

CITY OF NORTH ADAMS
City Clerk's Office
November 20, 2014

I hereby notify that at twelve noon today the following items of business have been filed with this office and will be acted upon at the meeting in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, Tuesday evening November 25, 2014 at seven-thirty o'clock according to Section 8, Rules and Orders of the City Council.

Marilyn Gomeau
City Clerk

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
November 25, 2014

Roll Call

Moment of silent prayer

The Pledge

Approval of the minutes of *November 12th*.

- 11,417** *Communication submitted by Councilor Bullett regarding junk motor vehicles in residential areas, which was referred to the Public Safety Committee and postponed at the meeting of October 14th.*
- 11,423** *Communication submitted by Councilor Merrigan regarding the 2030 Vision Plan, which was postponed at the meeting of October 28th.*
- 11,426** *Mayor's communication #60 recommending the re-appointment of Michael Leary to the Redevelopment Authority for a term to expire June 1, 2018.*
- 11,427** *Mayor's communication #61 recommending the re-appointment of Paul Hopkins to the Redevelopment Authority for a term to expire June 1, 2019.*
- 8717-34** *Mayor's communication #62 requesting Council set 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.*
- 11,428** *Mayor's communication #63 regarding MASS MoCA Phase III project.*
- 11,081-2** *Mayor's communication #64 regarding an addendum to the Inter Municipal Agreement for Veterans Services.*
- 11,081-2** *An Order authorizing the Mayor to add an addendum to the Inter Municipal Agreement for Veterans Services to include the Town of Savoy.*
- 11,429** *Report of the Public Services Committee, submitted by Councilor Moran.*

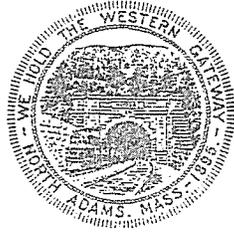
(over)

**CORRESPONDENCE
LICENSE**

An application submitted by Richard W. Bostwick, 813 West Shaft Road to drive taxi for Tunnel City Taxi.

An application submitted by Nicholle Cote, 34 Aztec Drive to drive taxi for Tunnell City Taxi.

**OPEN FORUM
COUNCILLOR'S & MAYOR'S CONCERNS**



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor
Richard J. Alcombright

November 25, 2014

#60

To: North Adams City Council
Re: Appointment to the Redevelopment Authority

Dear Honorable Members:

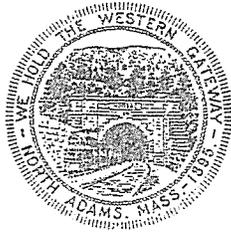
I am pleased to recommend Michael Leary for re-appointment to the Redevelopment Authority to a term to expire June 1, 2018.

Mike has been a great member of the Redevelopment Authority and he continues to provide significant commitment to this board and this City.

I respectfully request confirmation of this appointment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard J. Alcombright
Mayor



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor
Richard J. Alcombright

November 25, 2014

#61

To: North Adams City Council
Re: Appointment to the Redevelopment Authority

Dear Honorable Members:

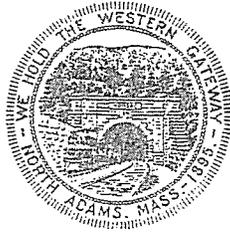
I am pleased to recommend Paul Hopkins for re-appointment to the Redevelopment Authority to a term to expire June 1, 2019.

Paul has been a great member of the Redevelopment Authority and he continues to provide significant commitment to this board and this City.

I respectfully request confirmation of this appointment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard J. Alcombright
Mayor



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor
Richard J. Alcombright

November 25, 2014

#62

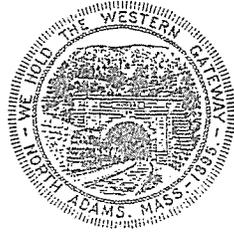
To: North Adams City Council
Re: Tax Classification Hearing

Dear Honorable Members:

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c.40, §56, I am requesting that the North Adams City Council conduct a public Tax Classification Hearing on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber concerning the percentages of the local tax levy to be absorbed by each class of Real Estate and Personal Property within the City for the Fiscal Year 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Alcombright
Mayor



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor
Richard J. Alcombright

November 25, 2014

#63

To: North Adams City Council
Re: MASS MOCA Phase III project

Dear Honorable Members:

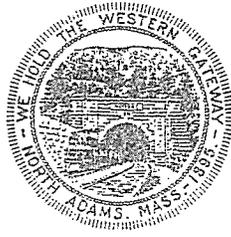
I am certain that you have all heard and read about the exciting MASS MOCA Phase III project and the Governor's recent announcement of \$25 million in State funding for this expansion.

