CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CONDUCTED AS AN ON-LINE ZOOM MEETING
Northampton, MA

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by City Council President Gina-Louise Sciarra. At 7:05 p.m. on a roll call the following City Councilors were present:

At-Large Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra
Ward 1 Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr.
Ward 2 Councilor Karen Foster
Ward 3 Councilor James B. Nash
Ward 4 Councilor John Thorpe
At-Large Councilor William H. Dwight
Ward 5 Councilor Alex Jarrett
Ward 6 Councilor Marianne LaBarge
Ward 7 Councilor Rachel Maiore

Announcement of Audio/Video Recording

Councilor Sciarra announced that the meeting was being held via remote participation and audio and video recorded.

Public Comment

Public Comment

Councilor Sciarra opened the floor to public comment and explained the procedure she would use in conducting the public comment session.

Steve Jones of 123 Black Birch Trail, who identified himself as a public health physician and former employee of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), said he wanted to speak positively about the council declaring that racism is a public health crisis. From his public health work, he knows that there are huge disparities between whites and people of color in almost every measure - including life expectancy - and that racism is clearly a major contributor to those differences. He applauds the fact that the council going to consider this. The Northampton Board of Health (BOH) meeting started at 5:30 p.m. and members passed a resolution and adopted the language that the council will consider later on declaring that racism is a public health crisis and worthy of treatment, assessment and financial investment in order to eradicate negative health impacts. He thanked the councilors who brought this forward.

John Paradis of 55 Ice Pond Drive, Florence, said he is here on behalf of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home Coalition. He extended his appreciation to his ward councilor, John Thorpe, noting that he is doing an outstanding job of keeping them all informed. He also extended thanks and gratitude to Councilor Quinlan, Councilor LaBarge, Mayor Narkewicz, Veterans' Services Director Steve Connor and the Veterans' Council of Northampton for putting forth the resolution in support of their efforts as a coalition. The coalition came together in the aftermath of the terrible tragedy of losing 76 veterans to COVID-19. A major focus of the coalition is insuring that they as veterans and families of veterans are included in any major reforms or changes to the governance of the soldiers' home and in plans to build a new home as now pledged by the Commonwealth through their advocacy. The coalition's biggest call to action right now is that this outreach effort must include a process for the state to receive feedback and consensus from family members and the veterans' community in Western Massachusetts. In the past two months, the coalition has grown to over 70 members including 11 family members of either residents of the home or residents who have passed away from COVID-19 and more than 2000+ people who have pledged support. In addition, more than 19 cities, towns and organizations have passed resolutions or written letters of support, so Northampton is in good company.

When he was deputy superintendent at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home, he and Superintendent Paul Barabani made a point of personally welcoming new veterans to the home on the day of their admission. As they can imagine, on the day family members leave families for residency in a long-term care facility, there is apprehension and anxiety. They made sure to reassure them that it was their promise to do everything they could to make sure they received the greatest care with the utmost honor and dignity. On the resident's final day, they would have a farewell ceremony where the veteran would be draped in the American flag and they would render a salute and play taps. It was so damaging to the soul when, after making this personal promise, despite everything they could do to appeal to and petition the commonwealth for the needed staffing and resources, they could not deliver on this promise because the commonwealth did not deliver on the needed care.

	It is now their time to get it right as a community and as citizens. As he mentioned, they have a lot of momentum. He and Paul Barabani had a meeting yesterday with the chairman of the board of trustees. He told them he wasn't sure if, but for them, the state would have clearly listened to the voices of family members and veterans to make sure they truly are a shining example with, as many of them say on Veterans Day, the best veterans' service programs in the nation. He thanked the council for taking on this resolution. (14:26) Jose Adastra, resident of either Ward 3 or Ward 7, who lives with his two - almost three - kids and a partner, said he would love it if, besides language declaring racism a public health crisis, councilors took some of the requests the local Defund group has been making to actually help people on the ground instead of writing this beautiful language. "You're still over-policing the homeless," he charged. Some people are going to complain at the police office, and the reason police are giving that they are not going to Pulaski Park as often is because of the budget cuts. He thinks this is very inappropriate for them to say because it's not accurate. They are not going because we are watching them and there's pressure on them and everyone is communicating, he asserted. He is very uncomfortable that it doesn't really seem that the council has any control over the police department at all. He has seen the same people homeless for almost a decade now. That's a shame on the local government; it's a shame on all of them who don't seem to be experienced enough to be governing during this crisis. There's a lot of money now; somehow, they must find a way to directly assist the people who are homeless. He is begging them to find it in their heart to cooperate with the people on the ground who know who the homeless are and what their needs are. Try to control the propaganda that the police are putting out, he urged.
Public Hearings Announcement of Public Hearing on Package of Four National Grid/ Verizon New England Pole Petitions for King Street/ Finn Street	Public Hearings Announcement of Public Hearing on Package of Four National Grid/Verizon Pole Petitions for King Street/Finn Street Councilor Sciarra read the following announcement: Per M.G.L. Ch. 166, Section 22, a public hearing will be held on Thursday, September 3, 2020 @ 7:05 p.m. on the following petitions of National Grid/Verizon New England to erect poles and wires upon, along, under or across one or more public ways: 20.079 National Grid/Verizon Pole Petition for Finn Street (Petition #24891246-5) 20.080 National Grid/Verizon Pole Petition for King Street (Petition #24881246-1) 20.081 National Grid/Verizon Pole Petition for King Street (Petition #24881246-2) 20.082 National Grid/Verizon Pole Petition for King Street (Petition #24881246-3) The hearing will be held via remote participation. Please see the agenda for the September 3, 2020 City Council meeting for instructions for accessing the hearing.
Updates from Council President/ Committee Chairs	Updates from Council President and Committee Chairs Councilor Sciarra updated those present on the status of appointments to the Northampton Policing Review Commission (NPRC). Two councilors have been appointed – Alex Jarrett and Michael Quinlan, and she is very grateful for their commitment to doing the work. For the remaining seven councilor appointees, they have had an outstanding response to the call for letters of interest. The City Council has received 50 letters. Many applied to both the mayor and City Council while others applied to only one appointing authority or the other for a grand total of 63 applications. She thanked the council and Administrative Assistant Laura Krutzler for all the work they have done to inform residents about the commission. Councilor LaBarge announced that there will be no City Services Committee meeting on Monday, September 7th due to Labor Day. The meeting will be held Wednesday, September 9th at 4 p.m. via remote participation.
Recognitions and One-Minute	Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors Councilor Quinlan publicly recognized and congratulated his friend and longtime Northampton

