



CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
MASSACHUSETTS

City Councilors:

Marissa Elkins, At-Large

Garrick, At-Large

Stanley W. Moulton, III, Ward 1

Deborah L. Pastrich-Klemer, Ward 2

Quaverly H. Rothenberg, Ward 3

Jeremy Dubs, Ward 4

Alex Jarrett, Ward 5 - President

Marianne LaBarge, Ward 6

Rachel Maiore, Ward 7 - Vice President

Meeting Agenda
City Council Chambers
212 Main Street, Northampton
Thursday, January 18, 2024, 7 p.m.

The January 18, 2024 City Council meeting will be conducted in hybrid format with the option for both councilors and the public to attend in person or participate remotely. The public may follow the council's deliberations by attending in person, watching the meeting live on Comcast channel 15, live-streaming it on YouTube [here](#) or joining the virtual meeting by phone or computer. Live public comment begins at 7 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CALLING IN OR JOINING THE MEETING

Join the meeting: [PUBLIC MEETING LINK](#)

For telephone call-in, call:

+929 436-2866 US

MEETING ID: 819 5424 0577

PARTICIPANT#: #

PASSCODE: 018897

1. Roll Call

2. Announcement that meeting is being Audio/Video Recorded

This meeting is being audio/video recorded.

3. Public Hearings

4. Public Comment

5. Announcements from Councilors and the Mayor

6. Presentations

A. Open Meeting Law, Conflict of Interest and Public Records Law

Review by Alan Seewald, Esq.

7. Consent Agenda

Rule 4.4.4 There shall be no debate or discussion by any City Council member regarding any item on the Consent Agenda, beyond asking questions for simple clarification.

Rule 4.4.5 Any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda upon the request of any City Council member prior to the taking of a vote on the motion to approve it. All such items will be considered individually, in the order in which they were removed, immediately following consideration of the Consent Agenda.

A. Minutes of January 3, 2024 Organizational Meeting and January 4, 2024 Regular Meeting

Documents:

[01-03-2024_City Council Organizational Meeting.pdf](#)

[01-04-2024_City Council Meeting.pdf](#)

B. 24.004 Appointment of Kala Fisher as Auditor, for referral to City Services

Documents:

[24.004 Kala Fisher Appointment Memo.pdf](#)

8. Financial Orders (on 1st reading)

Rule 2.6.1.1.1 Process. Financial orders will be introduced and discussed at a full City Council meeting and referred to either the consent agenda of a future meeting or the Finance Committee for more public input, discussion and recommendation.

A. 24.006 An Order to Appropriate \$34,057 from Stabilization for a HPHW Heater at the Senior Center - 1st reading

Documents:

[24.006 An Order to Appropriate 34,057 for a HPHW Heater at the Senior Center.pdf](#)

9. Financial Orders (on 2nd reading)

10. Orders

A. 24.005 An Order Authorizing Temporary Construction Easements for Rocky Hill Greenway - 1st reading

Documents:

[24.005 An Order Authorizing Aquisition of Temporary Construction Easements for Rocky Hill Greenway.pdf](#)

[24.005 Rocky Hill Greenway OOT.pdf](#)

11. Ordinances (Not Yet Referred)

Rule 5.2.3 provides that no ordinance shall be voted on by the City Council until it has been considered by the Committee on Legislative Matters.

12. Zoning Ordinances (Not yet Referred)

Rule 5.2.3 provides that no ordinance shall be voted on by the City Council until it has been considered by the Committee on Legislative Matters.

13. Ordinances

14. Zoning Ordinances

15. Resolutions

16. Information Requests (Charter Provision 2-7) and Committee Study Requests

17. New Business

Rule 4.9 NEW BUSINESS. Any Councilor may introduce any written proposed order, ordinance, or resolution to be considered by the Council at the next meeting, but not to be debated during new business.

18. Adjourn

Contact: Alex Jarrett, City Council President

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Phone: (413) 320-4700



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- Marianne L. LaBarge, Ward 6
- Rachel Maiore, Ward 7

Northampton City Council
Minutes of the Organizational Meeting
of January 3, 2024
Council Chambers, 212 Main Street, 4 p.m.
The meeting was presided over by City Councilor Marianne LaBarge

1. Roll Call

At 4 p.m., Councilor LaBarge convened the meeting. On a roll call, the following councilors were present:

- Marissa Elkins, Councilor At-Large
- Garrick Perry, Councilor At-Large
- Stanley W. Moulton, III, Ward 1
- Deborah Pastrich-Klemer, Ward 2
- Quaverly Rothenberg, Ward 3
- Jeremy Dubs, Ward 4
- Alex Jarrett, Ward 5
- Marianne L. LaBarge, Ward 6
- Rachel Maiore, Ward 7

2. Election of a City Council President for 2024 – 2025

Councilor LaBarge briefly described the procedure she would use in accepting nominations, then opened the floor to nominations for council president.

Councilor Elkins nominated Ward 5 Councilor Jarrett. Councilor Moulton seconded.

Councilor Rothenberg nominated Councilor Maiore. Councilor Pastrich-Klemer seconded.

There being no further nominations, Councilor LaBarge announced that nominations were closed.

Councilor LaBarge offered Councilor Jarrett the opportunity to make a statement.

Councilor Jarrett said he wanted to speak first to this role and what he would bring to it. He believes he has the skills, experience, discernment, knowledge of process and knowledge of subject matter needed to serve successfully, he related. He has served on the Northampton Housing Partnership (NHP), Northampton Energy and Sustainability Commission (NESC), Northampton Policing Review Commission (NPRC) and Community Resources and has chaired Legislative Matters for the last two years, during which they have had some contentious meetings. He has tried and believes succeeded in bringing a friendly and welcoming presence yet firm hand when the rules require it, being efficient without rushing matters. He has

also attended many other board and commission meetings both to learn and to advocate for his constituents.

He also has 21 years of consensus decision-making facilitation as part of his business – Pedal People – which is a worker cooperative. In that structure, owner/employees come together as a collective, meaning they all meet together and work to achieve consensus. There are times that they can't but, doing that – reconciling different points of view and having those deep conversations necessary to find a good path forward - has brought him a lot of experience in trying to find consensus. Coming from that, it was a little strange at first to come into the role of the city council with majority rule but he is heartened by how much they do achieve consensus and thinks their decisions are better for the time they take to do that. Another thing he brings is listening and building relationships with all councilors. He has spent time with all of them and past councilors as well. Whether or not they agree on every issue, he cares about them and helping them to achieve their goals and serve their constituents. That comes from listening to many viewpoints, not just the loudest ones. Running for office, he knocked on as many doors as he could and found that his viewpoints shifted as he talked to more and more people. Only a small fraction of their constituents reach out to them, so it is very necessary to reach out and he brings that also to them as a council.

He also brings communication skills, Councilor Jarrett continued. First, for his constituents in Ward 5, he publishes an extensive monthly newsletter that he has been told is very helpful for folks around the city. His skills with councilors include cosponsoring legislation and he is very comfortable communicating with the Mayor and the media. In the role of council president, he is committed to fully communicating the issues before them to make sure each of them understands the issue, the process they need to take and what their options are.

He also brings a flexibility of time; as each of them knows, this job can be highly variable. In his other job, he has the flexibility to adjust to that. All of them bring different skills and experiences and identities. As a white, straight, cis gender man not living with a disability, he thinks a lot about stepping back and making room for other people to lead. Growing up he was shy; stepping up is not the default for him. He is stepping forward now because he believes the skills, judgment and experience he can offer is what the council needs this term. He is also mindful of any unaware sexism, racism or other forms of oppression he may act out despite his best intentions and welcomes feedback in whatever role he ends up playing.

