



CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
MASSACHUSETTS

Councilors:

- President William H. Dwight, At-Large
- Jesse M. Adams, At-Large
- Maureen T. Carney, Ward 1
- Dennis P. Bidwell Ward 2
- Vice-President Ryan R. O'Donnell, Ward 3
- Gina Louise Sciarra, Ward 4
- David A. Murphy, Ward 5
- Marianne L. LaBarge, Ward 6
- Alisa F. Klein, Ward 7

Meeting Agenda
City Council Chambers
Walter J. Puchalski Municipal Building
212 Main Street, Northampton
Meeting Date: February 4, 2016
Meeting Time: 7:00pm

- 1. Public Comment**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Public Hearings**
- 4. Recognition and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors**
- 5. Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor**

6. Resolutions

A. 16.027 A Resolution Opposing the Provisions of H.3854 - Request 2 Readings

Documents: [16.027_AResolutionopposingtheprovisionsofH.3854.pdf](#)

7. Presentations

8. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes of Previous Meeting (January 21, 2016)

Documents: [CityCouncilMeetingMinutesJan-21_2016.pdf](#)

B. 16.026 Petition from Northampton Residents to accept Bottums Road as a Public Way - Refer to Committee on Public Works and Utilities, Department of Public Works, and the Planning Board

Documents: [16.026_bottums_road_petition.pdf](#)

C. 16.022 Appointments to Committees for Approval by City Council

Marlene Marrocco: new appointment to the Council on Aging - positive recommendation from the Committee on City Services (4 yes, 0 no)

Gaetan Fortin: reappointment to the Disability Commission - positive recommendation from the Committee on City Services (3 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Councilor LaBarge)

Cynthia A. Suopis: reappointment to the Board of Health - positive recommendation from the Committee on City Services (4 yes, 0 no)

William Hargraves: new appointment to the Board of Health - positive recommendation from the Committee on City Services (4 yes, 0 no)

Gerald S. Budgar: new appointment to the Northampton Housing Authority Board of Commissioners - positive recommendation from the Committee on City Services (4 Yes, 0 no)

Documents: [16.022_Appointments.pdf](#)

9. Recess for Committee on Finance (See Separate Agenda)

10. Financial Orders

A. 16.004 - A Financial Order to provide funding for extraordinary maintenance at the NPS Grounds maintenance shop - 2nd Reading

Documents: 16.004_Prospect_Street_Gift_Fund-2547_NPS_Ground_Maintenance_Shop.pdf

B. 16.006 - Financial Order to Purchase or otherwise acquire any fee, easement, and/or any other interest in land off Old Ferry Road for \$30,000 - 2nd Reading

Documents: 16.006_JohnBobala--Sheldon_Field.pdf

C. 16.007 - Financial Order Authorizing the Conservation Commission purchase or Acquire an agricultural preservation restriction on 0.85 acres of farmland on Island Road for \$1,000 - 2nd Reading

Documents: 16.007_ClarkORDER toCityCouncil.pdf

D. 16.008 - Financial Order allowing the Mayor to accept grants from the exec. Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs - 2nd Reading

Documents: 16.008_LWCF_Connecticut_River_Greenway.pdf

E. 16.009 Financial Order authorizing the Conservation Commission to purchase or otherwise acquire any fee, easement, and/or any other interest in 3.1 +/- acres of land located on Venturers Field Road - 2nd Reading

Documents: 16.009_VenturersFieldRoad_legislative_petition.pdf

F. 16.011 - \$30,000 be appropriated from CPA funding to the Broad Brook Coalition for the Fitzgerald Lake Bridge, Boardwalk and Dock Project - 2nd Reading

Documents: 16.011_FLCA_Boardwalk.pdf

G. 16.012 - \$30,000 from CPA funding to move, store, and purchase historic ornamentation for the Seth Thomas Clock - 2nd Reading

Documents: 16.012_SethThomasClock.pdf

H. 16.013 - \$200,000 from CPA funding to DPW for additional funding for the Pulaski Park Renovation Project - 2nd Reading

- I. **16.014 - \$3,000 be appropriated from CPA funds for Northampton Conservation Commission and Northampton OPS for the Mineral Hills Habitat Project - 2nd Reading**

Documents: [16.014_Mineral_Hills_Habitat.pdf](#)