Announcements by Councilors	resident Al Griggs for his upcoming governor's award in the humanities. He has put decades of work into underserved members of the population and he's thrilled he's being recognized for those endeavors. On July 12, 2020, he held his first Ward 5 gathering with School Committee member Dena Levy, Councilor Jarrett reported. They will hold another meeting this Sunday, August 23rd from 4 to 5 p.m. and will be sharing what's happening with the City Council and School Committee, taking questions and hearing concerns and ideas. Anyone interested can register on his website or Facebook page or by emailing or calling him. Councilor LaBarge thanked Administrative Assistant Laura Krutzler for her hard work. She has been working with the Northampton Kiwanis Club to supply meals and baked goods to 'Cathedral in the Night' for dinners on Sunday evenings, Councilor Foster related. They're serving from 70 to 90 people; the need has increased dramatically during the pandemic. Meals served typically come from donations from local church services, so the stream of typical donations is down and the need is up. She has been coordinating vegetarian meals and baked goods every Sunday night and committed to doing so until local church services are back up. They definitely could use a hand, so if anyone has some energy and is looking for a concrete way to help, she encouraged them to volunteer. Councilor Quinlan and a wide variety of people have donated a meal or baked goods. She encouraged anyone interested to contact her for further details.
Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor	Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor Mayor Narkewicz made an announcement about the Shared Streets and Spaces Project. Main Street was closed today as well as parking on Main Street. A team of volunteers and staff have been working all day to lay out new lines and striping between King Street and Pleasant Street and South and State Street. Main Street will reopen late tonight but other work will be happening tomorrow with workers coming behind with flower pots, flowers and street art. He thanked volunteers as well as city staff and thanked everyone for their patience as the city implements this grant program to create more public space downtown. The overarching goal is to support the downtown economy and businesses which obviously have been struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic. He reminded the public to find an alternate route through this evening. The street will reopen tomorrow, he advised.
Resolutions 20.105 Resolution in Support of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke - 1st reading	Resolutions 20.105 A Resolution in Support of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke - 1st reading Councilor Sciarra read the resolution. Councilor Dwight moved to approve the resolution in first reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded. As they know, the trustees of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home have endorsed multiple recommendations made in a highly critical state investigation into dozens and dozens of COVID-19 related deaths of aging veterans at the long-term care facility, Councilor LaBarge reminded. Her husband was in the army in the early part of the Vietnam War as were his brothers and she has many nieces and nephews in the area who have served their country. To have something like this happen is very heart-breaking for everyone. As stated, the trustees have made numerous recommendations for wide-spread improvements to the operations and management of the home. Several utterly baffling decisions were made at the soldiers' home that allowed the disease to run rampant, and it did. 76 veterans who contracted the COVID-19 disease at the soldiers' home passed away and five of them were Northampton residents. She thanked Representative Lindsay Sabadosa for helping her find out how many Northampton residents passed away there. One was a resident of Ward 6, who she knew very well. 76 veterans who contracted the COVID-19 disease at the soldiers' home have passed away, she stressed. Many other communities have already passed these resolutions. She is urging Governor Baker and the legislature to stop rerouting funds that were scheduled for Northampton that could have saved the lives of veterans in 2020. They need Governor Baker to see the dire need for the significant funding needed to upgrade the 68-year old facility. These soldiers who lost their lives due to the deplorable conditions after serving their country and defending their liberty should have lived with respect and a good quality of life and were entitled to death with

dignity. She extended condolences to the families of soldiers who passed at the soldiers' home.

Councilor LaBarge thanked Veterans' Services Director Steven Connor who approached her to see if she would be a sponsor, saying she was honored. She was pleased to see a part added to the resolution at her request and thanked Councilor Quinlan for this addition. She is hoping that the council can do two readings tonight as it is very critical and urgent that they get it to the statehouse.