He wants them not to forget the urgency of this work. They all ran for a reason, and, as president, he will want to help each of them move their work forward, serve their constituents and support them as leaders. He appreciated Councilor Nash's leadership in that he shared leadership broadly and he brings that as well. Sometimes this work feels like they are pushing an elephant. It feels very slow, but he has found that it does move. For example, serving on the policing review commission, its key recommendation was a Division of Community Care (DCC) under the health department and, three years later, they see that that has happened. It is very heartening although it is sometimes frustrating to see how long real change takes to happen. They all have thousands of constituents. If he thinks about all the people he has met since he first started running in 2019, when he asks what it means to care about each of them, as they do this work and take each vote, he wants them to hold a radical vision of Northampton that actually works for everyone. Northampton is a wonderful city that he loves. He is hopeful about its future and knows their decisions make a difference. He knows there is also a lot of pain and difficulty for many of them: financial stress, isolation, housing insecurity, workplace fears, COVID, war and its effects on them locally, the climate emergency, political polarization, etc. In the things they have influence over he thinks they are not doing well by everyone despite their best efforts. He is committed to making sure everyone is heard and changing what is in their power to change. It is important that the council understands the power that it has and uses that power. In his two terms, his knowledge has allowed them to move on things that might not have happened without it. Back in the fall of 2020, he proposed an amendment to an anti-racism resolution that was passed. (He read the amendment aloud.)

This amendment helped to guide the Ordinance Review Committee and is a perspective that he will continue to bring to the council, not just for racial inequity but for all who are facing oppression and struggle. He wants them as a public body to embody a sense of hope and optimism and possibility and justice; they elect a leader but they all do this together. He thanked them for considering him for the role of council president.

Councilor LaBarge offered Councilor Maiore the opportunity to make a statement.

Councilor Maiore commented that each person here has shown up for their community in a big way and not necessarily an easy way and she has so much respect for that. As they may know, she has chaired the Finance Committee and has presided over the budget hearings and the budget listening sessions for the past two years and received lots of positive feedback from both fellow elected officials and the public that participated. Before that, she served as chair of the City Council Rules Select Committee working with Councilor LaBarge among others and that's when she got to do a deep dive into the rules and their structure and got interested in how to make their meetings more efficient. She wanted to strike a balance between supporting public engagement and respecting their time and the time of the mayor and department heads who join their meetings. The outcome of their work under her leadership is that now they have markedly shorter and more efficient meetings while still holding true to their value of public accessibility.

They have a majority of women-identified councilors. It is wonderful to be mindful of it but it feels frankly better to her to have women in actual leadership when there is a majority of women since that is definitely a dynamic that can happen. It's often these types of role that are reserved for men even in this situation. She does appreciate the commitment to address that, but there is something about that representation that is important to her and that is also why she is here. As council president, she will be committed to cultivating and maintaining a culture on council that is collaborative and lifts each other up. She looks forward to supporting committee chairs; she regards the council president and vice president as a dynamic team. As councilors, they will not always agree but as long as they interact with each other with respect, she thinks not always seeing eye-to-eye actually shows thoughtfulness and demonstrates democracy in action and a healthy balance of powers. As she enters her fifth year on council, she can confidently declare that they have an excellent council before them. She is excited to go on this two-year journey with them all, so, "let's buckle up and get going," she urged.

Councilor Statements on Nominations

Councilor Elkins said she appreciates the opportunity and is very happy to be in a position to nominate Councilor Jarrett. One thing nobody tells them when they sign up for this gig is that the very first thing they do is possibly one of the most challenging, emotional things they can do; namely, going with the people they like and are looking to establish working relationships with and doing a really hard thing [electing a chair]. She is a little disappointed to say that it hasn't been easier the second time. For those of them who are new, she knows it's hard. Whatever happens here today, "we will do this hard thing and then we will get to work" and continue to work together, she assured. "The hardest thing we do all term is this."

With that, Councilor Jarrett has earned her support and nomination. Her reasons for that are very simple; not to the exclusion of anybody else that's running, but she finds Councilor Jarrett to be incredibly hard-working. (She cited the level of preparation she sees him bring to the table.) The work that Councilor Nash did as president made her see and understand that they all depend on the council president to be prepared themselves and she has a great deal of confidence that Councilor Jarrett is ready to do so and be great at it. He has tremendous attention to detail. She has seen over and over that Councilor Jarrett knows this council's rules and procedures cold. She thinks she might have gotten a reputation for somebody who is always in a hurry (she cares very much about productive meetings and efficient meetings, she allowed). This may be perceived as her always being in a hurry, but that really isn't it. Why she feels so strongly about that and how they treat this time is that, because of the Open Meeting Law (OML) and its constraints, this time together is precious. It is the opportunity for the nine of them to speak and to speak freely among themselves. They can talk as much as they want to people outside the meeting about whatever they want but that is not the case among themselves. This is the only time they have to deliberate and have their questions answered by the mayor's office and department heads. In the course of Legislative Matters Committee meetings, etc., she has been able to see what Councilor Jarrett says about himself, which is that he runs meetings in such a way that encourages public participation but also values the time they have to work together in this limited space.

She also finds Councilor Jarrett to be scrupulously conscientious. As they know, Councilor Jarrett has a particular conflict that requires him to step out of certain budget discussions. She knows from how she has seen Councilor Jarrett deal with that that he works closely with solicitor Seewald to understand what the limits are and to comply with that. If anything, he does more than what's required in terms of dealing with that conflict. It is a very valid consideration but she is very confident that it is well within what he is prepared to deal with. She hasn't agreed with Councilor Jarrett on every issue but this role is about how productive and efficient and how well they are able to do their work for the next two years. Where there are areas of

agreement, he works and partners with people and reaches across, and where there is disagreement, he gets through that smoothly and with grace. That’s why she is voting for him, and she urged fellow councilors to join her.

Councilor Rothenberg said she appreciates that Councilor Maire has always been a voice of grace, a voice of conscience and a voice of courage. That is what she is looking for in the City Council president, someone who is inviting to the public, inclusive of them and not afraid to maintain a healthy boundary between the council, the legislative branch, and the mayor, the executive branch. She needs a president who has a proven track record of not being afraid to say something that is not in perfect harmony with the mayor even when it is the hardest, because their job is to be a check and balance.

Since they had the wonderful good fortune of not being bound by Open Meeting Law prior to being sworn in, there was plenty of discussion over a long period of time about who they would be voting for. It comes down to 4:4 and one swing vote no matter how you cut it. That’s a very close race. She wants to think about it, and, for that reason, she is raising a charter objection.

Councilors and the Administrative Assistant turned to the charter to pull up the provision spelling out the rules around charter objections. Councilor Elkins read **Section 2-9 Ordinances and Other Measures © Charter Objection** aloud.

Councilors Elkins expressed her understanding that the election would have to be taken up at the next regular meeting, scheduled for tomorrow night (January 4, 2024). However, Councilor Jarrett pointed out that the election is not on the agenda and so would need to be the subject of a special meeting posted at least 48 hours in advance.

Councilor Jarrett suggested they call the city solicitor and Councilor Moulton asked for a recess to seek a legal opinion on how to proceed.

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The City Council recessed at 4:32 p.m., during which time the Administrative Assistant sought a legal opinion from the City Solicitor. The council reconvened at 4:53 p.m.

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When the council reconvened, Councilor LaBarge recognized Administrative Assistant Laura Krutzler to report on her conversation with the city solicitor.