Regarding this, I have asked Joe Thompson, Executive Director of MASS MOCA to give a brief overview at this upcoming meeting. You will have an opportunity to see his presentation and ask questions regarding this wonderful economic opportunity for our City and greater region.

I trust you will find his presentation to be both enlightening and encouraging.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Alcombright
Mayor



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor
Richard J. Alcombright

November 25, 2014

#64

To: North Adams City Council
Re: Intermunicipal Agreement Veterans Services Addendum

Dear Honorable Members:

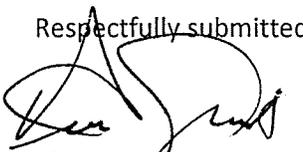
The Town of Savoy has petitioned the communities of North Adams, Adams and Williamstown regarding entrance into the Intermunicipal Agreement Veterans' Services. I am recommending that the City Council approve the addendum to the intermunicipal agreement which will allow Savoy veterans the benefits from this agreement similar to the addendums that allowed the Towns of Clarksburg and Florida to join. The District has proven to be a great asset as it has created a more consistent method by which our communities in the Northern Berkshires delivers services to our Veterans.

I have spoken with the Town of Williamstown and Adams regarding the addition of this neighboring community. I have also discussed this with our Veterans Services Officer Stephen Roy. All of us are in agreement that the District as currently established, can handle any additional volume from this community.

I am attaching an addendum for your review. Upon the vote of this Council and the Select Boards of Adams and Williamstown, and upon approval of the Select Board of Savoy, their community will be allowed to join the District.

I respectfully request support of the addendum

Respectfully submitted,



Richard J. Alcombright
Mayor



City of North Adams

In City Council

November 25, 2014

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, TOWN OF ADAMS AND TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN
INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT VETERAN'S SERVICES

Addendum

The Town of Savoy has petitioned the communities of North Adams, Adams and Williamstown regarding entrance into the agreement referenced above. Savoy shall be allowed the benefits of this agreement upon the approval of the North Adams City Council and the Boards of Selectmen of the Towns of Adams and the Towns of Williamstown. Furthermore, the Town of Savoy may participate in this Veterans' Service Agreement upon the adoption of the language as presented in the intermunicipal agreement (attached) with the approval of its Board of Selectmen.

Services to the Veterans' in the Town of Savoy will be as follows:

1. Any Savoy resident may utilize the services of the Veterans Service Officer (VSO) in North Adams, Adams, and Williamstown during the normal hours or by appointment during normal hours as described in Section 8 of the Agreement.
2. The VSO will make home visits to disabled vets on a case by case basis.
3. All Veterans' claims will be processed through the Town of Savoy by the VSO and it will be the responsibility of the Town of Savoy to render payments to Veterans and private settlements.
4. The Town of Savoy will reimburse the City of North Adams on a yearly basis being billed quarterly for the work by the VSO for the benefit of Savoy Veterans. The current yearly rate is \$1,500 and may be revised annually.
5. All other sections of the agreement will be in full force and effect.

For the Town of Savoy
By: Board of Selectmen, Chair

I, _____, Town Accountant
hereby certified that sufficient appropriation has
been made to fund this agreement.

Dated: _____

September 29, 2014

Public Service Committee: Review of 20/20 Plan and Transfer Station

Committee Members Present:

Joshua Moran – Chair

Eric Buddington

Keith Bona

Meeting Start: 6:00 pm

Unfortunately due to an upgrade on my iphone to ios8 I lost my voice memos of the meeting. However iberkshires.com did write an online article about the meeting. From iberkshires.com:

Even with time and money, it would take years for the city to repair and replace much of its infrastructure. "It's equipment and men and labor," said Public Services Superintendent Timothy Lescarbeau at Monday's meeting of the Public Services Committee.

Earlier this year, the new City Council had a look at some \$60 million in capital projects languishing because of lack of funding and manpower. The Public Services Department probably comprises the bulk of those needs, including water, sewer, roads and transfer station.

