

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

1

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.

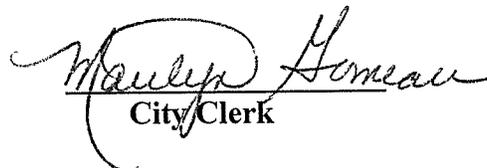
The President presented the Committee and Liaison assignments for the year 2015, noting there are no changes from last year.

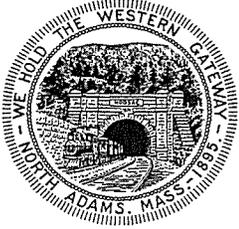
The President called for Councilors Wilkinson and Bona to draw the seating for 2015.

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



Office of the City Clerk

City of North Adams

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City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

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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.

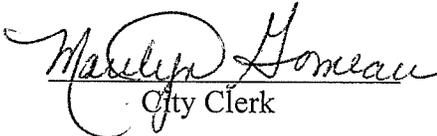
The President called for any Councilor or Mayor's concerns, Council President reminded everyone that Monday January 19th is Martin Luther King Day. There will be a celebration at MCLA Church Street Center at 9:00am. Councilor Bullett noted Winter Fest will be expanding activities at Windsor Lake.

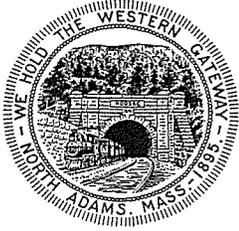
With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn was in order.

VOTED: to adjourn at 8:30pm.

A True Record.

Attest,


City Clerk



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10 Main Street Room 109
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City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL February 10, 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, Breen, Buddington, Bullett, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran, Wilkinson.

A moment of silent prayer was observed remembering Joan Rivers, longtime North Adams Elementary School Teacher and member of the Friends of the North Adams Public Library. Mary Dean, Administrative Assistant to the North Adams Public Schools, Administrative Assistant to the North Adams Redevelopment Authority and founder and Executive Director of North Adams LifeRight. Reinee Breen, Grandmother of North Adams City Councilor Jennifer Breen. Edward Sinderman, member of both the North Adams Fire and Police Department.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the Organizational meeting of January 13, 2015.

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

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of January 13, 2015.

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

11,436 The President declared the PUBLIC HEARING OPEN regarding Cumberland Farms, 580-594 Mohawk Trail for underground fuel storage, which was postponed from the January 27th meeting due to a snow storm.

Thomas Reidy, attorney for Cumberland Farms said that they have met all the requirements and permits from the Planning Board, Zoning Board and the Conservation.

Councilor Wilkinson asked Mr. Reidy how long it has been since Cumberland Farms replaced the existing tanks, and the location of the tanks.

Mr. Reidy said it was about 11 years ago and they would be in the same location as the other three tanks. Councilor Lamb noted the store was fairly new and why was this not done then. Mr. Reidy sited there was not a need at the time, but now they feel a need for a larger store, and to accommodate larger vehicles on the site.

Councilor Buddington questioned if the three existing tanks were double wall. Mr. Reidy said they were. Council President asked why the price of gas at two of the stations were higher than the Cumberland Farms on Curran Highway.

The Mayor said he would certainly talk to Cumberland Farms and send the message, Mr. Reidy cannot be expected to answer that question. Thomas Cleary an abutter to Cumberland Farms said he has been maintaining the property at 606 Mohawk Trail for the past twenty years. He put the property up for sale, but was unable to sell because there were environmental issues, which Mr. Cleary said cost him \$40,000 to correct.

Councilor Merrigan ask Mr. Cleary if he could explain what the environmental issues were. Mr. Cleary said it was pot ash and petroleum from a diesel tank. Mr. Reidy said there is no leaking, that these are very sophisticated tanks. Councilor Bona noted that the site was a salvage yard before Cumberland Farms. Mr. Reidy said Cumberland Farms will do a cleanup when the store is built if necessary.