Councilor Quinlan thanked co-sponsor Councilor LaBarge, commending the Ward 6 councilor for her family's history of service, passion for the issue and commitment to veterans. He thanked Mr. Connor and John Paradis for their current and continued service to fellow veterans and thanked Mayor Narkewicz, commenting that Northampton and Mr. Connor's fierce advocacy on this issue is made possible through his leadership. Finally, he thanked Representative Sabadosa for her help and encouragement and his friend Dan McCarthy from West Springfield, a proud veteran who was the first person to introduce the resolution to him.

On a personal note, he extended condolences to the five Northampton families who lost loved ones at the soldiers' home. His wife's grandfather spent his final years there and received quality care and he couldn't imagine the heartache of not being able to visit. Right now, they are seeing multiple investigations into what happened and watching a great blame game unfold. But blame will not bring back the veterans, prevent another outbreak or magically make the soldiers' home a safer, more suitable facility. It is time for Governor Baker and the state legislature to take action and approve funding to create a new, safer and compliant soldier's home in Holyoke. Northampton represents about 3% of the population of the area served by the Holyoke Soldiers' Home but represents 7% of the deaths. In learning that funding was approved for the project in Chelsea in 2017, it smacks of willful ignorance of Western Massachusetts by state politicians. When coming to understand that, in 2010 and 2012, the Holyoke facility was found to be substandard, it is no longer ignorance; it is willful negligence. He encouraged fellow councilors to email legislators to urge them to take action and urged fellow councilors to support passing the resolution in two readings tonight.

Councilor Jarrett thanked the resolutions' sponsors, saying he is absolutely in favor of it. They see many examples of the state promising to pay for something and not following through, with charter school reimbursement being an example, and this is one with deadly consequences.

Councilor Thorpe thanked Councilor Quinlan, Councilor LaBarge and Mayor Narkewicz for bringing the resolution forward. This is a tragedy and should not have happened. He definitely supports passing it in two readings. He also thanked Steve Connor and John Paradis.

Councilor Nash said he really appreciates the work done to bring the resolution forward. With all that's been going on in the world, in many ways, until he saw this resolution, it kind of slipped by him. It was a huge tragedy a couple of months ago but with all the news was kind of put by the wayside. He really appreciates this being put front and center, that it was a terrible tragedy and that it was avoidable. It's particularly tragic that these are people who put themselves in harm's way for the good of their nation and that they by their negligence put them in harms' way again. That is very regrettable.

Councilor Maiore pointed to the deaths at the soldiers' home as one of the pandemic stories and horrendous tragedies at the local level that none of them will ever forget and will indeed be processing for years. The resolution is not only an advocacy tool but is also a tool for healing for the community, acknowledging it and calling it what it was - a largely preventable tragedy that they can't let happen again, she suggested. She joined fellow councilors in thanking sponsors.

Councilor LaBarge apologized because she also wanted to thank Mayor Narkewicz for being a sponsor.

He grew up in the shadow of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home (HSH), which was emblematic of Holyoke's pride, Councilor Dwight shared. It sits there on top of the hill and was a citadel visible from Route 91. Providing services for regional veterans was a source of pride for the citizens of Holyoke. Councilor Quinlan pointed out the kind of parallels they experience in the western part of the state, particularly the city of Holyoke. As service outliers, the region is often considered as an afterthought with more resources and conscious efforts directed to everything within Route

128. His initial and sustaining emotion to this is shame that it occurred and that it was so preventable. Usually shame prompts apologies and his hope here is that shame would drive the action that this resolution calls for. “I hope that we can actually prompt the shame that needs to be felt east of here,” he asserted.

He thanked every sponsor. On John Paradis’ watch, the Holyoke Solders’ Home maintained that dignity, that emblematic resource that was important to Holyoke’s sense of self. He did it despite the fact that he was encumbered with enormous challenges and neglect. The circumstances that found him no longer associated with it are another source of shame. He is grateful for all Steve Connor’s efforts. He hopes they don’t just express outrage in an empty fashion but that they can provoke and stimulate consequences that will do what they need to do

Councilor Sciarra also offered thanks for the resolution. The horror and heartbreak of how COVID-19 ravaged the soldiers home really just laid bare what many knew, that for years the state failed the veterans at the HSH. It culminated in this utter devastation and these tragic, lonely deaths and the extreme trauma for the families who couldn’t be with their loved ones at the end. She joined in thanking the sponsors and John Paradis and Steve Connor who wholly know how the state has failed their veterans. “I’m sorry and, like Councilor Dwight, I’m ashamed that this could happen here in Massachusetts, and I join you all in demanding that we do far, far better,” she concluded.

Mr. Connor said he is very grateful to Councilor Quinlan and Councilor LaBarge for sponsoring this and, of course, to the mayor, a fellow veteran. This has been tragic in so many ways for so many families. He sat with John Paradis a few weeks ago listening to families talk about what it was like to be on the outside watching what was happening to their loved ones on the inside, and it was heart-wrenching. One gentlemen was 172 pounds and when he passed away two weeks later he was 93 pounds. That’s neglect; that should never have happened, he observed. As a veterans’ service officer for over 16 years, he signed many people up for admittance to the home and, in later years, he was getting more and more hesitant.

After seeing money go to Chelsea instead of Holyoke, the Western Massachusetts Veterans Service Officers Association asked him to do a research project on the condition of the home. He did, and there were some huge, telling signs that “things were not going to be good,” he reported. He brought it to Representative Peter Kocot who did an initial audit under the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Rep. Kocot said they were not seeing great disparities but there seemed to be a problem with overcrowding; let’s talk about it after the first of year. And, of course, Peter passed away.