Attorney Seewald confirmed that, since a charter objection was raised, the election of officers should be postponed to the next regular meeting tomorrow night, Ms. Krutzler reported. Even though it is not currently on the posted agenda, because it is a matter that could not reasonably have been foreseen at the time of posting, the solicitor’s opinion is that it may be added to the January 4, 2024 agenda within the 48-hour posting deadline. He otherwise advised the council to proceed as planned with other items on the agenda.

Councilor LaBarge proceeded to the next item on the agenda, appointment of the enrollment committee.

3. Appointment of Enrollment Committee for 2024 – 2025

Councilor LaBarge asked for volunteers to serve on the enrollment committee. Councilor Moulton and Councilor Perry volunteered.

Councilor Jarrett noted that the council president generally decides on the enrollment committee, so any appointment made tonight could be changed. As the presiding officer, Councilor LaBarge designated Councilor Perry and Councilor Moulton as the enrollment committee for tonight’s meeting.

4. 24.001 An Order to Adopt Council Rules for 2024 - 2025

The rules are the same as in place for the previous council with the exception that she has incorporated minor changes to 4.8 Public Comment which were unanimously agreed to by councilors prior to the end of the last session, Ms. Krutzler explained. She reviewed the four minor changes.

Councilor Elkins moved to adopt the rules as amended. Councilor Moulton seconded.
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At this point, the Administrative Assistant received a cell phone call from the city solicitor who subsequently joined the meeting via Zoom to address the council directly.

In the few moments he's had to look at the charter, the charter objection provisions speak in terms of 'the adoption of a measure,' while the charter speaks of the *election* of officers, not the *adoption* of officers, Attorney Seewald advised. He doesn't believe elections are measures within the meaning of the charter objection section since it's an election and not the adoption of an order.

On the advice of the city solicitor, **Councilor LaBarge ruled the charter objection on the election out of order.**

Councilor Elkins and Councilor Moulton withdrew the motion to adopt the council rules.

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The Council resumed deliberations on the election of a council president.

Councilor Rothenberg asked to be recognized to continue her comment in support of Councilor Maiore's nomination.

When they discussed this before being sworn in, it was not even 4:4 with a swing vote in favor of Councilor Maiore but was 5:4 in favor of Rachel, Councilor Rothenberg asserted. If anyone feels that they have been influenced by people with wealth or the mayor, she strongly urged them to consider the values that originally had them in favor of Rachel Maiore which include - for some - that she is a woman, for some, that she has been a strong supporter of them through drafting joint legislation together, and - for some - that she included the public. When she was chairing committees, she was a trailblazer in having citizens participate from the floor. For most of them, it was for courage and grace. They really wanted Alex to be her supporting vice president because they appreciate how meticulous he is, how analytical and thoughtful he is and how well they collaborate together. They really liked that ideal combination of strong leadership with very good supporting roles. She urged them all to think about the roles of president and vice president and what yields the best outcome when they collaborate.

She thinks Councilor Maiore is the one who is going to invite the public in and who they are going to be able to follow. She wears her heart on her sleeve in a way that's never aggressive or confrontational. She's never afraid to just say plainly and quietly and kindly exactly how she feels, popular or unpopular. And in a council where they need six out of nine votes to overcome a mayoral veto on any matter, they need a leader they can really follow with ease. Rachel and Alex together would just be an ideal combination of both of their strengths. She urges them on behalf of their constituents to heed the part of the charter that says that the city council is supposed to give the voters the benefit of having the strongest use of their power. They're entitled to that; their constituents are entitled to their being the most independent, powerful council they can be. She is convinced they can get to that six of nine whenever they need it with that combination of president and vice president.

Councilor Moulton reminded his colleagues that they are currently considering nominations for president and that the two votes are separate. He appreciates that Councilor Maiore and Councilor Jarrett have been willing to step up to assume this leadership role which is critically important not only for the council but for their relationship with the executive branch and the entire city. He respects them both. When he looks at potential for leadership, he looks at the totality of experience and values that the person would bring to that position. The reasons he is supporting Councilor Jarrett are numerous. In 25 years in Northampton he has proven to be a successful entrepreneur as the cofounder and current worker/owner of the Pedal People Co-operative, a business committed to sound environmental practices with values that match the city's goals in meeting the climate crisis. Through his work at Pedal People he has also developed very effective skills for building consensus. He is a strong, strong proponent for social and economic justice and worker's rights, often framing issues around their impact on the growing wealth gap in this community, state and nation. He is driven by a sense of inclusion in his positions on issues including affordable housing, transportation, education and public safety. He's committed to making certain that the most marginalized people in their community have a voice at the table. On issues crossing ward boundaries, such as traffic calming and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists as well as motorists, he has observed how committed Councilor Jarrett is to serving not only his constituents in Ward 5 but also residents of all neighborhoods.

He has worked most closely with him on the committee on Legislative Matters which he chaired for the last two years. As chair, he was efficient in making sure that issues were defined clearly and that recommendations were reached thoughtfully after an inclusive decision-making process. Most recently that was evident as he led a joint two-night public hearing over the course of about six hours with the Planning Board on a complicated and highly technical complete revision of the outdoor lighting ordinance they as a body will soon be voting on. He did that very efficiently making sure all the issues were understood and clarified during the course of that hearing. He demonstrates an encyclopedic knowledge of council rules and always clearly communicates his reasons for a particular vote. His experience and values show that not only will he be an effective leader of the City Council but he will be a strong voice for the council and well-prepared to serve as acting mayor should that become necessary. That's why he supports Councilor Jarrett, and he urged them to join him in that support.

Councilor Pastrich-Klemer said she thinks both candidates bring a lot of strengths to this position and thinks they would be well-led by either one of them. She plans on voting for Councilor Maiore because she has worked with her over the last seven or eight years organizing rallies and marches and various other events in the community. One of Rachel's greatest strengths is bringing people together. She has led marches for thousands of people and they've all been very peaceful. She has a knack for bringing a group of organizers together to make things happen. They have been in a lot of very, very stressful situations and she's always calm and clear-headed and works with people to find a resolution. She thinks that's a great strength to have as the president.

Councilor Perry agreed with Councilor Elkins that this is the hard part but that they will get through this. There are a number of reasons he supports Councilor Jarrett. He has earned his vote; he's seen and watched how he's moved. His work ethic is almost unmatched. They've seen a little bit even at this meeting that his knowledge of the rules and this body is inspiring. When he looks to someone for questions about what's happening, often he turns his head towards him. Also, Councilor Jarrett has a great temperament. He has always been very contemplative. He has stepped up and stated his goals but he also knows that he is representing his ward and the greater community of Northampton and he respects that.

He himself is very straightforward and is not a fan of performative politics. "We are here to do a job" and he thinks Alex will do that job very effectively. He has a willingness to listen and adapt but also his principles stand strong. He will not back down and be swayed by a few voices. They are representing a lot of people and sometimes only a few people get through. The people contacting them are a small majority and he's watched Alex and knows that while he takes in all the opinions, he is willing to make the hard decisions and unfortunately, he can't say that about everyone. For him this is important especially as they are going into a term where they are going to have to make some hard decisions, whether it's the Main Street redesign or looking at other financial issues. They are going to need someone who can lead them and help build those coalitions that are needed.

One thing he has noticed being a councilor is that communication is key and Councilor Jarrett is a stellar communicator. His newsletter is a standard bearer. He finds himself looking at it and finding stuff. The way Alex explains things in detail but also in a very approachable manner is very important. For him, it is a quality that moving forward will be a great asset for the city. If anyone hasn't read his newsletters he encouraged them to check them out.