The President closed the Public Hearing.

11,436 The President presented an Order granting permission to Cumberland Farms, 580-594 Mohawk Trail to install an additional 8,000 gallons of underground fuel storage, which was postponed from the meeting of January 27th due to a snow storm.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Breen it was VOTED: to grant 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, 417 The President presented a communication by Councilor Bullett regarding junk motor vehicles in residential areas, which was postponed from January 27th due to the snow storm.

Councilor Bullett requested to file the communication at this time since the committee feels more research is necessary.

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

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 passed to a second reading and publish as required by law and postponed from the January 27th meeting due to a snow storm.

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

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

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 from the January 27th meeting due to a snow storm.

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

Councilor Buddington said he had several issues with the wording of the Ordinance as he has outlined his concerns in a report he handed out before the meeting. Councilor Buddington would like to have this go back to the General Government Committee for further review.

Councilor Merrigan withdrew her original motion.

On motion of Councilor Merrigan, duly seconded by Councilor Lamb it was VOTED: to refer to the General Government Committee and postpone to the meeting of March 10th.

The Mayor suggested that the Solicitor be invited to the committee meeting.

11,435-a The President presented Mayor's communication #69-a requesting amending Council Paper 11,434 and 11,435 and withdraw Council Paper 11,435, which was postponed from the January 27th meeting due to a snow storm.

The Mayor noted his communications should have started the New Year with communication #1 and 2. The appointment for William Mahoney to the Historical Commission he would like to withdraw because Mr. Mahoney no longer lives in North Adams.

Without objection the President amended the papers and filed the communication.

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, which was postponed from the meeting of January 27th due to a snow storm.

Without objection the President withdrew the paper.

11,437 The President presented Mayor's communication #3 recommending the appointment of Wendy Champney to the Historical Commission for a term to expire January 2, 2018, which was postponed from the January 27th meeting due to a snow storm.

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

11,438 The President presented Mayor's communication #4 recommending an appropriation from the Parking Meter Account to Unclassified, which was postponed from the meeting of January 27th due to a snow storm.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

11,438 The President presented an Order appropriating the sum of \$49,860.75 from the parking meter Account to Unclassified-Capital Items, which was postponed from the meeting of January 27th due to a snow storm.

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

Councilor Wilkinson asked what the balance was in the Parking Meter Account after taking the \$49,860.75 out.

The Mayor said there was \$60,000 now and there will be approximately \$10,000 left.

Mark Trottier, 131 Woodlawn Avenue questioned why this was not factored into the budget and if it is supposed to be three equal payments, why is the last one \$4.00 more. The Scanlon report said the City should not use up all their reserves.

The Mayor explained it was a revolving account and cannot be used for capital items, and capital items cannot be worked into the budget. The Mayor said the extra \$4.00 was the buyout. We are in the process of doing a capital items study and hope to have a report in the next sixty days so we can bring this to the Finance Committee.

Councilor Bona said this is nothing new, the Parking Meter account has been used for this in the past. He remembers times when the account was completely depleted.

Councilor Buddington was glad to hear that the Mayor was working on a capital item plan.

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

11,439 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Wilkinson regarding a new Zoning Ordinance allowing homeowners in a nonconforming lot the ability to rebuild their home.

On motion of Councilor Wilkinson, duly seconded by Councilor Bona it was VOTED: to refer to the General Government committee and postpone to the meeting of March 24th.

Councilor Wilkinson said this will allow homeowners the ability to rebuild without getting permission. We are the only community in Berkshire County that does not allow this. New homeowners have been turned down because financial institutions have a problem with this.

11,440 The President presented Mayor's communication #5 requesting time to give the State of the City Address, which was postponed from the January 27th meeting due to a snow storm.

Without objection the President postponed till the meeting of February 24th.

11,399-1 The President presented Mayor's communication #6 recommending the appointment of the North Adams Historical District Committee.

