



CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NORTHAMPTON
MASSACHUSETTS

City Councilors:

Marissa Elkins, At-Large

Jamila Gore, At-Large

Stanley W. Moulton, III, Ward 1

Vice-President - Karen Foster, Ward 2

Council President - James Nash, Ward 3

Garrick Perry, Ward 4

Alex Jarrett, Ward 5

Marianne LaBarge, Ward 6

Rachel Maiore, Ward 7

Meeting Agenda
City Council Chambers
212 Main Street, Northampton
Thursday, May 18, 2023, 7 p.m.

This 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 is available beginning at 7 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CALLING IN OR JOINING THE MEETING

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

MEETING ID: 845 2122 8288

PARTICIPANT#: #

PASSCODE: 279430

1. Roll Call

2. Announcement that meeting is being Audio/Video Recorded

This meeting is being audio/video recorded.

3. Public Hearings

- A. 7:00 P.M. Public Hearing on 23.251 National Grid Pole Petition for Pleasant Street (Petition #30684497)**

Per M.G.L. Ch. 166, Section 22, the Northampton City Council will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7 p.m.** in Council Chambers, 212 Main Street, Northampton, MA on National Grid's petition to install a single-owned pole on Pleasant Street. (Petition #30684497). The City Council will hear all persons who wish to be heard thereon.

Documents:

[23.251 National Grid Pole Petition for Pleasant Street, Petition No. 30684497.pdf](#)

[23.251 DPW Recommendation.pdf](#)

B. 7:05 P.M. Public Hearing on 23.254 National Grid Pole Petition for Maple Street (Petition #30732483)

Per M.G.L. Ch. 166, Section 22, the Northampton City Council will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7:05 p.m.** in Council Chambers, 212 Main Street, Northampton, MA on National Grid's petition to install one single-owned pole on Maple Street. (Petition #30732483). The City Council will hear all persons who wish to be heard thereon.

Documents:

[23.254 National Grid Pole Petition for Maple Street, Petition No. 30732483.pdf](#)

[23.254 DPW Recommendation.pdf](#)

C. 7:10 P.M. Public Hearing on 23.255 National Grid Pole Petition for South Street (Petition #30734983)

Per M.G.L. Ch. 166, Section 22, the Northampton City Council will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7:10 p.m.** in Council Chambers, 212 Main Street, Northampton, MA on National Grid's petition to install one single-owned pole on South Street. (Petition #30734983). The City Council will hear all persons who wish to be heard thereon.

Documents:

[23.255 National Grid Pole Petition for South Street, Petition No. 30734983.pdf](#)

[23.255 DPW Recommendation.pdf](#)

4. Public Comment

5. Announcements from Councilors and the Mayor

6. Presentations

A. FY2024 Budget Message

Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Message accompanying the [FY2024 Budget](#) - Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra

B. Elected Officials Compensation Advisory Board Report

Discussion with Elected Officials Compensation Advisory Board Members; John Bidwell - Chair; Peter Whalen - Vice Chair

Documents:

[23.314 Comparison Communities.pdf](#)

[23.314 Whalen Dissent.pdf](#)
[23.314 Compensation Advisory Board Presentation.pdf](#)
[23.314 2023 Elected Officials Compensation Advisory Board Report.pdf](#)

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 31, 2023 Joint City Council/School Committee/SVAHS Trustees Meeting and April 13, 2023 and May 4, 2023 City Council meetings

Documents:

[05-04-2023_City Council Minutes.pdf](#)
[04-13-2023_City Council Meeting.pdf](#)
[01-31-2023 Joint City Council and School Committee Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

B. 23.308 An Order to Reprogram funds to NPS Playground Account - 2nd reading **History:**

- Referred to consent agenda - 5/4/2023

Documents:

[23.308 An Order to Reprogram Funds to NPS Playground Account.pdf](#)

C. 23.309 An Order to Accept DA Sullivan \$10,000 Gift for Public Art and Economic Development Project - Portable Stage - 2nd reading

