



CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
 CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
 WALLACE J. PUCHALSKI MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
 212 MAIN STREET, NORTHAMPTON  
 Northampton, MA

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by Council President Ryan R. O'Donnell. At 7:26 p.m. on a roll call the following City Councilors were present:

At-Large Councilor William H. Dwight	At-Large Councilor Ryan O'Donnell
Ward 1 Councilor Maureen T. Carney	Ward 2 Councilor Dennis P. Bidwell
Ward 3 Councilor James Nash	Ward 4 Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra
Ward 5 Councilor David A. Murphy	Ward 6 Councilor Marianne LaBarge
Ward 7 Councilor Alisa F. Klein	

Announcement of Audio/Video Recording

Councilor O'Donnell announced that the meeting was being audio and video recorded for broadcast by Northampton Community Television.

Public Hearings  
Public Hearing to consider FY 2020 Water and Sewer Rates

Public Hearings

Public Hearing to consider FY 2020 Water and Sewer Rates

Councilor O'Donnell introduced the public hearing to consider the FY2020 Water and Sewer Rates. Councilor Dwight moved to open the public hearing. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote. The public hearing was opened at 7:27 p.m.

In making a rate case for FY2020, administrators have been mindful of ensuring stability in the city's utility operations, capital investments and rates, Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Donna LaScaleia presented. Recommendations are based on a meticulous analysis of the department's operating expenses, capital expenses, capital needs over the next five years, consumption and revenue. Water consumption for the city's 7,869 accounts is between 850 million and 900 million gallons per year, she reported.

Starting with the water enterprise, the city owns and operates a 6.5 million gallon per day water treatment plant (WTP), three active drinking water reservoirs and dams, two wells, a corrosion control facility and the Leeds high-pressure water system plus 3,800 +/- acres of watershed land. The utility has routine capital expenses such as waterline replacement, granular-activated carbon, equipment replacement and the like that cost \$1 million a year - non-negotiable items that have to be budgeted, Ms. LaScaleia related.

For waterline replacement, city officials are looking at work on Damon Road and Hatfield Street from North King Street to Cooke Avenue as part of a roundabout project.

DPW officials also have to look at debt service. In 2006, the city bonded for \$25,853,996 to build the water treatment plant. That obligation sits on the debt schedule until FY2028 and city officials pay \$2 million annually in debt service in this enterprise alone.

Three major infrastructure needs are facing the water utility. The DPW needs to undertake an evaluation and resolution of the Leeds high-pressure system. Due to hydraulics, Leeds is a unique section of the water system, and the most obvious part of this system is the Audubon Road tank built in 1935. It needs decommissioning or rehabilitation. Either way, the city is looking at a \$1.5 million expenditure. Engineers are about to undertake a study to determine which option is best.

The city also has a transmission main bringing water from the water treatment

plant in Williamsburg into the city. This 20-inch main was constructed in the early part of the 1900's and runs primarily through a swamp. DPW officials are looking at north of \$9 million in construction costs as well as design for replacement of this conduit. In a related project, the city has the reconstruction of Mountain Street on the state Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and workers need to be ready to move the transmission main once that project starts.

The third infrastructure need relates to dams and reservoirs, focusing primarily on the Ryan and West Whately Reservoirs, built in 1965 and 1901 respectively. The city just received a grant for \$250,000 from the state to design upgrades to the dams. The DPW is looking at about \$850,000 in total design costs and about \$10 million in construction costs over the next five years. The dams have a spillway deficiency, meaning they could actually overtop in flooding conditions, leading to loss of water impoundment and potential loss of property and life downstream. They are looking at upgrades to the spillway of the West Whately dam and raising the top of the Ryan dam by a foot and a half.

The sum total of these three projects is very close to what the city paid to construct the water treatment plant, Director LaScaleia advised. The rate increases in the water utility being projected will raise about \$160,000 more in revenue annually, and that revenue will be used to create debt capacity or to fund projects with cash.

In the sewer enterprise, the city owns and operates 110 miles of pipe, seven pump stations and a 15-million gallon per day waste water treatment plant (WWTP). Just like in water, the utility has routine capital expenses such as sewer line and equipment replacement totaling about \$880,000 per year. Staff are currently targeting the Masonic Street parking lot for improvement where there is a lot of inflow and infiltration into the sewer line, but the city faces major capital investment to the WWTP that, until recently, hadn't seen any measurable upgrades since the late 1970's. The DPW has hired an owner's project manager (OPM) and design firm and invested about \$1.6 million in these services. The DPW has converted the chlorine gas disinfection system to sodium hypochlorite, which is far safer and is at about 10% design on electrical and process upgrades projected to cost \$12 - \$13 million. The work at the WWTP is actually happening and construction is as close as it's ever been. The city is looking at \$12 to \$15 million of actual construction work at the plant but needs to broaden the scope and look at its sewage collection system and remote pump stations. The five-year plan estimates a cost of north of \$26 million for these upgrades. The rate increase being projected will bring in about \$150,000 in additional revenue which will also create debt capacity or be used as cash to fund actual projects.