He has watched Councilor Jarrett and seen his willingness to step back for others. Last term, he knows Councilor Jarrett was thinking about running for council president but he stepped back to make room for other folks. He thinks it means a lot that now he is willing to step up. He knows that if it wasn't the right time, he would back away. Watching the way Alex is able to run meetings not only with efficiency but with a little bit of humor and other things he brings is inspiring to him, and he wants to throw his whole-hearted, loud support behind Alex for president.

Councilor LaBarge said she has worked tirelessly with Councilor Maiore ever since she was elected. She has also worked with Councilor Jarrett and she could call him and he calls back; to her that's very, very critical. She reminded Councilor Maiore that she herself had mentioned to her a couple of days ago how critical it is to her that people return her calls, and it is critical. She has to say that anytime she calls Councilor Jarrett, he calls back. That means a lot to her; she thinks the communication is very, very valuable.

She thought Rachel told her she had five votes. She received several calls today; Patty Healy looked up Councilor Jarrett’s website. She said she had talked to him about the unions and was very pleased with that and many other issues; business people right down the line and with MMA and with the nurses. She told Patti how Councilor Jarrett’s wife was a nurse and Patty Healy said she felt he was very, very strong. Another resident on Ladyslipper Lane very reputable in the city talked about how Councilor Jarrett would represent them as city councilors and the city. She had a feeling always that it would be great if they had a woman come here and sit. Today she has been hearing how they need to forget about that, how they need to look at the individual and who is going to be strong to lead them all in the right direction. That’s how they felt today about Councilor Jarrett. That has changed her mind about just placing a woman somewhere here and there. She agrees about going out for women’s rights and all that, but this is altogether different. This is somebody who is going to run our city council and somebody who is going to lead them in the right direction. She likes Councilor Jarrett and likes Councilor Maiore very much; there’s no question about it. She finds Councilor Jarrett to be fair; very, very even-tempered and smart and to understand business.

She feels as council president when he would have to recuse himself, the next vice president could step in and take over that financial part. “That is why I am voting for Councilor Jarrett,” she concluded. It has nothing to do with being a woman and placing a woman up here. “Your time will come,” she told Councilor Maiore.

Councilor Rothenberg said for the record that she objected to Attorney Seewald’s interpreting a vote or other procedure that may be adopted to mean that any vote cannot sustain a charter objection. She leaves that there in case it’s ever revisited since she also has been seeking legal advice through this.

Councilor LaBarge called the nominations to a vote, and councilors voted for their preferred candidate by roll call as follows:

- Councilor Dubs – Councilor Maiore**
- Councilor Elkins - Councilor Jarrett**
- Councilor Jarrett – Councilor Jarrett**
- Councilor LaBarge – Councilor Jarrett**
- Councilor Maiore – Councilor Maiore**
- Councilor Moulton – Councilor Jarrett**
- Councilor Pastrich-Klemer – Councilor Maiore**
- Councilor Perry – Councilor Jarrett**
- Councilor Rothenberg – abstained**

The administrative assistant announced that the vote was 5:3 in favor of Councilor Jarrett with one abstention (Councilor Rothenberg).

Councilor Jarrett assumed the position of chair.

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 Councilor Jarrett thanked fellow councilors for his election, albeit acknowledging that it was by a split vote and over an objection.

5. Election of a City Council Vice President for 2024 – 2025

Councilor Jarrett said he would follow the same procedure. He opened the floor to nominations.

Councilor Elkins nominated Councilor Perry.

Councilor LaBarge nominated Councilor Maiore. Councilor Jarrett seconded.

Councilor Perry nominated Councilor Elkins.

Councilor Jarrett offered Councilor Perry the opportunity to speak to his nomination.

Councilor Perry said he was very humbled to be nominated. This whole process seems to have been fraught with things that are troubling to him and he has been thinking about how they got to this place. There was a new councilor orientation that happened with some of the newer councilors and none of the existing councilors were a part of those proceedings. That was a chance to really unify and to bring people together, and it did the opposite. It felt very exclusive; it felt very presumptive that two councilors could

come up with an orientation without even relying on the longest standing member or other people who have served. He thinks the people who organized it were not even able to see how un-inclusive it was.

The reason he is willing to accept or is even speaking is he does not think the two people who had the orientation should be president and vice president together. He thinks there should be a counterbalance to the people who organized that. Councilor Rothenberg said they needed people who would speak up and say things. People who know him know that he is always willing to speak his mind. While he was not prepared for as much as a nomination, he does think it's important to have another option. During this process, it seems like it was presented that there were only two people worthy or willing to be leaders - Alex and Rachel - so he pushes back against that.

In terms of why he thinks he could do the job, the thing he's loved about city council is learning. He really wants this term for him to expand some of his knowledge. If he was vice president he really looks forward to learning under someone who has an encyclopedic knowledge of the rules and regulations. In terms of communication, he does well helping to bridge barriers and gaps. He often leads with his heart but is willing to accept when he is wrong and learn from his mistakes.

The role of council vice president especially post COVID has become more central, Councilor Maiore reflected. In this complex world and if they continue with hybrid meetings, they really need a dynamic team and a president and vice president that work well together in order to have the best council possible. It is a role that is more front and center than it may have been in the past with the technical issues of hybrid meetings, policy issues, zoom- bombing Nazis, etc. Alex works hard and she works very hard for this council and she would be pleased to serve them in this way.

Councilor Elkins thanked Councilor Perry for her nomination. As many know, she was looking specifically to serve in this way and that remains the case. This is definitely not a glory position. It is about the work and helping the council president which she would be very happy to do with Councilor Jarrett. She was Councilor Jarrett's vice chair on Legislative Matters; they have a shared passion for zoning issues and reform issues around housing and city planning so she knows they partner well. She is ready to do the work and remains available to do that. She would be happy for the support of anyone who could see her in this role. Because of the recusal issue, whoever is in that role would be presiding during those moments. She does run an efficient meeting and feels particularly well-equipped to handle that part of the job.

Councilor Statements on Nominations

Councilor Moulton said he appreciated Councilor Perry and Councilor Elkins being willing to step up and join Councilor Maiore in being willing to serve in a leadership position. He is going to support Councilor Elkins. The deciding factors for him are her experience with the Planning Board. There is a relationship between the council and the Planning Board primarily around zoning and he thinks her experience in that realm is very valuable as they proceed with initiatives around housing. In 2020, she co-chaired the 'Yes for Northampton' committee that advocated for the Proposition 2 ½ override and she has a steadfast commitment to the fiscal stability measures that have been taken in recent years that he also feels are important. She has demonstrated in two runs for at-large councilor that she has strong support throughout the city. For those reasons, he will support Councilor Elkins.

We have three great choices here, Councilor Jarrett confirmed. He appreciates all that Councilor Perry, Councilor Maiore and Councilor Elkins bring and looks forward to continuing to work with them all in whatever capacity.

With regard to Councilor Perry's concerns around the orientation that he and Councilor Maiore took the initiative on; they did bring in the council president, Councilor Nash, so there were three councilors, he clarified. In his private conversations with folks, he has expressed regret that he did not seek the input of other councilors and he will take that to heart in the future. There were certainly concerns around Open Meeting Law and whether they would have to post a meeting and whether it would be comfortable for the new councilors to be in a posted meeting, but there was never an intention to exclude; it was an intention to educate. He will take that to heart in the future though, he stressed.

In terms of the nominations, he will support Councilor Maiore. For four years, they have been working well together. He values her experience chairing the Finance Committee and before that the rules committee and her strong interest in public participation (he cited the budget listening sessions that happened under

her tenure), her communication, her drive and her commitment. He looks forward to working with her if she is elected.