History:

- Referred to consent agenda - 5/4/2023

Documents:

[23.309 An Order to Accept DA Sullivan 10,000 Gift for Public Art and Economic Development Project - Portable Stage.pdf](#)

D. 23.310 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Smith Charities Phase 2 Rehabilitation Project - 2nd reading

History:

- Referred to consent agenda - 5/4/2023

Documents:

[23.310 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Smith Charities Phase 2 Rehabilitation Project.pdf](#)

E. 23.311 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to Historic Northampton for Collections Preservation Project - 2nd reading

History:

- Referred to consent agenda - 5/4/2023

Documents:

[23.311 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to Historic Northampton for Collections Preservation Project.pdf](#)

F. 23.312 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Forbes Library Restroom Ventilation Project - 2nd reading

History:

- Referred to consent agenda - 5/4/2023

Documents:

[23.312 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Forbes Library Restroom Ventilation Project.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. 23.315 An Order to Approve FY2023 Budgetary Transfers - 1st reading

Documents:

[23.315 An Order to Approve FY2023 Budgetary Transfers.pdf](#)

B. 23.316 An Order to Approve FY2024 General Fund Budget - 1st reading

Documents:

[23.316 An Order to Approve FY2024 General Fund Budget.pdf](#)

C. 23.317 An Order to Approve FY 2024 Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st reading

Documents:

[23.317 An Order to Approve FY 2024 Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget.pdf](#)

D. 23.318 An Order to Approve FY 2024 Water Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st reading

Documents:

[23.318 An Order to Approve FY 2024 Water Enterprise Fund Budget.pdf](#)

E. 23.319 An Order to Approve FY 2024 Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st reading

Documents:

[23.319 An Order to Approve FY2024 Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Budget.pdf](#)

F. 23.320 An Order to Approve FY 2024 Stormwater and Flood Control Enterprise Fund Budget - 1st reading

Documents:

[23.320 An Order to Approve FY2024 Stormwater and Flood Control Budget.pdf](#)

G. 23.321 An Order to Approve FY2024 Revolving Funds - 1st reading

Documents:

[23.321 An Order to Approve FY2024 Revolving Funds.pdf](#)

9. Financial Orders (on 2nd reading)

10. Orders

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.

A. Discussion to Consider Amending Section 5-5 per Recommendations of Elected Officials Compensation Advisory Board

[Section 5-5](#) Compensation of Elected Officials

12. Zoning Ordinances (Not yet Referred)

Process Note: M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5 requires the City Council to submit zoning ordinances to the Planning Board for review within 14 days of receipt and for the Planning Board and City Council or a committee designated for that purpose to hold public hearings thereon, together or separately, prior to adoption.

A. 23.322 An Ordinance to Create a National Flood Insurance Program Overlay District - 1st reading

Documents:

[23.322 NFIP Overlay Zone.pdf](#)

[23.322 An Ordinance to Create a National Flood Insurance Program Overlay District.pdf](#)

13. Zoning Ordinances

14. Ordinances

15. Select Committee to Study Barriers to Service Final Report - Discuss Process for Implementing Recommendations

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

17. Resolutions

18. 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.

19. Adjourn

Contact: Jim Nash, Council President

Email: jnash@northamptonma.gov

Phone: (413) 582-0637



February 16, 2023

City of Northampton

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find a petition of NATIONAL GRID, covering NATIONAL GRID pole location(s)

If you have any questions regarding this permit please contact:

Please notify National Grid's Vincent LoGuidice of the hearing date / time.

If this petition meets with your approval, please return an executed copy to:

National Grid Contact Vincent LoGuidice; 1101 Turnpike Street; North Andover, MA 01845

Phone number 978-725-1392.

