



Public Works Committee of the City Council

**Councilor Paul D. Spector
Councilor Jesse M. Adams
Councilor Alisa F. Klein**

**Location: City Council Chambers
210 Main St., Northampton**

8/13/2015 - Minutes

1. Meeting Called to Order

At 6:00 pm Councilor Spector called the meeting to order. Present were Councilors Klein, Adams and Spector.

2. Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting

A. Minutes of June 29, 2015

Councilor Klein moved to approve the minutes of June 29, 2015. Councilor Adams seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

3. Discussion: Reconsideration of the Taking of Center Court

Councilor Klein gave an update about this discussion topic. She talked with Director Ned Huntly and found out that survey work is being done for Center Court. She had heard that the Mayor will veto this if the Council moves ahead - but she has not had an opportunity to confirm this with the Mayor directly.

The committee discussed the possibility of inviting the Mayor and Director Ned Huntley.

Councilor Klein shared an e-mail communication that she received from the City Solicitor. It was his opinion that based on how the council voted on this item, the city council was in favor of laying out Center Court as a public street. This resulted in the DPW working up plans; a council order and order of taking will then be drafted and the item will be sent back to the City Council for vote.

The committee raised the following questions: What is the DPW preparing, and when will it be available? If the Council needs 6 of 8 votes on the council floor to pass the order, is it worth pursuing?

Councilor Spector will contact the Mayor's office to get a better understanding of what concerns there may be regarding making Center Court a public way.

The committee will meet again on September 3, 2015 at 6 pm.

4. New Business

At the last meeting the committee reviewed the solar array going up at the former landfill. Then, there was not much hope of a net metering increase short term. Since that time, Councilor Spector learned that net metering will be allowed up to 1,600 megawatts, up until 2017. This means that every project that is currently in the pipeline will be built. Once the limit is reached, the Department of Public Utilities will then have jurisdiction to set net metering limits. Down the road, net metering could end for large solar array projects.

This language is built into an Omnibus bill that is included with many other things. It may take the entire session to pass. Locally, this means that the city will be moving ahead with its solar array project.

5. Adjourn

At 6:30 p.m. Councilor Klein moved to adjourn; Councilor Adams seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

Prepared By:

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