Councilor Rothenberg volunteered that, from their perspective as new councilors, she doesn't think they got to spend any more time with Councilor Maiore and Councilor Jarrett than with any of the other councilors. She doesn't fault them at all for taking the initiative and doing all that prep. "I see 'no harm, no foul,'" she commented. She certainly appreciates the different ways everybody reached out, made time for them and welcomed them aboard.

There being no further comments, Councilor Jarrett called the question and councilors voted as follows:

Councilor Elkins - Councilor Elkins
Councilor Jarrett – Councilor Maiore
Councilor LaBarge – Councilor Maiore
Councilor Maiore – Councilor Maiore
Councilor Moulton – Councilor Elkins
Councilor Pastrich-Klemer – Councilor Maiore
Councilor Perry – Councilor Elkins
Councilor Rothenberg – Councilor Maiore
Councilor Dubs – Councilor Maiore

Councilor Jarrett announced that Councilor Maiore was the new vice president.

6. Appointment of Enrollment Committee for 2024 – 2025

Councilor Jarrett said he was happy to accept Councilor Perry and Councilor Moulton as enrollment committee members. He explained the committee's responsibility.

7. 24.001 An Order to Adopt City Council Rules for 2024 – 2025

Councilor Elkins moved to adopt the rules as amended. Councilor Moulton seconded

Councilor Rothenberg said she would be interested in revisiting the incorporation of Robert's Rules since lots of her constituents think they should modernize that but for tonight she has no problem with going with the rules as they are. Councilor Maiore clarified that at any point during council business they could bring specific changes and suggestions to council rules forward for adoption. The administrative assistant has been keeping track of housekeeping changes so there will be a chance to bring forward changes, Councilor Jarrett advised.

Councilor Elkins said she also dreams of renumbering and re-lettering. **The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.**

8. Format of meetings

Government bodies are allowed to continue holding meetings remotely until March of 2025, Councilor Jarrett reminded. He proposed hearing people's thoughts.

Councilor Elkins said she thinks the hybrid format they have been using has been working well. She appreciates the flexibility it gives to those who need to make an adjustment. She likes that they did all remote in the summer. Back in the old days, when someone went on vacation, they got a vacation from council too. They should all empower themselves to do what they need to do to take care of mind and body and family if they need to miss a meeting while on vacation, she suggested.

Councilor Dubs asked fellow councilors to take into consideration that sometimes he might not be able to make it in person due to inclement weather. Hybrid would be what he would prefer.

Councilor LaBarge said she, too, liked what they did during the summer. Her preference would be to retain the choice of zooming if they need it.

Councilor Rothenberg said she thinks the hybrid option should be non-negotiable for Councilor Dubs and the public, who need to be able to access meetings however they can.

Councilor Jarrett raised the issue of COVID or other public health concerns. He would like to be in consultation with the health commissioner. If there is advice that they should mask or socially-distance they should follow that. He agrees with meeting in hybrid format and holding meetings all remote in July and August.

Councilor Elkins moved to adopt a hybrid format with the provision that they meet remotely in July and August. Councilor Perry seconded.

Councilor Rothenberg objected to holding meetings by remote participation only since this precludes participation by anyone who doesn't own a computer, which includes many of her constituents.

The motion passed unanimously 8:1 by voice vote with Councilor Rothenberg opposed.

9. Open Meeting Law, Conflict of Interest Law and Public Records Law – Attorney Seewald

Attorney Seewald was not able to join them tonight but will join them on the 18th, Councilor Jarrett advised.

10. 24.002 An Order to Set Date and Time of 2020-2021 City Council Meetings – single reading only

Councilor Jarrett noted that the October 3, 2024 meeting conflicts with Rosh Hashanah and the October 2, 2025 meeting conflicts with Yom Kippur.

He proposed the adjustment of making the regular meetings on those dates two days earlier, on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 and September 30, 2025, respectively.

Councilor Moulton moved approval of the calendar with the two suggested changes. Councilor Rothenberg seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.

11. Administrative Items

Councilor Jarrett reminded councilors to email their committee preferences to the administrative assistant. He plans on working on that over the weekend so he should have assignments by early next week. Each of the four committees will hold organizational meetings.

12. Adjourn

There being no other business, **Councilor Perry moved to adjourn. Councilor Elkins seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.**



CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 212 MAIN STREET
Northampton, Massachusetts
January 4, 2024

Roll Call

A regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by Council President Alex Jarrett at 7:03 p.m. Upon a roll call, the following City Councilors were present:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| At-Large Councilor Marissa Elkins | At-Large Councilor Garrick Perry |
| Ward 1 Councilor Stanley Moulton, III | Ward 2 Councilor Deborah Pastrich-Klemer |
| Ward 3 Councilor Quaverly Rothenberg | Ward 4 Councilor Jeremy Dubs |
| Ward 5 Councilor Alexander Jarrett | Ward 6 Councilor Marianne LaBarge |
| Ward 7 Councilor Rachel Maiore | |

Announcement that Meeting Audio/Video Recorded

Councilor Jarrett announced that the meeting was being audio/video recorded.

Public Comment

Public Comment

Councilor Jarrett explained the procedure he would use in conducting public comment and opened the floor to comments.

Jenny Fleming-Ives, 15 Dryads Green, Northampton, said she is here to support the lighting ordinance on the agenda. She is a certified nurse midwife who has worked in sexual and reproductive health for over 40 years and it was her patients that first awakened her concerns with regard to light pollution. She began to realize that many of their health issues were actually connected to artificial light at night. She investigated the research and found that there was considerable evidence-based research to indicate that artificial light at night could negatively impact human health; specifically breast cancer, other cancers such as prostate cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, depression and sleep disorders. She just read a new study linking artificial light at night to Alzheimer's, so this is ongoing research. With so many things in the world that one cannot effect, she realized that this was an issue that she could possibly make some difference in in their city so she joined Northampton City Lights and has been working on this issue for the last few years. She is really delighted to to be able to support the lighting ordinance before them. She thinks Carolyn Misch and her staff have done a fantastic job. She attended a meeting of Legislative Matters where members really did a critical, thoughtful review of the ordinance. She is grateful to her colleagues on Northampton City Lights, particularly James Lowenthal. She hopes that as a body, city councilors consider this long-overdue update that will support the best lighting possible for this city they call home and all the species that live here.

James Lowenthal, 181 Crescent Street, Northampton, identified himself as the leader of Northampton City Lights and Dark Sky Massachusetts and as someone active in light pollution at the national and international level. Northampton City Lights is a citizens group with a steering committee of 10 and membership list of about 100. Concern about light pollution stems from many different reasons, including concern about human health as Jenny mentioned. Wildlife, pollinators, migrating birds, mammals, fish, etc. - all of them are negatively affected by light pollution. Quality of life in their beautiful, historic city – bad lighting is ugly; good lighting is beautiful. Safety, which is compromised by the proliferation of bright blue glare from unshielded lights poking them in the eyes and putting drivers, pedestrians and cyclists lives in jeopardy. Of course, their view of the stars and Milky Way, one of the most inspiring and transcendent gifts of nature. They have worked closely with the City Council, planning and sustainability and Legislative Matters on the current ordinance and strongly support it. It is consistent with the five principles of responsible outdoor lighting that the city has already endorsed. In particular, they urge them not to weaken the current standards of the ordinance, specifically, the color. There is lots of evidence that 2,700 Kelvin is less harmful and it is not true that 2,700 is hard to find. He held up a bulb that can be found all over town starting at 2,200, noting that these are easily available. He asked them also to please not weaken the backlighting standard on Main Street. Experts have urged them to keep it at B1 and there is no evidence visibility will be improved by weakening that standard.