As far as rate impacts, most residential meters - representing 84% of total accounts - are 5/8<sup>th</sup> inch in size. The average residential customer uses about 11,220 gallons per quarter, which translates into a quarterly increase of \$1.65 or \$6.60 annual increase. The quarterly sewer increase will be \$1.80 with an annual increase of \$7.20, so the combined impact on an average residential bill is \$3.45 per quarter or \$13.80 annually.

Councilor O'Donnell opened the floor to public comment, noting that councilors will have the opportunity for further discussion in the course of consideration of the related order.

There was no public comment.

Councilor O'Donnell asked if the director could put in perspective where they are in the process of WWTP updates as a percentage or status bar.

"We're just getting started," Director LaScaleia replied. The project to convert the chlorine gas disinfection system cost about a million dollars.

"Most of the big price tag items are looming in the future," Councilor O'Donnell concluded.

Councilor Klein asked if it would be possible for communication purposes with constituents who are going to be upset about any increase to have a one- or two-page bulleted description of projects coming up in the coming years to share with them.

Ms. LaScaleia said she could provide this.

Councilor LaBarge agreed a summary would be helpful. She asked questions to clarify current and proposed rates. For Tier 1, the rate is currently at \$4.40 and is going to \$4.51 and, for sewer, the rate is going from \$7.67 to \$7.86, Director LaScaleia confirmed.

With regard to transparency, Councilor Bidwell encouraged the offering of tours of the city's facilities to the public. These have been very helpful, he commented.

Ms. LaScaleia said Public Works week is coming up and that's typically when they open up the plants.

Based on a quarterly increase of \$1.65, the monthly increase is roughly .50, Councilor Carney pointed out. To give some perspective, when the initial rate structure changed, she heard the perspective that is pretty amazing to live someplace where they can turn on the faucet and have clean water and it's pretty reasonable. She shared her hope that what the director is presenting tonight is something the council can pass and the rest of the city can accept.

It's worth noting that they have gone two years without an increase, Councilor Dwight observed. "The increases have been modest," which speaks to the way they now calculate and assess fees and to the anticipation and management of future costs. This is in the face of staring down the barrel of reasonable requirements and state and federal mandates about how the city should maintain its water system and all the attendant costs of reinforcing an antique system. All his observations are that this is being done in the best way imaginable. Residents receive great value for this municipal service and its operation is handled in a "superlative" and very economical manner, he remarked. It's important to buttress themselves when the director explains the looming expenses, he suggested.

The word is really 'stability,' Ms. LaScaleia said. The goal is to run the utilities in a stable manner, she stressed. Stability in operations and stability in investments in turn creates stability in rates, she maintained.

As hard as any rate increase is for some and not welcome, these are fairly modest, Councilor Sciarra acknowledged. They do need to keep in mind what the director outlined; the expenditures that are coming down the pike are really, really significant. The revenue that will be generated by this increase is really just a 'drop in the reservoir,' she quipped. "We appreciate how modest the increases are and that you are trying to do this in a very incremental manner," she concluded.

Councilor LaBarge thanked Ms. LaScaleia for her presentation and for talking to residents in Ward 6.

Councilor Nash similarly thanked Director LaScaleia for her report. With regard to the 28-inch (sic) pipe coming from the station in Williamsburg, he recalled hearing years ago that infiltration into the pipe required them to add chlorine to the water and later downstream caused leaching in some of the older pipes. He asked her to address this claim.

It is a 20-inch pipe, Ms. LaScaleia confirmed. The main runs by the corrosion control station on Route 9. At this facility, zinc orthophosphate is injected into the water preventing a Flint Michigan scenario from occurring in Northampton. There are no other issues with the quality of the drinking water, she assured.

Councilor Nash also thanked her for the upgrade with the chlorine gas disinfection

system. He hopes that all of these upgrades will dampen the smell a little bit, he said.

Councilor O'Donnell added his thanks, commenting that plans the director brings forth from her department are always well-thought out, incremental and wise.

There being no further comments, Councilor LaBarge moved to close the public hearing. Councilor Sciarra seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote. The public hearing was closed at 7:52 p.m.