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

The Mayor noted the Committee will consist of five people and will spend the next several months studying, selecting, hearing community input and proposing to the City Council, local historic districts that would fall under a set of determined guidelines of MGL Chapter 40. The Committee will serve between 6-12 months for a full cycle from study to City Council approval. The Mayor recommended Josh Colon, North Adams Historical Society, Paul Marino, North Adams Historical Commission, Frances Buckley, Realtor, Emily Schiavoni, Community Member. He noted he would be recommending an architect member at a later date.

11,441 The President presented Mayor's communication #7 recommending the re-appointment of Robert Burdick to the Planning Board for a term to expire February 1, 2020.

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

11,442 The President presented Mayor's communication #8 recommending the re-appointment of James Neville to the Airport Commission for a term to expire February 2, 2018.

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

11,443 The President presented Mayor's communication #9 recommending the re-appointment of Armand Boillat to the Airport Commission for a term to expire February 2, 2018.

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

11,444 The President presented Mayor's communication #10 recommending the re-appointment of Phil Sellers to the MASS MoCA Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2018.

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

11,445 The President presented Mayor's communication #11 recommending the re-appointment of Thomas Bernard to the Human Service Commission for a term to expire February 1, 2018.

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

The President presented an application submitted by Emma Tasker, 23 Central Shaft Road, Florida to drive taxi for Tunnel City.

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

The President presented an application submitted by Gregory Lattanzi, 116 Prospect Street to drive taxi for Tunnel City.

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

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Mark Trottier, 131 Woodlawn Avenue said the money from the Parking Meter account should be used to hire another guy for the DPW. I have also challenged everyone to go onto Commonwealth Connect and I don't believe anyone has. It is a great tool and there are two streets, Walker and Burnham Streets that people have been complaining about for two years and they still have not been corrected. Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy Street suggested that Mr. Eurbin look at McCann School to build a nice metal sign, instead of a wooden sign. We should do something we can be proud of.

The President called for any Councilor or Mayor's concerns, Councilor Buddington asked if the City was down three plows. Councilor also noted to the Mayor he would like to see the classification plan with the budget. Councilor Merrigan said BART was holding an opening for their new space on February 25th at 8:30am. She

also noted the Tuesday night group will be having a press conference on Wednesday at 5:00pm regarding a change to their name, calling it the North County Coalition. Councilor Moran noted that MoCA was extending their free days, adding February 18th, March 18th, April 18th and May 18th. Councilor Bona noted Snow Cross was this week-end. Councilor Bullett said Winter Fest is next Saturday and they have added sledding and ice skating on the lake along with snow shoeing. There will be a fire at the campers pavilion and hot chocolate will be served. Councilor Wilkinson asked the Mayor when Council would be getting the budget. The Mayor said it would be sometime in March.

The Mayor asked the citizens to be patience with the DPW as they are struggling to keep ahead of the winter storms. He noted the snow and ice account is already spent out and the overtime account is down to about \$10,000. We have 600 tons of salt on order and hope to have the shipment sometime this week. There are 220 miles of road to clear. Snow removal is expected to start at 2:00am this morning and three 10 wheelers are being leased because the dump trucks can't keep up with the new snow blower, which can fill a truck in about 16 seconds. The downtown corrodors will be done first. The department has also been dealing with water line breaks since January 1st and there is a concern with the continued deep freeze and more snow in the forecast. The Mayor also noted that he would be submitting the budget to the Finance committee the first week of March.

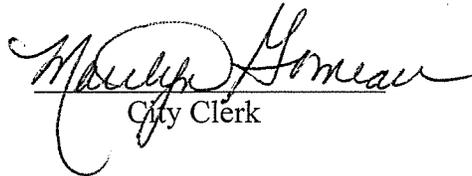
The Mayor presented a proclamation to Rachel Branch declaring Saturday February 14th "KIDS' PLACE/ONE BILLION RISING FOR REVOLUTION DAY"

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

VOTED: to adjourn at 8:49pm.

