. The final draft will be out for public comment very soon.

I am very excited to be a part of the Partnership for North Adams, a "think tank" of sorts that has been established to look at different sectors of our economy and develop ideas and solutions for growth and development. Many good things have and will continue to come from their efforts.

I am so encouraged by the numbers of young people who are getting involved in our community. From the new City Councilors, to board and commission members, to events volunteers, to those that serve various civic and community organizations, it is apparent that a new day is dawning in our City.

On the flip side, I have heard enough from those who want only pull down what is trying to be accomplished with a "woe is me" attitude. North Adams is a miniature version of our nation. The age of industrialism in America is over. Our traditional sources of authority are in decline. But America is the country of the future and we must be a City that looks to the future...

As a community, as a City, we should never forget our past and who we were....however we should not hold on to that past so tightly, that we diminish the hope of what we can become. Time after time, I run into people who say our community has changed.....and they say it at times with angst and resentment.

Living here all my life, I certainly do not disagree that our community has changed. What hasn't changed? Well the answer to that is simply this.....many of us have not changed....or simply do not want to.

The next several years will be critical and I want to send the message tonight in a very clear tone.....We need to collectively ask this question.....If there was no North Adams and we were to build one....what would it look like? What do we need? Well we have so many community assets to build on:

1. Our people
2. Our arts and cultural community
3. Our beautiful physical environment
4. A great hospital
5. An exceptional college
6. A world class museum
7. An airport
8. A growing business community
9. A good public school system
10. A Master Plan
11. The Partnership for North Adams

ALL ASSETS THAT ARE NECESSARY TO BUILD A COMMUNITY – and while we have them all....they are a bit disjointed yet....

How do we more effectively link them all to fully maximize their role and relevance in this "new" North Adams.

What we need to do is focus on our assets knowing that if they grow....our liabilities will shrink – We need to continue to capture the ideas and creativity of many and harness those thoughts and that energy in a productive way.

We have Amanda Chilson in our City who is leading the charge with her Mass in Motion program through the Community Coalition – this effort speaks volumes to the physical and emotional vibrancy in the City....will we all embrace her spirit?

We have Lois Daunis, Jess Dennis, Annie Rodgers and Carrie Crews in our City who are collectively representing three groups working very hard to educate our youth about the ills of substance abuse and beat down the stigma surrounding those in our community with mental health issues. Will we embrace their compassion?

We have Glenn Maloney and Spencer Moser in our City who fostered a partnership with MCLA and the City, twice a year mobilizing over 300 people for Community Days of Service. Will we embrace their hard work?

We have Mark Rondeau and his crew at the Friendship Center in our City providing food for those in need throughout North Adams and north Berkshire. Will we embrace their kindness?

We have a growing small business community who work each and every day to provide services, sell goods, create jobs and take risk....to serve us. Will we embrace their dreams?

We have Anne French in our school system who two weekends ago.....was given two days of notice.....and took her weekend to punch out a 20 page narrative and application for a $200,000 grant from the Attorney General to bring a valid curriculum back into our schools that will deal specifically with substance abuse. Will we embrace her dedication?

We have a hospital staffed by our neighbors and friends that provide for the physical health of our community. As they try to keep us physically healthy, we know that the hospital is not fiscally healthy. Will we embrace our hospital and make it our first stop for medical care?

We have elected and appointed officials in this City who despite significant fiscal hardship and lack of resources, work each and every day to promote economic growth, healthy schools and community stability. Will this community embrace their combined efforts?

I am asking all here tonight....all those listening....all those who will read about this....all the residents of this City:

- To pick up the rope of hope and success with me and so many others.....and pull hard
- If you can't pull but like what we are trying to do then cheer us on....give us an "atta-boy"
- If you pull and you don't like where we are going....then quit pulling....for a while...BUT....pick up the rope again when it suits you
- If you have ideas for a new rope....let us know
- If you don't want anything to do with the rope....then please.....don't get in the way of those pulling....but continue to watch....because as we pull and pull and as things begin and continue to happen....you too may just want to begin to pull.

You know, if we wait for the government to do it....if we wait for others to do it....then it will never get done. The re-invention of this City is in our collective hands and on our collective backs....we will grow....or we will die....it truly IS that simple

This year, we will see:

1. The re-birth of our Heritage State Park into the Greylock Marketplace
2. A Scenic Rail experience
3. The Conte School Renovation
4. Continued investment by small business
5. Continued outreach to the private sector and our state and federal delegations for job development opportunities
6. Selective demolition of blight in targeted neighborhoods
7. A truly grand plan by a very dedicated local developer for the re-development of the Mohawk Building on Marshall Street
8. Re-engagement on the Mohawk Theater project
9. We hope....the opening of the Armory as a community center...and
10. Some greening projects

All things that will need many hands pulling on that rope.

I look forward to working with this council, the School Committee, our School Building Committee, and all of our boards and commissions. I very much appreciate the guidance of my neighboring town leaders and our local delegation. I truly value the wonderful employees of our City and school system, and I am very thankful for the patience and support of the people of this great city.

I will close with the same words as last year....."The wheels of government grind slowly" and THAT THEY DO! But with continued support and patience, we will continue to grow and make "our" City, nestled here in the palm of God's hand, a place of pride for all of us.

CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor
Richard J. Alcombright

ELIZABETH FREEMAN CENTER – ONE BILLION RISING FOR JUSTICE – February 14, 2014

WHEREAS, the ELIZABETH FREEMAN CENTER of Berkshire County is the premier organization assisting Women and Girls who have been physically or sexually abused; and

WHEREAS, the ELIZABETH FREEMAN CENTER since its founding has assisted thousands of Women and Girls who are attempting to recover from the horrific trauma they have endured; and

WHEREAS, in highlighting recognition of and encouraging support for the ELIZABETH FREEMAN CENTER, an awareness of the violence against Women and Girls is being acknowledged by a second worldwide event, ONE BILLION RISING FOR JUSTICE on Friday, February 14, 2014; and

WHEREAS, EVE ENSLER, a distinguished American award-winning author, playwright, and performer who recently wrote, "In The Body Of The World," has committed her life, fighting to end violence against Women and Girls; and

WHEREAS, she founded V-Day, an organization which culminated in the 2013 event called "ONE BILLION RISING," which asks each individual to join and make a pledge to, "make violence against Women and Girls the central issue of our time and help end it in our society; and

WHEREAS, it is known that the unspeakably violent crimes against Women and Girls, are committed in some place every day in the world, including The Berkshires; and

WHEREAS, the "ONE BILLION RISING FOR JUSTICE" campaign this year expands its focus, on the issue of justice for all survivors of gender violence and the impunity that protects perpetrators all over the world; and

WHEREAS, some of the ways to accomplish the end of violence against Women and Girls can be to speak up; to educate children at a young age about respect for Women and Girls; to keep a strong emphasis on the eradication of bullying; to volunteer for programs that inspire and work towards solving problems; to contribute to organizations and programs that attempt to solve the horror of violence against Women and Girls, in particular to the ELIZABETH FREEMAN CENTER;

NOW THEREFORE I, RICHARD J. ALCOMBRIGHT, Mayor of the City of North Adams, do hereby honor the ELIZABETH FREEMAN CENTER OF THE BERKSHIRES and thus proclaim that Friday, the Fourteenth day of February, 2014, be and is hereby designated as "ONE BILLION RISING FOR JUSTICE DAY." I further ask each one of you to open your hearts to do whatever you can to break the chains of violence against Women and Girls.

10 Main Street • North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3000

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3015

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
February 25, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Councilor Breen absent.

A moment of silent prayer was observed, remembering Katherine Osborn, former teacher at Mark Hopkins School.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
The President called for the approval of the minutes of the February 11th meeting.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to approve the minutes as presented.

11,354 The President presented Mayor's communication #8 granting permission to North Adams Fraternal Order of Eagles a one day Bingo License.

The Mayor explained it had the approval of the Police Director and he had submitted a disclosure statement to the Clerk's office to assure I have not taken part in the planning and will not attend, nor benefit in any way from this event.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to grant the license, with Councilor Bona abstaining.

11,355 The President presented Mayor's communication #9 recommending the re-appointments of Nancy Tryzcinski-Rumbolt to the North Adams Commission on Disabilities for a term to expire December 1, 2017. Randall Kemp to the North Adams Commission on Disabilities for a term to expire December 1, 2017. William Meranti to the North Adams Commission on Disabilities for a term to expire December 1, 2016.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to confirm the appointments.

11,356 The President presented Mayor's communication #10 recommending the appointment of Carrie Crews to the North Adams Commission on Disabilities for a term to expire December 1, 2017.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

11,357 The President presented Mayor's communication #11 recommending the appointment of Antoinette Cariddi to the North Adams Commission on Disabilities for a term to expire December 1, 2016.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

The President presented an application submitted by Phil Chase, 176 Union Street to drive taxi for Tunnel City Taxi.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President presented an application submitted by Tanya Cravish, 32 Columbia Street, Adams to drive taxi for Tunnel City Taxi.

Councilor Bona wondered if Council could make an exception to grant the license even though the applicant is not present. Councilor Wilkinson disagreed with Councilor Bona since the Ordinance does say the applicant must be present. Councilor Merrigan noted this is one of the issues the committee will be reviewing at its meeting.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of March 11th, applicant not present.

The President presented an application submitted by Terry Gerra, 79 West Main Street to drive taxi for Tunnel City Taxi.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of March 11th, applicant not present.

The President presented an application submitted by Brian Johnson, 19 Bieniek Avenue, Adams to drive taxi for Tunnel City Taxi.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of March 11th.

The President presented an application submitted by Henry Dewey, 128 Furnace Street to drive taxi for Tunnel City Taxi.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President presented an application submitted by David Smith, 920 Daniels Road, Clarksburg to drive taxi for Tunnel City Taxi.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of March 11th, applicant not present.

The President presented an application submitted by Lori Smith, 920 Daniels Road, Clarksburg to drive taxi for Tunnel City Taxi.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Mary Ann Albee-Benoit, 16 Rand Street noted the importance of ADA and the Commission on Disabilities should be more active.

The President called for any Councilor Concerns, Councilor Bona noted the Public Safety Committee would be holding a meeting on March 12th at 6:00pm to discuss the taxi Ordinances, 2nd hand/pawn brokers licenses, snow removal and garbage can storage post-pick up. Councilor Bullett thanked the Mayor for the presentation given at the workshop for Councilor's, it was very important information. Councilor Lamb noted the City wide clean up day with MCLA is April 12th, the theme for this year is "Wellness". Councilor Moran reminded people about the Thunderbolt race this week-end also there is going to be a presentation on the history of the mountain. Councilor Moran also thanked those involved in the snow cross race this week-end, these are all good things for North Adams. Councilor Bona noted his business was extremely busy this past week-end which was great, so matter how small the event it does draws tourists to North Adams, spending money in our businesses, restaurants and hotels.
Councilor Buddington thanked the DPW for a job well done during all of our recent snow storms. Councilor Blackmer noted relay for life team Lynda's Llamas was hosting a Mardi Gras on March 1st at the Elks Lodge. Councilor Bona thanked Mike Denault for the tour given at Deefield Machine, it was very interesting. Mr. Denault stressed the importance of this kind of industry. The Mayor said they have made an incredible amount of investment. The Mayor said he has had more than usual complaints about shoveling sidewalks and encourages residents to try to get their walks shoveled.
With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.

VOTED: to adjourn at 7:57pm
A True Record.
Attest

Marilyn Gomeau
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3015

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
March 11, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson.
A moment of silent prayer was observed.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
The President called for the approval of the minutes of the February 25th meeting.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to approve the minutes as presented.

Without objection the President moved the taxi licenses forward.

The President presented an application submitted by Tanya Cravish, 32 Columbia Street, Adams to drive taxi for Tunnel City Taxi, which was postponed at the meeting of February 25th.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to file the application.

The President presented an application submitted by David Smith, 920 Daniels Road, Clarksburg to drive taxi for Tunnel City Taxi, which was postponed at the meeting of February 25th.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to file the application.

The President presented an application submitted by Brian Johnson, 19 Bieniek Avenue, Adams to drive taxi for Tunnel City Taxi, which was postponed at the meeting of February 25th.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilors Bullett it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President presented an application submitted by Terry Gerra, 79 West Main Street to drive taxi for Tunnel City Taxi, which was postponed at the meeting of February 25th.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to grant the license.

11,332-1 The President presented Mayor's communication #12 recommending rescinding Council Paper #11,332, which was adopted on August 13, 2013.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

11,332-1 The President presented an Order rescinding Council Paper 11,332, which was adopted on August 13, 2013.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

Councilor Wilkinson asked how the sale price was arrived at. The Mayor noted it was offered at auction based on the assessed value.
Councilor Buddington questioned how the City came to own the property. The Mayor said the City had to preserve these pieces of property because the City water shed was located on these properties.
Councilor Wilkinson was curious as to who purchased the property. The Mayor said he did not know.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,332-2 The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to dispose of three parcels of land in the Town of Stamford, Vermont.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,358 The President presented Mayor's communication #13 recommending the re-appointment of Alan Horbal to the Historical Commission for a term to expire January 2, 2017.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

11,359 The President presented Mayor's communication #14 recommending the re-appointment of Darrell English to the Historical Commission for a term to expire January 2, 2017.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

11,360 The President presented Mayor's communication #15 recommending the re-appointment of Paul W. Marino to the Historical Commission for a term to expire January 2, 2017.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

11,361 The President presented Mayor's communication #16 requesting time to give an update on the City's fiscal future.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

The Mayor explained the City's fiscal woes should not be a surprise to anyone. It is not a secret; we have been talking about the fiscal crisis since December. There are no more rabbits to pull out of the hat. The city is looking to increase next year's budget $720,000, with a gap of $500,000 to close this year. The Mayor has

asked the Finance committee to hold three meetings to review how we are going to address the budget gap for this year and next. Several items need to be dealt with to close this year's budget; $290,000 in overtime for Public Safety, $150,000 over for Veterans Services, and $30,000 to $40,000 deficit in snow and ice account. The Mayor noted he has just completed very modest settlements with Police, Fire and DPW unions, which will come before Council once approved. The Mayor said using all of our reserves; the City should be able to close out the year. He noted the increase of $720,000 for FY'15 will be very, very problematic with no reserves to depend on.
Councilor's Merrigan and Breen questions if other communities were facing the same problems. The Mayor said State aid is not keeping up, the City has fallen from 53% to about 45%. Local officials across the State, including myself have been lobbying the Legislature to increase local aid above the Governor's budget.
Councilor Wilkinson questioned the Mayor if he was considering another prop 2 ½ override. The Mayor said it would not be out of the question.