Resolutions  
19.006 A  
Resolution in  
Support of  
Changing the  
Massachusetts  
State Flag and  
Seal - 2nd  
reading

Resolutions  
19.006 A Resolution in Support of Changing the Massachusetts State Flag and Seal - 2nd reading

Councilor Klein asked if Resolution 19.006 could be moved up on the agenda to accommodate some in the audience who needed to leave for another meeting. Councilor O'Donnell said he would treat the request as a motion to approve the resolution. Councilor Dwight seconded.

Councilor Klein made a motion to change the bill numbers referenced within the resolution to H2776 and S1877. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.

Since Representative Sabadosa was present, Councilor Klein thanked her personally for sponsoring the legislation and expressed the entire council's appreciation for her leadership on this issue. She also expressed appreciation to Senator Jo Comerford, who was represented by District Aide Sam Hopper.

As per the request of Councilor Bidwell, she changed the word 'state' to Commonwealth in two places, Councilor Klein added. She moved to amend the resolution to incorporate this change. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.

Councilor Dwight said he was grateful for the testimony from Representative Sabadosa and Senator Comerford. It is actually flattering to have the state delegation come to speak to them, he commented.

Councilor called the motion to approve the resolution to a vote, and it passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following resolution passed two readings:  
*In the City Council, February 21, 2019*

Upon the Recommendation of:            Councilor Alisa F. Klein  
    Councilor Maureen T. Carney  
    Councilor William H. Dwight

**R-19.006**  
**A RESOLUTION**  
**IN SUPPORT OF CHANGING THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE FLAG AND SEAL**

WHEREAS ,     the history of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is replete with instances of conflict between the European Colonists and the Native Nations of the region who first extended the hand of friendship to the Colonists on their shores in 1620 and helped them to survive starvation during the settlers' first winters; and

WHEREAS,     members of the Native Nation for whom the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is named were ambushed and killed by Myles Standish, first commander

	<p>of the Plymouth Colony, in April of 1623, barely two years after the Pilgrims arrived on their shores; and</p>
WHEREAS,	<p>the Massachusetts State Flag and Seal depicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) a naked Colonial broadsword, modeled on the broadsword of Myles Standish, as it is being brandished above the head of a Native man whose proportions were taken from a Native skeleton kept in Winthrop and whose features were taken from a photograph of an Ojibwe chief not from Massachusetts but from Great Falls, Montana because the illustrator considered him to be a “fine specimen of an Indian;” and</li><li>b) the Native man’s bow that was modeled after a bow taken from a Native man shot and killed by a colonist in Sudbury in 1665, and his belt that is modeled after a belt worn by Metacomet, one of the Wampanoag leaders who resorted to a mutually destructive war in 1675-76 in defense of Native lands against Euro-Colonial encroachment; and</li></ul>
WHEREAS,	<p>members of Native Nations within the boundaries of Massachusetts were subjected by the colonists to inhumane and genocidal practices including the forced internment of thousands of members of Native Nations on Deer Island in Boston Harbor where they died by the hundreds of exposure in 1675; subsequent enslavement in Boston, Bermuda, and the Caribbean Islands; and the offering of bounties for the scalps of Native men, women, and children; and</p>
WHEREAS,	<p>Native Nations in Massachusetts were kept in a state of serfdom and their members legally considered incompetent wards of the state until the nonviolent action of the so-called Mashpee Rebellion of 1833 led to the granting of Native self-rule by the Massachusetts legislature in 1834, as if the sovereign right of Native self-government was the Massachusetts legislature's to confer; and</p>
WHEREAS,	<p>Native Americans were legally prohibited from even stepping foot into Boston from 1675 until 2004, when that law was finally repealed; and</p>
WHEREAS,	<p>in the year 2020, it will be the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing of the Euro-Colonists at Plymouth Plantation which gave rise to the long chain of genocidal wars against, and deliberate policies of cultural destruction of, Native Nations thus affording every citizen of MA a chance to reflect upon this history and work towards establishing a better relationship between the descendants of the Euro-Colonists and the Native Nations of the Commonwealth; and</p>
WHEREAS,	<p>Native Americans have long suffered the many abuses of racism, the appropriation and misuse of their cultural practices and way of life, the appropriation and lampooning of their symbols and images for public schools and sports teams, and the diminution and pollution of their</p>

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ancestral lands; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northampton, settled by Euro-colonists in 1654, recognizes that it was built upon the ancestral homelands and villages of the indigenous peoples of the Pocomtuck and Nipmuc Nations; and

