

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

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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING (off election year) JANUARY 13, 2015

The meeting was called to Order by the City Clerk as the Organizational Meeting for 2015.

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

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

The Clerk called for nominations for Council President for the year 2015.

Councilor Wilkinson placed the name of Councilor Blackmer in nomination, seconded by Councilor Merrigan.

With no further nominations, the Clerk called for a motion to cease nominations.

On motion of Councilor Bullett duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED to cease nominations.

The Clerk called for a voice vote on the nomination of Councilor Blackmer as Council President for 2015. All were in favor.

The Clerk declared Councilor Blackmer to be Council President.

The Clerk administered the oath of office to the Council President elect Blackmer.

The President takes the Chair.

The President calls for nominations for Council Vice-President.

Councilor Bona nominated Councilor Bullett for Council Vice-President, seconded by Councilor Lamb.

With no further nominations to come before the Council, the President called for a motion to cease nominations. Councilor Buddington made a motion to cease nominations, seconded by Councilor Wilkinson.

Councilor Bullett was declared Vice-President.

The President asked the Clerk to administer the oath of office to Councilor Bullett.

The President presented the Council Rules of Order.

The President asked Council and audience members to be considerate when using electronic devices.

Without objection the President postponed the rules to the next meeting, so Councilors could review the rules.

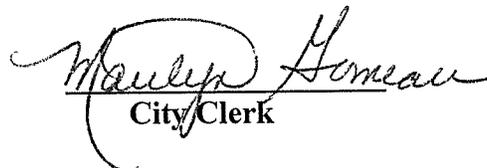
The President presented the Committee and Liaison assignments for the year 2015, noting there are no changes from last year.

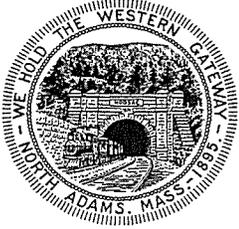
The President called for Councilors Wilkinson and Bona to draw the seating for 2015.

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

The President announced this concludes the organizational portion of the meeting and presented the first agenda item of the regular meeting.

A True Record
Attest,


City Clerk



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REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL January 13, 2015

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 remembering Gerald Burdick former Chairman of the North Adams Parks and Recreation Commission, Marianne Beinecke Founder and Chair of the Hoosuck Community Resources Corporation and Michael Marran 28 year North Adams Firefighter.

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

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

Councilor Bullett noted the time of adjournment was incorrect, should have been 7:36pm.

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

11,382-1a The President called for the report of the General Government Committee submitted by Councilor Merrigan.

Councilor Merrigan gave the report of the committee noting that the City Solicitor was reviewing the Ordinance regarding the Arts Commission but the committee was comfortable in recommending the adoption of this Ordinance, Councilor Merrigan pointed out the language suggesting the Mayor submit 10 names to the Council and Council would choose 5 members. Councilor Merrigan also noted the staggering of the appointments from 1 to 5 year terms. Councilor Merrigan was hoping Councilors would have some input on these issues.

Councilor Merrigan also noted the committee reviewed the farming Ordinance and found no legal prohibition against the enactment of the farming Ordinance in its present form. The committee also recommends the adoption of this Ordinance.

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

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; Farming, which was postponed at the meeting of December 9th.

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

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 postponed at the meeting of December 9, 2014.

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.

Councilors Bona and Wilkinson were in agreement that the term of 5 years was too long. Councilor Bona noted that Councilors terms were only two years and administration could also change bringing new philosophies. Councilor Buddington said he was in favor of longer terms since visual art does not change that fast.

Michael Canales, Administrative Officer explained this was just the establishment of the commission and then we can go from there. The terms would be staggered after the commission is started. The terms could be less if that is the consensus of the Council. The Solicitor is reviewing the Ordinance, so it might be in the best interest if this is postponed till the next meeting, when we have the opinion of the Solicitor.

Councilor Buddington withdrew his original motion, seconded by Councilor Bullett.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, duly seconded by Councilor Bullett it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of January 27th.

11,434 The President presented Mayor's communication #68 recommending the re-appointment of Justyna Carlson to the Historical Commission for a term to expire January 2, 2018.

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

11,435 The President presented Mayor's communication #69 recommending the re-appointment of William Mahoney to the Historical Commission for a term to expire January 2, 2018.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of January 27th. Councilor Bona noted that Mr. Mahoney may no longer be living in North Adams.

11,436 The President presented a request from Cumberland Farms, 580-594 Mohawk Trail for a Public Hearing regarding underground fuel storage.

Without objection the President set the Public Hearing for January 27th at 7:30pm.

The President presented an application submitted by Raymond Foster, 75 Church Street to drive taxi for Michael McMillian, City Cab.

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

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Jim Lipa, 171 Houghton Street asked Council if the letter to BMC was sent and if they ever sent a response. Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street reminded Councilors about Freedom of Speech.

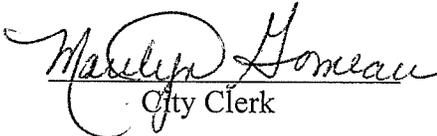
The President called for any Councilor or Mayor's concerns, Council President reminded everyone that Monday January 19th is Martin Luther King Day. There will be a celebration at MCLA Church Street Center at 9:00am. Councilor Bullett noted Winter Fest will be expanding activities at Windsor Lake.

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

VOTED: to adjourn at 8:30pm.

A True Record.

Attest,


City Clerk