What was so painful about what happened is that it was preventable. He helped not only Northampton residents but residents of some of the 10 other towns he serves get into the home. It’s really hard to deal with the fact that he helped someone get in there and they ended up dying in not only an unpleasant but in a horrendous way. These men didn’t deserve to be treated like this. His brother passed away in 2013 at the HSH. They did notice the overcrowding but the staff went above and beyond and his family got to experience the ceremony Mr. Paradis described with his brother being taken out with dignity. He was hanging out outside the soldiers’ home when the story broke and they weren’t even being taken out the front door anymore, they were being put in a refrigerated truck. He thanked the council for its support and for entertaining the request for two readings. “We really want to get word to the state as soon as we can get it.”

Mayor Narkewicz said he really couldn’t add to all the eloquent words spoken but thanked fellow sponsors and Mr. Connor and Mr. Paradis for their long-standing advocacy for the HSH. “We certainly have to make sure that something like this never happens again,” he agreed. He is grateful to the council for taking up the resolution and hopes other towns will follow suit.

Councilor Dwight said he thinks it’s appropriate to acknowledge that not only the veterans but the staff suffered during this time. The staff experienced the same pains and agonies they’ve heard described here. The families were crushed, the veterans were crushed, the staff were crushed, and a community was severely wounded by this egregious neglect that in any other circumstance would be considered criminal, he reflected.

The motion to approve the resolution in first reading passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

Councilor Dwight moved to suspend rules to allow a second reading. Councilor Maiore seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

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

The following resolution passed two readings:

In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty
Upon the Recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz, the Northampton Department of Veteran's Services, Councilor Marianne LaBarge and Councilor Michael Quinlan, Jr.

R-20.105
A RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF THE SOLDIERS' HOME IN HOLYOKE

A Resolution honoring the Five Northampton Veterans who lost their lives to COVID-19 at the Holyoke Soldier's Home

Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

Whereas America's Veterans have served our country and community, defended our liberties, and should live with respect, and a good quality of life and are entitled to death with dignity.

Whereas in 1952, the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke opened and has provided "Care with Honor and Dignity" to thousands of Massachusetts Veterans for over 68 years and in that time countless Northampton residents have been cared for at the Soldiers' Home;

Whereas in 2010, Veteran rooms at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home were determined by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs to be non-compliant with the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standard;

Whereas in 2012, The Massachusetts Division of Capital Assets Management and Maintenence commissioned a Needs Assessment Study that determined that "*of the 278 current beds, less than 5% meet VA Standards*";

Whereas in 2013, a design to add 120 private rooms, as well as convert existing rooms thus creating 278 fully compliant beds, was approved by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) for 65% federal funding; however, the state has repeatedly failed to commit its 35% share of matching funds, required to allow for the start of construction;

Whereas in 2016, a project to create an Adult Day Health Care Program at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke was also approved by the VA for 65% funding; however, it also has never received Massachusetts' commitment for the 35% matching funds;

Whereas in November 2017, with the support of Governor Baker and the Legislature, the state approved $199 million to build a new 154-bed long-term care facility *at the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea*; while disregarding the long- documented deficiencies at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home;

Whereas the lack of sufficient space and staff were major contributing factors in the rapid spread of the Novel Coronavirus-19 at the Home which resulted in the deaths of 76 Veterans, including five

Northampton residents, who tested positive for COVID-19. This atrocity is one of our country's worst Veteran tragedies and contradicts Massachusetts' claim of being the best in the nation for Veteran benefits;

Whereas ***all Veterans deserve equal treatment*** in Massachusetts state-funded Veteran Homes; to include the same living conditions as well as proportionate funding to provide for a safe and efficient level of staffing in all departments;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the sponsors call upon the Northampton City Council to urge Governor Baker and the Massachusetts State Legislature take *immediate action to increase funding* to ensure sufficient staff, equipment and supplies to provide safe care; and to *expedite the design of the new Soldiers' Home in Holyoke* to allow for the construction of fully compliant rooms for 250 Veterans, including a toilet and shower in each bedroom, and the establishment of an Adult Day Health Care Program to meet the VA project submission date of April 15, 2021; in order to provide the best in care for "those who have borne the battle" and sacrificed their safety and well-being to preserve our nation's freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall cause a copy of this Resolution to be sent to Governor Charles Baker, House Speaker Robert DeLeo; Senate President Karen Spilka, Chairs of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs (Senator Walter F. Timilty, Representative Linda Dean Campbell, Vice Chair Senator Michael F. Rush), State Representative Lindsay Sabadosa, and State Senator Jo Comerford.

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

20.107 Resolution in Support of Actions to Combat the Public Health Crisis of Systemic Racism - 1st reading

20.107 A Resolution in Support of Actions to Combat the Public Health Crisis of Systemic Racism - 1st reading

Councilor Sciarra read the resolution in its entirety.

Councilor Foster moved to approve the resolution in first reading. Councilor Dwight seconded.

