



Committee on City Services and the Northampton City Council

Committee Members:

Chair: Councilor Maureen T. Carney
Vice-Chair: Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge
Councilor Dennis P. Bidwell
Councilor James Nash

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 7, 2018, 4 p.m.
Location: City Council Chambers
212 Main St., Northampton, Massachusetts

Present: Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge, Acting Chair
Councilor Dennis P. Bidwell
Councilor James Nash

Absent: Councilor Maureen T. Carney

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

At 4 p.m., Councilor LaBarge called the meeting to order. On a roll call, Councilors Bidwell, LaBarge and Nash were present. Councilor Carney was excused.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There being no members of the public present, there was no public comment.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilor Bidwell moved to approve the minutes of March 5, 2018. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion carried 3:0.

4. **ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

A. **18.082 Appointments to the Arts Council and Housing Authority - referred by City Council, 04/05/2018**

Arts Council

John Thorpe, 97 South St., Northampton, MA 01060

Term: April 2018 - June 2021

(To replace the expired term of Herbert Ross)

Eamonn Edge, 56 Summer St., Northampton, MA 01060

Term: April 2018 - June 2019

(To replace the term of Joe Pesce)

Dara Herman Zierlan, 49 Lyman Road, Northampton, MA

Term: April 2018 - June 2021
(To replace the expired term of Eric Olsson)

Northampton Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

Fenessa Hayde, 17B Hampshire Heights, Northampton, MA

Term: April 2018 - June 2023
(To replace the expired term of Ronald Hebert)

John Thorpe and Fenessa Hayde have withdrawn their applications, Councilor LaBarge reported.

He spoke with Mr. Edge on the phone several days ago, Councilor Nash related. He has already attended some Arts Council meetings. He has always been interested in the arts and is in design by trade. He studied journalism at UMass and has been working in media-related industries for the last 20 years. Of note, he is interested in helping the Arts Council better connect with the high school and school system to inform students about careers in the arts and in encouraging/promoting pop-up art galleries, especially in empty storefronts downtown. He was initially drawn to the Arts Council by the competition for art space on utility boxes. He recommended forwarding his appointment with a positive recommendation.

Councilor Nash moved to forward the appointment of Eamonn Edge with a positive recommendation. Councilor Bidwell seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0.

Dara Zierlan has an extensive background in teaching art but is in the process of retiring, Councilor Bidwell shared. She also is interested in strengthening the connection between the arts and the schools but less for vocational purposes and more for exposure to galleries, exhibits and joint programs. She is particularly interested in arts festivals and festivals that combine art with green principals. She has enthusiasm and ideas, and her husband is also an artist.

Councilor Bidwell moved to forward the appointment of Dara Herman Zierlan with a positive recommendation. Councilor Nash seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0.

With regard to Fenessa Hayde, Councilor LaBarge said she spoke to her last week and she was very interested in serving on the Housing Authority. However, the Mayor learned that she had moved from Hampshire Heights. He was particularly interested in having a member of that association on the board, so she withdrew her application.

5. New Business

18.099 Appointments to Various Boards and Committees

Board of Health

Dr. Cynthia Suopis, 120 Coles Meadow Rd., Northampton, MA – **Councilor Bidwell**

Term: July 2018-June 2021
(Reappointment)

Laurent Levy, 4 School Street, Northampton, MA – **Councilor Nash**

Term: July 2018-2021
(Replacing the expired term of Donna Salloom)

Conservation Commission

Jack Finn, 57 King St., Suite B, Northampton, MA – **Councilor LaBarge**

Term: July 2018-June 2021

(Reappointment)

Historical Commission

Barbara Blumenthal, 39 Chapel St., Northampton, MA – **Councilor Carney**

Term: July 2018-June 2021

(Reappointment)

Housing Partnership

James Reis, 108 Coles Meadow Rd., Northampton, MA – **Councilor Nash**

Term: July 2018-June 2021

(Reappointment)

Human Rights Commission

Joel Morse, 51 Vernon St., Northampton, MA – **Councilor Bidwell**

Term: July 2018-June 2021

(Reappointment)

License Commission

Brian Campedelli, 223 Cardinal Way, Florence, MA – **Councilor LaBarge**

Term: July 2018-June 2021

(Reappointment)

At the May 3, 2018 City Council meeting, seven individuals were referred to the City Services Committee for appointment at the June meeting, Councilor LaBarge advised. Members assigned themselves to interview particular candidates as indicated above.

Councilor Bidwell said he's heard more complaints from residents about paving issues (i.e. – potholes) recently than any other topic. One resident in particular presented concerns at one of the Mayor's budget meetings that the city will continue falling further and further behind and never be able to catch up with deferred maintenance. He proposed initiating a concentrated effort over a two-year period to bring the streets and roads back to acceptable conditions. Councilor Bidwell wondered whether the committee wanted to invite DPW Director Donna LaScaleia to discuss whether a more concerted effort to address the problem might be warranted.

Councilor Nash agreed that having a conversation and putting a price tag on the project would be productive. Councilor Bidwell said he would send an e-mail to Councilor Carney proposing the discussion.

6. Adjourn

Upon motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

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