



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WALLACE J. PUCHALSKI MUNICIPAL BUILDING
212 MAIN STREET, NORTHAMPTON
Northampton, MA
January 7, 2014**

The Organizational meeting of the 2014-2015 City Council was called to order by City Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge, Per Northampton City Charter Article 11-4, Section 2 (8) at 3:05 p.m. Nine (9) Councilors were present:

- At-Large Councilor Jesse M. Adams
- At-Large Councilor William H. Dwight
- Ward 1 Councilor Maureen T. Carney
- Ward 2 Councilor Paul D. Spector
- Ward 3 Councilor Ryan R. O'Donnell
- Ward 4 Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra
- Ward 5 Councilor David A. Murphy
- Ward 6 Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge
- Ward 7 Councilor Alisa F. Klein

Appointment and Swearing-In of Mary L. Midura, Clerk of the City Council

Councilor Dwight moved approval; Councilor Carney seconded. The motion passed on a Voice Vote of 9 Yes, 0 No.

Wendy Mazza, City Clerk administered the oath of office to Ms. Midura.

ROLL CALL – Nine (9) City Councilors were present.

ELECTION of City Council President

Councilor Spector moved to Open Nominations; Councilor Adams seconded. The motion to Open Nominations passed on Voice Vote of 9 Yes, 0 No.

Councilor LaBarge nominated Councilor Dwight for City Council President; Councilor Adams seconded.

Councilors Spector, LaBarge, and Carney noted their appreciation for Councilor Dwight's leadership, dedication and task well done following the new City Charter.

Councilor Carney moved to Close Nominations; Councilor Adams seconded. The motion to Close Nominations passed on Voice Vote of 9 Yes, 0 No.

Councilor Dwight noted that, while a reluctant president, he has grown to appreciate his role, especially under the new City Charter. Councilor Dwight thanked fellow Councilors for their cooperation and kindness. As President, Councilor Dwight noted he wants to demystify government, to let residents know that City Councilors are their neighbors and friends.

City Councilors moved to Elect William H. Dwight as City Council President for 2014-2015 City Council session on Roll Call Vote of 9 Yes, 0 No.

City Council President Dwight presided over the meeting.

Council President Dwight asked Clerk Mary Midura to review the information provided in City Council packets. City Council packets include City Council meeting schedules, City Council Rules, Open Meeting Law, Conflict of Interest Law, Online Ethics Training instructions, copy of City Charter, Executive Session instructions, Super Majority Rules, and Preference Sheet for Council Committee Assignments.

ELECTION of City Council Vice-President

Councilor Spector moved to Open Nominations; Councilor Carney seconded. The motion to Open Nominations passed on Voice Vote of 9 Yes, 0 No.

Councilor LaBarge nominated Councilor Adams for City Council Vice President; Councilor Spector seconded.

Councilors LaBarge and Dwight noted their appreciation for Councilor Adams' work on the new City Charter and redesign of City Council Rules and Committees.

Councilor Carney moved to Close Nominations; Councilor Spector seconded. The motion to Close Nominations passed on Voice Vote of 9 Yes, 0 No.

City Councilors moved to Elect Jesse M. Adams as City Council Vice President for 2014-2015 City Council session

	<p>Councilor Adams noted his thanks to fellow Councilors, and offered his assistance if any Councilors had any concerns regarding the new structure of the City Council Rules and Committees.</p> <p>City Councilors moved to Elect Jesse M. Adams as City Council Vice President for 2014-2015 City Council session on Roll Call Vote of 9 Yes, 0 No.</p>
<p><u>Appointment of Enrollment Committee</u></p>	<p>Appointment of Enrollment Committee</p> <p>Council President Dwight appointed Councilor Adams and Councilor Klein to the Enrollment Committee. The Enrollment Committee signs all approved Resolutions, Orders and Ordinances passed by City Council.</p>
<p><u>Order: Setting Council Joint Rules and Orders for 2014-2015</u></p>	<p>Order: City Council Joint Rules and Orders for 2014-2015 (1st Reading)</p> <p>Councilor LaBarge moved approval in first reading; Councilor Spector seconded.</p> <p>Councilor Adams moved to Amend, with the following language: "All measures referred to a committee must be reported back to the full City Council with either a positive recommendation, a negative recommendation, or without a recommendation within 60 days". Councilor Spector seconded.</p> <p>Councilor Carney noted that, due to scheduling of meetings, some Council Committees may need more than 60 days to make recommendations.</p> <p>Councilor Carney offered the following language: "... within 90 days". Councilor Adams accepted, as a Friendly Amendment.</p> <p>The motion to approve the Amendment passed on a Voice Vote of 9 Yes, 0 No.</p> <p>The motion to approve in first reading, as Amended, passed on a Voice Vote of 9 Yes, 0 No.</p> <p>See meeting of January 16, 2014 for second reading.</p>
<p><u>Order: Setting date and time of 2014-2015 City Council Meetings</u></p>	<p>Order: Setting date and time of 2014-2015 City Council Meetings (1st Reading)</p> <p>Councilor Spector moved approval in first reading; Councilor Adams seconded.</p> <p>Councilor Spector requested that City Councilors consider changing the August 14, 2014 meeting to August 7, 2014 or August 21, 2014.</p> <p>Councilor Murphy suggested consideration to change the start time to an earlier time. Councilors LaBarge, Carney and Spector dissented. Councilor Adams and Council President Dwight noted that there may be a future Order to adopt State Law regarding Remote participation.</p> <p>Councilor Carney suggested the Council look at Rule 27 Ending Time of Meeting. Councilor Adams noted that the rule could be deleted entirely or kept, as is, with the option for reconsideration, as used at the City Council meeting of December 5, 2013.</p> <p>The motion to approve in first reading, with no Amendments submitted, passed on a Voice Vote of 9 Yes, 0 No.</p> <p>See meeting of January 16, 2014 for second reading.</p>
<p><u>City Councilors will receive Open Meeting Law Materials and Instructions for Online Training: Conflict of Interest Law</u></p>	<p>City Councilors will receive Open Meeting Law Materials and Instructions for Online Training: Conflict of Interest Law</p> <p>Ms. Midura, Clerk of City Council, requested City Councilors return their signatures and Certificate for materials received and online training completed by February 7, 2014.</p>
<p><u>City Councilors will receive Checklist of Council Committees for Requested Preference of Service</u></p>	<p>City Councilors will receive Checklist of Council Committees for Requested Preference of Service</p> <p>Council President Dwight requested that City Councilors return their preferences, and to rank their preferences in order for Council Committee service, to him as soon as possible.</p>

Updates from Council President

Council President Dwight noted that he has asked City Solicitor Alan Seewald to present information at the February 6, 2014 City Council meeting regarding Open Meeting Law and Ethics.

Councilor Murphy asked Council President Dwight to explain the Rule of Necessity for the benefit of new City Councilors. Council President Dwight noted that Rule of Necessity requires that City Council vote in the most open form of government. There may be conflicts, or appearance of conflicts, in which a City Councilor must abstain from a vote. If in doubt, City Councilors are free to contact City Solicitor Seewald or the State Ethics Commission for further guidance.

Information Requests (Charter Provision 2-7)

None

New Business

None

At 3:46 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Spector and seconded by Councilor Carney. The vote to adjourn passed on a Voice Vote of 9 Yes, 0 No.

Attest: _____, Clerk of Council