He can tell them that he has heard from some constituents who have been very supportive of this resolution and want to see the 10-point plan implemented and racism acknowledged as a public health crisis, Councilor Thorpe reported. This is a long and overdue response to something people already knew but have been reluctant to acknowledge, that racism is a public health problem that hurts people, particularly people of color and blacks. Statistics show that blacks and other people of color experience worse health issues and disparities, police violence and lack of equal access to income, wealth and healthy food, to name a few. This is a small step in the right direction. He thanked Council President Sciarra and Councilor Dwight for their guidance and leadership in crafting this resolution with him.

This resolution has been much changed since they first started; events move much faster than their ability to keep up with them, Councilor Dwight acknowledged. This was originally drafted to respond to the death of George Floyd. There have been subsequent deaths, racially-motivated deaths that essentially in many cases would qualify as lynchings. We have not moved very far, he pronounced. The vast majority are starting to recognize in the course of their all experiencing house arrest for the past four or five months and the explosion that occurred of people's level of despair and outrage, the consequences of racism that are part of the warp and weave of the fabric of this country. Racism is an integral part of what we are as a nation and we are now forced at long last to reckon with this in a very serious way with the support of the majority of the people in this country. That's unprecedented, he observed. In the civil rights movement, which was not that long ago, John Lewis's experience fighting for basic, elemental rights resulted in him having a fractured skull and putting himself in peril each time he went to advocate for his people. He stated earlier that shame is the primary driver in the soldier's home response; shame here is not a strong enough word. It doesn't encompass the level and depth of pain and the consequences experienced by people who have endured the long oppression.

The council has written multiple resolutions opposing hate. Resolutions do not carry the weight of law. What this charges them to do is to continue to do the work. There's advocating, there's marching, there's speaking out, and that moves the center of gravity of the conversation. But the job of elected officials and public servants is to review and reconsider what public safety means. Beyond that, it's not just the public safety response, it is everything else; it is the universe of their

culture. They make laws; that is one of their responsibilities as councilors. This is their charge.

He has no doubt, he volunteered. He has recently been able to experience the core of his colleagues here. They are moral people devoted to the notion of public service, and they will, he is fully confident, continue to make moral choices. This is a reinforcement for that. This doesn't create a law but it does charge them - the council - to follow through and manifest actions by their declaration. He has every confidence that this will meet with unanimous approval. He is receptive to amendments. This is not comprehensive by any stretch. He is grateful to his co-sponsors for their ethic and their consciences.

Councilor Sciarra said she would follow up and echo a lot of what Councilor Dwight said. They felt it was important to reintroduce this resolution which they started to introduce in June then held back to try to incorporate some of the responses that were happening nationally and locally, notably in Northampton, the creation of the Northampton Policing Review Commission. As noted in the resolution, the council has a history of forcefully standing against racism and bigotry and hate but they feel as if it is important to talk about the actions with the words and to assert their stand with the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus (MBLLC) and its 10-point plan.

She thanked Adele Frank and Steven Jones for their advocacy and commitment to the 10-point plan and specifically to declaring racism as a public health crisis and for delivering the news that the Board of Health voted tonight to recognize it as such. She thinks it's critical that it be done at the state level with a commitment of resources.

She pointed to the intersection of the two crises they are experiencing right now and the part that systemic racism plays in general in public health. Statistics continue to show with the coronavirus pandemic that Black and Latinx communities have significantly greater rates of coronavirus positive cases, hospitalization and mortality from the virus. So they have to acknowledge that racism is a public health crisis. It very much exacerbates for certain communities other crises. She expressed hope that the council would support this resolution and join her and Councilors Dwight and Thorpe in pushing for these actions.

Councilor Thorpe touched upon what Councilor Dwight mentioned earlier about the city council creating municipal laws. As a city council, they have to make sure that those laws are inclusive of everybody and not unjust and unfair and the cause of inequities to various groups of people.

He is very much in support of this and agrees the work on public safety is essential, Councilor Jarrett continued. He wanted to speak to concrete action they could take under the purview of the council. He knows that many municipalities conduct a periodic review of ordinances. He would suggest looking at ordinances to see if they impact people differently depending on their race; i.e. – looking at impacts on health, employment and general well-being to see if ordinances have a disparate impact on different groups of people. One example is zoning. Early zoning codes were often explicitly racist; single-family zoning and minimum lot sizes were often used to require more money to afford to live in a place. It's not intentional today but there could still be that effect. Environmental racism means some neighborhoods are healthier than others. He wondered if sponsors would consider adding something to the resolution of that additional scope for second reading.

Councilor Dwight said he would be very open to that. They are actually charged with a periodic review of ordinances. He likes the idea of somehow embedding in that a criteria of analysis that addresses this. He doesn't think that, as a rule, they have been reviewed in that way. If Councilor Jarrett is interested in drafting an amendment to that effect, it would be great, he confirmed.

Councilor Maiore thanked Councilors Sciarra, Dwight and Thorpe. She has been a long-time advocate of using a public health declaration like this since she was in grad school for public health. For multi-dimensional issues like this, it is a great way of framing it for people who want to address it. It's of course not just about violence at the hands of police, or COVID-19 or other health indicators; it is seen in housing, food deserts, education and jobs. It's acknowledging a problem and also inviting accountability. She thinks it is a very grounded thing to do and she really appreciates them doing it.

She invited sponsors to elaborate on action items #9 and #10 and whether they envisioned the

policing review commission as being the venue to explore this proposal.