Nick Mottern, 16 Strong Avenue, said he was there as a member of the Leahy Fast for Palestine Committee. Three of them are entering the 21st day of a sunrise to sunset fast in support of ending the war/cease fire, enforcement of the Leahy Law which is being violated right now (weapons may not be sent to countries/militaries grossly violating human rights) and looking to have all Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners released. They pass out flyers to that effect six days a week on the corner of Main Street and King Street. Last time they were here, Peter Kakos and he asked if the council would pass an emergency resolution in support of the goals of this fast. He is wondering if anyone on the council tonight would be willing to sponsor such a resolution. He hopes the council very soon pass a resolution. They met with Jim McGovern and know he pays close attention to what everybody in the community has to say, and if the city council would support these goals, he thinks it would mean a lot in terms of how members of Congress would behave.

Christina White, Florence, a retired veterinarian, said she had come to request their support for the lighting standard bylaw designed by the Planning Board and to ask that they not weaken any of it. She spent her career advocating for animals and their families. She is part of a movement that includes physicians, ecologists and veterinarians called One Health; based on the understanding that human, animal and environmental health are all linked. Artificial light at night has been shown to be harmful in many ways; it causes stress in insects, local and migrating birds and bats. It has been shown to reduce sleep in mammals and stress the immune system in people and even hurts plants and trees. Unlike plastic pollution or greenhouse gases, light pollution just stops when you turn it off. However, they need standards because it is easy for people not to be aware of the effects outside lights are having. Most bulbs and fixtures at local stores are marketed as brighter is better and it can be difficult to find lighter bulbs. Light pollution is like secondhand smoke; it effects surrounding individuals, be they pollinators, trees or other people. Sky glow can be seen from miles away. The lights on private property need regulation. She learned about light pollution when her neighbors' driveway lights were shining into her bedroom.

Ruthie Woodring, Florence, thanked councilors for putting themselves in harm's way to solve other people's problems. It was beautiful tonight to ride down on the rail trail in the dark except for her bright bike headlight. She just hopes other people get the chance to enjoy the soft darkness at night.

Don Darnell, Northampton, said he has a background in electrical engineering and several years of volunteer work with different municipalities on outdoor lighting policy and practices. He has picked up a fair amount of information and experience. He is here to urge them to support the amendment before them tonight without any further compromise. He also represents a group of volunteers that have recently gathered at Village Hill; the Village Hill Healthy Lighting Committee as part of the neighborhood association is particularly concerned about some talk of possibly compromising the color temperature requirements beyond 2700 kelvin and also about changing the backlighting requirements for Main Street. In both cases, they think the original language before them is good, sensible, fact-based language and hope they won't compromise it. In his work, the main lesson he came away with is that lighting is a lot more nuanced and complicated than it seems and tends not to be given the attention it deserves. This amendment helps remedy that situation.

Tom Erwin, a retired engineer and physician from **Dalton, MA** where he is a member of the recycled waste committee, shared information about the paint stewardship legislation before the state legislature for the seventh time. While part of the waste management recycle committee in Dalton, he learned about paint stewardship and thought it was an excellent idea. He went to Connecticut, Vermont and New York where they have the program and interviewed retailers and consumers and found that it was reasonably well accepted. With that, he became an advocate for this law for the entire state. Massachusetts generates 5.9 million tons of trash annually but the capacity to incinerate is only 3.2 million tons. The remaining 2.7 million has to be hauled away to faraway places like Ohio and that has a large carbon footprint and is extremely expensive. The alternative is product stewardship, allowing them to recycle multiple product streams and cut down on these costs. Paint stewardship is a program that would allow people to bring their unwanted paint to retail stores. This paint will be reprocessed and sold at 30 to 50% of its original cost, and the only lift to people will be a .75 cent fee per gallon when they buy the paint. There will be no cost to any municipality. People are going to love this

	<p>program. Already, 30 to 60% of the paint that is returned to the Enfield, CT Sherwin Williams store is from Massachusetts residents.</p> <p>When the bill arrives in the Ways and Means Committee in mid- to late February of this year, it will be important and extremely valuable to have as many resolutions as possible from municipalities to urge the Ways and Means Committee chairs to view the paint stewardship bill favorably and send it to the floor for a vote where it most certainly will pass. He is hoping a council member will be willing to sponsor this measure so it can go to a subcommittee for them to decide if this is to the benefit of the people in Northampton.</p> <p>There being no further comments, public comment was closed at 7:23 p.m.</p>
<p><u>Public Hearings</u></p>	<p><u>Public Hearings</u> None.</p>
<p><u>Announcements</u></p>	<p><u>Announcements</u> Councilor Rothenberg announced that she and Ward 3 School Committee member Emily Serafy-Cox will be meeting to discuss a petition going around to promote support for school funding. She urged any Ward 3 residents interested to be in touch and they will make sure to get them this petition that is growing. She promised more from them soon.</p> <p>It's a new year and a new chance to enjoy and experience the arts in Northampton, Councilor Perry enthused. Next week the first Arts Night Out sponsored by the Downtown Northampton Association (DNA) will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. with a number of places as well as 33 Hawley Street participating. He encouraged those listening to go to artsnightout.org to check out the happenings. The following day will be the second annual Northampton St. Patrick's Marshal and Brennan gala at Union Station with tickets available at Northamptonstpats.org. Finally, January 16th is a Forbes library staff art show from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. His kids and he love going to Forbes and are looking forward to checking out what the staff has to offer.</p> <p>And, Saturday, January 6, 2024 from 8 to 10:30 a.m. is the Northampton High School (NHS) environmental club's styrofoam collection at 296 Nonotuck Street, Councilor Maiore shared. Disposal cost is \$5 per bag and proceeds go to support the NHS environmental club.</p> <p>Councilor Jarrett reminded councilors to turn in their committee preferences if they haven't already.</p> <p>Mayor Sciarra announced the 40th anniversary of the Silver Chord Bowl to be held at John M. Greene Hall on the Smith College campus Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 2 p.m., hosted by Mayor Sciarra, Smith College president Sarah Willie-Lebreton, Steve Sanderson of the Northampton Arts Council and WRSI The River. The bowl is the oldest and most respected collegiate acapella showcase in the region. The Northamptones will perform as well as six other groups from other colleges and universities and tickets are available at Northamptonartscouncil.org. She wanted to give early notice as the event tends to sell out.</p>
<p><u>Presentations</u></p>	<p><u>Presentations</u> <u>Forbes Library Strategic Plan - Lisa Downing, Forbes Library Director</u> Lisa Downing acknowledged the presence of her colleagues, Assistant Director Molly Moss and Forbes Library Trustees Vice President Katy Wight. She stated her intention to present a brief history of the library and some fun facts before introducing the library's new strategic plan. (See Forbes Library Northampton City Council Presentation January 2024 attached to master version of minutes.)</p> <p>She showed a photo of Forbes Library under construction before it opened in 1894. This is the 130th year of the library's continuous service. The building was built to be as fire resistant as possible with no wood framing, stone and steel construction and beautiful tile arches and glass floors inside.</p>

The library was founded by a bequest of Charles E. Forbes, a local attorney, who left money for a public library. Under the terms of the will, the city was to provide ongoing funding for staffing and maintenance. Therefore, the library is in a public/private partnership with the city and this relationship was further clarified in an agreement reached in 2017. The Forbes Library is an incorporated non-profit corporation with an elected board of trustees that oversees the library. Staff are not considered city employees even though the city provides the funding for staff salaries and benefits and the vast majority of the library's operating costs. Trustees supplement the library's budget with income from the library's endowment and fundraising as well as gifts from the Friends of Forbes Library. These sources cover items outside of the city's support, including a book budget, technology needs, public programming and professional development.