Since the so-called "20/20" (\$20 million/20 year) plan laid out three years ago for water infrastructure alone, little headway has been made. "There's been no capital," explained Lescarbeau. The department has been replacing water meters and fire hydrants but the going is slow. "We're buying five to eight hydrants a year at \$200 a pop."

Mayor Richard Alcombright estimated that it would take a crew and a specialized camera for exploring pipes some six to eight years to document and fix all the cracks. "It all comes down to equipment and manpower," Lescarbeau added. "I could use a half-dozen more people just to get maintenance under control. ... We don't know what valves work half the time."

While the new asphalt hotbox has been a cost-saver in putting in permanent road patches, "anything we do on the water right now is a Band-Aid or a fix," he said. "We're not replacing lines right now."

Lescarbeau said most of the department's overtime is being expended on the numerous water and sewer breaks. "This is the most common break in town right now: a 6-inch pipe when it cracks — that an easy fix," he said, showing the committee a section of pipe. But when the pipe breaks along the side, it requires cutting out and replacing the section and multiple clamps. And they often break in the middle of the night, on holidays and in the winter.

A lot of overtime is fixes. "We figure just doing home sewers is 30 percent of our overtime."

Despite a city regulation dating to 1963 stating property owners will be liable for lateral lines after the initial hookup, the city has been fixing them for years. "I think we can all agree it's not

in our best interest to do it," said Alcombright, because of cost and liability. "We ended up last year with several insurance issues."

The discussion of costs and capital was part of a broader view of budgeting that will take into account an attempted Proposition 2 1/2 override next year.

"One of the things we're going to be looking at here in discussion of the override, is to bring out pieces of information," said Alcombright. "The last override I had six weeks. We just flooded people with information and it was too much, too quick."

To rally support, the mayor said he wants to educate residents on the costs of operating the city in ways they can easily understand and retain.

He is considering building two budgets, one with expected revenue and other with a successful override to show what raising the city's levy limit will do. One of those items could be continuing to fix lateral lines, he said.

Chairman Joshua Moran said he didn't think the mayor would have a hard time getting support from the council to eliminate that work. "We don't have any way to increase capital but we should do everything we can to decrease costs," he said.

The committee also discussed the potential for setting up enterprise accounts for the water and sewer systems and the transfer station.

Administrative Officer Michael Canales, however, said the revenues being generated by those three items are not enough to fund their operation.

"On the sewer side, \$1.15 million is assessed [by the Hoosac Water Quality System] and our cash is \$800,000 in sewer fees," he said. "Were not even compensating ourselves for what we pay the district, never mind the cost for repairs."

But by creating enterprise accounts that charge per usage, taxpayer money could be better used to fund those service that don't generate revenue like police and schools, said Canales.

"We should spend on things that benefit the community as a whole," he said.

City officials are also still debating what to do with the transfer station, which hadn't been in compliance with state permitting and is estimated to cost \$2 million to fix. It is now in compliance but its issues could be solved in part by eliminating the acceptance of commercial trash but there is concern on how this would affect citizens.

To make the transfer station a revenue generator — or at least revenue neutral — the city would have to charge what it actually costs to run it, said Canales.

"We're in this interesting area right now because we're already the highest charging [for commercial] and will have to charge more to make capital repairs," he said. Charging more by

volume could make residents more aware of what they're tossing and encourage better recycling, said Moran.

"You increase the water and sewer taxes and water and sewer use went down, when people see there's a large amount of waste and you have to pay for it, you become very careful of what you're doing," he said.

Policy regarding the City of North Adams eliminating the service of cleaning residential sewer laterals.

The Public Service Committee met with Tim Lescarbeau on September 29, 2014 (meeting minutes attached) and it was determine that the DPW spends approximately 30% of yearly overtime, roughly \$30,000, on the cleaning of residential sewer laterals. Despite a city regulation dating to 1963 stating property owners will be liable for lateral lines after the initial hookup, the city has been fixing them for years. This service is above and beyond what the city is required to do, and last year the city ended up with several insurance issues.

I would like to have the City Council back the original city regulation, the Mayor and the DPW and no longer provide this service effective December 1, 2014.

Joshua Moran
Public Service Chairman