WHEREAS, in its 2016 Resolution Recognizing the Second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day, the Northampton City Council acknowledged "the ongoing trauma and historical harms, acts of genocide, and violations of the human rights of Native American[s]" and stated its commitment to "uplift[ing] the indigenous roots and history of, and contributions to, our city and this country."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Northampton hereby adopts this resolution in support of H. 2776 and S. 1877 in the Massachusetts State Legislature, a "Resolve Providing for the Creation of a Special Commission Relative to the Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth<sup>1</sup>," and expresses its strong support for Representative Lindsay Sabadosa's and Senator Jo Comerford's continued advocacy for their passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Northampton strongly encourages the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight to, after holding a public hearing on the Resolve, report it out favorably.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the legislation shall pass, the City Council of Northampton strongly encourages Governor Charles Baker to sign it and work with members of the General Court to ensure its enactment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to MA State Senator Jo Comerford; MA State Representative Lindsay Sabadosa; all members of the MA Legislature's Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, when they are appointed; U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Edward J. Markey; U.S. Representative James McGovern; and Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker.

~ This resolution was developed through the initiative of, and with great assistance from, David Detmold, an organizer with Change the Massachusetts State Flag and Seal Campaign.

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<sup>1</sup> Specifically, H. 2776 and S. 1877 calls for, among other things, "a special commission... [to be] established (1) for the purpose of investigating the features of the official seal and motto of the commonwealth including those which potentially have been unwittingly harmful to or misunderstood by the citizens of the commonwealth and (2) for the purpose of examining the seal and motto of the commonwealth to ensure that they faithfully reflect and embody the historic and contemporary commitments of the commonwealth to peace, justice, liberty and equality and to spreading the opportunities and advantages of education. The commission shall make recommendations regarding a revised or new design of the seal of the commonwealth and a revised or new motto of the commonwealth".

**Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.**

<p><u>Updates from Council President &amp; Committee Chairs</u>  <u>Finance Committee Update on FY2020 Independent Audit Procurement Process</u></p>	<p><u>Updates from Council President &amp; Committee Chairs</u>                  There is no charter review update as the meeting scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup> was cancelled, Councilor Dwight reported. The next meeting is March 19<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><u>Finance Committee Update on FY2020 Independent Audit Procurement Process</u>                  Councilor O'Donnell read the following update: At a special meeting February 26, 2019, the Finance Committee voted unanimously 3:0 with one absent (Councilor Carney) to recommend awarding the contract for FY2020 auditing services/extending the contract for auditing services with Scanlon &amp; Associates for another year.</p> <p>The commonwealth and the Department of Revenue (DOR) recommend that communities don't change auditors for a five- to eight-year period, Councilor Murphy explained. The City Council executed a three-year contract with Scanlon &amp; Associates and extended it for one year, so the FY2020 audit would only be the fifth year. Based on this, Finance Committee members decided not to recommend a full procurement process now but to stay with the same auditor for five years as recommended.</p> <p>He voiced his perception that everybody was really pleased with the last procurement process.</p> <p>This came up in Charter Review Committee as a point of discussion, Councilor Dwight related. Members discussed amending the charter to add a requirement to change auditors after a proscribed period of time to get a fresh set of eyes. Scanlon has served us very well, he acknowledged.</p> <p>The Committee on Community Resources is having a public forum on Monday, March 18, 2019 at 7 p.m. to hear from folks on the impact of a proposed 3% community impact fee for short-term rental units, Councilor Sciarra announced.</p> <p>And, on March 22, 2019, the Joint Committee on Education is holding its first public hearing on education funding, Councilor Sciarra continued. The issue has been fast-tracked by both house and senate leadership. If there's going to be a change in this formula there needs to be a huge show of support. Both Senator Comerford and Representative Sabadosa have expressed interest in helping people coordinate coming to testify. It will be really important to get very specific experiences to show how the current funding formula has been detrimental to their schools. The hearing starts at 10 a.m. in the statehouse in Gardner Auditorium.</p>
<p><u>Communications &amp; Proclamations from the Mayor</u></p>	<p><u>Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor</u>                  None.</p>
<p><u>Resolutions</u>  <u>19.003 Resolution to Adopt the Capital Improvement Program for FY2020-FY2024 Submitted to City Council on February 4, 2019 - 2nd reading</u></p>	<p><u>Resolutions</u>  <u>19.003 A Resolution to Adopt the Capital Improvement Program for FY2020-FY2024 Submitted to City Council on February 4, 2019 - 2nd reading</u>                  Councilor Dwight moved to approve the resolution in second reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded. Councilor O'Donnell offered to entertain questions from councilors.</p> <p>Councilor Nash said he had a communication via e-mail with the Finance Director regarding cemetery projects. When he looked at the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), it looked like financing for this had been cut but he understands the city received a grant.</p> <p>Finance Director Susan Wright deferred to DPW Director LaScaleia to respond. Working with the Office of Planning &amp; Sustainability, the DPW received two grants - one from Mass. Historic and one from the Community Preservation Committee -</p>

for a total of \$150,000, Director LaScaleia confirmed. They were able to steer that into gravestone restoration, allowing them to reduce the requested contribution from the city.