11,362 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Wilkinson regarding the school lunch program in the North Adams School System.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to put the paper on the floor for discussion.

Councilor Wilkinson said he was very concerned about a new no credit policy in the North Adams School system. He feels that this new practice is discriminating. If a child's parent has not paid for their child's lunch then that child is being singled out and offered an "alternative lunch" instead of the hot lunch of the day, until the parents pay the balance of their bill. Councilor Wilkinson said the alternative lunch is two pieces of bread and a piece of meat, vegetable of the day, fruit and milk.
The Mayor noted that many children take the alternative lunch instead of the hot lunch.
Councilor Bona believes this is a School Committee issue, who is an elected board that has made a decision on how to handle unpaid balances. He does not feel this is something the Council should be dealing with.
Councilor Wilkinson disagreed with Councilor Bona saying when there is a problem in the City of North Adams there is no reason we can't ask questions.
Councilor Bona pointed out that his daughter takes two pieces of bread and meat for lunch every day and I believe it is called a "sandwich".
Councilors Breen, Merrigan, Buddington, and Lamb agreed with Councilor Bona that it is a School Committee issue, but they were glad Councilor Wilkinson brought this to Council's attention. This is a very complex issue and the School Committee and the Director of food service should be handling this in a way they find appropriate.
The Mayor noted as Chairman of the School Committee this issue has been discussed at length and it is not Council's role to override the decision of the School Committee.
Councilor Wilkinson felt that Councilors were missing the point; my point is children should not suffer because of neglect on the part of the parents.
Several Councilors were also concerned about the bulling that may occur because a child was singled out.
Councilor Bullett noted when her children were in school and she was unable to buy lunch, they took a bag lunch, which was a sandwich.
Mark Trottier, 131 Woodlawn Ave, Wayne Goodell, 546 Barbour Street and Roger Eurbin, 677 Ashland Street all agreed with Councilor Wilkinson.

Councilor Wilkinson withdrew his original motion.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to file the communication.

11,363 The President presented an application submitted by Cumberland Farms, Inc. 100 Crossing Blvd, Framingham, MA for a Public Hearing for underground fuel storage located at 1366 Curran Highway.

Without objection the President set the Public Hearing for March 25th at 7:30pm.

The President presented an application for a renewal of a secondhand license submitted by Mary Ann George, 656 Ashland Street in the business name of "Maryann-tiques & Gifts", located at 615 Ashland Street.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President presented an application for a secondhand license submitted by Stephanie Melito, 4 Gilead Street, Adams in the business name "Once Around the Block", located at 18 Holden Street.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Mark Trottier, 131 Woodlawn Ave said there were free grant programs that the City should be taking advantage of.
The President called for any Councilor Concerns, Councilor Moran was wondering if the Planning Board had reviewed all of the plans for the Cumberland Farms, he was concerned about the impact of the bike path. Councilor Wilkinson said the Planning Board had addressed all of these issues. Councilor Bona reminded every one of the Public Safety Committee meeting Wednesday to review the taxi license process. Councilor Merrigan said Friday the Northern Berkshire Coalition was holding a forum from 10:00 to noon, topic jobs and education. Councilor Lamb said the YMCA would be holding a family fun day at Mt. Greylock Bowl Saturday from 2:00 to 4:00 for the children and in the evening for adults. Councilor Wilkinson questioned where one would dispose of paint cans. The Mayor said to contact the Health Department. Council President reminded Councilors about the meeting March 19th at Holy Cross for the MAA, topic gun control legislation.
The Mayor delivered a proclamation declaring the month of March **AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH.**
The Mayor also thanked Mike Chalifoux and his crew for doing such a good job cleaning up our streets, especially the main corridors coming into the City.
With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.

VOTED: to adjourn at 9:00pm
A True Record.
Attest

Marilyn Honeau
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3015

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
March 25, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson.
A moment of silent prayer was observed, remembering Mary Williams, employed by the North Adams School Department 1962-1993 and former member of the North Adams Retirement System. Paul Matrigali former Plumbing and Gas Inspector for the City, retiring after 49 years of service. Lawrence Moreau former City Councilor.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
The President called for the approval of the minutes of the March 11th meeting.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to approve the minutes as presented.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to amend the last sentence of Council paper 11,362 to read Wayne Goodell and not Wayne Wilkinson.

The President declared the Public Hearing Open regarding underground fuel storage for Cumberland Farms, located at 1366 Curran Highway. Representatives from Cumberland Farms explained they would have two 20,000 gallon tanks for regular gas, one 8,000 gallons for premium and one 8,000 gallons for diesel fuel. The tanks will be monitored 24/7.

Councilor Wilkinson questioned if they had all the proper permits. Council President said the application had all of its approval from the Fire Director.
Councilor Lamb questioned how far from flowing water source would the tanks be. Councilor Buddington for clarification noted the north branch close behind was not in the 100 year flood plan.

With no further questions the President declared the Public Hearing closed.

11,363 The President presented an application submitted by Cumberland Farms, Inc. for underground fuel storage located at 1366 Curran Highway.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The license was granted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson.

11,353 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Merrigan regarding Chapter 23, Section 23-14 Qualifications for taxicab drivers.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

11,353-1 The President presented a report of the Public Safety Committee submitted by Councilor Bona.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to accept the committee report as presented.

10,792-3 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 23, entitled Taxicabs and Busses, Section 23-13.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

10,792-4 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 23 entitled Taxicabs and Busses, Section 23-14.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

11,364 The President presented Mayor's communication #17 recommending the appointment of Darrell Clairmont to the North Adams Housing Authority for a term to expire March 25, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment, with Councilor Buddington opposed.

11,240-2 The President presented Mayor's communication #18 recommending amending the Compensation Plan for FY'13 and FY'14 and recommending an appropriation to cover this expense.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

11,240-2 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2 Section 2-28(a) of the Revised Ordinances Schedule B the Compensation Plan-Police-Fire and Hourly Wage for FY'13.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

Councilor Wilkinson asked how long the contract was for. The Mayor said fire was 5, three back, current and next fiscal year. Police is three years and DPW is two years. Councilor Wilkinson noted that it is actually 5%. The Mayor noted it is not more than 1% per year. Councilor Wilkinson asked if the contract included retro pay. The Mayor noted Fire was going back three and a half years, Police a year and a half and DPW this fiscal year. Councilor Wilkinson said the $41,000 that was being transferred would not be enough to cover the total. I see it to be $137,000 with retro. Michael Canales Administrator Officer said the $41,000 was to cover FY'13, and $96,400 would cover FY'14. Councilor Wilkinson said he had a problem agreeing to pay money we do not have. Councilor Lamb asked where the additional money would come from. The Mayor

11,353 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Merrigan regarding Chapter 23, Section 23-14 Qualifications for taxicab drivers.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

11,353-1 The President presented a report of the Public Safety Committee submitted by Councilor Bona.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to accept the committee report as presented.

10,792-3 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 23, entitled Taxicabs and Busses, Section 23-13.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

10,792-4 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 23 entitled Taxicabs and Busses, Section 23-14.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

11,364 The President presented Mayor's communication #17 recommending the appointment of Darrell Clairmont to the North Adams Housing Authority for a term to expire March 25, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment, with Councilor Buddington opposed.

11,240-2 The President presented Mayor's communication #18 recommending amending the Compensation Plan for FY'13 and FY'14 and recommending an appropriation to cover this expense.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

11,240-2 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2 Section 2-28(a) of the Revised Ordinances Schedule B the Compensation Plan-Police-Fire and Hourly Wage for FY'13.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

Councilor Wilkinson asked how long the contract was for. The Mayor said fire was 5, three back, current and next fiscal year. Police is three years and DPW is two years. Councilor Wilkinson noted that it is actually 5%. The Mayor noted it is not more than 1% per year. Councilor Wilkinson asked if the contract included retro pay. The Mayor noted Fire was going back three and a half years, Police a year and a half and DPW this fiscal year. Councilor Wilkinson said the $41,000 that was being transferred would not be enough to cover the total. I see it to be $137,000 with retro. Michael Canales Administrator Officer said the $41,000 was to cover FY'13, and $96,400 would cover FY'14. Councilor Wilkinson said he had a problem agreeing to pay money we do not have. Councilor Lamb asked where the additional money would come from. The Mayor

explained with the end of year calculation, some will come from reserve account and unexpended items in the budget. Councilor Bona said it is all in how you perceive it, yes we are approving 5% , but in the last four years we have given 0% raises. I know it has been said how can we be giving raises, when in the private sector they are not. Councilor Bona said statistics show nationally the private sector is running about 3% raises. Councilor Wilkinson said he was just pointing it out for clarification. Councilor Moran thanked the Police, Fire and DPW for their service, and working without a contract. He expressed that he would like to see in the future they do not go that long without a contract.

11,314-1 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section 2-28(a) of the Revised Ordinances, Schedule B the Compensation Plan-Police-Fire and Hourly Wage for FY'14.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

11,365 The President presented an Order transferring the sum of $41,388.28 from Unclassified to Public Safety-Police and Fire.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows: yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,366 The President presented Mayor's communication #19 recommending vacating the tax taking for the Kline property located on West Main Street.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

Michael Canales said this property has been in limbo for many years. The Mayor noted the property has a right of way to the cemetery. Councilor Lamb asked what the monetary amount would be to the City. Michael Canales said they would pay all interest, taxes, and lawyers fees. Councilor Bona asked if this should have been caught sooner. Councilor Breen asked who has the title to the property. Mr. Canales said when the City was going to sell the parcels of land at auction that is when it was caught.
This will allow the Kline family to sell the house located on West Main Street.

11,366 The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to execute final judgment regarding the Kline Property located on West Main Street.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,083-1 The President presented Mayor's communication #20 recommending an amendment to the Inter-municipal Agreement with Adams, MA.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

11,083-1 The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to amend the Inter-municipal Agreement with Adams regarding Adams sewer.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

Councilor Wilkinson questioned how much the fees were and who pays. Michael Canales said this agreement does not cost the City anything.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,069-1 The President presented Mayors' communication #21 recommending the passage of Special Legislation for the Land Sale Account.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

11,069-1 The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to petition the Legislature of the Commonwealth to use the City's Land Sale Account to balance this year's budget.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to adopt the order.

The Order was adopted by yea and any nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

The President presented an application for the renewal of a secondhand license in the business name "Hudsons", located at 1112 Mass MOCA Way, submitted by Jeffrey Hudson, 223 White Oaks Road, Williamstown.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President presented an application for a renewal of a secondhand license in the business name of "Empire Antiques", located at 63 Main Street, submitted by James Montepare, 100 McLain Ct, Williamstown.
On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to grant the license, with Councilor Bona abstaining.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Mark Trottier, 131 Woodlawn Ave said he took offense at what Councilor Breen said at the last meeting. Councilor Breen should have been gaveled at the last meeting, noting she was in violation of Council rule 10 and 11. Councilor Breen was also in violation of Council rule 13, by personally attacking me. Wayne Goodell, 564 Barbour Street noted at the last meeting Councilor Breen said he was against a new school, which he never said. Mr. Goodell said he was against the Conte project, but not against a new school. The Conte project was going to be state of the art and now the playground is going to have wood chips, many things are being scaled down because the project is coming in over budget. Roger Eurbin, 677 Ashland Street asked if anyone was good at grant writing to please contact him, there are a number of sources for grant money and I have no experience in grant writing.

The President called for any Councilor Concerns, several Councilors were very concerned about the recent news of the closing of the North Adams Regional Hospital. The Mayor is working very hard with the Governor, Senator Benjamin Downing and Representative Gailanne Cariddi to help save the hospital. John Meaney, general manager of the North Adams Ambulance Service assured everyone that the ambulance will

still be serving the residents. They have just purchased a fifth ambulance and they have staffing for three, which will require them to add more staffing. This announcement weighs heavy on us all. Residents need to understand the turnaround time for us will be much longer.

With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.

VOTED: to adjourn at 9:12pm
A True Record.
Attest

City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3015

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
April 8, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Councilor Breen absent.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The President called for the approval of the minutes of the March 25th meeting.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to approve the minutes as presented.

10,792-3 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 23, entitled Taxicabs and Busses, Section 23-13, which was passed to a second reading and publish as required by law at the meeting of March 25th.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance as amended.

The Ordinance, as amended, was ordained by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

Councilor Breen entered the meeting at 7:34pm.

10,792-4 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 23 entitled Taxicabs and Busses, Section 23-14, which was passed to a second reading and publish as required by law at the meeting of March 25th.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinanceas amended.

The Ordinance, as amended, was ordained by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,240-2 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2 Section 2-28(a) of the Revised Ordinances Schedule B the Compensation Plan-Police-Fire and Hourly Wage for FY'13, which was passed to a second reading and publish as required by law at the meeting of March 25th.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance as amended.

The Ordinance, as amended, was ordained by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,314-1 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section 2-28(a) of the Revised Ordinances, Schedule B the Compensation Plan-Police-Fire and Hourly Wage for FY'14, which was passed to a second reading and publish as required by law at the meeting of March 25th.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance as amended.

The Ordinance, as amended, was ordained by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

The Mayor thanked the Council for their support and thanked all the workers involved for their understanding during this difficult time in the City. Councilor Wilkinson asked about the reserve officers and Mayor said he would be bringing something in, but with the recent events in the past two weeks, I did not have a chance to do so. The Mayor said he would be bringing in something to the next meeting for the Reserve Police Officers and it would be retro back to April.