A True Record.

Attest,


City Clerk



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City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL February 24, 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.
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 from the meeting of February 10, 2015.

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

The President called for the approval of the Council Rules of Order, which was postponed at the Organization of Government meeting.

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

11,446 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Merrigan regarding a parking amnesty program.

Councilor Merrigan said she was interested in knowing if the Council was interested in piloting a similar program.

The Mayor admitted that the City as a whole does not do a great job with enforcement due to staffing. There are definite issues that we need to review and discuss.

Councilor Bona also noted part of the discussion should include who is handling the fines and what the process would be.

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

11,440 The President presented Mayor's communication #5 requesting time to give the State of the City Address.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

The Mayor gave his address to the Council noting a variety of issues, including budget issues, economic development and education for drug/heroin abuse. The Mayor noted this fiscal year we passed the first balanced budget since his involvement in City Government in 2001. The City is entering the 2016 fiscal year with an anticipated \$800,000 deficit.

The President presented an application submitted by Craig Amos, 56 Tyler Street to drive taxi for City Cab.

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

The President presented an application submitted by Tracy Jalbert, 93 Cleveland Avenue #11 to drive taxi for Tunnel City.

On motion of Councilor Lamb, 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 wanted to clear up the negative comments concerning the Cemetery Commission. It consists of three members and conforms to all the rules of the open meeting laws. There has been no Commission since 1987 and we are now reviewing the Cemetery Department. The meetings are open to the public and we welcome any input regarding the cemeteries.

The President called for any Councilor or Mayor's concerns, Councilor Wilkinson commended the DPW workers for the job they are doing with the recent water breaks in the City. Councilor spoke with Tim Lescarbeau and the guys worked 40 hours over the week-end. The highway department goes above and beyond. The Mayor congratulated Council President on her election as Vice President of the MMA. He also commended the DPW on the work they are doing this winter, we live in a society of instant gratification and it has been very difficult referring to the water break on Overlook Terrace. The Mayor also thanked Wendy DeSanty the events planner for the Winter Fest. Councilor Bona suggested since we just received notification for the parade that maybe the DPW should lead the parade this year. We tend to forget around August what a great job they do.

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

VOTED: to adjourn at 8:09pm.

A True Record.

Attest,


City Clerk



Office of the City Clerk City of North Adams

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City Clerk Marilyn Gomeau

16

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL March 24, 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, Buddington, Bullett, Moran, Wilkinson. Councilor Bona, Breen, Lamb and Merrigan absent.

A moment of silent prayer was observed remembering Jean Downey former teacher at Freeman, Johnson and Sullivan Schools. Mitchell Braman, 16 year custodian at Sullivan School. Sara Marino former Election Worker for many years.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The President called for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of March 10, 2015.

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

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 Solicitor and postponed at the meeting of March 10th.

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

11,439 The President presented a communication submitted by Councilor Wilkinson regarding a new Zoning Ordinance allowing homeowners in a nonconforming lot the ability to rebuild their home, which was referred to the General Government Committee and postpone at the meeting of February 10th.

On motion of Councilor Bullett, duly seconded by Councilor Buddington it was VOTED: to postpone to the meeting of April 28th.

Councilor Wilkinson was upset about the length of time it is taking for the committee to meet on a Council item

that was referred to committee. Two months is too long if a Councilor puts something forward, if the committee members are too busy they should step aside.

Councilor Bullett said the committee was trying to find time that all the members could meet.

Councilor Wilkinson said that there are only five Councilors here tonight, it appears everyone has something more important, we are elected officials.

Council President said she does understand Councilor Wilkinson frustration but everybody has things come up. There have been many items before the committees, which have taken time and I believe they are doing their due diligence.

Councilor Buddington does agree with Councilor Wilkinson in the respect of the length of time it takes for committee to review things that are referred to committees.