The financial orders for FY2020 capital projects will be coming before the council at its next meeting. There will be approximately 12 orders, Ms. Wright reminded.

Councilor Dwight clarified that there was testimony in public comment that suggested that the council was approving funding for the CIP when in point of fact it is actually approving the plan itself. It is worth noting that approval of the resolution does not constitute approval of the funding, he shared.

Councilor O'Donnell called the motion to approve the resolution to a vote, and it passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

**The following resolution passed two readings:**

**City of Northampton  
MASSACHUSETTS**

*In City Council,* \_\_\_\_\_ February 21, 2019

*Upon the recommendation of* Mayor David J. Narkewicz

**19.003 A Resolution**  
**to Adopt the Capital Improvement Program for FY2020-FY2024**  
**Submitted to City Council on February 4, 2019**

***Resolved, that***

The City Council hereby adopts the Capital Improvement Program for FY2020-FY2024 submitted by the Mayor on February 4, 2019, in accordance with the Charter of Northampton, Massachusetts, Article 7 Finance and Fiscal Procedures, Section 7-5: Capital Improvement Program.

**Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.**

**19.012 Resolution**  
**Establishing a**  
**Select Committee**  
**on Pesticide**  
**Reduction - 1st**  
**reading**

**19.012 A Resolution Establishing a Select Committee on Pesticide Reduction**  
**- 1st reading**

Councilor O'Donnell read the text of the resolution. Councilor Klein moved to approve the resolution in first reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

Councilor Klein read the following definition from a footnote of the resolution: ***“the term “pesticide” includes insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, and other toxins designed to manage or regulate plant, tree and grass growth. Pests are defined as undesirable plants, insects, fungi, bacteria, rodents, birds, and other animals.”***

The proposed select committee will study the use of pesticides, which includes all of those different chemicals, she clarified. The resolution establishes a select committee to do a study and make recommendations. It is not a resolution to ban pesticide use or to interfere with executive branch policies or practices; it is simply the formation of a select committee to study what other municipalities have done and to bring forth recommendations for the council's consideration, she stressed. A pesticide task force appointed by the state legislature has jurisdiction over what pesticides can and can't be used in the state; local officials can't change that. They can make recommendations about what pesticides can be used in municipal areas, not by residents or businesses, she said.

The resolution touched on public health and widely-known environmental dangers of pesticides. If those are not convincing enough, she asked members to think about the climate change and climate resiliency aspects of pesticide use reduction. Pesticide use gets left out of those discussions yet those are really urgent issues



with regard to pesticide use. To illustrate: most pesticides and all non-organic fertilizers are petro-chemical produced, she pointed out. Pesticides are actually part of the fossil fuel industry that is contributing so heavily to climate change. It is known that to combat climate change it is necessary to both limit carbon production and to reduce carbon in the atmosphere, and the council has approved resolutions related to a carbon tax and sequestering carbon. They know that trees are important in sequestering carbon, but what isn't discussed is plants' role. Plants circulate carbon dioxide from air to soil and consume about a third of the CO<sub>2</sub> that humans produce. This makes soil crucial to managing and mitigating climate change. Pesticide use reduces soils' ability to sequester carbon. When they use pesticides to manage green spaces they are degrading the organic matter in the soil and killing the microorganisms that aid in carbon sequestration. Healthy carbon-sequestering soil makes our city more climate resistant, she asserted. Carbon is essential for soil fertility; it aids in the decomposition of plants, bacteria, fungi, insects, etc., aiding in plant growth and giving structure to the soil, making it resilient to erosion. Using pesticides increases the risk of soil erosion and increases conditions in which toxic runoff from pesticides makes its way into drinking water sources.

In 1962 Rachel Carson's ground-breaking book "Silent Spring," stated that, "If we are going to live so intimately with these chemicals...we had better know something about their nature and their power."

What is being proposed by her and Councilor Nash is to study and learn more about the presence of pesticides in their community and what can be done to mitigate their public health, environmental, climate change and climate resiliency effects.