11,367 The President presented Mayor's communication #22 recommending the re-appointment of Timothy Lescarbeau to the Hoosac Water Quality District for a term to expire April 8, 2017.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

11,368 The President presented Mayor's communication #23 recommending the re-appointment of Michael Canales to the Hoosac Water Quality District for a term to expire April 8, 2017.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

11,369 The President presented Mayor's communication #24 presenting proclamations to the Elizabeth Freeman Center, Business and Professional Women and Berkshire County Kid's Place.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

Liz Langel from the Freeman Center explained April is sexual assault awareness month. April 24th at 3:00 pm we will be placing 233 flags on the lawn of City Hall representing the number of victims that have been sexually assaulted. Janis Broderick, executive director said the Freeman Center takes a stand on sexual assault and rape, which has become a real challenge with the closing of the hospital.

The Mayor read a proclamation declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Nancy Lescarbeau from the Northern Berkshire Business and Professional Women explained that women are paid $.23 less than their counter parts. She noted that it takes women a week and a half to earn what a man makes in a week.

The Mayor read a proclamation declaring April as Equal Pay Day in North Adams.

Krista Collier form Berkshire County Kid's Place explained Kid's Place is for child abuse awareness. North Adams has the highest rate of child abuse in Massachusetts. Ms. Collier noted that this sounds horrible, but people are very aware of child abuse and are not afraid to report it.
The Mayor read a proclamation declaring April as Child Awareness month.

11,370 The President presented a report of the Finance Committee submitted by Councilor Bullett, chairman.

Councilor Bullett gave a summary of the Finance Committee meeting held on March 19th.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to accept the committee report as presented.
Councilor Buddington thanked Councilor Bullett for such detailed minutes; they were very helpful to him since he was unable to attend the meeting.
Councilor Wilkinson noted that the power point presentation that was given to the Council is available to the Public on Community Access TV and it is very informative.

11,371 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Lamb on behalf of Glenn Maloney regarding Day of service in the City.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

Councilor Lamb read the letter on behalf of Glenn Maloney regarding the Day of Service, Saturday April 12th, meeting at 9:30 at MCLA Church Street Center.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Robert Moulton, 985 Massachusetts Ave said he is very uncertain about the future of North Adams due to lack of leadership. The closing of the hospital should not have come as a shock to the Mayor. Mr. Moulton also feels that the Conte project should be put on hold. Mark Trottier, 131 Woodlawn Ave said he was appalled that none of the nine Councilors asked any questions about the raises. Wayne Goodell, 564 Barbour Street thanked Councilor Bullett for the way she ran the finance committee meeting. Roger Eurbin, 677 Ashland Street noted on Saturday the Day of Service they will not be able to work at Hillside Cemetery because it is too wet and muddy. Kathy Dunn, of Williamstown a nurse who worked at the North Adams Hospital said she was hired on March 3rd and lost her job on March 28th . She will be unable to stay in the community and will be moving to Florida, but she was hoping she could stay to help resolve this problem. Ms. Dunn was amazed at the bonding this community has and hopes everyone will stay connected and attend the meetings held every Tuesday at the American Legion at 5:00pm. It is very important for the community to speak out to the politicians and let them know the community will continue to fight for the hospital. Robin Cimonetti of Clarksburg and Angie Linger of Pownal, nurses for many years at the hospital thanked the community and the Mayor for all their support and we need to continue to push forward. Tuesday April 15th two busses will be going to Boston to the Governor's Office to petition for a critical care facility in North Adams. Ann Clark-Kilman, pastor of the First Congregational Church said they have seen an increase in people coming for the free meals. The pastor was also concerned

about the young women and teens who will be missing the care of a lactation counselor after they leave the hospital. This service is very important to the new moms and infants. Amanda Chilson from Northern Berkshire Coalition reminded everyone about the fitness challenge that begins on May 1st.
The President called for any Councilor Concerns, all Councilors expressed how important it is for the community to stay connected and push for a facility in North Adams. The Mayor noted he is still working very hard with the Governor, Senator Benjamin Downing and Representative Gailanne Cariddi .
With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.
VOTED: to adjourn at 9:12pm
A True Record.
Attest

Marilyn Homeau
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3015

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
April 22, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Councilor Breen absent.

A moment of silent prayer was observed remembering Nicholas Davis, former member of the North Adams School Committee.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The President called for the approval of the minutes of the April 8th meeting.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to approve the minutes as presented.

11,372 The President presented Mayor's communication #25 recommending the re-appointment of Michael Leary to the Planning Board for a term to expire February 1, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to confirm the re-appointment.

Councilor Wilkinson noted that both Mr. Leary and Mr. Hopkins have been on the board for a long time and they both do a job.

11,373 The President presented Mayor's communication #26 recommending the re-appointment of Paul Hopkins to the Planning Board for a term to expire February 1, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to confirm the re-appointment.

11,374 The President presented Mayor's communication #27 recommending the re-appointment of Ellizabeth DiLego to the Board of Registrars for a term to expire April 1, 2017.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to accept confirm the re-appointment.

8510-9e The President presented the report of the Public Safety Committee submitted by Councilor Bona.

Councilor Bona gave the report of the Public Safety Committee regarding taxi fares.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED to accept the committee report as presented.

8510-9e The President presented an Order amending Chapter 23, Section 23-2 of the Revised Ordinances entitled Taxi Fares.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to adopt the Order as amended and publish as required by law.

Councilor Bona said the increase within the City limits would go from $4.00 to $6.00 which is zone 1 and for zone 2 it will go from $5.00 to $7.00. Mr. Cariddi explained to the Public Safety Committee that he was losing money siting the cost of insurance, gas, maintenance and salaries. Councilor Bona also noted it would be too costly to put meters in the cars. Mr. Cariddi also runs a livery service which is scheduled pickups, he noted he does about 200 calls a day, including for Berkshire Rides. Councilor Merrigan said she spoke with a few people who use taxi services and they said they like the zone system and they do not like the increase, but noted it was expected. Some Councilors were concerned about Council having the power to set the rates but agreed an increase was necessary. Councilor Wilkinson said it was a modest increase that should be granted to assure the City has a taxi service.

The Order, as amended was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

The President presented an application for a secondhand license in the business name of "Odds & Ends, located at 510 State Road submitted by Ernest Perry of 119 Hall Street.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Mark Trottier, 131 Woodlawn Ave said he was appalled at City Government stating at the last meeting Councilor Moran laughed at him and because he said Councilors never asked any questions regarding the pay raises regarding the unions. Edward Morandi, 777 West Shaft Rd would like to see the school children get involved with our Sister City Tremosine. Tremosine has erected a welcome sign in Italy including North Adams and said it would be nice if North Adams could do something like that.

The President called for any Councilor or Mayor's concerns, the Mayor presented a proclamation declaring May 5th thru May 11th Children's Mental Health Week in the City of North Adams. The Mayor noted he would be appointing a Cemetery Commission which will consist of Roger Eurbin, Paul Arabia and Donna Morgan. Councilor Bullett thanked everyone who helped on cleanup day in the City. Councilor Moran said he will not apologize for being a positive person on the Council. The questions were asked about the raises to the union at the first meeting it was presented and we did get answers to these questions, there was not need to ask them again.

With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.
VOTED: to adjourn at 8:28pm
A True Record.
Attest

Marilyn Gonneau
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3015

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
May 13, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran. Councilor Wilkinson absent.

A moment of silent prayer was observed remembering Beverly Williams, Teacher's Aide at Greylock School, Roger Lavigne, thirty year employee of the Cemetery Department, and Mae Fulginiti, mother of Assistant City Clerk Nancy Canales.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The President called for the approval of the minutes of the April 22nd meeting.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to approve the minutes as presented.

11,375 The President presented Mayor's communication #28 regarding the Scanlon Audit for FY'13.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

The Mayor stated that Thomas Scanlon principal of Scanlon & Associates would be giving a presentation outlining the audit done by his company for FY'13. The assessment shows lack of reserves and free cash. The audit found no findings and only had recommendations. Councilor Bona asked the Mayor to explain to the new Councilors exactly what the audit entails. The Mayor said that the power point would explain exactly who Scanlon & Associates are, what they do and what their findings are. Mr. Scanlon presented the power point presentation giving an overall view of the findings for FY'13. The Audit found a few procedural issues and improvement in several areas. The main issue he warned was the lack of reserves and use of account transfers. Mr. Scanlon said the city can go one of two ways, you cut the budget or go for some kind of exclusion. He cautioned that if the city goes for an override there has to be a plan in place and it has to be well thought out. Mr. Scanlon pointed out that the city should have an amount of between 3 percent and 5 percent of its budget in reserves, or about $1.2 million. Councilor Moran after hearing the presentation remarked that the city is not lavish with spending but that it costs money to run the city. An override was tried and it failed so we did make cuts. People were upset about crime last summer, and now they're upset about the police getting a raise. Councilor Bullett stated that state funding has dropped each year. Mark Trottier, 131 Woodlawn Ave. asked about the leases that were shown on the report he knew of the lease for 3 police cars and 1 fire chief car which

needed a transfer to make payment but no mention in the transfer was made of a lease for a tractor. The tractor was a separate lease. Mr. Scanlon said that all leases for the year were shown together in one line item. Councilor Buddington was glad to see people are interested, study the information given out and ask questions. Wayne Goodell, 564 Barbour St. objected to an override noting the loss of hundreds of jobs because of the Hospital. Councilors Breen and Blackmer asked for a historical look at the use of reserves and free cash back at least a decade. The Mayor said that they will be given that information at the Finance Committee Meeting. The Mayor said the deficit is still big but has improved somewhat. The Mayor expects to present a draft budget to the council at its next meeting and asked Councilor Bullett for a meeting of the Finance Committee May 28th and 29th, with other dates the following week.

The President presented an application for a secondhand license in the business name of Sanford & Kid located at 160 Houghton Street submitted by Timothy Randall 180 Bracewell Ave.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Roger Urban 677 Ashland Street informed the Council that the Unity Youth Leadership Group had volunteered to help clean the Hillside Cemetery on May 17th, weather permitting. Any help anyone can give would be greatly appreciated. Mr. Urban also asked that anyone having graves at Southview Cemetery when they are cleaning around the graves need to take any trash to the area down near the buildings at the cemetery and not put it along the side of the roads, which was the usual practice.
Wayne Goodell, 564 Barbour St. was very concerned about the number of people unemployed in the city and the possibility of an override. Adam Tobin, 68 Meadow St. said that the Unity Leadership Project is having a Pizza Party Fund Raiser at the American Legion on May 29th. The kids will be making the pizzas; the money will benefit an orphanage in Haiti. Mr. Tobin also stated that he had been at Windsor Lake and there was a lot of trash and fishing line all over. He was hoping that he could bring a group up to the lake to clean. The Mayor said that any citizen wishing to help keep the city up, such as the Veterans who each week clean the trash along our road ways, are greatly appreciated. Mark Trottier, 131 Woodlawn Ave., asked Councillor Bullett when the Finance Committee would be meeting on the budget. She stated that as soon as she knows when the meetings will be they will be posted. Edward Morandi, 777 West Shaft Rd. asked that the memorial sign for Corporal Greene at the corner of Barbour St. and Greene Ave be replaced. It was first thought that the name had been misspelled but it was found that the sign had deteriorated. The Mayor said that new signs will be put up. Justyna Carlson, Chairwoman for the Historical Commission introduced Jennifer Berden of Gray & Pape, a consulting firm for historical resource management and preservation. The company will be documenting 100 properties to add to the initial historical survey done in 1978. The current survey has 320 properties and six historic districts. The survey is being done through a Massachusetts Historical Commission grant of $20,000. Ms. Carlson wants the public to know they're out taking pictures of houses and may be standing with notebooks taking down notes about the architecture. Ms. Berden said they would be easy to spot with their fluorescent vests; they also will leave note cards explaining what they are doing.

The President called for any Councilor or Mayor's concerns, Councilor Breen said that Becky Miner of Zumba Fitness in the Berkshires held a dance on Main St. for the Relay for Life it was a lot of fun, well attended and raised $13,000 dollars. She also wanted everyone to join the Mayor's Fitness Challenge. Councilor Merrigan said the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition will be holding a luncheon meeting at the Williams Inn and they will be honoring Becky Miner for all her community involvement. Councilor Lamb reminded everyone of the MCLA graduation this Saturday. He was also very concerned about how dirty the sidewalks are with sand from the winter making it hard to walk. He encouraged everyone to sweep their sidewalks. The Mayor said that residents may sweep the sand into the streets to be picked up by the sweeper but to pick up any glass or any

other debris. Councilor Bullett said that on Sunday, May 18th the Steel-Rail Half Marathon will be held. The run is a Bike Path Fundraiser. She was sorry to hear that the lake needed cleaning as they had a clean-up just a few weeks ago. Councilor Buddington is considering bringing a paper to the council about the Right to Farm in the city. The President suggested that if he does a paper on the subject to refer it to the General Government Committee for review. Councilor Bona wanted to thank National Grid for their great response to the electric outage we had last Friday. He also said that Edward Morandi and 17 other people would be traveling to our Sister City Tremosine soon. Mr. Morandi said that they will be meeting with the Mayor and Council while they are there and will be working on getting 5th, 6th and 7th graders to be e-mail pals with kids in North Adams. It was also suggested that if anyone had something that could be brought to Tremosine as a gift to that city they could contact Mr. Morandi. The President also congratulated the MCLA graduates and hoped that people in the city would welcome all the tourists that will be in town. Work will be done on Center St. and Holden St. and she hoped that there would be a sign put up for Holden St. when the project was done.

With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.
VOTED: to adjourn at 9:08 p.m.
A True Record.
Attest,

Nancy T. Canales
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3015

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
May 27, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson.

A moment of silent prayer was observed remembering Rod Bunt, first Director of Tourism for the City of North Adams and was Director for several years of the annual Fall Foliage Festival Parade. Alice Laird, former cafeteria worker at Greylock Elementary School. Raymond Cimonetti, former highway/water department employee and supervisor of the landfill. Jack Gigliotti, former North Adams City Councilor.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The President called for the approval of the minutes of the May 22nd meeting.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to approve the minutes as presented, with Councilor Wilkinson abstaining.

