

Committee on Rules, Orders, Appointments, & Ordinances

Councilor David A. Murphy
Councilor Maureen T. Carney
Councilor Ryan R. O'Donnell

Minutes of Meeting Date:

Meeting Time:

City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street
Northampton, Massachusetts

****Activate NCTV Camera to Record Minutes***

12/15/2015 - Minutes

1. Announcement Of Audio/Video Recording Of Meeting

Councilor Murphy announced that the meeting would be video and audio taped.

2. Members Present/Absent

All members of the committee were present at the meeting. Additional City Councilors present included: Councilor LaBarge, Councilor Spector, Councilor Sciarra, and Councilor Klein.

3. Meeting Called To Order

Councilor Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

4. Public Comment

Mr. Jasper Lapienski of 43 West St. spoke in support of the sub-committee structure proposed by Councilor O'Donnell. He feels that there is value having a separate committee to deal with public works items. Mr. Lapienski cited 30 items he feels should be added to the committee's agenda if the subcommittee moves forward as proposed..

5. Approve Minutes Of The Previous Meeting

A. Minutes Of The November 9, 2015 Meeting

Councilor Carney moved to approve the minutes of November 9, 2015; Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

6. Orders And Ordinances For Review

A. 15.377 Zoning Ordinance For Significant Trees

Councilor Murphy reflected that the changes that talked about in the previous meeting had been addressed by Planning. Councilor O'Donnell moved to send the ordinance back to the full city council with a positive recommendation; Councilor Carney seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

B. 15.382 Order Regarding Paid Sick Time--WAITING FOR FINANCE RECOMMENDATION

The committee recognized that this ordinance has not been discussed by the Finance Committee. Councilor Carney moved to return the ordinance back to the full city council with a neutral recommendation. The City Council could then decide how to proceed. Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

C. City Council Rules

Councilor Spector spoke in support of maintaining the public works committee as a separate committee. The previous version of the committee was vibrant and there were many agenda items. He noted that this was when there was a joint Public Works and City Council committee. At that time there were 9 or 10 members on the committee. Councilor Murphy drew a parallel to the current Transportation and Parking Commission; Councilor Spector agreed that that committee structure was similar. In order to return to that type of structure, the Mayor would need to draft an Administrative Order.

Councilor LaBarge agrees with Councilor Spector. Past committees dealt with a lot of issues that were brought to the council committees.

Councilor Carney explained that during the city council meeting it had been suggested that the public safety committee be combined with the public works committee. She feels that this committee scope would be too much. She agrees with the proposed committee scope as proposed in the Council Rules.

Councilor LaBarge had concerns about Committee on City Services. Councilor O'Donnell noted that the Commission on Disability is established by state statute and that would remain the same. Councilor LaBarge likes the senior services needs combined with public safety.

Councilor O'Donnell moved to return to the full city council with a neutral recommendation; Councilor Carney seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

7. Appointments For Committee Approval

A. 15.535 Appointments

Reappointments to the Council on Aging were taken as a group:

Theresa L. Dunn, Barbara Fungaroli, Maureen Sienkiewicz, and James Spencer received positive recommendations from the committee; Councilor Carney moved to return the reappointments to the full city council with a positive recommendation; Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

New Appointments to the Council on Aging were also taken as a group:

Councilor Carney moved to return the appointments of Melissa Einberg and Geriann Butler back to the full city council with a positive recommendation; Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

Councilor Carney moved to return the appointment of Letitia Ward to the Disability Commission back to the city council with a positive recommendation; Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

Councilor Carney moved to return the appointment of Julia Chevan to the Community Preservation Committee as a Parks and Recreation representative back to the city council with a positive recommendation; Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

Councilor Carney moved to return the reappointment of Glenn Connly to the Parks and Recreation Commission back to the city council with a positive recommendation; Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

Councilor O'Donnell moved to send the appointment of Jami Albro-Fisher and the reappointment of Richard Cooper to the Transportation and Parking Commission back to the city council with a positive recommendation; Councilor Carney seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

B. 15.549 Appointments To Various Committees

Reappoints to the Arts Council were taken as a group:

Joshua Bedell, George William Myers, Eric Olsson, Jan Ruby and Kathryn Service all received positive recommendations from the committee; Councilor Carney moved to return the appointments back to the city council with a positive recommendation; Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.C

Councilor O'Donnell moved to return the appointment of Andrea Murray to the Board of Almoners back to the city council with a positive recommendation; Councilor Carney seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

8. New Business

None.

9. Adjourn

At 6:40 pm, Councilor O'Donnell moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Carney seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

Respectfully submitted by
Pamela L. Powers
Administrative Assistant to the City Council
ppowers@northamptonma.gov
(413) 587-1210