- J. **16.015 - \$131,310 be appropriated from CPA funds to Historic Northampton, Inc. for electrical work, roof and window replacement for Damon & Shepard Houses - 2nd Reading**

Documents: [16.015_Historic_Northampton.pdf](#)

- K. **16.016 - \$5,000 from CPA funds to Northampton Youth and Community Rowing for the Conn. River Greenway Gate Project - 2nd Reading**

Documents: [16.016_CTRiverGreenway.pdf](#)

- L. **16.017 - \$55,000 from CPA funds to Northampton Conservation Commission & Northampton OPS for the Rocky Hill Open Space Acquisition Project - 2nd Reading**

Documents: [16.017_ZewskiAcquisition.pdf](#)

11. Orders

- A. **15.382 Order regarding Sick Time - Accept MGL Chapter 149, Section 148 C - item carried over from 2014-2015 council**

Excerpt from City Council Meeting Minutes of Dec. 17, 2015

Councilor Murphy pointed out that this order has been around for a while; neither the Finance Committee nor the Comm. on Rules, Orders, Appointments and Ordinances has acted upon the order since it was introduced.

Mayor Narkewicz pointed out that the City does provide paid sick time benefits for employees who work 10 hours or more. Most employees have a sick time benefit that is more generous than what would be required by state law. Most benefits are embedded in collective bargaining agreements. Mayor Narkewicz would like the opportunity to complete collective bargaining before the city council weighs in on this order.

Councilor O'Donnell requested that this order be carried over to the new council session; Councilor Spector seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 9 Yes, 0 No.

B. 16.024 Warrant for Upcoming Election on March 1, 2016 - 1st Reading

Documents: 16.024_Warrant_March-1-2016-election.pdf

C. 16.010 - Order Remove requirement that hunting be allowed on the Abuza section of Broad Brook/Fitzgerald Lake Greenway - 2nd Reading

Documents: 16.010_HuntingRestrictionBroadBrookGreenway.pdf

12. Ordinances

A. 16.025 An Ordinance Regarding Parking on Center Street - Refer to Comm. on Legislative Matters and the Transportation and Parking Commission

Documents: 16.025_Ordinance_Regarding_Parking_Center_Street.pdf

B. 15.377 Zoning for Significant Trees - Item Carried over from 2014-2014 Council

Excerpt from the minutes of the City Council Meeting of Dec. 17, 2015

This ordinance has been in development for a while; Councilors O'Donnell and Adams were looking at ways to protect the city's trees canopy.

Councilor Adams pointed out that there is support for this ordinance from the public shade tree commission; this commission is also looking to review all existing ordinances affecting public shade trees and will be putting forward additional ordinances aimed at protecting the public shade trees in Northampton.

In response to a question posed by Councilor Klein, Councilor Adams noted that currently a developer could take down trees without replacing them. This approach could have a long term negative impact on the city's tree canopy.

A question was raised about public hearings regarding this ordinance; both the Planning Board and the Comm. On Rules, Orders, Appointments and Ordinances held public hearings concerning this ordinance.

Councilor LaBarge noted that she has received complaints from two residents who have concerns about the ordinance. Speaking about the residents, Councilor LaBarge stated that the ordinance gives "big brothers" more control about what happens on private property.

Councilor Klein stated that some of the requirements of the ordinance are already in place. She feels that the ordinance is lacking coordination regarding communication between the Planning Board, DPW, and Public Shade Tree Commission.

Councilor Spector moved to carry over the Ordinance to the next council session; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 9 Yes, 0 No.

Documents: 15.377_As_Approved_By_ROAO.pdf, 15.377-comm_roao_report_201512111006.pdf

C. 16.005 - Ordinance Relative to specifications on sign lighting in residential and commercial districts and creating specifications for dynamic display boards.

This item was already referred to Planning and to the Comm. on Legislative Matters. City Council to consider referring to Committee on Community Resources.

Documents: 16.005_LED_SIGN_ORDINANCE.pdf

D. 16.028 An Ordinance to Delete Chapter 290 from City Code Book - Refer to Committee on Legislative Matters and the Committee on Community Resources

Documents: 16.028_DeleteChapter290.pdf

13. Updates from Council President & Committee Chairs

14. Information Requests (Charter Provision 2-7) and Committee Study Requests

15. New Business

Contact: P. Powers
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