11,381 The President presented a communication submitted by Council President regarding Melissa Cairns class from the Drury High School.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

Elizabeth Bona and Andrea Blaisdell presented a vision creating their idea an app for the i-phones enabling people to navigate around the City. They would call it "Take a Napp".
Mackenzie Wright and Alex Bernard presented an idea about a community volunteer program and would like to see younger people involved in volunteering. Hopefully if they started at a younger age it would be something they could carry throughout their lives. Allison Bergeron, teacher at Drury High School stood in for Melissa Cairns, due to an illness.
Councilors were very impressed with the ideas the students presented, these students are our future. Councilor Breen thought the idea of the app should be patented. Councilor Bona noted that other students had also done great projects that were not presented tonight.

Without objection the President moved the application for taxi licenses forward.

The President presented an application submitted by Michael McMillian, 257 Houghton Street, to operate a taxi in the business name of Taxi Cab, located at 257 Houghton Street.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President presented an application submitted by Michael McMillian, 257 Houghton Street to drive taxi for Taxi Cab.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President presented an application submitted by William Goodreau, 18 Hall Street to drive taxi for Michael McMillian, Taxi Cab.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to grant the license.

11,377 The President presented Mayor's communication #30 requesting a "Home Rule Petition" for a Liquor license.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

11,377 The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to petition for Special Legislation concerning liquor license for Steeple City Liquors d/b/a V&V.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to refer to the Public Safety Committee and postpone to the meeting of July 8th.

The Mayor explained that under State Law the City is only allowed 3 liquor stores because of our population, it is one store for every 5,000 residents. The Mayor was concerned about setting a precedent, but also noted Mr. Ellis has made a significant investment in the downtown.

Several Councilors had concerns in regards to issuing another liquor license. Councilor Breen is pro business and feels that they should be given a chance to thrive in North Adams. Councilor Wilkinson said he is dead set against another liquor license. Councilor Moran challenges V&V to convince him of the need for a license.

David Whitney of Whitney's Beverage Shop noted his family has served the needs of this community for 76 years. He asked the Council to reject this petition and said the Mayor had promised to stand behind the decision of the license board.
Richard Sheehan owner of Ed's Variety said he has worked hard to support the community and if the City is handing out liquor licenses, he wanted one too.
Michele Butler of Cain Hibbard & Myers said that V&V had tried to obtain the license but found it was no longer available because of the results of the U. S. Census. The City's population is around 13,000.

11,377-1 The President presented an Order accepting Chapter 138, Section 15 of the MGL, Liquor license for Steeple City Liquor.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Moran it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of July 8th.

11,378 The President presented Mayor's communication #31 recommending a revenue package.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

The Mayor explained this revenue package was to support the FY'15 budget. He is proposing a 10% increase to the water rates from $3.50 to $3.85 per cubic foot. Historically water rates increase every 2 to 3 years and they have not increased since FY'11. Sewer fees would increase 8%, from 42% of water to 50% of the water bill. The average increase by both fees for a 2 person household would be approximately $35.00 and to a 4 person household it would be approximately $66.00. Increase all parking violations and demand fees on excise bills from $5.00 to $15.00. This package would generate approximately $426,500 annually.

Councilor Breen said she would not support the revenue package and was not in favor of increasing rates for the homeowners.

11,379 The President presented Mayor's communication #32 presenting the "Draft Budget" for FY'15.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

11,379 The President presented a "Draft Budget" appropriating the sum of $37,740,793.00.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to refer to the Finance Committee.

Councilors all had several questions regarding the draft budget and the Mayor said that the finance committee will be having several meetings in the next couple of weeks and these questions can be addressed at that time. Councilors hoped that these meetings would be televised so the residents could have a chance to see exactly what the City is facing. Councilors encouraged residents that were in attendance to attend the finance committee meetings so their concerns could be addressed.

11,380 The President presented Mayor's communication #33 regarding a Resolution for a Common Backyards Grant Program.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

11,380 The President presented a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to file and accept grant funds from the EOEEA Common Backyards Grant Program.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to adopt the Resolution.

The Resolution was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

9625-6 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Lamb regarding litter in the City.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED; to refer to the Public Safety Committee and postpone to the meeting of July 8th.

11,382 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Buddington regarding farming.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to refer to the General Government committee and postpone to the meeting of August 12th.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Roger Eurbin 677 Ashland Street thanked the veterans for participating in the Memorial Day Service on such a rainy day.
Michael Chailfoux, 54 Monroe Street was concerned again about the Veterans Outreach Center.
The President called for any Councilor or Mayor's concerns, Councilor Breen reminded everyone about Relay for Life this week-end. The Mayor said he was very pleased about BMC opening the satellite at the hospital.

With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.
VOTED: to adjourn at 9:43 p.m.
A True Record.
Attest,

Marilyn Gonneau
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3015

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
June 10, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Absent Councilor Breen.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The President called for the approval of the minutes of the May 27th meeting.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to approve the minutes as presented.

11,379 The President presented a "Draft Budget" appropriating the sum of $37,740,793.00, which was referred to the Finance Committee at the meeting of May 27th.

Councilor Bullett gave the report of the Finance Committee.

Councilor Breen entered the meeting at 7:38pm.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to accept the committee report as presented.

Councilor Bona noted that at the Finance Committee meetings, there were many good questions asked by Councilors and the public. Councilor Wilkinson noted he had made it clear the he was not in favor of the revenue package, but after sitting through all the finances meetings, it became very clear that there is no choice but to accept the revenue package.
The Mayor noted he was bringing the revenue package forward because he had no choice. It boils down to raising fees of face significant cuts. I want the community to understand that this revenue package combined with cuts and reductions will only get us through the upcoming fiscal year. Residents need to understand that this administration does not have a spending problem; the City has a revenue problem.

Without objection the President moved Council Paper 11,384.

11,384 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Bona regarding the recent trip residents took to our Sister City Tremosine.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

Edward Morandi, 777 West Shaft Road spoke on the warm welcome they received from our Sister City. He explained that the 5th, 6th and 7th grade children would like to do an e-mail exchange with our students. A J Bona. 179 North Street also went on the trip to Italy and he presented the Council with a replica sign that Tremosine has entering into their City.

11,378-a The President presented Mayor's communication #31-a recommending an increase to Water, Sewer and Parking violations.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

4840-21 The President presented an Order amending Section 20 of the Water Rates, Rules and Regulations as most recently amended on June 22, 2010.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Mayor explained the water rate will increase 10% per 100 cubic feet, from $3.50 to $3.85, which should generate $161,800. Nonresidents; Williamstown will pay $7.32 per 100 cubic feet, which is 90% above the residential rate. Clarksburg will pay $6.63 per 100 cubic feet, which is 72% above the residential rate.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Moran it was VOTED: to amend the Order to read beginning July 1, 2014.

Councilor Merrigan noted the increase is not huge to retain services. The increase does not just affect the home owners, but as a renter, when fees go up so does my rent.

Councilor Buddington said he would like to see the water and sewer departments switch to enterprise funding. The Mayor agreed that enterprise funding would be more beneficial and would be worth doing when the City is more financially stable.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay Councilor Breen.

10,991-3 The President presented an Order amending Section 24-1.1 of the Sewer Rates as most recently adopted on July 13, 2010.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay Councilor Breen.

8890-8 The President presented an Order amending the Parking Violation Code-Fine Schedule in its entirety.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

Councilors were concerned whether or not the fees are a reliable source because the cost of policing. Councilor Bona asked if over-enforcing would be harmful to the North Adams businesses. The Mayor said he does not see enforcement reaching the level of the City of Pittsfield. The City cannot be so ridiculous about issuing tickets that we drive business away.
Councilor Bona also noted that some of the fines should be reviewed by Public Safety since they are more dangerous infractions. Councilor Breen was concerned about the consistency of revenue the tickets will provide.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,383 The President presented Mayor's communication #34 recommending the Classification and Compensation Plan for FY'15.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

11,383 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section 2-27 of the Revised Ordinances, Schedule A, Classification Plan and Section 2-28(a), Schedule B of the Compensation Plan for FY'15.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as a municipal bulletin, and refer to the Finance Committee.

11,314-2 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section 2-28(a) of the Revised Ordinances, Schedule B the Compensation Plan-Part IV Part Time Salary Scale, PT-1B, FY'14.

On motion of Councilor Bullet, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as a municipal bulletin and refer to the Finance Committee.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Mark Trottier, 131 Woodlawn Avenue questioned if the job for weights and measures has been posted.
The President called for any Councilor or Mayor's concerns, Councilor Merrigan noted June 21st a group would be working with Roger Eurbin at Hillside Cemetery. Councilor Buddington mentioned the Vermont State Composting and thought it would be great for the City of North Adams. Councilor Lamb noted Saturday the 14th was North Adams Prom at the Elks. Councilor Bona said that North Adams was rated 2nd for 20 and 30 year olds. Oakland was rated 1st and Miami was rated 3rd. Councilor Moran said there is a 1/2 marathon on Father's Day up Mt. Greylock. He also noted that the concerts at the lake have started and on Friday's there is music at the Library. Councilor Bullett noted Sunday the 21st is the 7th annual Drury alumni golf tournament. The Mayor said Friday the 20th art work that is on the Cascade building will be presented.

With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.
VOTED: to adjourn at 9:29 p.m.
A True Record.
Attest,

Marilyn Gomeau
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3015

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
June 17, 2014

President Blackmer in the Chair
On Roll Call the following responded: Councilors Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Absent Councilor Breen.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

11,379-a The President presented Mayors' communication # 29-a recommending the adoption of the FY'15 Budget.
Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

The Mayor explained the difference between the final budget and the draft was a reduction of $12,719.23. He requested that the final budget be referred to the Finance Committee. Councilor Bullett questioned if the Mayor had heard anything yet about the $750,000 from the State. The Mayor said that as of yet he had not heard, but does expect the money to go through the legislative process.
Councilor Bona to the Mayor noted you said the budget was balanced, but what if the money from the State does not come, how will it affect the budget. The Mayor said he was not sure if the money will come with any strings attached. When the money does come through he will come back with recommendations to the Finance Committee and go from there. The Mayor urged the Council to determine what the City's rock bottom is and what services or projects should receive priority if the funds are approved. Council President asked about the Home Rule Petition for the $250,000 from the Land Sale Account. The Mayor said that it was approved and that it can be used to balance this year's budget.

11,379-a The President presented an Order appropriating the sum of $37,729,404.00 to be raised by taxation for FY'15.
On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to refer to the Finance Committee.
The Mayor asked Councilors to e-mail any questions regarding the budget to him or Mike before the Finance Committee meeting, so they will be prepared.

VOTED: to adjourn at 7:42pm
A True Record
Attest,

Marilyn Gomeau
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3015

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
June 24, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson.

A moment of silent prayer was observed, remembering Michael Gentile, father of our cameraman Peter Gentile. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The President called for the approval of the minutes of the June 10th meeting.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to approve the minutes as presented.

The President called for the approval of the minutes of the Special meeting of June 17th.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to approve the minutes as presented.

11,383 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section 2-27 of the Revised Ordinances, Schedule A, Classification Plan and Section 2-28(a), Schedule B of the Compensation Plan for FY'15, which was referred to the Finance Committee and pass to a second reading and publish as a municipal bulletin.

Councilor Bullett, chairman of the Finance Committee gave her report and explained the changes to the grades in the Classification Plan. The committee recommended to the full Council the adoption of the Classification and Compensation Plan.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED; to accept the committee report as presented.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance.

Mark Trottier, 131 Woodlawn Ave said that all he has heard for the last month was a lot of tough cuts have been made by the Mayor, now it is time for the Council to bring up any subject and make cuts to the budget. If you all go along with it, then none of you have made any tough cuts.
Councilor Bona responded to Mr. Trottier expressing that the Finance Committee has had seven meetings and through all of it many questions were asked by Councilors and the public. These questions were addressed at every meeting, so it is not the first time we as Councilors are seeing this document. Councilor Merrigan also agreed with Councilor Bona, saying she had attended six out of seven and got all the information she needed. Councilor Breen said technically speaking we can't cut line items, but Council President said we can cut and make suggestions, but in the end the Mayor has veto power.
Wayne Goodell, 546 Barbour Street can't understand why some people are being compensated for extra work and duties, when teachers have been cut, should we not look in house, why is it affecting one group and not another.

The Ordinance, as amended was ordained by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay Councilor Breen.

11,314-2 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section 2-28(a) of the Revised Ordinances, Schedule B the Compensation Plan-Part IV Part Time Salary Scale, PT-1B, FY'14, which was referred to the Finance Committee and passed to a second reading and publish as a municipal bulletin.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to adopt.

The Ordinance, as amended, was ordained by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,379-a The President presented an Order appropriating the sum of $37,729,404.00 to be raised by taxation for FY'15, which was referred to the Finance committee at the meeting of June 17th.

Councilor Bullett, Chairman of the Finance Committee gave the report of the committee. Councilor explained the budget was reduced by $12,719.23. There was lengthy discussion regarding the Office of Tourism, Councilor Wilkinson thought maybe taking it out now and putting on another police officer would be a better option, and then if the $750,000 in State Aid comes in, the position could be put back in. Councilor Blackmer agreed it was about priorities; a police officer verses a tourism director. Other discussion was about the library. Councilor Wilkinson thought the book budget and salaries of librarians is a place where monies could be saved.

The committee recommended the adoption of the FY'15 budget to the full Council.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to accept the committee report as presented.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The President announced there would be a roll call for each section of the budget and a final roll call at the end of the budget being presented.

Grand Total for General Government $1,230,945.00.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to accept.
On roll call the following responded, yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson, Nay Councilor Breen.

Grand Total for Department of Public Safety $4,943,280.00.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to accept.
On roll call the following responded, yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

Grand Total for Department of Public Services $3,159,115.00.

On motion of Councilor Blackmer, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to accept.
On roll call the following responded, yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran. Nay Councilor Wilkinson.

Grand Total for School Department $16,094,000.00

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to accept.
On roll call the following responded, yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

Grand Total for Pensions $2,344,950.00.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to accept.
On roll call the following responded, yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

Grand Total for Unclassified $7,067,869.00.