Very truly yours,

Jim Kehrer
Supervisor, Distribution Design

Enclosures

Questions contact – Lisa Jasinski 413-406-6136

PETITION FOR POLE AND WIRE LOCATIONS

North Andover, Massachusetts

To the City Council
Of Northampton, Massachusetts

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Pleasant St - National Grid to install 1 SO Pole on Pleasant St beginning at a point approximately 230' feet south of the centerline of the intersection of Conz St. Install 1 SO Pole for new service to #518.

Location approximately as shown on plan attached

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked – Pleasant St - Northampton – Massachusetts.

No.# 30684497 February 27, 2023

Also for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

Your petitioner agrees to reserve space for one cross-arm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police, telephone, and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a

NATIONAL GRID *Jim Kehrer*

BY _____
Engineering Department

ORDER FOR POLE AND WIRE LOCATIONS

In the City of Northampton, Massachusetts

Notice having been given and public hearing held, as provided by law,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

that Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and be and it is hereby granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires to be placed thereon, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as said Company may deem necessary, in the public way or ways hereinafter referred to, as requested in petition of said Company dated the 16th day of February, 2023.

All construction under this order shall be in accordance with the following conditions:

Poles shall be of sound timber, and reasonable straight, and shall be set substantially at the points indicated upon the plan marked – Pleasant St - Northampton – Massachusetts.

No.# 30684497 Dated: February 27, 2023. Filed with this order

There may be attached to said poles such wires, cables, and fixtures as needed in their business and all of said wires and cables shall be placed at a height of not less than twenty (20) feet from the ground.

The following are the public ways or part of ways along which the poles above referred to may be erected, and the number of poles which may be erected thereon under this order:

Pleasant St - National Grid to install 1 SO Pole on Pleasant St beginning at a point approximately 230' feet south of the centerline of the intersection of Conz St. Install 1 SO Pole for new service to #518.

I hereby certify that the foregoing order was adopted at a meeting of the City Council of the City/Town of _____, Massachusetts held on the _____ day of _____ 20__.

Massachusetts City/Town Clerk.
20__.

Received and entered in the records of location orders of the City/Town of _____
Book _____ Page _____

Attest:
City/Town Clerk

I hereby certify that on _____ 20__, at _____ o'clock, M
at _____ a public hearing was held on the petition of

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid

for permission to erect the poles, wires, and fixtures described in the order herewith recorded, and that we mailed at least seven days before said hearing a written notice of the time and place of said hearing to each of the owners of real estate (as determined by the last preceding assessment for taxation) along the ways or parts of ways upon which the Company is permitted to erect poles, wires, and fixtures under said order. And that thereupon said order was duly adopted.

City/Town Clerk.

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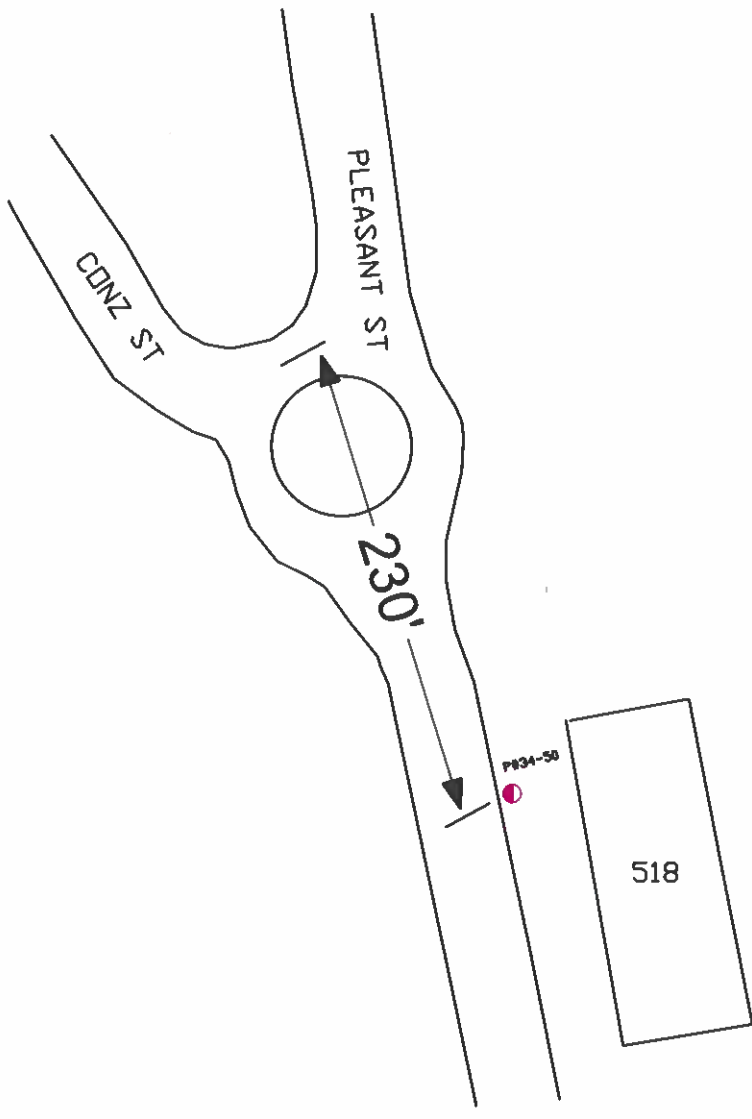
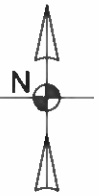
Board or Council of Town or City, Massachusetts