Councilor Bullett said she would discuss this with Councilor Merrigan and work something out with their schedules.

Council President suggested that when the General Government Committee meets, this agenda item be their first discussion.

11,448 The President called for the liaison reports for the 1st quarter of 2015.

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

11,449 The President called for the committee assignments for the 1st quarter of 2015.

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

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" located at 615 Ashland Street.

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

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

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

The President presented an application submitted by Berney Wilder, 44 Liberty Street to drive taxi for City Cab.

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 Bushey, Sr, 42 Mill Street, Williamstown to drive taxi for City Cab.

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

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Richard Dassatti, 472 Walnut Street invited elected officials to join the North County Care Group on March 28th to caravan to BMC and call for a full service hospital. It will be one year on the 28th that North Adams lost its full service hospital.

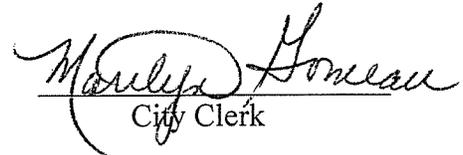
The President called for any Councilor or Mayor's concerns, Councilor Buddington said he has spoken with the Mayor and Joann DeRose about installing new street lights with less glare. Councilor Wilkinson said he was interested in changing the lights and would like to work alongside of Councilor Buddington on this. He noted Chicopee has done this and they have saved about 50%. Councilor Blackmer was happy to see the Governor has given the City and Towns more money for potholes.

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

VOTED: to adjourn at 8:00pm.

A True Record.

Attest,


City Clerk



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(413) 662-3015

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL May 12, 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, Lamb, Merrigan, Moran. Absent Councilor Breen, Bullett, and 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 April 28, 2015.

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

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 April 14th.

The President asked for discussion of the Ordinance and asked Councilor Merrigan to give her report. Councilor Merrigan noted that the idea of an Arts Commission was started last fall by Administrative Officer Canales and his intern. The General Government Committee has spent several meetings going over the proposed Ordinance. She had received the final draft from the Solicitor late that afternoon. The final draft changed the spirit of the Commission which originally gave the Mayor jurisdiction to allow art to be placed on City property owned or controlled by the City. The final version will consist of seven voting members, five experts in relation to art and architecture and two members of the general public. The Mayor will be the appointing authority with the Council confirming the appointments. Councilor Buddington pointed out four errors in the draft. It was noted that public property would not include leased or assigned property such as MoCA or MCLA. Mark Trottier of 131 Woodlawn Ave was concerned that in Sec. 2-179 "shall" had been changed to "may" and that it would stop the public from being allowed to speak.

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

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

9,686-d Mayor's communication #15 submitting a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a revised loan agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

The loan is a contract with the City and MoCA. The Mayor explained that this would only be changing the interest rate on the HUD loan allowing Mass MoCA to get a lower rate, which could save \$24,000 a year for the life of the loan. An upfront charge of approximately \$8,375 dollars to do this would be paid by MoCA. The Mayor acknowledged that the papers had to be filed by May 2, 2015 and that he had signed the papers with the Solicitor.

9,686-d A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a revised loan agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

On motion of Councilor Bona, duly second by Councilor Moran it was VOTED: to adopt the Resolution.

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

9,513-24 Mayor's communication #16 submitting an Ordinance relative to disposal of waste at the Transfer Station.

Without objection the President placed the communication on file.

The Mayor read his communication asking the Council to set the new scale rate and fees for the large blue bags and the smaller green bags. He has been made aware of a commercial haulers plant in Pownal which could affect our Transfer Station. Councilor Moran reported that the Public Services Committee after several meetings decided to raise the rate in an effort to make the Transfer Station neutral. The rate had not been raised since 2008. The Committee had initially considered eliminating acceptance of commercial waste in light of the opening of a major commercial transfer station in Pownal, VT, but the committee voted to hold off until they see what the effect is.