As co-sponsor, Councilor Nash thanked Councilor Klein for asking him to join her in sponsoring the resolution. To his colleagues, tonight he does not expect they will have much disagreement about the numerous 'Whereas' clauses at the start of this resolution. He expects all to agree that pesticide reduction is a shared goal and that this is a productive conversation. Tonight, he expects the discussion to focus on whether a select committee is the best way to address this, and he welcomes this dialogue.

He too initially found the idea of a select committee to be an awkward way to deal with this and shared that with his co-sponsor. Through conversations with Planning Director Feiden, Councilor Klein and Mayor Narkewicz, he has come to the conclusion that this is the best mechanism. The intent of the select committee is to explore strategies for pesticide reduction over a range of city-managed environments. There is no pre-set intention to ban any substance. The goal is to discuss ways to use less pesticides and even consider methods that use no pesticides at all. He believes they should have a discussion to insure that best practices are being used to manage the various public green spaces in the city around pesticide use. He thinks it is important to know what efforts administrators are making to address invasives and pests while caring for the environment. He mentioned a conversation with Tree Warden Rich Parisiliti in which he shared with him his aversion to spraying pesticides on trees.

"We as a city are proud that much of our city is preserved from development," he affirmed. Much of this land is under the stewardship of private individuals and/or community organizations. They lease out farmland to farmers and manage forests, wetlands and fields through conservation groups. These citizens who log many long hours of labor have a vested interest in a discussion concerning pesticide policies and should be part of a discussion to share their expertise. For example, he would like to hear the great pains Broad Brook Coalition (BBC) members have taken to address invasives at Fitzgerald Lake.

Most importantly, "Such a discussion informs us all about how to best manage our private property." He spoke of his own use of organic products and strict avoidance of pesticides on his property. Much of the way he cares for his property has been

learned from others, he shared, naming numerous neighbors and community organizations that have contributed to this education.

It is this long list that leads him to reason that a select committee is the best way forward. He doesn't see the discussion as fitting into Community Resources or City Services. Current discussions are focused on climate resiliency and regeneration. For this topic to get the attention it deserves, he asks his colleagues support this resolution to back a committee on pesticide reduction.

Councilor Dwight thanked Councilor Klein and Councilor Nash for their work on the resolution. The entire time he has served with Councilor Klein this has been one of the critical issues she has focused on and lobbied for more enthusiastically than any other councilor. He actually thinks this is ideal. City officials are working on sustainability and have vision groups and discussion groups to talk about resiliency for climate change. The same thing applies with issues relative to pesticides. This valley is one of the most fertile places in the country and, as such, has experienced the use of pesticides and its consequences. He referred to Whately where tainted wells forced the town to go to a municipal water system at great expense. "I'm way down with this," he confirmed. He applauded Councilor Klein's efforts in involving Councilor Nash.

He requested consideration of a minor amendment. In particular, he hates acronyms and requested that at least an introductory definition be inserted when 'IPM' first shows up. Also, 'VOC' - volatile organic compounds. It would be good for transparency to identify the compounds. That is his only criticism.

Councilor Sciarra thanked Councilor Klein and Councilor Nash. She asked Councilor Nash to elaborate on his discussions with Mr. Feiden and Mayor Narkewicz. She expressed her understanding that select committees can have city employees and wondered if that had been discussed.

As far as including city administrators, the Mayor was not willing to have city administrators on the committee but was more than willing to have them come and share information, Councilor Nash volunteered. His biggest concern was that they were not overstepping from the legislative into the executive function and somehow impinging on the operation of city departments.

His discussion with Mr. Feiden had to do with the sustainability plan and whether they could incorporate this discussion into it. Mr. Feiden noted that it was a year or more off and that right now pesticides aren't part of the resiliency discussion.

She has been having ongoing conversations with the Mayor, Office of Planning and Sustainability (OPS) and Rich Parisiliti to examine possible ways to create this, Councilor Klein related. They thought of having a mayoral commission and spoke to Attorney Seewald about the separation of powers issue and the parameters of Select Committees. She's also to the state's pesticide task force. They have examined these different questions and the berth they have to create policy and have a good foundation from which to launch a select committee with clear guidelines about what it can and can't do. There have been substantive discussions with all of the relevant departments, she confirmed.

Councilor O'Donnell noted that the creation of Select Committees is something he suggested for council rules four years ago and they've never used it. He has a different view of their prerogative as the legislative branch of local government. City councilors do have the responsibility broadly speaking to set policy although they don't have the ability to direct department heads, he affirmed. He said he is enthusiastic about the proposal and thanked its sponsors.