On motion of Councilor Blackmer, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to accept.
On roll call the following responded, yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

Grand Total for Capital $957,000.00.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to accept.
On roll call the following responded, yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

Grand Total for Interest $562,683.00.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to accept.
On roll call the following responded, yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

Grand Total for Debt $1,369,562.00.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Buddington it was VOTED: to accept.
On roll call the following responded, yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

Grand Total for Budget $37,729,404.00.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it VOTED: to accept.

Councilor Wilkinson noted he planned to vote for the entire budget but was unhappy with something in the Public Service Budget.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows, yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay Councilor Breen.

The Mayor thanked his staff and the Council for their hard work and the commitment to this budget process, we did it and we have a balanced budget. Councilor Bullett thanked her colleges and the public who came to the meetings and had such great input in the process.

The President presented an application submitted by Greg Alexander, 24 Spring Street to drive taxi for City Cab.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President presented an application submitted by Amy Bush, 82 Howland Avenue, Adams to drive taxi for Tunnel City Taxi.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Mark Trottier, 131 Woodlawn Avenue noted he had brought the issue of lost revenue on the parking meters to Council three years ago. He spent 30 working days and 135 miles in the downtown and the lost revenue has increased by 40%. I see the problem as enforcement and someone is not doing their job. Wayne Goodell, 546 Barbour Street noted we need every penny we can get and yet there are water bills from 2011 that are not paid and another 1800 parking tickets unpaid.
The President called for any Councilor or Mayor's concerns, Councilor Bona responded to Mr Trottier saying it is one person doing many jobs and he believes two weeks of strong enforcement would make a difference. Councilor Bona also told Mr. Goodell he did look at Gardner and Fitchburg's budget and the Mayor is paid less, but every other department is paid much higher than the City. Councilor Bona also noted that their water and sewer is dramatically higher. Councilor Moran said the budget is done and the doom and gloom is over. I think we should take a day and play a tourist, we have a beautiful City, and proactive is what we want the City to stand for. The Mayor said the LaFesta Baseball exchange is having a ziti supper on Thursday at St. Elizabeth parish center. The Drury art class has completed their art on the Cascade building, Brown Street and is worth taking a ride to see.

With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.
VOTED: to adjourn at 8:34 p.m.
A True Record.
Attest,

Marilyn Homeau
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3015

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
July 8, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson, absent Councilor Breen, Bullett.

A moment of silent prayer was observed, remembering Raymond Babeu father of former Councilors Shaun and Paul Babeu.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The President called for the approval of the minutes of the June 24th meeting.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to approve the minutes as presented.

11,377 The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to petition for Special Legislation concerning liquor license for Steeple City Liquors which was referred to the Public Safety Committee and postponed at the meeting of May 27th.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of August 26th.

11,377-1 The President presented an Order accepting Chapter 138, Section 15 of the Massachusetts General Laws; License. Steeple City Liquors which was postponed at the meeting of May 27th.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of August 26th.

11,385 Communication submitted by Councilor Bona regarding a speed limit at Wheel Estates.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to refer to the Public Safety Committee and Traffic Commission and to postpone to the meeting of August 26th.

11,386 Liaison reports for the 1st and 2nd quarter of 2014.

Councilor Bona stated he had no report for the McCann Regional Technical School Committee. Councilor Moran reported on the Hoosac Water Quality District. The plant continues to run efficiently and operational cost decreased this year. There is still a concern regarding slope stability near the plant which has been an issue for many years. Councilor Lamb reported on BART Charter School. BART graduated 13 this year and were all accepted to four year colleges. The school is renovating and expanding to include an auditorium. All this is being done through fund raising. He also stated that Councilor Merrigan will be joining the BART staff in the fall. Councilor Merrigan, liaison for the North Adams School Committee, reported that due to her job she has attend very few of the School Committee meetings. She did report that they are working on improving the website for the school system. Councilor Buddington reported on the North Adams Housing Authority. The Authority is at full occupancy and that turnaround time for apartments has been reduced. They will continue to upgrade the heating systems and are co-operating with the police to address drug related problems. Councilor Wilkinson presented a written report of the North Adams Planning Board in it he stated that the board had reviewed 17 new or expanding businesses, the board elected Michael Leary as chairman and Paul Hopkins as vice-chairman for the year. The board formally adopted the North Adams Vision 2030 Comprehensive Plan and approved the conversion of the Holy Family Church on State Road into four residential market rate apartments.

On motion of Councilor Moran, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to accept the reports as presented.

11,387 Committee assignment reports for the 1st and 2nd quarter of 2014.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to file the paper.

11,388 Communication submitted by Councilor Buddington regarding the Employee Handbook.

On motion of Councilor Moran, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to refer to the General Government Committee and postpone to the meeting of August 26th.

The President presented an application submitted by Edward LaCosse, 98-A Brayton Hill Terrace to drive taxi for City Cab.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President presented an application submitted by Michael LaCosse, Jr., 3 Myrtle St., Adams to drive taxi for City Cab.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Mark Trottier, 131 Woodlawn Avenue read a letter to the council stating it would be his last appearance at City Council meetings. Roger Urban, 677 Ashland St. reported that work at Hillside Cemetery is going very well. The Veterans circle is done and planting was done around the flag pole. Work will soon begin on the Brown Street corner.

The President called for any Councilor's or Mayor's Concerns, Councilor Bona reminded everyone of the Beach Party on Eagle Street and the grand opening of Eric Rudd's Art Museum on Friday, July 11th. The rap-up for the Mayor's Challenge will be held at the Beach Party. Councilor Merrigan and others will be working at Hillside Cemetery Saturday July 12th from 9:00am to 12:00pm. She also announced she has accepted a position at the BART Charter School but will continue her involvement in the City. Councilor Lamb said that people need to be aware of the many sightings of black bears both during the day and at night. He urged people to remove their bird feeders as they attract bears. He also added that the bears are a danger to dogs and they should be on a leash when outside. Due to the fact that we are having very hot and humid weather and have had several power outages he suggested that people watch out for their neighbor's, especially the elderly.

With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.
VOTED: to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.
A True Record.
Attest,

Nancy T. Canales
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3015

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
July 15, 2014

President Blackmer in the Chair
On Roll Call the following responded: Councilors Blackmer, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Councilor Bona, Merrigan absent.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

11,321-1 The President presented Mayor's communication #35 recommending year end transfers.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to file the communication.

11,321-1 The President presented an Order transferring the sum of $429,535.59 from General Government, Public Safety, Public Services, Unclassified and Retirement of Debt; to several accounts.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,389 The President presented an Order appropriating the sum of $282,363.87 from the Sale of Land Account to Several Accounts.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,390 The President presented an Order appropriating the sum of $1,714.24 from landfill Reserve Account to Department of Public Safety-Transfer Station.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,391 The President presented an Order appropriating the sum of $3,863.29 from the Sale of Cemetery Lots Account to Public Services-Cemetery Expenses.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to adopt the order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,392 The President presented an Order appropriating the sum of $44,202.81 from the Parking Meter Reserve Account to Department of Public Safety-Police Salaries.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.

VOTED: to adjourn at 7:55pm
A True Record
Attest,

Marilyn Homeau
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3015

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

138

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
July 22, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Bullett, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson, absent Councilor Breen, Buddington, Merrigan.

A moment of silent prayer was observed, Lorane Whitcomb, 28 year math teacher at Drury High School and Carol McCarron, long time substitute teacher in the North Adams School system.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Maryann Benoit Albee, 16 Rand Street was concerned about the heroin epidemic in the City and the way needles are being discarded.

The President called for any Councilor's or Mayor's Concerns, Councilor Bona noted the Mason's on Church Street are doing a celebration of 100 years for A.C. Houghton, on Saturday August 2nd from 12:00 noon to 1:00pm. Councilor Lamb was hoping the Mayor would be present to give an update on the Community Development Block grant. Councilor Bona also made note that the DPW has a new hot box, which is used for patching small pothole in the City, which is a big savings to the City. Councilor Blackmer noted July 31st is Down Street Art and the crosswalks are going to be painted again, if anyone is interested in painting a crosswalk, please come on Thursday.
With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.

VOTED: to adjourn at 7:36 p.m.
A True Record.
Attest,

Marilyn Gomeau
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
August 12, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson.

A moment of silent prayer was observed, remembering Wallace "Wally" LaFleur, North Adams Police Officer for 33 years.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of July 8th.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the special meeting on July 15th.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented, Councilor Merrigan abstained.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of July 22nd.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

9225-6 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Lamb regarding liter in the City, which was referred to the Public Safety Committee and postpone at the meeting of May 27th.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of August 26th.

Roger Eurbin, 677 Ashland Street noted that he was working with the probation officer to have people who are under his control work at Hillside Cemetery to do clean up. This is a good supply of free labor that could be used for clean up along Reservoir Road.

11,382 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Buddington regarding farming, which was referred to the General Government Committee and postponed at the meeting of May 27th.

Councilor Merrgian gave the report of the General Government Committee which recommended developing an Ordinance regarding farming.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to accept the report as presented.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor lamb it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of September 9th.

11,393 The President presented Mayor's communication #36 recommending the appointment of the Election Officer beginning September 1, 2014 to expire September 1, 2015.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to confirm the appointments.

Councilor Wilkinson questioned if the election officers were paid. The Clerk responded that they do receive a stipen of about $40.00.
Councilor Bona asked if the City received any money from the State for the Elections. The Clerk said the State reimburses the City for three hours because the State requires us to be open for 13 hours.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to amend Sheri Collins address to read 40 Orchard Hill.

11,394 The President presented Mayor's communication #37 recommending the re-appointment of Christopher Tremblay to the North Adams Housing Authority for a term to expire July 1, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

11,395 The President presented Mayor's communication #38 recommending the re-appointment of James M. Neville to the North Adams Housing Authority for a term to expire July 1, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

11,396 The President presented Mayor's communication #39 recommending the re-appointment of Shirley Davis to MASS MoCA Commission for a term to expire August 1, 2017.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

11,397 The President presented Mayor's communication #40 recommending the re-appointment of Robert Burdick to the MASS MoCA Commission for a term to expire August 1, 2017.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

11,398 The President presented an Order calling the State Primary Election for September 9, 2014 from 7:00am to 8:00pm.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

Councilor Wilkinson wondered if Ward 4 could be moved to St. Elizabeth, making it more cost effective. The Clerk said she would like nothing more than to do that, but Ward 4 is the biggest voting ward. There would be no savings in moving the ward, since you would still need an officer for each ward by State Law.

The Mayor said since St. Elizabeth does not meet the Federal Standards for ADA we will have to decide on moving because the center in not in compliance. Fixing the issues would be very extensive and expensive, so we will be looking into Colegrove Park Elementary School, which will be fully compliant and have adequate parking.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,399 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Lamb regarding a local Historic District Commission.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to refer to the Community Development Committee and postpone to the meeting of September 23rd.

Councilor Lamb would like to create a Local Historic District Committee that adequately fulfills the requirements of MGL to act as a Local Historic District Study body. This fits nicely with what the City is currently doing.

Justyna Carlson of the Historical Society and Commission said that Councilor Lamb has done his homework and the society is in full support of this.

11,400 The President presented a request from Dufour, Inc. 464 Curran Highway for a Public Hearing to install a 10,000 gallon aboveground Diesel Fuel.

Without objection the President set the Public Hearing for August 26th at 7:30pm.

The President presented an application submitted by Erik Shield, 419 Church Street to drive taxi for Michael McMillian, City Cab.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to grant the license.

Councilor Bona requested that Council postpone until a later date. Councilor Bona noted there has been violations by City Cab and would like to wait on this until the Public Safety Committee can meet to address the issues.
Councilor Lamb withdrew his original motion and Councilor Bona made a motion to postpone to a later date until the committee can meet with Mr. McMillian on some of the concerns that have been raised against City Cab.
Councilor Wilkinson objected to the postponement, saying we should not hold up two people from making a living. He does not believe Council should not penalize the applicants because there is a problem with the owner. Councilor Wilkinson said if the violations were so egregious why is the company still operating and why has the Public Safety Committee not immediately met on the violations.

The Mayor explained he and Lt. David Sacco had spoken to the owner last week after reviewing the City Taxi Ordinances, but based on that meeting I do not see a lot that has changed. City Cab was approved for two cabs but three cabs have been operating. The Mayor said there have been complaints about smoking in the cabs, which is a violation of State Law and witnesses have seen unlicensed people driving the cabs.

Councilor Breen objected to the discussion of City Cab saying it is a violation of the owner's rights. Mr. McMillian should be notified he was going to be accused publicly be elected officials.

The President called for a roll call vote to postpone the license, on roll call the following responded: yea Councilor Bona, Moran. Nay Councilor Blackmer, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Wilkinson.

The President called for a roll call vote to grant the license, on roll call the following responded: yea Councilor Blackmer, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Wilkinson. Nay Councilor Bona, Moran.

> The President presented an application from Brandon Hurst, 25 Arnold Place Apt. B to drive taxi for Michael McMillian, City Cab.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to grant the license, with Councilor Bona and Moran opposed.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Gus Jamallo from Gus's Barber Shop on Union Street was concerned about the large holes in front of his shop. He said he has called the City on several occasions and has not heard anything. Mr. Jamallo presented pictures to the Council for review.
The President called for any Councilor's or Mayor's Concerns, Council President noted Mary Grant's great accomplishments to MCLA, she will be greatly missed by the college and the community. Councilor Lamb also thanked Mary Grant and noted she has built a good base for the next person. Councilor Wilkinson was surprised the water and sewer bills were not on the agenda to clear up the stories that are going around the City. The Mayor said it was an error, but this has always been past practice to do the billing the way it was done. People will be getting a reimbursement. Councilor Breen questioned why someone in City Hall did not check it out. Councilor Breen argued with the Mayor saying you always say City employees are so indispensable, but I do not agree. A mistake like this should cost them their job. The Mayor disagreed with Councilor Breen saying they are good employees and this has always been past practice. Councilor Breen wondered if residents would be reimbursed for the past over charges. The Mayor said they would not.
With no further business to come before the Council the President called for a motion to adjourn.

VOTED: to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.
A True Record.
Attest,

Marilyn Gonneau
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
August 26, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Absent Councilor Breen and Bullett.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Councilor Bullett entered the meeting.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of August 12th.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to amend the minutes, under Councilor Concerns, change the word attacked to argue.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to approve the minutes as amended.