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the location order and certificate of hearing with notice adopted by the _____ of the City of Massachusetts, on the _____ day of _____, 20____, and recorded with the records of location orders of the said City, Book _____, Page _____. This certified copy is made under the provisions of Chapter 166 of General Laws and any additions thereto or amendments thereof

Attest:
City/Town Clerk

Exhibit A - Not to Scale
 The exact location of said Facilities to be established by and upon the installation and erection of the Facilities thereof.



POLE PETITION		nationalgrid	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Proposed NGRID Pole Locations		Date:	2.7.23
<input type="radio"/> Existing NGRID Pole Locations		Plan Number:	WR# 30684497
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Proposed J.O. Pole Locations		To Accompany Petition Dated:	
<input type="radio"/> Existing J.O. Pole Locations		To The:	CITY Of NORTHAMPTON
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Existing Telephone Co. Pole Locations		For Proposed:	1 Pole: JO Location: PLEASANT ST
<input type="radio"/> Existing NGRID Pole Location To Be Made J.O.		Date Of Original Grant:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing Pole Locations To Be Removed			
DISTANCES ARE APPROXIMATE			



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
125 Locust Street
Northampton, MA 01060

413-587-1570
Fax 413-587-1576

Donna LaScaleia
Director

Memorandum

To: Donna LaScaleia, DPW Director *Approved 5-3-23 ML*
From: Greg Newman, Senior Civil Engineer
Date: May 3, 2023
Re: Petition No. 30684497 to install one (1) SO pole on Pleasant Street

National Grid is proposing to install (1) SO pole near #518 Pleasant Street at a point approximately 230 feet south of the centerline of the intersection with Conz Street (north side of the roundabout).

Please note the proposed pole location was staked in the grassed area approximately 6-feet east of the curb of Pleasant Street/Route 5, and 15-feet south from the curb of the driveway to #518 Pleasant Street. **This review relies on the recently viewed location as staked on site.**

A review of City records indicates the following:

1. SEWER. There is a sewer manhole located over 100-feet south of the staked location. The 12-inch VC sewer runs through the parking lot away from the staked location. **As staked on site, no conflicts are anticipated with existing sewer facilities.**
2. WATER. There is a 12-inch DI water main in Pleasant Street/Route 5 located over 20-ft west of the staked location, and a hydrant over 20-feet south of the stake. There is reportedly a 6-inch DI pipe connection directly from the hydrant to the water main located in Pleasant Street, and a 1-inch water service to #518 Pleasant Street is located further south of the hydrant. **As staked, no conflicts are anticipated with existing water facilities.**
3. DRAIN. There is an abandoned drain on the east side of Pleasant Street over 5-feet directly in front of the staked location. The site drain from #518 Pleasant Street is located past the driveway in the supplementary parking area. No conflicts are anticipated with existing drain infrastructure.
4. OTHER – Lighting. The stake was located between two (2) luminaire poles with connections to underground vaults marked “MassDOT”. Recommend coordinating with MassDOT so as to not damage lighting conduit in the vicinity.

