



Public Works Committee of the City Council

**Councilor Paul D. Spector
Councilor Jesse M. Adams
Councilor Alisa F. Klein**

**Location: City Council Chambers
210 Main St., Northampton**

4/9/2015 - Minutes

1. Opening

At 5:05 pm Councilor Spector called the meeting to order. Present were: Councilor Spector (Chair) and Councilor Adams (member). City Councilors Sciarra, O'Donnell, and LaBarge were also present.

2. Discussion Regarding Water Sewer Rates for FY2016 (15.396)

Mayor Narkewicz explained the process for establishing new rates for water and sewer; the Mayor's new Administrative Order now calls for the Mayor to set the rate for water and sewer fees. The Department of Public Works, in consultation with the Public Works Commission, will make a recommendation for these utility fees; the Mayor will take this recommendation under advisement before setting the rate. Once determined, a Financial Order, as drafted by the Mayor, will be forwarded to the City Council for a vote.

Ned Huntley, Director of the DPW was on hand to share information about the reason for the proposed rate increase. He explained that the department had several priorities to address water/sewer system deficiencies. Regarding Water, the department plans to address fire flow deficiencies, as well as major system improvements in the water distribution system. On the sewer side, the department planned to continue to address core needs to ensure regulatory compliance as defined in its Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan of 2009.

Many members were on hand to voice concerns about the proposed utility rate increase and asked the Mayor to reconsider his proposed rate increase.

3. Ordinances Regarding Single Use Plastic Bag Ban Technical Amendment

Councilor Adams moved to add the Youth Commission as sponsors to the Ordinance; Councilor Spector seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 2 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Klein).

Councilor Adams moved to change the thickness of banned bags to 3.0 mills or less. Councilor Spector seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 2 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Klein).

4. New Business

None

5. Adjourn

At 7:15 pm Councilor Adams moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Spector seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 2 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Klein).

Prepared By:

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