Councilor Quinlan thanked sponsors. As all have pointed out, the resolution is something the City of Northampton and population as a whole would be in agreement with, and he supports it 100%. His only suggestion would be that he notices item #6 talks about encouraging a state Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity. While it is not the council's purview to create a city department, he does think they should do that here in Northampton too. Having such an office in the city would help clarify some of the rules and regulations and insure accountability, he suggested.

Councilor Nash and Councilor Foster similarly thanked and acknowledged sponsors and expressed strong support for the resolution. Both praised the way it has evolved over the past few months, especially expressing appreciation for the inclusion of the MBLLC's 10-point plan and the framing of racism as a public health crisis.

Councilor LaBarge apologized because this was not in her packet when she picked it up on Tuesday and this is the first time she's seen it but said she is very taken with it. Racism is definitely a health issue; there's no doubt about it. She asked if sponsors wanted two readings.

Councilor Sciarra said she didn't think it was necessary.

Councilor Dwight said he would like the opportunity to massage it a little more, incorporate the suggestions of Councilor Jarrett and Councilor Quinlan and bring it back in two weeks.

Councilor Thorpe thanked the health department for passing the resolution.

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

See minutes of September 3, 2020 for second reading.

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

Councilor Sciarra reviewed the items on the consent agenda, asking if anyone wished to remove an item for separate discussion. Councilor Foster requested removal of the appointment of Helen Kahn to the Licensing Commission.

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the consent agenda with the appointment of Helen Kahn removed. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda:

A. Minutes of June 4, 2020, June 18, 2020 and July 9, 2020
B. 20.097 Appointments to Various Committees – all positive recommendations, City Services Committee – 7/20/2020

Board of Registrars

Daniel Polachek, 335 South St., Northampton, MA
Term: April 2020-March 2023
Reappointment

Downtown Business Architecture Committee

Aelan Tierney, 30 Francis St., Northampton, MA
Term: July 2020-June 2023
Reappointment

Human Rights Commission

Booker Bush, MD, 119 Pine St., Florence, MA
Term: July 2020-June 2023
Reappointment

Parks & Recreation Commission

James Ryan, 56 Leonard St., Leeds, MA
Term: July 2020-June 2023
Reappointment

C. 20.098 Petitions for Annual Second Hand Dealer Licenses
Renewal licenses for the following:

Cumberland Rare Books, 9 1/2 Market Street
Petitioner: Hosea Baskin

Sun Music, LLC, dba Birdhouse Music, 164 Main Street
Petitioner: Glenn Alper

Born Again Vintage & Consignment, 4 Old South Street
Petitioner: Laura Burke

Phoenix Rising, 5 Old South Street
Petitioner: Robert Templeton

D. 20.099 Applications for Six (6) Taxicab Licenses, Jeffrey Miller - Cosmic Cab Co.
Applications for Permits for Taxi Cabs for the following vehicles:
- 2001 Chevy Suburban
- 2005 Chevy Magnum
- 2007 Chevy Suburban
- 2008 Dodge Caravan
- 2008 Black Dodge Caravan
- 2008 PT Cruiser

E. 20.106 Appointments to Various Committees - for referral to City Services Committee
Arts Council
Matthew Vanderslice, 231 Elm St. Rear, Northampton, MA
Term: July 2020-June 2023
To fill a vacancy

Lori Steiner, 18 Ridgewood Terrace, Northampton, MA
Term: July 2020-June 2023
Reappointment

Board of Health
Dr. Suzanne Smith, 134 State St., Northampton, MA
Term: July 2020-June 2023
Reappointment

Conservation Commission
Kevin Lake, 35 Washington Ave., Northampton, MA
Term: July 2020-June 2023
Reappointment

Downtown Business Architecture Committee
Emily Wright, 244 South St., Northampton, MA
Term: July 2020-June 2023
To fill a vacancy

Human Rights Commission
Nural Mohammed, 34 Michelman Ave., Apt. 2, Northampton, MA
Term: July 2020-June 2023
Reappointment

Human Rights Commission *(continued)*
Deidre Cuffee-Gray, 2 Burts Pit Rd., Northampton, MA
Term: August 2020-June 2023
To fill a vacancy

Chelsea Villareal, 23A Lyman Rd. Northampton, MA
Term: August 2020-June 2023
To fill a vacancy

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the appointment of Helen Kahn to the License Commission. Councilor Nash seconded.
Councilor Foster said she wanted to disclose what could be an appearance of a conflict of

interest. She is the director of All Out Adventures and Helen Kahn is her employee. She doesn't have any financial interest in her appointment and feels that she can vote fairly, she presented.

The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote. The following appointment was approved:

License Commission
Helen Kahn, 188 Federal St., Florence, MA
Term: July 2020-June 2026
Reappointment

Recess for Committee on Finance Meeting

At 8:52 p.m., the City Council recessed for the Committee on Finance. The Committee on Finance adjourned at 9:45 p.m. The City Council reconvened at 9:45 p.m.