The President declared the Public Hearing open regarding the installation of a 10,000 gallon aboveground fuel storage for Dufour, Inc., located at 464 Curran Highway.

With no discussion the President declared the Public Hearing closed.

11,400 The President presented an Order granting permission to Dufour Inc, 464 Curran Highway to store 10,000 gallons aboveground diesel fuel.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to grant the license.

11,401 The President presented Mayor's communication #41 regarding the oath of office for two Police Officers; Jonathan Beaudreau and Nicholas Kaiser.

The Mayor noted this was ceremonial for the public to see the new officers, who were sworn in a couple of weeks ago.

The President called upon the City Clerk to administer the oath of office to the two officers.

The President called a short recess to allow the officers and families to leave the meeting.

11,402 The President presented Mayor's communication #42 submitting a Proclamation, proclaiming September as North Adams Recovery Month.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

The Mayor read the Proclamation for the record.

Jessica Dennis, Youth Team Leader for the Coalition said there is a great need for substance abuse awareness. On Saturday September 30th there will be a Candlelight Vigil.

11,377 The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to petition for Special Legislation concerning liquor license for Steeple City Liquors, which was postponed at the meeting of July 8th.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of September 10th.

Councilor Wilkinson questioned why the postponement, which was explained that it was requested by the

11,377-1 The President presented an Order accepting Chapter 138 Section 15 of the Massachusetts General Laws; Liquor License, Steeple City Liquor, which was postponed at the meeting of July 8th.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of September 10th.

11,385 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Bona regarding a speed limit at Wheel Estates, which was referred to the Public Safety Committee and the Traffic Commission and postponed to the meeting of August 26th.

Councilor Bona gave the report of the Public Safety Committee.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to accept the committee report.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to refer to the Solicitor for further review and postpone to the meeting of September 10th, with Councilor Wilkinson abstaining.

Councilor Wilkinson asked if it would be specific to Wheel Estates in the Ordinance, since we do have another park.

11,388 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Buddington regarding the Employees Handbook, which was referred to the General Government Committee and postponed to the meeting of August 26th.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of September 23rd.

9225-6 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Lamb regarding litter in the City, which was postponed to the meeting of August 26th.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to file the communication.

11,403 The President presented Mayor's communication #43 recommending the re-appointment of Rosemari Dickinson to the North Adams License Commission for a term to expire June 1, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

9963-d The President presented Mayor's communication #44 recommending an increase in Cemetery Fees and Perpetual Care.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

Councilor Wilkinson asked how many lots were still remaining in Southview. The Mayor said he was not exactly sure on how many, but could get the answer for him.

Councilor Lamb asked how the increases were decided upon. Councilor Wilkinson said there should be public input on the increases. The Mayor said the Cemetery Commission had meet on this matter and this was their recommendation.

9963-d The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 7 of the Revised Ordinances entitled Public Services, Section 7-19 entitled Price of Lots and Perpetual Care.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

11,404 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Lamb regarding the support of banning Fracked Gas Pipeline and support sustainable Energy in the Commonwealth.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

11,404 The President presented a Resolution supporting the ban of Fracked Gas Pipeline and supporting sustainable energy in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to refer to the Public Service Committee and postpone to October 14th.

Councilors feel they would like more information available about this matter and it was important to make this information available to the public.

Rachel Branch, 999 Massachusetts Avenue spoke in favor of supporting the Resolution.

The President presented an application submitted by Roland Forrest, 133 Beaver Street to drive taxi for Michael McMillian.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to grant the license.

Councilor Bona noted to that there were still issues with the owner, Michael McMillian.
Several Councilors felt the licenses should not be granted until the issues can be resolved with the owner.

The President called for a roll call vote, yea Councilor Blackmer, Buddington, Lamb, Merrigan, Wilkinson. Nay Councilor Bona, Bullett, Moran.

The President presented an application submitted by John Braman, 22 Pine Street, Adams to drive taxi for Michael McMillian.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President called for a roll call vote, yea Councilor Blackmer, Buddington, Lamb, Merrigan, Wilkinson. Nay Councilor Bona, Bullett, Moran.

The President presented an application submitted by Scott O'Hearn, 419 Church Street to drive taxi for Michael McMillian.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President called for a roll call vote, yea Councilor Blackmer, Buddington, Lamb, Merrigan, Wilkinson. Nay Councilor Bona, Bullett, Moran.

The President presented an application submitted by Keith Bona for a secondhand license in the business name of "West Summit Merchant", located at 2350 Mohawk Trail.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb, it was VOTED: to grant the license, with Councilor Bona abstaining.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Roger Eurbin, 677 Ashland Street noted recognizing September as recovery month was a great thing, but the law for those who deal drugs needs to be

much stronger, they need to serve real time. David Whitney, Whitney Package Store said at the Public Safety meeting it was said that it makes no difference if you have had a business for 80+ years and make contribution to organization of North Adams, but my personal opinion is it does make a difference. Councilor Moran asked the Mayor if he could explain the Historical Society decision to delay the demolition of the Houghton Street Mill houses. It seems Mr. Horbal had a change of heart, and wants to see these things around for another year. The Mayor said the commission did support demolition in April; personally the Mayor has been after these houses to come down for the last four years. Mr. Horbal of the Historical Commission obtained new information and invoked a one year delay. The houses have been removed from the CDBG cycle because of negations with the estate. The Mayor said delaying the demo could save the Community Development Block Grant considerable amount of money. The Commission plans to raise money to restore one building. Councilor Wilkinson asked what was so historical about these buildings. Councilor Bullett understands the perspective of historical buildings, however she questioned how this all came about. Councilor Bona was concerned that the Commission held a meeting in April, with 20 people attending advocating for demolition of these buildings. The Commission should hold another meeting which would allow neighbors to attend and not be limited to two minutes at the Council meeting. Councilor Bona noted it is a big project that the Commission is bringing forward and it should be a special meeting. Councilor Moran asked what would happen if the funding falls through, are all these building off the chopping block or can it be reconsidered. Council President cautioned the Council that they should not be debating the issue since it was not on the agenda. Council President would like the Commission to come to the next Council meeting to answer the questions Councilors have.

With no further business to come before the Council the President called for a motion to adjourn.

VOTED: to adjourn at 9:12 p.m.
A True Record.
Attest,

Marilyn Gomeau
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
September 10, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Absent Councilor Lamb.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Pledge of allegiance was recited.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of August 26th.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

11,382 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Buddington regarding farming, which was postponed at the meeting of August 12th.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of October 14th.

11,385 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Bona regarding speed limit at Wheel Estates, which was postponed at the meeting of August 26th.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to file the communication. Councilor Breen abstaining.

11,385 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances entitled Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article IV Operation of Vehicles, Section 13-26 entitled Special speed regulations.

Councilor Bona noted that he had misspoken and it was not voted on by the tenant group as a whole.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to pass to a second reading and publish as required by law.

11,377 The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to petition for Special Legislation concerning liquor license for Steeple City Liquors, which was postponed at the meeting of August 26th.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of November 25th.

Councilor Wilkinson sees no reason to postpone this again. He feels that they are using the City Council as a fall back in case the deal falls through. Councilor Wilkinson would like to vote on it and be done with it. Councilor Bona said the applicant asked for it to be postponed and yes we are the fall back. Councilor Buddington also agrees with the fact that it should not be postponed. Councilor Merrigan also felt it should be voted on tonight. Councilor Breen felt since the applicant asked for it to be postponed then Council should respect that request. V&V expected it to be continued. The Mayor said Attorney Smithers said they have a purchase and sale agreement, which has not been fully transacted. Councilor Wilkinson again advocated for an immediate vote saying they are using the City Council and everyone knows how they are going to vote. Councilor Moran was in agreement with taking a vote at this time, I don't think our opinions are going to change whether is now or three months from now. Councilor Bullett also noted that the City was already over the limit of liquor licenses based on our population. Councilor Wilkinson asked if Councilor Bona would come back with a report for the next meeting so a vote could be taken at that time.
Council Breen asked if Councilor Bona would withdraw his motion, but Councilor Bona declined saying if it fails another motion can be made.
David and Bonnie Whitney of Whitney Package Store are very frustrated with the whole process, noting they have put their lives on hold, while Council is trying to decide what they are going to do.
Councilor President called for a roll call vote on the motion to postpone to the meeting of November 25th.

On roll call the following responded: yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Merrigan. Nay Councilor Buddington, Bullett, Moran, Wilkinson. Motion failed.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of September 23rd.

11,377-1 The President presented an Order accepting Chapter 138 Section 15 of the Massachusetts General Laws; Liquor License, Steeple City Liquor, which was postponed at the meeting of August 26th.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of September 23rd.

9963-d The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 7 of the Revised Ordinances entitled Public Services, Section 7-19 entitled Price of Lots and Perpetual Care, which was passed to a second reading and publish as required by law at the meeting of August 26th.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to adopt the Ordinance.

The Ordinance as amended was ordained by yea and nay vote as follows: yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,405 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Bona regarding discussion on Houghton Street Mill Houses, proposal and demolition.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to file the communication.

Councilor Bona submitted pictures of the houses on Houghton Street and noted he had attended the Historical Commission meeting in April when the decision was made to demolish the buildings. Several residents who are here this evening were also in attendance of that meeting. Councilor Wilkinson felt this discussion should be handled at a committee meeting. Councilor Buddington and Breen felt since there are many residents of the Houghton and North Street area, they should be allowed to discuss their concerns.
Justyna Carlson chairwoman of the Historical Society said the August meeting was publicly posted, just the same way the April meeting was concerning these buildings. It was not the intent of the commission to hide anything at this meeting. The agenda clearly stated they were revisiting the Mill Houses on Houghton Street. Alan Horbal of the Historical Commission said he did propose the demolition of these buildings, but it bothered him because these houses have been on the maps since 1870. Mr. Horbal said there would be two nice buildings with brick sidewalks and possibly gas lighting, but it will take time and we cannot go on the property until we establish a nonprofit and begin to solicit donations to restore two of the buildings. The corner store at Liberty and Houghton is expected to be demolished in the next few months by the estate.
Jeffrey Kemp, Houghton Street said he did attend the meeting in April and made a presentation to the Commission along with pictures detailing the reason the building should come down. He was dismayed that the commission had not invited him to the meeting. Linda Snow, 1 Raymond Court lives behind the buildings since 1960 and these buildings should have come down 30 years ago. John Lipa, 171 Houghton Street said his family has lived there since 1945 and invested a considerable sum of money to maintain the property and agrees they should be demolished. I do wonder what the City is going to do if they come down, take a look at Houghton Street where property has been taken down, no one maintains it. Mr. Lipa said it is not just the structures but the whole area is blighted. The City does not have the resources to maintain the land where properties have been torn down. Mr. Lipa said you can have the best museum in the world but it has to have a good entrance. Kathy Mancini, 69 Hathaway Street agrees they should come down, if for nothing else, safety reasons. These plans are a dream, not reality. Anthony Mirante, 34 North Street is the facility manager for MCLA for 30 years, said a carpenter is not an engineer and those buildings cannot be salvaged. I have lived on North Street since 1962 and I have watched those houses fall apart year after year. Michael Goodson, Liberty Street, bought his house eight years ago and he has a front row seat watching junkies and rodents going in and
out of these buildings, it is an eyesore to the neighbors. Residents were upset over the backtracking by the commission since it was approved in April to raze the buildings.
The Mayor questioned why the Council was holding discussion; we are talking about properties that are not in this round of demolition, The Mayor asked what was the Council's intent.
Councilor Bullett said the plan sounds great but in the meantime the City needs to have a plan to secure these buildings. Councilor Bona said he is a creative person, but he just does not see the image for these properties. Councilor Breen would like to see the City put pressure on the estate to do something immediately and come back in two weeks with a report. Councilor Wilkinson said the City should take action immediately to secure this property, it should be a priority. He asked the Mayor to secure the buildings and send the bill to the estate. The Mayor agrees these buildings are troublesome, but felt the Historical Commission should be supported in their efforts to preserve a piece of history.

The President shared a correspondence she had received from the Department of Conversation and Recreation concerning acquisition of 275 acres + of forest land in the City of North Adams. The property abuts Clarksburg State Forest.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Jim Lipa, 171 Houghton Street reminded everyone they are still having meetings at the American Legion on Tuesday to discuss health care and the upcoming health care report.

The President called for any Councilor or Mayor's concerns, Councilor Breen asked the Mayor why the soccer fields had no bathrooms in the west-end. The Mayor said the leagues have keys to the bathrooms. Councilor Merrigan noted there is a project design meeting on Thursday the 25th from 5:00 to 7:30 for the skate board park. Councilor Bona said the Food Fest in Sunday the 21st from noon to 4:00. The Mayor noted the solar project is moving forward, it has the approval of the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission.

With no further business to come before the Council the President called for a motion to adjourn.

VOTED: to adjourn at 9:45p.m.
A True Record.
Attest,

Marilyn Homeau
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
September 23, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson.
A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Pledge of allegiance was recited.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of September 9, 2014

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

11,385 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Revised Ordinances entitled Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article IV Operation of Vehicles, Section 13-26 entitled Special speed regulations, which was passed to a second reading and publish as required by law at the meeting of September 10th.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows: yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran. Nay none. Councilor Breen and Wilkinson abstained.

11,377 The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to petition for Special Legislation concerning liquor license for Steeple City Liquors, which was postponed at the meeting of September 10th.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to adopt the Order. Several Councilors expressed the same concerns as in the past. Sid Smithers from Cain Hibbard and Myers requested that it be postponed to December 9th, since there is a purchase and sale agreement pending.

Councilor Breen rescinded her original motion, seconded by Councilor Merrigan.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of December 9th.

The President called for a roll call vote; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan. Nay Councilor Buddington, Moran, Wilkinson.

11,377-1 The President presented an Order accepting Chapter 138 Section 15 of the Massachusetts General Laws; Liquor License, Steeple City Liquor, which was postponed at the meeting of September 10th.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of December 9th.

11,388 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Buddington regarding the Employee Handbook, which was postponed at the meeting of August 26th.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to file the communication.