The library's relationship with the city is special but not unique for the time it was established. The Academy of Music is also a gift that was accepted in the 1890's. Another special thing about the library is that it has a fish named Paco that has been with them for over 30 years. Their first librarian, Charles Cutter, a contemporary of Melville Dewey, invented the classification system they still use today. The Dewey Decimal System took off; Cutter's did not, so they are one of the few libraries in the world that still use it. Forbes served as the first library for Smith College for about 15 years before it built the Nielsen library and are the largest off-campus employer. Forbes houses the Calvin Coolidge library and museum and is the only public library in the country to house a presidential museum. Northampton has two independent libraries - Forbes and Lilly Library - and they coordinate hours and services and both belong to the CWMARS network. They just completed a strategic plan with input from residents that will take them to 2027.

Director Downing invited Assistant Director Molly Moss to present the library's strategic plan. The strategic plan is required by the state oversight agency, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, Ms. Moss explained. Library officials used data gathered from the community to create three goal areas to focus its objectives around, she advised. The first goal area is 'wellness,' involving centering the well-being of the community through the library's services and spaces. Two objectives under this goal are 1) continuing to protect the intellectual freedom and privacy of their patrons, and 2) taking action to provide new pathways to library access.

With the support of Dr. Bonner they have begun a program which they are very excited about to increase the number of kindergartners with public library cards in the Northampton Public Schools.

Another goal area is 'awareness,' specifically, empowering the community by increasing awareness of local resources. This goal was inspired in part by survey responses asking the library to offer programs and services it already has, she reported. "We need to do a better job of letting people know what is available to them," she suggested.

Finally, the plan focuses on 'inspiration,' improving physical spaces and resources so that the library may continue to be source of fun, wonder and inspiration for the community. This includes expanding their 'library of things' such as adding 10 additional mobile hot spots to circulate to community members as well as completing an ARPA funded project of constructing a performance stage on the west lawn to be available for both library programming and community use.

The library has 24 benefitted staff members, creative, community-focused and dedicated folks, she continued. They have several notaries on staff who provide that service free for the community and all of them love to talk about books and movies.

They are here for them and for their constituents, she stressed. They can help folks get access to technology, print, copy, fax and offer other tech support as well as help getting families started with early literacy. She introduced Katy Wight, who chaired the strategic plan committee and opened the floor to questions and comments from the council.

Councilors asked questions and offered comments. Among other things, as someone who participated in focus groups to inform the strategic plan, Councilor Moulton said he really appreciated the breadth of the outreach they did to reach people in the community. He asked

about some of the things they are doing this year in terms of partnerships to build awareness for people who aren't yet aware of their services.

They are hoping to put together a more strategic marketing plan to target both English and Spanish speakers, Director Downing said. They used to do more community engagement and will be getting back to that in a really exciting way. As an example, they will be at the winter's farmer's market in a couple of weeks and hopefully will be visible at other community events. One target audience particularly important is people living in subsidized housing through the Northampton Housing Authority, and they are hoping to do some targeted outreach to this group.

Other key partnerships include the Center for New Americans, whose graduation event they host in the spring on their lawn. If there is an organization anyone would like them to connect with, she encouraged them to reach out to her.

Councilor LaBarge suggested talking to Cancer Connection Director Chelsea Kline. She knows residents in the city and in Ward 6 who have been diagnosed with cancer and thinks the library would be a great asset to them.

Director Downing mentioned the library has a delivery service and is happy to deliver books to people recovering from illnesses.

Councilor Dubs asked about the accessibility advisory board. Ben Kalish who serves as its chair comes to all the city's Disability Commission meetings, he noted.

This focus group which meets next week is charged with thinking specifically about how the library can break down barriers, Director Downing shared. The library is deeply committed to accessibility, she confirmed.

<u>Consent Agenda</u>	<p><u>Consent Agenda</u> Councilor Jarrett reviewed the items on the consent agenda. There being no requests for removal, Councilor Perry moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilor Elkins seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.</p> <p>The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda:</p> <p>A. <u>Minutes of December 21, 2023</u> B. <u>24.003 Appointments to Parks and Rec, Arts Council, for referral to City Services</u></p> <p><u>Parks and Recreation Commission</u> <u>David Ames, 32 Round Hill Road, Unit C, Northampton</u> Term: <u>January 2024 - January 2027</u> <i>To fill a vacancy</i></p> <p><u>Arts Council</u> <u>Jennifer Polins, 32 Maple Street, Florence</u> Term: <u>January 2024 - January 2027</u> <i>To fill a vacancy</i></p> <p><u>Kit Pedraza, 85 Market Street, Apt. 4, Northampton</u> Term: <u>January 2024 - January 2027</u> <i>To fill a vacancy</i></p>
<u>Financial Orders (on 1st reading)</u>	<u>Financial Orders (on 1st reading)</u> None.
<u>Ordinances (Not Yet Referred)</u>	<u>Ordinances (Not Yet Referred)</u> None.
<u>Zoning Ordinances</u>	<u>Zoning Ordinances</u> <u>23.349 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 350-12.2 Outdoor Lighting - 2nd reading</u>

23.349 Ordinance to Amend Chapter 350-12.2 Outdoor Lighting - 2nd reading

Councilor Jarrett reviewed a process note stating that since the ordinance is carried over from the previous session and new councilors have not yet heard the discussion/presentation, the city solicitor recommends restarting the City Council's public hearing.

The city has had a lighting ordinance and lighting standards for decades, Director Misch reminded. This is an amendment that will essentially replace what's existing. It is an update that catches up to technology that they haven't caught up to since 2007 and creates more parameters around light color or temperature and more specificity about glare control and the location or direction of lighting. It also introduces cutoff times for business and commercial districts; i.e. - that lights to be turned off once a business closes.

This is a zoning ordinance so just because the language introduces some new parameters and standards, it doesn't mean all the existing lights will change. The new standards will only apply to new installations, she stressed. As businesses transition and applicants replace their lights, then these standards will apply. There will not be sudden darkness across the city the day it is adopted. More details will be considered in a meeting of the Legislative Matters Committee once it has been formed.

Lighting standards differentiate between residential and commercial districts. These are about site lighting and not interior lighting for residents or businesses. Zoning had maximum lighting levels previously but this creates further distinctions such as different standards for car sales lots vs. restaurants. Updated language also introduces the newer concepts of backlight, uplight and glare ratings, which are about the directional spread of light. The great thing about zoning is they can make surgical and strategic changes based on technology changes. There are still a couple of areas that deserve more conversation such as color temperature and whether the standard should be a maximum of 2700 kelvin. Her recommendation is to make a distinction between site lighting and street lights and also to pull out and differentiate the Central Business core district as far as backlight, uplight and glare standards. In the downtown core district they have Main Street - the widest street in the city - so it is probably appropriate to think about different standards that would allow lighting across the even wider sidewalks they will have there. Those two points were the last remaining items and it seemed as though the other modifications from the existing standards to the proposed had been pretty well hashed through.

What is required tonight is a referral to Legislative Matters, Councilor Jarrett advised. They can also choose to refer it to other committees if they so decide. Committees will make a positive, neutral or negative recommendation after which it will come back to council.

Zoning ordinances are referred out to both the Planning Board and a City Council committee and both are required to hold public hearings, Director Misch clarified. The Planning Board held and closed its hearing as did Legislative Matters. Attorney Seewald has recommended a new public hearing for Legislative Matters because of the new councilors.

Councilor Elkins moved to refer the ordinance to Legislative Matters. Councilor Moulton seconded.

Councilor Rothenberg asked if they are going to be looking at Hawley Street when they talk about exceptions for downtown.