Councilor Dwight moved to amend the resolution to insert the phrases "organic management and integrated pest management" and "volatile organic compounds." Councilor Klein seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.

	<p>Councilor LaBarge thanked Councilor Klein and Councilor Nash. She agreed putting in a committee would be the best thing. She is concerned about public health and cancer incidence and also concerned about pets on pesticide-treated lawns. She thinks doing a follow-up and forming a committee is the right way to go and will be educational for the public.</p> <p>Councilor O'Donnell called the motion to approve the resolution to a vote, and it passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.</p> <p><b><u>See minutes of March 21, 2019 for second reading.</u></b></p>
<p><b><u>Presentations</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Presentations</u></b> None.</p>
<p><b><u>Consent Agenda</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Consent Agenda</u></b> Councilor O'Donnell reviewed the items on the consent agenda, offering to remove any item for separate consideration upon request. <b>Councilor Dwight moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.</b></p> <p>The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda:</p> <p>A. <b><u>Minutes of January 31, 2019 Joint City Council/School Committee Meeting and Minutes of February 21, 2019</u></b></p> <p>B. <b><u>18.241A Appointments to Various Committees, all positive recommendations, City Services - 3/4/2019</u></b> <b><u>Housing Partnership</u></b> Dan Krassner, 16 Winslow Avenue, Florence Term: March 2019 to June 2022 <i>To fill a vacancy on the Housing Partnership</i></p> <p><b><u>Human Rights Commission</u></b> Rachel Maiore, 392 Chesterfield Road, Leeds Term: March 2019 to June 2019 <i>To fill the unexpired term of Brian Barnes</i></p> <p>Megan Paik, 9 Laurel Street, Northampton Term: March 2019 to June 2022 <i>To fill a vacancy on the Human Rights Commission</i></p> <p>C. <b><u>19.008 Appointments to Various Committees – all positive recommendations, City Services – 3/4/2019</u></b> <b><u>Arts Council</u></b> Rachel Hart, 211 Elm Street, Unit 2A, Northampton Term: March 2019 - June 2021 <i>To fill a vacancy on the Arts Council</i></p> <p><b><u>Historical Commission</u></b> Emily Estes Baillargeon, 19 Allison Street, Northampton Term: March 2019 to June 2019 <i>To fulfill the remaining term of Bruce Kriviskey</i></p> <p><b><u>Housing Partnership</u></b> Carmen Junno, 73 Straw Avenue, Florence Term: March 2019 to June 2019 <i>To fill a vacancy on the Housing Partnership</i></p>
<p><b><u>Recess for Committee on Finance Meeting</u></b></p>	<p>At 8:39 p.m., the City Council recessed for the Committee on Finance meeting. The Committee on Finance adjourned at 8:41 p.m. The City Council reconvened at 8:41 p.m.</p>
<p><b><u>Financial Orders (on 1st reading)</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Financial Orders (on 1st reading pending Finance review)</u></b></p>

19.009 An Order to Establish Water and Sewer Rates for FY2020 – 1<sup>st</sup> reading  
Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of March 21, 2019 for second reading.

Financial Orders  
(on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

19.002 Order to Purchase, Declare Surplus and Donate Land on Easthampton Road to Mass Audubon Society for Conservation – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading

Financial Orders (on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

19.002 An Order to Purchase, Declare Surplus and Donate Land on Easthampton Road to Mass Audubon Society for Conservation Purposes – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following order passed two readings:

**City of Northampton**  
MASSACHUSETTS

*In City Council, February 21, 2019*

*Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz, Planning & Sustainability, and the Conservation Commission*

**19.002 An Order to Purchase, Declare Surplus and Donate Land on Easthampton Road to Massachusetts Audubon Society for Conservation Purposes**

WHEREAS, The *Open Space, Recreation, and Multiuse Trail Plan: 2018-2025* recommends preserving the “the corridor along the Connecticut River and the adjacent floodplain. This includes ...the area immediately adjacent to...Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary...” and further it recommends “strengthen partnerships...including [with]...Massachusetts Audubon Society.”

WHEREAS, The City has an Option to purchase 4.5± acres on Easthampton Road, from Ralph Thompson, adjacent to the Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary along an oxbow of the Connecticut River for \$1 or as a deed in-lieu of tax title foreclosure.

WHEREAS, Said land has no development value but it is of important conservation value.

***Ordered, that***

The Mayor is authorized to purchase said land for city purposes;

Further, that City Council declares such land as surplus to City purposes and authorizes the city to donate the land to Massachusetts Audubon Society for permanent open space preservation, subject to the City, through its Conservation Commission, holding a conservation restriction, as defined in MGL Chapter 184, §31, and that the City Council hereby accepts such conservation restrictions.