9,513-24 An Ordinance amending Chapter 7, entitled Department of Public Services, Section 7-11 Disposal of Waste at the Transfer Station, Charges.

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

Councilor Bona asked if we had looked at what Pittsfield and Pownal rates were. They have the ability of offering different rates per hauler, we have a set rate. Councilor Buddington asked if we had seen any increase or decrease in haulers as yet. Robert Lefebvre of RL Waste, a local hauler stated that this would be an 18 present increase for haulers and as a small business owner it would hurt his business. He said the estimates given on how much weight trash bags could hold was incorrect, it depends on what is put in the bags. John Barrett, III of 229 Corinth St. said the calculations were way off base and un-researched. He insisted the

Transfer Station was a money maker for the City and chastised officials for not speaking to former employees. Administrative Officer Canales said the rate calculations were basic math looking at the cost to operate the Transfer Station now and the tonnage of waste being shipped out. The Transfer Station is running a deficit of around \$370,000. He spot checked a couple of days and found one day the City took in \$191 net but the next day was in the red \$119. A third of the stickers are sold to non-residents and haulers bringing trash from around the region. Administrative Officer Canales said the added cost is expected to be about \$46 more a year for the average family, but by recycling the increase could be as little as \$10.00. The Mayor stated that if the Council did not wish to raise the rate, he would have to add \$300,000 back into the City budget. Robert Moulton of 985 Massachusetts Ave. asked the Administrative Officer if he had looked at the Pittsfield and Pownal rates to see how competitive we are. Robert Cardimino of 173 East Quincy St. did not observe himself but was told by several people that trucks were bypassing the scales and not paying. There has to be more security to stop this. He asked if anyone had looked at Adams or Williamstown as to how they run their stations. Mr. Canales reported that he had been to Williamstown, Cheshire and Dalton to see how they ran their resident only station. He did not check Adams, they do not have a transfer station. Wayne Goodell of 564 Barbour St. asked what the mils of the bags were. Mark Trottier, 131 Woodlawn Ave. thought an 18% increase was high and that the Council should wait three months and to see how Pownal effects the transfer station. Councilor Moran said non-residents don't contribute to the debt. Councilor Bona added that there had not been a hauler increase since 2008 and that the increase was only to cover the cost of running the Transfer Station.

The President presented an application for a renewal of a secondhand license submitted by Timothy Randall, 50 Walker Street, in the business name of "Sanford & Kid, located at 160 Houghton Street.

On Motion of Councilor Buddington, duly seconded by Councilor Moran it was VOTED: to grant the license. Councilor Bona abstained.

The President called for anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum, Robert Cardimino, 173 East Quincy St. wanted to correct a statement that he had made at the last meeting stating that the Mayor had said he gave the Skating Rink Manager a \$10,000 raise which would help him because his wife was pregnant. It was actually said about the Assistant MIS Director. Mr. Cardimino complained about the sweeping of the streets and said that the City sweeper was in need of new brushes. The machine is leaving sand behind which is dangerous. Brushes are only around \$500.00 and Williamstown changes theirs every year. John Barrett asked if the abstention was made on paper #9,513-24 concerning the Transfer Station or the second hand license. The President stated it was the license. He repeated that the Transfer Station figures and salaries are wrong. The price to dispose of trash has been the same since Jan. 2009 at \$72 a ton and the rate could be increased less than the 18% proposed. He hoped that the Council would reconsider and not pass the Ordinance at the next meeting. Mark Trottier wanted to know why the Mayor has yet to have Mr. Scanlon come and speak as he said he would. Linh Brown, 488 West Main St. feels that there is mismanagement at the Skating Rink and would like to see a committee formed to oversee what is happening there. The President reminded everyone that MCLA would be graduating this weekend and congratulated all graduates.

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

VOTED: to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

A True Record.

Attest,


Clerk