



Committee on City Services Organizational Meeting and the Northampton City Council

Committee Members:

Chair: Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge

Vice-Chair: Councilor Karen Foster

Councilor Rachel Maiore

Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr.

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 20, 2020

Virtual Meeting

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

At 4:07 p.m., Councilor Marianne LaBarge (Chair) called the meeting to order. On a roll call, Councilors LaBarge, Foster, Maiore and Quinlan were present.

2. MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2020

Councilor Quinlan moved to approve the minutes of June 4, 2020. Councilor Foster seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

3. ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

A. 20.097 Appointments to Various Committees - referred by City Council 7/9/2020

Board of Registrars

Daniel Polachek, 335 South St., Northampton, MA

Term: April 2020-March 2023

Reappointment

Councilor Maiore said she had a nice talk today with Dan Polachek, and he does in fact want to continue serving on the Board of Registrars. They had a dynamic conversation about what the mail-in ballot process is going to look like and how to verify mail-in ballots. **She moved to positively recommend Dan Polachek for reappointment to the Board of Registrars.** Councilor Foster seconded.

Councilor Quinlan commented that Mr. Polachek lives around the corner from him. He thinks his heart is in a great place to serve the city. **The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.**

Downtown Business Architecture Committee

Aelan Tierney, 30 Francis St., Northampton, MA

Term: July 2020-June 2023

Reappointment

Councilor Quinlan said he had a brief but informative phone call with Ms. Tierney. She has been working in architecture since 1992 and has been a certified architect since 2007. As an architect herself, she feels really strongly about the look of Northampton and the city's commitment to that look. She feels it is important for her to be part of this group because of her professional expertise. She mentioned specifically that she is invested in this city and invested in upholding the standards of the Downtown Business Architecture Committee, particularly in the central business district.

He asked about the work of the committee and how members work together. She is thrilled with the partnership on the board because her commitment to the city and expertise is mirrored in all its members. She said there's really great buy-in from everybody who participates for the mission of the committee.

Councilor Quinlan moved to forward the appointment of Aelan Tierney with a positive recommendation. Councilor Maire seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

Human Rights Commission

Booker Bush, MD, 119 Pine St., Florence, MA

Term: July 2020-June 2023

Reappointment

Councilor Foster said she had a great phone conversation with Dr. Bush, who is seeking reappointment to the Human Rights Commission (HRC). His interest in human rights has been revitalized by national and local issues. They talked a little bit about the role of the HRC. He said recruitment has been a little bit of a challenge and he is interested in taking that on and seeking new members. At a recent meeting of the HRC, he offered to serve on the policing review commission in Northampton as one of the mayoral appointments, since one NPRC member is required to be a member of the HRC. Dr. Booker is an African American man and very interested in serving in that role. One of the things he brought out is that when the Northampton State Hospital closed, many people with psychiatric disabilities didn't have the services they were accustomed to. He likened the need for planning and thoughtful discussion around police reform to this transition. He is very interested and invested in doing that work.

Councilor Maire added that she served with Dr. Bush on the HRC and he really brought so much to it. She was hoping he would be interested in serving on the joint police commission. He's got an ability to see a lot of things at one time.

Councilor Foster moved to positively recommend Dr. Booker Bush for appointment to the HRC. Councilor Quinlan seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

License Commission

Helen Kahn, 188 Federal St., Florence, MA

Term: July 2020-June 2026

Reappointment

Councilor LaBarge gave a report and recommendation on the appointment of Helen Kahn to the License Commission. Helen is very pleased to apply to come back on the License Commission.

She has really learned a lot from being on that board. It's a lot of work. She came in as a fill in for somebody who had to resign. One thing that bothers her is she was concerned that it is six-year term. She asked Ms. Krutzler if she could check out why it is such a long term.

Councilor LaBarge moved a positive recommendation for Helen Kahn of 188 Federal Street for a term from July 2020 to June 2026.

Councilor LaBarge initiated a brief discussion of the process for handling reappointments. She wondered if the committee could dispense with interviewing applicants for reappointments and simply automatically approve reappointments as long as the mayor's office has confirmed that the person is willing to continue serving. She asked Krutzler to find out if this adjustment would require a change to the council rules.

[Note: review of the rules indicated that it would *not* require a rule change since the only description of the City Services Committee's responsibilities in the council rules is as follows:

2.6.1.3. COMMITTEE on CITY SERVICES

2.6.1.3.1 Jurisdiction. Matters related to the activities and operation of municipal government.

2.6.1.3.2 The Committee shall serve as the standing committee to review all candidates for appointment to boards and commission in accordance with Section 2-10 of the Charter.

2.6.1.3.3 The Committee shall consist of four Councilors.]

Councilor Foster said she hears Councilor LaBarge's concern about extra steps, but, as she thinks about, it feels like a separation of powers if the mayor makes appointments and the city council confirms them. She wondered if, even though it feels like a duplication of effort, it helps toward keeping the executive and legislative powers separate.

Councilor LaBarge repeated her motion for a positive recommendation. Councilor Maiore seconded. Councilor Foster disclosed that both Helen Kahn and her daughter Harper Brooks Kahn work for her at All Out Adventures. She said she has no financial interest in the appointment and feels that she can be impartial. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

Parks & Recreation Commission

James Ryan, 56 Leonard St., Leeds, MA

Term: July 2020-June 2023

Reappointment

She couldn't tell them the involvement both he and his wife have in the community, Councilor LaBarge shared. Mr. Ryan has spent two years on the Recreation Commission, and he just loves it. He works tirelessly. Mr. Ryan and his wife are highly involved in the Elks in Northampton and also with the St. Pat's association. Whenever there is any help in the city, you will see Jim and his wife there. He really enjoys Parks & Recreation and would like to serve two more years.

Councilor LaBarge moved a positive recommendation for James Ryan. Councilor Quinlan seconded.

Councilor Foster said she had the pleasure of serving with him on Parks & Recreation and would echo what she'd said. **The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.**

Councilor LaBarge announced that there will be no City Services Committee meeting for the month of August. She wished everyone a nice vacation.

Councilor LaBarge brought up the need to reschedule the September meeting since the first Monday of the month falls on Labor Day. Councilor agreed to meet Wednesday, September 9th.

Councilor LaBarge announced her intention to bring in Central Services Director David Pomerantz and Parks and Recreation Director Ann Marie Moggio in September. She asked members to forward any specific questions for department heads to Laura prior to the meeting. Ms. Krutzler agreed to send an email to the mayor's office tomorrow requesting their presence.

4. **Adjourn**

There being no further business, Councilor Foster moved to adjourn. Councilor Quinlan seconded. The motion carried 4:0 by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

Prepared By:

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