Rules suspended

19.004 An Order to Reprogram Memorial Hall Repairs Surplus to Senior Center Repairs – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading

19.004 An Order to Reprogram Memorial Hall Repairs Surplus to Senior Center Repairs – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading

Councilor Bidwell moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following order passed two readings:

**City of Northampton**  
MASSACHUSETTS

*In City Council* February 21, 2019

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

**19.004 An Order to Reprogram Memorial Hall Repairs Surplus to Senior Center Repairs**

*Ordered, that*

\$12,000 of surplus funds that remain in the Memorial Hall Repairs capital project (19303 586845) following the completion of that project, be reprogrammed for the purpose of making repairs to the exterior siding and trim at the Northampton Senior Center to an account to be named - Senior Center Repairs

**Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.**

**19.005 An Order for FY2019 Budget Transfers – 2nd reading**

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

**The following order passed two readings:**

**City of Northampton**  
MASSACHUSETTS

*In City Council* February 21, 2019

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

**19.005 An Order for FY2019 Budget Transfers**

*Ordered, that*

the following FY2019 budgetary transfers be and hereby are made:

Department		Description	Org	Object	Transfer From:	Transfer To:
Medical Insurance	PS	Employee Health Insurance	19141	519400		(39,306)
Fire Rescue	OM	R & M Vehicles	12202	524004	9,500	
Public Safety Communications Center	OM	Replacement of Equipment	12122	587000	7,867	
Public Safety Communications Center	OM	Software License Fees	12122	528000	17,439	
Public Safety Communications Center	OM	Travel	12122	571001	2,000	
Public Safety Communications Center	OM	Staff Development	12122	578001	2,500	
Total Budgetary Transfers:					39,306	-

**Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.**

**19.005 An Order for FY2019 Budget Transfers – 2nd reading**

**Orders**  
**19.001 An Order to Join the ICC to Vote on the IECC - 1st reading**

**Orders**  
**19.001 An Order to Join the ICC to Vote on the IECC - 1st reading**  
Councilor O'Donnell read the text of the order.

Councilor Dwight moved to put the order on the floor for discussion. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

As discussed in the Northampton Energy and Sustainability Commission (NESC), a new energy code is being drafted and Northampton is trying to promote energy efficiency when it comes to regulating building to reduce carbon output and its impact on the environment, Councilor Dwight explained. NESC members discovered in the course of discussion that they have the opportunity to weigh in

on code development by expanding the number of voting members on the International Code Council (ICC). He doesn't know many other communities that are trying to do what they're doing to get as many voters as possible. They discussed strategy and were surprised to learn that many departments qualify as members.

As a point of clarification, the Massachusetts state code is already based on the 2015 version of this energy code, Councilor Klein noted. Sponsors are trying to push that code even further because Massachusetts will be necessarily dependent on that code for guidelines for building in the future.

If it's Northampton's code, it is exclusive to them, but if it's state code, all contractors have to abide by it, Councilor Dwight clarified.

The City Council needs to register by March 29<sup>th</sup> and has to designate four voting representatives, Councilor Klein said. The voting representatives will need to wade through proposed changes to the code and make decisions. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) in Boston (the movers and shakers behind getting more municipalities in Massachusetts to vote) have very strict energy standards by which they will make recommendations to municipalities as to how to vote, so they have them as technical advisors and also have Energy Coordinator Chris Mason. Later this year sponsors will be bringing an order forward to appoint four voting representatives and to authorize them to vote on the council's behalf.

Sponsors are asking fellow councilors to authorize them to participate with other city departments that are participating, she concluded. She publicly thanked Adele Franks who brought this forward to the NESCC.

The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of March 7, 2019 for second reading.

<p><u>Ordinances (Not yet Referred)</u> <u>19.011 An Ordinance Relative to Bicycle Share Services</u></p>	<p><u>Ordinances (Not yet Referred)</u> <u>19.011 An Ordinance Relative to Bicycle Share Services</u> Councilor Klein moved to refer the ordinance to Legislative Matters and the Transportation and Planning Committee. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.</p>
<p><u>Ordinances</u></p>	<p><u>Ordinances</u> None.</p>
<p><u>Information (Charter Provision 2-7) &amp; Study Requests</u></p>	<p><u>Information (Charter Provision 2-7) and Information Study Requests</u> None</p>
<p><u>Motion to Adjourn</u></p>	<p>Upon motion made by Councilor Sciarra and seconded by Councilor LaBarge, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.  Attest: _____ Administrative Assistant to the City Council</p>