



Committee on City Services and the Northampton City Council

Committee Members:

Chair: Councilor Maureen T. Carney

Vice-Chair: Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge

Councilor Dennis P. Bidwell

Councilor James Nash

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 1, 2018, 4 p.m.

Location: City Council Chambers

212 Main St., Northampton, Massachusetts

Present: Councilor Maureen T. Carney, Chair
Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge, Vice Chair
Councilor Dennis P. Bidwell
Councilor James Nash

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

At 4 p.m., Councilor Carney called the meeting to order. On a roll call, Councilors Bidwell, Carney, LaBarge and Nash were present.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There being no members of the public present, there was no public comment.

3. **MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2018**

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the minutes of September 17, 2018. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion carried 4:0.

4. **ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

A. 18.166 Appointments to Various Boards - referred by City Council, 9/20/2018

Agricultural Commission

Richard E. Jaescke, 774 Bridge Road, Florence, MA 01062

Term: October 2018 - June 2021

(Reappointment)

Mr. Jaescke has been on the Agricultural Commission since its founding in 2006 and serves an important role on the commission, Councilor Carney advised. As a hay and straw producer, he has lived on the corner of Bridge Road going down to Sheldon Field all of his 69 years and has an important voice on that committee. In their conversation, Mr. Jaescke brought up a couple of issues larger-scale farmers are dealing with in regard to stormwater management. There is some sense on their part that the meadows and fields bear the brunt of flooding and that they also may be bearing more of the cost of stormwater management services, she related.

Councilor Bidwell moved to positively recommend Mr. Jaescke to the full council for reappointment to the Agricultural Commission. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously with 4 Yes, 0 No.

Public Shade Tree Commission

Susan Lofthouse, 15 Stoddard Street, Northampton

Term: October 2018 - June 2021

(To fulfill the unexpired term of Jay Girard)

It was a pleasure to talk with Susan Lofthouse, Councilor LaBarge shared. Ms. Lofthouse feels it would be a great pleasure to serve on the Public Shade Tree Commission because she cares deeply about Northampton and about the critical role public shade trees play in making the city a fantastic place. She read a statement from Ms. Lofthouse in which she listed multiple benefits of public shade trees and stated that she wanted to work protecting and advocating for city trees.

As a founding member and president of Tree Northampton, Inc. - a private citizen's group dedicated to promoting ecological storage shed of Northampton through education, advocacy and volunteer participation – she is committed to the city's trees. In cooperation with Tree Warden Rich Parasiliti, Jr. and the Public Shade Tree Commission, she has mobilized hundreds of volunteers for projects large and small including the South Street Corridor project, the Forbes Library project, Arbor Day planting and tree giveaways as well as dozens of smaller efforts in all wards of the city. She has attended Public Shade Tree meetings for a few years now in order to facilitate communication between citizen volunteers and commissioners and in the process has learned a lot about the business before it. In addition to her demonstrated commitment and deepening knowledge of the commission's goals and challenges, she offers the perspective of citizen volunteers who dedicate thousands of hours each year to the city's trees.

Councilor LaBarge moved to positively recommend Susan Lofthouse for appointment to the Public Shade Tree Commission. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4 Yes, 0 No.

Energy & Sustainability Commission

Adin Maynard, 12 Perkins Avenue, Northampton

Term: October 2018 - June 2019

(To fulfill the unexpired term of Scott Silver)

He first met Mr. Maynard when he served on the Zoning Relations Committee, on which he also was an esteemed member, Councilor Bidwell advised. He is an energy efficiency/energy conservation expert. He served on the Northampton Energy and Sustainability Commission (NESC) for about five years but resigned last October when his daughter was diagnosed with leukemia. She has since bounced back and is doing very well. She is a kindergartener at Jackson Street School and he is ready to resume his volunteer commitment.

Councilor Bidwell moved to forward the appointment of Adin Maynard to the Energy & Sustainability Commission to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4 Yes, 0 No.

Transportation & Parking Commission

Debin Bruce, 46 Columbus Avenue, Northampton

Term: October 2018 - June 2021

(To fill the vacancy of the expired term of Richard Cooper)

Councilor Nash referred to a Gazette article from last spring in which Debin Bruce was cited as having received the chairman's award from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) during an April 26, 2018 ceremony in Washington, DC for her significant contributions to the field. Ms. Bruce works remotely from Northampton as a human factors engineer specializing in human error. Her work involves accepting investigative assignments through the board's office of highway safety. Since joining the agency in 2006, she has been involved in high profile cases, including the case of the self-driving car hitting a pedestrian in FL, and the Big Dig investigation.

This expertise is coming to the Transportation and Parking Commission (TPC) if she is approved, and he is really looking forward to it, he observed. Ms. Bruce also served on the Planning Board for years and was its chair.

Councilor Nash moved to forward the appointment of Debin Bruce to the Transportation & Parking Commission with a positive recommendation. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

Councilor Carney said she worked with Ms. Bruce on the TPC when she chaired the group and Ms. Bruce was the representative from the Planning Board on the TPC. She has been a long-standing volunteer of great service to the city, she confirmed. The motion passed 4 Yes, 0 No.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

Councilor Carney updated members on the progress of the continued conversation with the Mayor's office about paving and road reconstruction. The Mayor indicated that he is coming before the full council to do an update on paving, she reported.

Members briefly discussed topics for future meetings. She has been speaking to Health Director Merredith O'Leary about giving an update on the opioid crisis, Councilor Carney noted. Members are also interested in having the City Clerk give an update on the election. However, the next meeting is the day before the election so it will not be possible to schedule her until December or later. She will see if she can get a confirmation from Ms. O'Leary, Councilor Carney said.

6. **Adjourn**

Councilor Bidwell moved to adjourn. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Prepared By:

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