



Committee on Legislative Matters and the Northampton City Council

Members

Councilor William H. Dwight, Chair

Councilor Maureen Carney

Councilor Alisa F. Klein

Councilor David A. Murphy

MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 9, 2018, Time: 5 p.m.

Location: City Council Chambers, 212 Main St., Northampton, Massachusetts

1. **Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call:** At 5 p.m., Councilor William H. Dwight called the meeting to order. On a roll call, the following councilors were present: Councilor Carney, Councilor Dwight, Councilor Klein and Councilor Murphy. Also present was: Councilor James Nash
2. **Announcement of Audio and Video Recording**
Councilor Dwight announced that the meeting was being audio and video recorded for broadcast by Northampton Community Television.
3. **Public Comment:**
There being no members of the public present, there was no public comment.
4. **Minutes of September 24, 2018**
Councilor Carney moved to approve the minutes of September 24, 2018. Councilor Murphy seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0.
5. **Items Referred to Committee**
 - A. **18.123 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 312-110 of the Code Book - referred by City Council to LM and TPC - 6/21/2018**
Councilor Klein moved to forward the ordinance with a positive recommendation. Councilor Carney seconded.

Members discussed that, although the ordinance was originally referred to Legislative Matters in June, the committee has not yet made a recommendation because the recommendation of the Transportation and Parking Commission (TPC) is still pending. TPC Chair Jim Nash explained extenuating circumstances that led to TPC's action being delayed. The Mayor's office would like to expedite the approval process since it is beginning to hold up work to activate new parking kiosks in the Strong Avenue parking lot, it was noted.

Members discussed options for expediting action, including holding a committee meeting within the regular City Council meeting on October 18th, since this would be after the regular TPC meeting on October 16th at which its recommendation would be forthcoming.

Councilor Murphy moved to postpone the item until the next City Council meeting. Councilor Carney seconded.

Mrs. Krutzler offered the clarification that, according to its wording, City Council Rule 2.6.1.4 allows the Legislative Matters Committee to be the last committee to act when ordinances are also referred to other bodies, but it does not *require* them to await the recommendation of other committees. In other words, it is not a violation of council rules for Legislative Matters to exercise discretion to act prior to receiving a recommendation from the TPC.

Councilor Murphy offered the suggestion of making a positive recommendation subject to a positive recommendation from the TPC.

Councilor Klein expressed the opinion that, based on the information before them, it seems appropriate for them to act without waiting for the TPC. She said she'd like to make a motion to that effect. Councilor Dwight pointed out that this is already a standing motion but requested that that motion be amended to include 18.125.

Councilor Klein amended her motion to move 18.123 and 18.125 as a group. Councilor Murphy asked if she would be agreeable to a friendly amendment making the recommendation contingent on a positive recommendation from the TPC, and Councilor Klein accepted the friendly amendment. Councilor Carney seconded the amended motion. The amended motion passed unanimously 4 Yes, 0 No.

B. 18.125 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 312-104 of the Code Book - referred by City Council to LM and TPC - 6/21/2018

See above. Forwarded to the full City Council along with 18.123 with a positive recommendation.

C. 18.172 An Ordinance Relative to Parking on Union Street, Referred by City Council - 10/4/2018

The purpose is to create a 15-minute parking space on Union Street, Councilor Dwight confirmed. He read the text of the ordinance

Councilor Murphy moved to put the ordinance on the floor for discussion. Councilor Carney seconded.

Councilor Nash referred to an accompanying diagram showing the proposed parking space. He has had lots of complaints about the parking for pick-up and drop-off at the Bridge Street School, he explained. One of the many things he is trying to address is to facilitate a parking spot for pick-up and drop-off.

The ordinance is creating a limited-time parking space to allow parents to drop off kids and run into the school during the day for brief errands. It came out of the TPC with a positive recommendation, he confirmed.

"I actually thinks this makes perfect sense," Councilor Dwight observed.

Councilor Nash said he would like to amend the ordinance to specify that it be effective Monday through Friday instead of Monday through Saturday.

Councilor Murphy moved to amend the ordinance to specify M-F instead of M-S. Councilor Klein seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0.

Councilor Dwight called the motion to forward the ordinance with a positive recommendation to a vote, and it passed unanimously 4:0.

D. 18.173 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 312-36 of the Code Book, Referred by City Council - 10/4/2018

Councilor Dwight said he suspects this will generate some public interest. He expressed the understanding that it will be taken up at the next TPC meeting. The proposal is to adjust the charges for the E.J. Gare Parking Garage, he observed.

The proposal will also be reviewed by the Finance Committee, members discussed. Former Ward 3 City Councilor Owen Freeman-Daniels and At Large Councilor Jesse Adams were very concerned that any modification to the fee structure at the garage be fully vetted by the Finance Committee as well as the City Council, Councilor Dwight reminded. He expressed the opinion that it would be premature for Legislative Matters to address now since the Finance Committee and TPC have not yet reviewed the proposal.

Councilor Klein moved to postpone addressing the ordinance until such time as Legislative Matters has heard from the other committees, including the Finance Committee.

Councilor Carney noted that since the Ordinance has not yet been referred to the Finance Committee, it will have to be reintroduced to the City Council for referral to the Finance Committee after the TPC's review.

Councilor Carney seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4 Yes, 0 No.

6. New Business

None

7. Adjourn

Councilor Klein moved to adjourn. Councilor Carney seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Prepared By:

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