Financial Orders (on 1st reading pending Finance review)
20.101 Order to Accept Donation of Easement for Olander Drive Extension – 1st reading

Financial Orders (on 1st reading pending Finance review)
20.101 An Order to Accept Donation of Easement for Olander Drive Extension - 1st reading
Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

Councilor LaBarge moved to suspend rules to allow a second reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

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

The following order passed two readings:

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council, August 20, 2020
Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz and Planning & Sustainability

20.101 An Order to Accept a Donation of an Easement for Olander Drive Extension

WHEREAS, The City obtained a MassWorks grant to fund the **Olander Drive extension** as a private road to serve the planned Village Hill North Commons affordable housing;

WHEREAS, An easement for **Olander Drive extension** and related infrastructure, utilities and retaining wall will provide the City with the rights, but none of the obligations, of a roadway and ensure city compliance with MassWorks requirements;

WHEREAS, The **Olander Drive extension** easement, and a new donation of 18.51 acres to the City for the **Mill River Greenway** (which was authorized by City Council on 12/3/2009), is shown at the Hampshire Registry, Plan Book 247, Page 66.

Ordered, that
The Mayor is authorized to accept said easement for the Olander Drive extension and associated facilities.

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

20.103 Order to Award Contract for FY2021-FY2023 Audit to Scanlon and Associates - 1st reading
20.104 An Order to Reprogram Surplus from CS Security Upgrade to CS Elevator

20.103 An Order to Award Contract for FY2021-FY2023 Audit to Scanlon and Associates - 1st reading
Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of September 3, 2020 for second reading.

20.104 An Order to Reprogram Surplus from CS Security Upgrade to CS Elevator Roof Project - 1st reading
Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

Roof Project - 1st reading

Councilor Maiore moved to suspend rules to allow a second reading. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

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

The following order passed two readings:

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council August 20, 2020

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

20.104 An Order to Reprogram Surplus from CS Security Upgrade to CS Elevator Roof Project

Ordered, that

$25,000 of surplus funds remaining in the Central Services Security Upgrade Collector's Office Project (19303-586212), be reprogrammed to the Central Services Municipal Building Elevator Roof Project (193030-585501) to be added to the original appropriation of $40,000 to provide the additional funds necessary to meet the recent lowest bid received for the repairs.

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

Financial Orders (in 2nd reading)
20.091 Order to Accept Gift of Labor and Materials to Repair Grave of George Hodestia - 2nd reading

Financial Orders (in 2nd reading)
20.091 An Order to Accept Gift of Labor and Materials to Repair Grave of George Hodestia - 2nd reading
Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Maiore seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following order passed two readings:

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council July 9, 2020

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

20.091 An Order to Accept Gift of Labor and Materials to Repair Grave of George Hodestia

Whereas, Historic Gravestone Services of 113 Michael Lane, New Salem, MA, wishes to provide labor and materials to repair the deteriorated gravestone of George Hodestia, formerly enslaved citizen and Florence resident, in Park Street Cemetery,

Ordered that,

The Northampton City Council gratefully accepts the donation of labor and materials, valued at $500, as a gift to the City of Northampton to be used for the restoration of the gravestone of George Hodestia in the Park Street Cemetery, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53 A (Grants and gifts; acceptance and expenditure).

Passed two readings and enrolled.

20.092 Order to Accept Gift of Plaque for Grave of Basil Dorsey - 2nd reading

20.092 An Order to Accept Gift of Plaque for Grave of Basil Dorsey - 2nd reading
Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Jarrett seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following order passed two readings:

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council July 9, 2020

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

20.092 An Order to Accept Gift of Plaque for Grave of Basil Dorsey

Whereas,

Basil C. Dorsey was born enslaved in 1811, took his freedom on the Underground Railroad in 1833 and lived in Florence, MA from 1844 until his death in 1872 when he was buried in the Park Street Cemetery in Northampton;

Ordered, that

The Northampton City Council gratefully accepts the donation of a plaque to be placed at his grave, valued at $1,000, and donated by Bambi Miller, as a gift to the City of Northampton, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53 A (Grants and gifts; acceptance and expenditure).

Passed two readings and enrolled.

20.093 Order to Accept $3,000 Gift from Ruggles Center for Park Street Cemetery Gravestone Repairs - 2nd reading

20.093 An Order to Accept $3,000 Gift from Ruggles Center for Park Street Cemetery Gravestone Repairs - 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 July 9, 2020

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

20.093 An to Accept $3,000 Gift from Ruggles Center for Park Street Cemetery Gravestone Repairs

Whereas,

The David Ruggles Center, a project of the Committee for Northampton, Inc., would like to provide funding for repair work, materials and professional oversight of repairs for the deteriorated gravestones of Basil Dorsey, Laura Washington, Louisa Dorsey, Nancy Jones and Charles & Gertrude Burleigh in the Park Street Cemetery,

Ordered that,

The Northampton City Council gratefully appropriates the donation of the $3,000 gift to the City of Northampton to be used toward the repair work, materials and professional oversight of repairs for these five gravestones in the Park Street Cemetery, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53 A (Grants and gifts; acceptance and expenditure).

Passed two readings and enrolled.

20.094 Order to Accept Gift up to $100,000 to Replace Fencing at Bridge Street Cemetery - 2nd reading

20.094 An Order to Accept Gift up to $100,000 to Replace Fencing at Bridge Street Cemetery - 2nd reading

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded.

Councilor Nash thanked DPW Director Donna LaScaleia again for all her work in pulling this together. This wouldn't be happening without her work.