Councilor Buddington noted he was satisfied with receiving the handbook.

Council President said she would like to establish an ad hock committee to review the handbook at the next meeting.

11,399 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Lamb regarding a local Historic District Commission, which was referred to the Community Development Committee and postpone at the meeting of August 12th.

Councilor Wilkinson gave the report of the Community Development Committee. The committee recommended the creation of a Historical District Study Committee.

Several Councilors were concerned about the impact it would have on the residents in a historic district. Councilor Bona questioned the enforcement if a homeowner chooses not to comply.

Guy Cariddi, 211 Church Street, lives in a Historic District and noted it would be very costly to comply.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to accept the committee report as presented and create a Historic District Study Committee.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

11,212-1 The President presented Mayor's communication #45 regarding the solar project.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

The President presented an application submitted by Anthony Girgenti, 1110 South Church Street, to drive taxi for Guy Cariddi, Tunnel City.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President presented an application submitted by William LaPointe, 4 Seneca Drive, to drive taxi for Guy Cariddi, Tunnel City.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President presented an application submitted by Steven Gavazzi, 53 Dover Street, to drive taxi for Guy Cariddi, Tunnel City.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President presented an application submitted by Gwendolyn F. Cariddi, 211 Church Street, to drive taxi for Guy Cariddi, Tunnel City.

On motion of Councilor Breen, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President presented an application submitted by Jimmy Lemieux, 15 Marietta Street, to drive taxi for Guy Cariddi, Tunnel City.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to grant the license.

11,407 The President presented Mayor's communication #47 regarding the establishment of a Public Arts Commission.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

11,407 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams by adding a new section, Arts Commission.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to refer to the General Government Committee and postpone to the meeting of December 9th.

11,408 The President presented Mayor's communication #48 regarding demand fees.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

11,408 The President presented an Order authorizing the Tax Collector, with the approval of the Mayor to establish a demand fee of $15.00 under Chapter 60, Section 15 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Mayor noted the work on the solar project has been in the works for four years. Due to the complexities of site location, permitting financing and many other things the project has had its ups and downs. The array will be located on our capped landfill and has cleared all local permitting including the DEP. Borrego Solar had presented a wonderful initiative had has the potential to save the City $200,000 in utility cost in the first year.

Amy McDonough a representative from Borrego Solar gave a presentation on the project.
Councilor Wilkinson was concerned if the construction would affect the transfer station and the large trucks going to the site.

Ms. McDonough said the site would be fenced in and the truck traffic would be about 2 to 3 trucks a day.

Councilor Buddington asked if a tornado was to occur, who would assume the liability. Ms. McDonough said it would be at the risk of the investor.

The Mayor thanked Amy McDonough and Ross Vivori for their hard work on this project.

11,406 The President presented Mayor's communication #46 regarding MASS MoCA development on Marshall Street.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

The Mayor explained that MoCA has purchased the Leu property on the corner of Marshal and West Main Street. The property has been placed under the ownership of the Commission by vote of the MASS MoCA Commission. Mackenzie Greer, Michael Nuvallie and MoCA have been working with the North Adams Partnership to put forth a MassWorks Grant application to help with the costs of the project and to create infrastructure enhancements within the West Main, Marshall and Center Street area.

Mackenzie Greer and Joe Thompson presented a slide presentation showing some public space, park space, amphitheater, green space and hard space. Their main focus is to make Main Street more visible to the 140,000 visitors each year. The grant was submitted two weeks ago and the City should find out by the end of October if they have been selected. They like to fund projects located in urban cores already developed. Ms. Greer said if the City loses out, the project will be done piecemeal as funding becomes available.

Councilor Merrigan was very excited about the project as well as Councilor Bullett expressing she is imagining something attractive like the Bridge of Flowers in Shleburne Falls.

The President called for a three minute recess at 10:00pm.

The President called the meeting back to order at 10:04pm.

Without objection the President moved the taxi licenses forward.

The President presented an application submitted by Kevin Delisle, 150 Ashland Street, to drive taxi for Michael McMillian, City Cab.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,243-1 The President presented Mayor's communication #49 regarding Electrical Aggregation.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

Michael Canales, Administrative Officer explained residents will be getting a notice and can opt out at any time. Residents will not see a big change in their bills, but it will offer stability. The rate for Nation Grid is 16 cents and this will be 12.191 cents, which is 4 cents less. This rate will take effect November 1st. Councilor Wilkinson questioned if some residents who may have switched from National Grid, are they eligible. Mr. Canales said they were not. Councilor Bullett asked if residents will be getting two bills. Mr. Canales said they would only receive one bill.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, hearing none, the President called for any Councilor or Mayor's concerns, Councilor Lamb said October 4th at 1:00pm the Florida and North Adams Historical Society will be celebrating the 100th year of the Mohawk Trail. Councilor Bona noted Saturday from 9:00am -1:00pm at All Saints Church they will be recycling unwanted electronics. Councilor Bullett noted that the Fresh Grass this past week-end was lots of fun.
Councilor Blackmer said the Library Book Sale was this coming week-end at St. Elizabeth's Parish Center. Councilor Wilkinson would like a progress report on the Greylock Market next meeting. The Mayor noted the report on the hospital was released before the meeting at MCLA and it will be again tomorrow morning at MCLA. The report is also available in the Clerk's Office. The Mayor also noted that Saturday was Drug Drop off Day from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

With no further business to come before the Council the President called for a motion to adjourn.

VOTED: to adjourn at 10:35p.m.
A True Record.
Attest,

Marilyn Gomeau
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
October 14, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Absent Councilor Breen.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Pledge of allegiance was recited.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of September 23, 2014

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

Without objection the President moved Council Paper #11,416 regarding a Resolution for the North Adams Hospital.

11,416 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Lamb regarding a resolution for North Adams Regional Hospital.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

Councilor Lamb said this resolution is on behalf of concerned citizens that meet weekly to discuss the closing of the North Adams Regional Hospital. The hospital closed in March when they declared bankruptcy. BMC has restored emergency and some imaging services. The state report concluded a full service hospital would be smaller and require Critical Access for full Medicare reimbursement.

11,416 The President presented a Resolution supporting the reopening of the former North Adams Regional Hospital as a full service hospital.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to adopt the Resolution.

Councilor Merrigan said she felt it was a valuable symbolic gesture for the Council to support this resolution, it may not bring the hospital back, but it certainly sets the right tone. She appreciates how hard the group has

worked to fight for the hospital. Councilor Buddington said he recognizes the information given to us and they have done a responsible job in getting the information to us. Councilor Bona was a little concerned about the language, specifically unlawful. Has it been defined as unlawful or is this an opinion, does this mean criminal. Councilor Lamb explained that was the phrasing the Attorney General's Office used.

Michael Fadel, representative for the Massachusetts Nurses Association said the recent report did not favor returning the hospital to its former status, but did note there was a need in Northern Berkshire for a smaller inpatient care hospital. We believe through the regular meetings and the support of elected officials this has been kept front and center. If we can escalate it at this time there is no reason inpatient services can't return to North Adams. James Lipa, 171 Houghton Street urged City Officials to look at creative alternatives to make a full service hospital sustainable without relying on Critical Access designation. Mass MoCA would never have happened if the they did not think outside the box. Milton Overlock, 52 Seminole Drive, Michael Wilbur, 11 Fuller Street and Ross Ziskind, West Shaft Road all expressed the need for a full service hospital.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to adopt the Resolution.

The Resolution was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

The President called for a short recess.

The President called the meeting back to order.

11,382 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Buddington regarding farming, which was postponed at the meeting of October 14th.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

11,382-1 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams entitled Administration by adding a new section.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to refer to the City Solicitor and postpone to the meeting of October 28th.

11,404 The President presented a Resolution supporting the ban of Fracked Gas Pipeline and supporting sustainable energy in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which was referred to the Public Services Committee and postpone at the meeting of August 26th.

On motion Of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor lamb, it was VOTED: to adopt the Resolution Councilor Moran gave the report of the Public Service Committee. The committee recommended a few minor changes in the wording. In the 6th paragraph delete <u>and residents</u> and insert in its place <u>on behalf of the residents</u> and in paragraph 7 delete <u>and residents</u> and insert in its place <u>on behalf of the residents.</u> Sub section 2 add <u>new</u> after /or any.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to accept the committee report as presented.

Councilor Bona said he had very mixed opinions on this matter, and would like to have a better understanding of this Resolution.

Rachel Branch, 999 Massachusetts Avenue an advocate against the pipeline, stated it is a public safety issue, a public health issue and it's about saving our planet. Roger Eurbin, 677 Ashland Street noted it was a safety issue shipping natural gas by train. We have hundreds of tank cars coming through here.

Councilor Bullett said she too was uncomfortable with voting on the resolution without having more answers.

The Resolution, as amended, was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Buddington, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay Councilor Bona, Bullett. Councilor Blackmer abstained.

11,212-1a The President presented Mayor's communication #45A regarding the lease for the former landfill, for the Solar Project.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

The Mayor noted everything has been permitted, negotiated and Borrego is out for financing at this time. This is the last piece and we should see construction soon. The City is leasing the land for $12,000 a year, we are hoping for about $200,000 in energy savings.

Councilor Wilkinson said he had some concerns with the lease, but felt the project would benefit the City. Councilor Moran felt it was a great opportunity to see what a project like this can do for the City and utilize land that was nothing, even if the savings is $2.00 the first year it is great use of the land.
Councilor Bona wonder if it was possible to install a solar array on the City's old water treatment plant.

The Mayor noted that area was more complicated because of large sewer lines and water pipes are buried underneath. We are looking at the possibility of panels at the airport and also Reservoir Road.
The Mayor believes this will be one of the largest solar arrays in the State.

11,212-1a The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to enter into a lease agreement with Borrego Solar Systems, Inc. at the former landfill.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to adopt the order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson, Nay none.

11,409 The President presented Mayor's communication #50 regarding two sewer connections in Clarksburg.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

11,409 The President presented an Order granting Ronald Krutiak, 677 North Houghton Street, Clarksburg to make connection to the North Adams sewer system.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett,

Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson, Nay none.

11,410 The President presented an Order granting Jamie and Dale Ott, 640 Walker Street, Clarksburg to make connection to the North Adams Sewer system.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,411 The President presented Mayor's communication #51 regarding the Hadley Overpass. Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

The Mayor noted he created a list of FAQ and hoped this would answer the many questions concerning the Hadley Overpass. He noted this would also be available in the City Clerk's Office.

Councilor Buddington was concerned about the pylon near Furnace Street, noting it obstructs the view making left turns dangerous. The Mayor noted when Heritage State Park enters Redevelopment that intersection may need a light. Councilor Wilkinson was concerned when the underneath of the bridge is open for traffic, people will be speeding through there to avoid the long wait at the intersection of American Legion Drive. The Mayor said he was in discussion with the Mass DOT about changing the light during peak hours.

11,412 The President presented Mayor's communication #52 regarding a report on Heritage State Park (Greylock Market).

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

The Mayor said he expects a response about the Heritage State Park lease in 60 Days. There are 16 investors who will be investing in Heritage Park. The Mayor said there is a lawsuit presently pending and he is not at liberty to speak about it. Councilor Wilkinson wonders where we would get the money for the lawsuit. The Mayor explained we don't get the money, we settle. The Mayor said not a dime comes from the City; it strictly will be the Redevelopment Authority.

11,413 The President presented Mayor's communication #53 recommending the re-appointment of Paul Senecal to the Mobile Home Rent Control Board for a term to expire October 14, 2018.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

11,414 The President presented Mayor's communication #54 recommending the re-appointment of Wayne Wilkinson to the Mobile Home Rent Control Board for a term to expire October 14, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment,
with Councilor Wilkinson abstaining.

11,415 The President presented Mayor's communication #55 recommending the re-appointment of James Morocco to the Mobile Home Rent Control Board for a term to expire October 14, 2017.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

11,417 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Bullett regarding junk motor vehicles in residential areas.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to refer to the Public Safety Committee and postpone to the meeting of November 25th.

11,418 The President presented an Order calling the State Election for November 4 2014 from 7:00am to 8:00pm.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,386-1 The President called for the Liaison reports for the 3rd quarter of 2014.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to accept the committee reports as presented.

The President presented an application submitted by Justin Filiault, 706 Daniels Road, Clarksburg to drive for City Cab, Michael McMillian.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Roger Eurbin, 677 Ashland Street invited residents to stop by Hillside Cemetery on Saturday October 25th to see what students from MCLA have done at 10:00am.
The President called for any Councilor or Mayor's concerns, Councilor Wilkinson asked the Mayor about the $750,000 the City was to receive. The Mayor noted the City was not getting the money the way they had hoped for. He is putting together a list of capital items needed with department heads. Capital needs such as police vehicles, plow truck and work at the water filtration plant, the finance team will be looking at all of these.
With no further business to come before the Council the President called for a motion to adjourn.

VOTED: to adjourn at 9:25p.m.
A True Record.
Attest,

City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
November 12, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Pledge of allegiance was recited.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of October 28, 2014

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

11,424 The President presented Mayor's communication #59 recommending the re-appointment of Gail Sellers to the MASS MoCA Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2017.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to confirm the re-appointment.

11,425 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Bullett regarding BMC.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to file the communication, with Councilor Wilkinson abstaining.

Councilor Bullett said she put this forward based on an informal conversation with the Tuesday Night Community Group. Councilor Bullett said she was looking for Council input.
The Mayor noted he met with Mr. Phelps from BMC regarding restoring services at the hospital, and the concerns of what would be coming forward in the next 90 days. They agreed to meet every three weeks along with Council President to discuss what will be happening and report back to Council on a monthly basis. Council President thought the offer made by the Mayor was appropriate adding she has spoken with the City Solicitor and past long time Councilors and they said this was not the roll of the City Council. Councilor Breen noted she did not need the Solicitor to tell her what her role as a Councilor was. Councilors were all sympathetic to the issue but were not sure what new or additional information would come from this. Councilor

Bona wondered why the State delegations had not been asked to take the lead on this since the closure of the hospital affected all of North County. Councilor Wilkinson noted he has abstained from the debate because of a conflict.
James Gander, Massachusetts Nurses Association, representing the nurses' union at the hospital said they were just looking for a dialogue with BMC. Jim Lipa, 171 Houghton Street noted that a closing like this has never happened in the State of Massachusetts. Robin Simonetti, former employee of NARH said that the group deserves some answers.
Michael O'Brien also a former employee said they were just asking BMC to share their ideas and would like to see the five year plan.