The lighting ordinance addresses different neighborhoods by their zoning classification, Director Misch explained. Hawley Street has some URC zoning and some CB-side street. The tweaks she is proposing are for downtown center and would not apply to Hawley Street.

Councilor Maiore asked about the lighting on the truck-eating bridge.

That actually could be considered exempt because it's festive lighting, Director Maiore noted. However, it does not exceed maximum lumen levels and right now is timed to turn off at 2 a.m.

The lighting is actually under the bike path bridge, not the railroad bridge, she added. There are three different bridges and the 'truck-eating bridge' is no longer an active rail line.

Councilor Elkins said she is glad it is going back. She encouraged new folks to review the recording of the joint public hearing. Legislative Matters had two joint meetings with the

Planning Board and they were as thorough and detailed and informative as any meeting on any matter she has ever attended. She highly recommended giving those meetings a good look. She thinks there is a good chance the next meeting will hone in on those things that weren't resolved so she encouraged them to get up to speed on what was a really thorough process.

Folks on the Planning Board with expertise in the industry had some concerns that 3000 kelvin bulbs are more readily available in large-scale site lighting. The Planning Board opted for setting the maximum color temperature as 3000 kelvin and the City Council kept it at 2700.

The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.

See minutes of February 1, 2024 for second reading.

<p><u>Resolutions</u></p>	<p><u>Resolutions</u> None.</p>
<p><u>New Business</u></p>	<p><u>New Business</u> None</p>
<p><u>Adjourn</u></p>	<p><u>Adjourn</u> Councilor Perry moved to adjourn. Councilor Elkins seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.</p> <p>Attest: _____, Administrative Assistant</p>



MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA

City of Northampton
Office of the Mayor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council
FROM: Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra
CC: City Clerk Pamela Powers
DATE: January 18, 2024
RE: Appointment of City Auditor

I am appointing Kala Fisher as the City Auditor for the City of Northampton, effective on her start date of February 1, 2024.

A resident of Athol, Ms. Fisher brings 17 years of municipal experience, with almost 10 years in the Town Accountant role. In Athol, she worked in the Building Department for seven years before becoming the Assistant Accountant and was also an active member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. She is still active in her hometown of Athol as the Vice Chair of the Selectboard. Her previous position was with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, where she worked as an accountant in four towns.

Ms. Fisher earned an associate's degree in Business Administration in 2014 from Mount Wachusett Community College. She is working towards the Massachusetts Municipal Auditors' & Accountants' Association Certification, which she expects to complete within two years. In her spare time, Kala is an avid billiards player and captain of her team. She has been to Las Vegas multiple times to participate with her team in the American Poolplayers Association World Pool Championships, finishing second in one year and fifth in another.

I am confident in Ms. Fisher's ability to lead the Office of the Auditor and am honored to select her for the position of City Auditor. I respectfully submit her appointment to the City Council for confirmation in accordance with the Northampton Charter, Article 2, § 2-10.

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council January 18, 2024

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

24.006 An Order to Appropriate \$34,057 from Stabilization for a HPHW Heater at the Senior Center

Ordered, that

The sum of \$34,057 be appropriated from the General Stabilization Fund (5000 340574) for the installation of a new heat pump hot water heater at the Senior Center.

City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council, January 18, 2024

Upon the recommendation of Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra and Office of Planning and Sustainability

24.005 AN ORDER AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROCKY HILL GREENWAY SHARED USE PATH

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation will be undertaking the construction of the Rocky Hill Greenway Shared Use Path that will connect the Northampton-New Haven Canal Shared Use Path between Easthampton and Northampton and the shared use paths from Rocky Hill Road to Florence Road; and

WHEREAS, construction of the Rocky Hill Greenway Shared Use Path will require certain temporary construction easements for a period of five years; and

WHEREAS, the city is responsible for acquiring the temporary construction easements necessary for the construction of the Rocky Hill Greenway Shared Use Path.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

The City Council hereby authorizes the acquisition by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise of temporary construction easements shown as TE-14, TE-15, and TE-16, on a plan entitled, "Northampton, Massachusetts Rocky Hill Greenway Multi-Use Trail, Property Plan (3), Preliminary Right of Way, Project File No. 608413, Sheet 11.

No appropriation is needed as sufficient funds are available in the CPA Rocky Hill Greenway Fund no. 3100931 593198 23 to pay One Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$180.00) as consideration for damages for the acquisitions authorized hereunder.

Affected Premises:
170 Rocky Hill Road
186 Rocky Hill Road
Northampton, Massachusetts

ORDER OF TAKING

The undersigned, being the duly elected and sitting members of the City Council of the City of Northampton, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting under the authority of and in accordance with the provisions of General Laws of the Commonwealth, as from time to time amended, and more particularly Chapter 79, and pursuant to the Order of the Northampton City Council, a true copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, does hereby take temporary construction easements for a period of five years from the recording of this instrument, for and on behalf of the Inhabitants of the City of Northampton, in the parcels of land, with all buildings and improvements thereon, if any, described in Exhibit B, attached hereto. The purpose for the taking of the parcel is for construction of the Rocky Hill Greenway Shared Use Path, and other associated purposes.

The owners and lienholders of the parcels taken hereunder, and the damages awarded, if any, are set forth in Exhibit C, attached hereto. In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 79 § 6, as amended, such damage awards are made by the City of Northampton for damages sustained by the owner or owners and all other persons, including all mortgagees of record, having any interest in the property and entitled to any damages by reason of the taking. The City of Northampton reserves the right to amend the award at any time prior to payment for good cause shown.

[THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly elected and sitting members of the City Council of the City of Northampton, have executed this Order of Taking this ____ day of _____, 2024.

WITNESS TO ALL:

CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, MA

Marissa Elkins
AT-LARGE COUNCILOR

Garrick M. Perry
AT-LARGE COUNCILOR

Stanley W. Moulton, III
WARD 1 COUNCILOR

Deborah L. Pastrich-Klemer
WARD 2 COUNCILOR

Quaverly H. Rothenberg
WARD 3 COUNCILOR

Jeremy Dubs
WARD 4 COUNCILOR

Alex Jarrett
WARD 5 COUNCILOR

Marianne L. LaBarge
WARD 6 COUNCILOR

Rachel Maiore
WARD 7 COUNCILOR

CERTIFICATE OF THE CLERK
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, MA

I, Laura Krutzler, the Clerk of the City Council of the City of Northampton, MA, hereby certify that the attached Order of Taking of a certain premises in fee simple located in Northampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, was executed on _____, 2024, by Marissa Elkins, Garrick M. Perry, Stanley W. Moulton, III, Deborah L. Pastrich-Klemer, Quaverly H. Rothenberg, Jeremy Dubs, Alex Jarrett, Marianne L. LaBarge, and Rachel Maiore, who as of that day, were and are the duly elected members of the City Council of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts.

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2024.

Laura Krutzler
Clerk to City Council
City of Northampton, Massachusetts

EXHIBIT A
CITY COUNCIL ORDER

**EXHIBIT B
DESCRIPTION**

EXHIBIT C
OWNERS, LIENHOLDERS and DAMAGES

Parcel TE-14

Owner(s): Kenneth L. Hatt and Margaret A. Hatt
Lienholder(s): None
Damages Awarded: Seventy Dollars (\$70.00)

Parcel TE-15

Owner(s): Kenneth L. Hatt and Margaret A. Hatt
Lienholder(s): None
Damages Awarded: Thirty Dollars (\$30.00)

Parcel TE-16

Owner(s): Andrew Sek, Irena Maria Sek and Piotr G. Piskadlo
Lienholder(s): None
Damages Awarded: Eighty Dollars (\$80.00)