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

The following order passed two readings:

City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council July 9, 2020

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

20.094 An Order to Accept Gift up to $100,000 to Replace Fencing at Bridge Street Cemetery

Whereas, in 2016, a Preservation Master Plan was created for the Bridge Street Cemetery, and a recommendation within this plan was the phased replacement of the Cemetery border fence as described on pages 25-27, and an anonymous donor wishes to provide necessary funding for Phase 1 of this fence replacement above and beyond the city's appropriation of $25,000 for cemetery improvements in FY2021;

Ordered that,

The Northampton City Council gratefully appropriates the donation of a gift to the City of Northampton of funds up to $100,000 to be used toward the replacement of approximately 880 linear feet of fence at the Bridge Street Cemetery, to include two gates, in accordance with the recommendations within the Preservation Master Plan for the Bridge Street Cemetery and with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53 A (Grants and gifts; acceptance and expenditure).

Passed two readings and enrolled.

Orders
20.102 Order Adopting the City of Northampton Hazard Mitigation Plan Update - 1st reading

Orders
20.102 An Order Adopting the City of Northampton Hazard Mitigation Plan Update - 1st reading

Northampton adopted the first plan 20 years ago, and the city updates the plan every five years, Office of Planning and Sustainability Director Wayne Feiden reminded. It helps for two things: planning for hazard mitigation and applying for funding. It brings departments together, brings the community together and often helps them think about what they can do differently from the last five years. Not surprisingly since the update was occuring during COVID, a lot of their discussion focused on what they could do differently as far as hazard mitigation with regard to pandemics.

The plan is a requirement for getting FEMA money for hazard mitigation projects. He pointed to projects to rebuild the retaining wall along River Road in Leeds and to raise a house out of the floodplain a few years earlier as examples of FEMA-funded projects. The city has done big projects and little projects. The reason for asking for two readings is that the plan expired a week ago, and the city has a grant application pending for a project for the Ice Pond on Route 66. With the plan expired, that project goes on hold.

Highlights of this planning process included using the COVID pandemic as a sort of lens for viewing hazard mitigation and looking at invasive plants as one of the clear climate change-related impacts, Mr. Feiden noted. Among other things, planners identified the resiliency hub city officials have been talking about as a plan priority. Doing so doesn't guarantee they will ever get funding for it but it makes it eligible for funding.

The plan identifies a couple of big projects city officials have been discussing for years such as the DPW's upgrade of the 1940's-era pumping system that releases water from the Mill River out through the dikes during a flood and the need to keep flood control dikes up to date. One important new project is updating the flood hazard mitigation maps for Northampton. These maps determine what is and is not floodplain for regulatory purposes and were last updated in 1974. As part of this process, if the flood control levy is not certified under FEMA certification, FEMA will

assume it is not adequate to protect Northampton from a flood and all Pleasant Street and all Lower Main Street will be designated as floodplain, making it virtually impossible for any new construction. Planners have been aware of this for a couple years. They are currently working on a $300,000 grant from the state to test the levy by taking core samples to move the city toward being certified. Having a plan becomes really important because that is probably the most important flood control item they can do in the next few years.

The other problem is that, without FEMA support, all the properties down on Pleasant Street on the newly-identified floodplain would be uninsurable, Councilor Dwight added. That was part of the bigger conversation about the need to supplement the stormwater management system in the city.

You're absolutely correct, Mr. Feiden agreed. Since the City Council authorized the stormwater utility, the DPW has been doing a lot of work on the levies to catch up on deferred maintenance. The drilling through the dam is for the purpose of checking the core to confirm the integrity of the core of the dam.

The dam was overbuilt in 1940 but the technology of tying a dam into the ground wasn't as strong in 1940, so the biggest weakness is water slipping under the dam during a flood. The wildcard is they don't know what FEMA is going to identify as the new 500-year flood elevation. If it says it is a foot higher, Northampton is safe because the dam was overbuilt. If they say it is six feet higher, "we may not be safe."

Councilor Jarrett thanked Councilor Sciarra and Director Feiden. He attended a public meeting on the plan back in April and was really impressed with the scope of the plan and the depth of the research and historical information. Having lived through some of the more recent events, it gave him a sense of the relative severity of events and how they impacted Northampton.

Councilor Foster asked Mr. Feiden to talk about the process of developing the resiliency hub.

It is a long process and there is a lot of uncertainty in terms of grant funding, Mr. Feiden said. They've received some small grants already to help with the planning process. Planners are doing three things: working with their partners (Community Action Pioneer Valley is almost certainly going to be the city's lead partner), applying for grants, the city for grants it is eligible for and CAPV for grants it is eligible for, and, with one eye, watching the real estate market. They don't think it is the role of the city to run the hub – they think it should be run by a non-profit – so the city is helping with grant funding and capital improvements. Incredibly sadly, residential properties are not declining in price in Northampton but commercial properties probably are.

If the right funding came through and a physical site became available, it could move forward fairly quickly. If not, they are starting to talk about options for proceeding with a lighter version such as a virtual hub or a site using existing rental space.

Those are the three tracks they are working on, building their partnerships, looking for funding and watching the market, he concluded.

New Business	New Business None
Information (Charter Provision 2-7) & Study Requests	Information (Charter Provision 2-7) and Information Study Requests None
Motion to Adjourn	Upon motion made by Councilor Foster and seconded by Councilor Dwight, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 p.m. The motion carried unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote. Attest:_____ Administrative Assistant to the City Council