Councilor Breen motioned that an invitation be sent by the Council to Mr. Phelps or a representative from BMC to meet with the Tuesday Night Group at the American Legion, seconded by Councilor Merrigan.

The President presented an application submitted by Keith Butler, 229 Mohawk Forest Blvd, to drive taxi for City Cab, Michael McMillian.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Roger Eurbin, 677 Ashland said the work is complete for the season at Hillside Cemetery. Mr. Eurbin said they have repaired 40 stones, cleaned 35 stones and did planting at Soldiers Circle. He thanked everyone who helped and said they would begin again in the spring.
The President called for any Councilor or Mayor's concerns, Councilor Merrigan thanked the Mayor for the improvement to the sound system at the Veteran's Day celebration. Councilor Bona said this is nothing to do with the hospital, but it is a concern. His son, who is 20 needed to be seen by a doctor for an issue and since he has outgrown a pediatrician he called his primary doctor and was told it would take 7 months before he could be seen, nothing even with a PA. Councilor Bona was told he should go to a walk-in clinic in Pittsfield.
Councilor Blackmer noted the dedication of a new plague at Southview Cemetery in honor of Peter Foote, Jr.
The Mayor thanked everyone involved in the Veteran Day ceremony; it was a great tribute to our Veterans. The Mayor said the Demarsico family was in Boston receiving the Medal of Liberty in honor of their son Michael.

With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.

VOTED: to adjourn at 8:36p.m.
A True Record.
Attest,

Marilyn Homeau
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
November 25, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Absent Councilor Breen and Merrigan.

A moment of silent prayer was observed remembering Enrico "Rico" Gaspardi, initiator and prime mover of the Flag memorial at Veterans Park, and Timothy Ahern, member of the Tree Commission.

The Pledge of allegiance was recited.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of November 12, 2014

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

11,417 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Bullett regarding junk motor vehicles in residential areas, which was referred to the Public Safety Committee and postpone at the meeting of October 14th.

Councilor Bona gave the report of the Public Safety Committee. The committee recommends postponing this because they feel there is still more research that can be done on this matter and they would like to meet with the Health Inspector to see if more can be done with enforcement of junk vehicles.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to accept the committee report as presented.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of January 27, 2015.

11,423 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Merrigan regarding the 2030 Vision Plan, which was postponed at the meeting of October 28th.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to file the communication.

Mackenzie Greer, City Planner gave an overview of the Plan. Several Councilors had questions for Ms. Greer, Councilor Moran said the report was very professionally done and appreciated it. He said he was applying for a grant for the Appalachian Trail and one of the first things they ask is "does your City have a Master Plan". Councilor Moran said this has been three years in the making and it shows. Council President said the outreach that was done helps bring a broader base of our community. Ms. Greer said there have been about 500 people attending meetings and having input in the plan. Councilor Buddington was curious about the receivership program. Mackenie Greer said they would identify homes that are foreclosed on in precarious neighborhoods and Mass Housing Partnership would bring the home back to full market value.
The Mayor said although it was not necessary for Council to approve the Vision 2030 Plan, they would like the endorsement of the City Council.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to endorse the Comprehensive Plan.

11,426 The President presented Mayor's communication #60 recommending the re-appointment of Michael Leary to the Redevelopment Authority for a term to expire June 1, 2018.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to confirm.

Councilor Wilkinson was curious why the expiration date was June 1st and not November 25th; are they hold overs?

The Mayor said they are hold overs, but the Ordinance is specific to the terms.

Councilor Bona said that the Redevelopment Authority was established in 1970; is that something that will always be with us? The Mayor said it was established during Urban Renewal to help businesses become established. It is healthy to have. Councilor Wilkinson noted that according to the law, it is a requirement. The Planning Board and the Redevelopment Authority are very different from each other.

11,427 The President presented Mayor's communication #61 recommending the re-appointment of Paul Hopkins to the Redevelopment Authority for a term to expire June 1, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

8717-34 The President presented Mayor's communication #62 requesting a Public Hearing for the purpose of establishing the percentages of the local tax levy to be borne by the various classes of real property.

Without objection the President set the Public Hearing for December 9th at 7:30pm.

11,428 The President presented Mayor's communication #63 regarding MASS MoCA Phase III project.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

The Mayor asked Joseph Thompson, Executive Director of MASS MoCA to give a brief overview of the recent announcement of the $25 million in State funding.

Joseph Thompson gave a presentation of the future plans for MoCA. Mr. Thompson noted that phase began in 1999, between 2002 and 2011 phase II was completed. Now with the money from the State we can begin phase III and hope it will be completed by 2017, building 7 will double its space.

Councilor Bona asked if Wilco was locked in for the coming year. Mr. Thompson said they would be back in June 2015.

11,081-2 The President presented Mayor's communication #64 regarding an addendum to the Inter Municipal Agreement for Veteran's Services.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

11,081-2 The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to add an addendum to the Inter Municipal Agreement for Veteran's Services to include the Town of Savoy.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order, as amended, was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,429 The President called for the report of the Public Service Committee submitted by Councilor Moran, Chairman.

Councilor Moran gave an overview of the City's infrastructure, noting the high cost of repairing and replacing the bulk of those needs, including water, sewer, roads and transfer station. Mr. Lescarbeau said that 30% of the yearly overtime roughly $30,000 was spent on cleaning residential sewer lateral. This service is above and beyond what the City is required to do. The Mayor and the DPW would like the Council to back the original City regulation and no longer provide this service effective December 1, 2014.
Councilor Wilkinson asked the Mayor to explain what the lateral is. The Mayor said the lateral is from the pipe from the street to your home. Councilor Wilkinson said, we already have an regulation in place and we are now going to adhere to it. The Mayor said yes.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to accept the report as presented.

The President presented an application submitted by Richard W. Bostwick, 813 West Shaft Road to drive taxi for Tunnel City.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President presented an application submitted by Nicholle Cote, 34 Aztec Drive to drive taxi for Tunnel City.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Elizabeth Manns, 425 North Houghton Street, Clarksburg asked about the status of the letter that was going to be sent to BMC regarding the forum with the

Tuesday night community group. Councilor Wilkinson was curious why we did not have a liaison to the Airport Commission. Councilor Bona said that Council could request anyone to come to Council to give a report of their commission. Councilor Wilkinson asked about the ownership status of the Phoenix Mill Project. He questioned if the MASS MoCA Commission was the owner of the building or was the City. Councilor Bona noted if residents were experiencing high water bills, they should check their toilets, a running toilet can add enormously to a water bill.

With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.

VOTED: to adjourn at 9:05p.m.
A True Record.
Attest,

Marilyn Gomeau
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
December 9, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson.
A moment of silent prayer was observed remembering Walter Davis, long time Police Officer and Detective for the City of North Adams and Andrew Gigliotti, former industrial arts teacher at Drury High School.
The Pledge of allegiance was recited.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of November 25, 2014

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING

The President opened the Public Hearing regarding setting the percentages of local tax levy to be borne by the various classes of real property.

The Mayor explained that the FY 2015 tax levy will be $15,019,976.00, an increase in levy of 4.05% which represents the legislated 2.5%increase plus new growth of $225,012.00. The Mayor recommended that the City maintain the CIP shift at 1.71. Residential will go from $15.92 to $16.71, approximately $115.00 annual increase on a single family home valued at $136,200. The CIP will go from $34.54 to $36.07. The Mayor noted that by establishing the CIP shift we would be assuring our community that we will be able to provide services at acceptable levels. Raising the shift to the maximum 1.75 would mean about $30.00 on the average tax bill.

Mark Trottier, 122 Woodlawn Avenue, was against the tax split noting that $30.00 may not be a lot to some people, but to most residents they will have to make a decision on whether to buy medicine, or food.
Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street was also against the shift to residential.

The President on several occasions had to remind speakers that they were veering off the subject on the shifts in attempt to debate the issue with the Mayor.

Councilor Breen said she was not voting in favor of the proposed shift to residential. The Mayor said reducing commercial helps bring in businesses, but she strongly disagreed with the Mayor. You are placing a heavy burden on the homeowners.

The Mayor objected to Councilor Breen's statements saying that he is very concerned about the tax effect on both the commercial and residential.
Councilor Breen felt the Mayor was showing favoritism toward business, noting MoCA and the incentive offered to Crane. She would like the Mayor to speak to Mr. Thompson about a Pilot payment. The Mayor took offense to Councilor Breen's statement, stating that Crane brought jobs to our community and invested a large amount of money into the company.

Councilor Wilkinson agreed with Councilor Breen saying the District Court and Social Security pay a high amount in rent to the museum, but they are tax exempt. He said this was not the time for this discussion but it was certainly something we should review.

Councilor Bona said most businesses in the City are small family owned and raising the taxes would affect them, not just the big business.

Councilor Moran noted he felt the spilt was a symbolic gesture to the businesses that have stayed in our City. If you just continue cutting, our community will continue to go downhill and the City will never be able to attract new businesses, and people will leave the area to go elsewhere.

The President declared the Public Hearing closed.

8717-34 The President presented Mayor's communication #62-a requesting the approval of the tax classification for FY'15.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

8717-34 The President presented an Order establishing the percentages of tax levy for the various classes of property for FY'15.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay Councilor Breen.

11,377-a The President presented Mayor's communication #30-a requesting the withdrawal of Council Paper #11,377 and Council Paper 11,377-1.

The President placed the communication on file.

The Mayor said the reason for withdrawing the papers is the business has acquired a liquor license from an existing business.

11,377 The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to petition for Special Legislation concerning a liquor license for Steeple City Liquors, which was postponed at the meeting of September 23rd.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to withdraw the paper at the Mayor's request.

On roll call the following responded; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson, Nay none.

11,377-1 The President presented an Order accepting Chapter 138, Section 15 of the Massachusetts General Laws; Liquor License, Steeple City Liquor, which was postponed at the meeting of September 23rd.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to withdraw the paper at the Mayor's request.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,212-2 The President presented Mayor's communication #65 regarding Solar Power.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

Michael Canales noted that this would allow Borrego Solar to purchase credit on two solar arrays outside the City. These credits would offset about $80,000 in annual electrical costs over the next 20 years. The projects are expected to cover energy costs to all City public buildings.

11,212-2 The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Power Purchase Agreement with Plymouth Solar 1, LLC.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Merrigan it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,212-3 The President presented an Order authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Power Purchase Agreement with Westminister CC Solar 1, LLC.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to adopt the Order.

The Order was adopted by yea and nay vote as follows; yea Councilor Blackmer, Bona, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson. Nay none.

11,382-1 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams entitled Administration by adding a new section, which was referred to the General Government Committee and postpone at the meeting of October 28th.

Councilor Merrigan said the Committee did not meet on the issue.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of January 13th, 2015.

11,407 The President presented an Ordinance amending Chapter 2 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of North Adams by adding a new section. Arts Commission, which was referred to the General Government Committee and postpone at the meeting of September 23rd.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of January 13th, 2015.

11,430 The President presented the report of the Finance Committee submitted by Councilor Bullett.

Councilor Bullett gave the report regarding the proposed utilization of the $750,000 from the State. She noted that Michael Canales presented an overview of the tax classification. Mr. Canales noted State aid has decreased from 67% to 42% over the past several cycles. With the decrease in property values and decrease in State aid, the Mayor will be requesting a Prop 2 1/2 override.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to accept the Committee report.

Councilor Breen debated with the Mayor about a Prop 2 1/2 override which was reflected in the minutes of the finance committee.

Councilor Bullett took offense to the actions of Councilor Breen regarding the report, acknowledging the report may not have been verbatim, the report was an overview of the meeting.

Councilor Bona said that is why it is important to attend committee meetings so you get the inform first hand.

11,431 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Bullett regarding a presentation from Molly Prindle class project.

Molly Prindle, Caroline Bruno and Tom Murphy seniors from Williams College gave a presentation on way to improve access to local trails.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Robert Moulton, Massachusetts Avenue was very disturbed about the recent proposal to lower the standards for sports in our school system. He feels sports are not an entitlement, students should earn it.

The President called for any Councilor or Mayor's concerns, Councilor Breen asked if the Council workshops were posted. Councilor Buddington noted they should be also on line. Councilor Bona said there are two sides to the sport issue and parents should educate themselves on the issues.

With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.

VOTED: to adjourn at 10:01p.m.
A True Record.
Attest,

Marilyn Gomeau
City Clerk

Office of the City Clerk
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3000 Ext. 1

City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
December 23, 2014

A meeting of the North Adams City Council was held at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers with the following present:

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Blackmer, Bona, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Wilkinson. Absent Councilor Breen and Moran.

A moment of silent prayer was observed remembering Helen Brown, teacher at the former Mark Hopkins School and Lois Sweener former McCann School Employee.

The Pledge of allegiance was recited.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of December 9, 2014.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to accept the minutes as presented.

11,432 The President presented Mayor's communication #66 recommending the appointment of Lawrence Jones, Sr. to the Mobile Home Rent Control Board for a term to expire October 14, 2019.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

11,433 The President presented Mayor's communication #67 recommending the appointment of Suzanne Wick to the Mobile Home Rent Control Board for a term to expire October 14, 2018.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to confirm the appointment.

The President presented an application submitted by Craig Amos, 56 Tyler Street to drive taxi for City Cab.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Wilkinson it was VOTED: to grant the license.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street suggested that Council read the article in the Eagle from December 15th about Elizabeth Warren being an advocate for the poor people. He said there was a lot of nepotism in this City.

The President called for any Councilor or Mayor's concerns, Councilor Buddington noted that he had spoken with the Assessor and MoCA is being taxed on the square footage, so the City is not missing out on taxes from them. Councilor Blackmer reminded everyone that in mid-January there will be a celebration for Martin Luther King Day.

With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.

VOTED: to adjourn at 7:36p.m.
A True Record.
Attest,

Marilyn Gomeau
City Clerk