Based on the above, there are no apparent conflicts with SEWER, WATER & DRAIN utilities if the proposed pole is installed at the location staked.

A Northampton DPW Trench Permit is required prior to construction.



February 21, 2023

City of Northampton

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find a petition of NATIONAL GRID, covering NATIONAL GRID pole location(s)

If you have any questions regarding this permit please contact:

Please notify National Grid's Vincent LoGuidice of the hearing date / time.

If this petition meets with your approval, please return an executed copy to:

National Grid Contact Vincent LoGuidice; 1101 Turnpike Street; North Andover, MA 01845

Phone number 978-725-1392.

Very truly yours,

Jim Kehrer
Supervisor, Distribution Design

Enclosures

Questions contact – Lisa Jasinski 413-406-6136

PETITION FOR POLE AND WIRE LOCATIONS

North Andover, Massachusetts

To the City Council
Of Northampton, Massachusetts

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Maple St - National Grid to install 1 SO Pole on Maple St beginning at a point approximately 55' feet south of the centerline of the intersection of Pine St. Install one (1) SO Pole #17-1 on the eastern side of Maple St for service to a gas remediation cabinet.

Location approximately as shown on plan attached

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked – Maple St - Northampton – Massachusetts.

No.# 30732483 February 21, 2023

Also for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

Your petitioner agrees to reserve space for one cross-arm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police, telephone, and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a

NATIONAL GRID *Jim Kehrer*

BY _____
Engineering Department

ORDER FOR POLE AND WIRE LOCATIONS

In the City of Northampton, Massachusetts

Notice having been given and public hearing held, as provided by law,
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

that Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and be and it is hereby granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires to be placed thereon, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as said Company may deem necessary, in the public way or ways hereinafter referred to, as requested in petition of said Company dated the 21st day of February, 2023.

All construction under this order shall be in accordance with the following conditions:

Poles shall be of sound timber, and reasonable straight, and shall be set substantially at the points indicated upon the plan marked – Maple St - Northampton – Massachusetts.

No.# 30732483 Dated: February 21, 2023. Filed with this order

There may be attached to said poles such wires, cables, and fixtures as needed in their business and all of said wires and cables shall be placed at a height of not less than twenty (20) feet from the ground.

The following are the public ways or part of ways along which the poles above referred to may be erected, and the number of poles which may be erected thereon under this order:

Maple St - National Grid to install 1 SO Pole on Maple St beginning at a point approximately 55' feet south of the centerline of the intersection of Pine St. Install one (1) SO Pole #17-1 on the eastern side of Maple St for service to a gas remediation cabinet.

I hereby certify that the foregoing order was adopted at a meeting of the City Council of the City/Town of _____, Massachusetts held on the _____ day of _____ 20 ____.

Massachusetts City/Town Clerk. 20 ____.

Received and entered in the records of location orders of the City/Town of _____
Book _____ Page _____

Attest:
City/Town Clerk

I hereby certify that on _____ 20 ____, at _____ o'clock, M
at _____ a public hearing was held on the petition of

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid

for permission to erect the poles, wires, and fixtures described in the order herewith recorded, and that we mailed at least seven days before said hearing a written notice of the time and place of said hearing to each of the owners of real estate (as determined by the last preceding assessment for taxation) along the ways or parts of ways upon which the Company is permitted to erect poles, wires, and fixtures under said order. And that thereupon said order was duly adopted.

City/Town Clerk.

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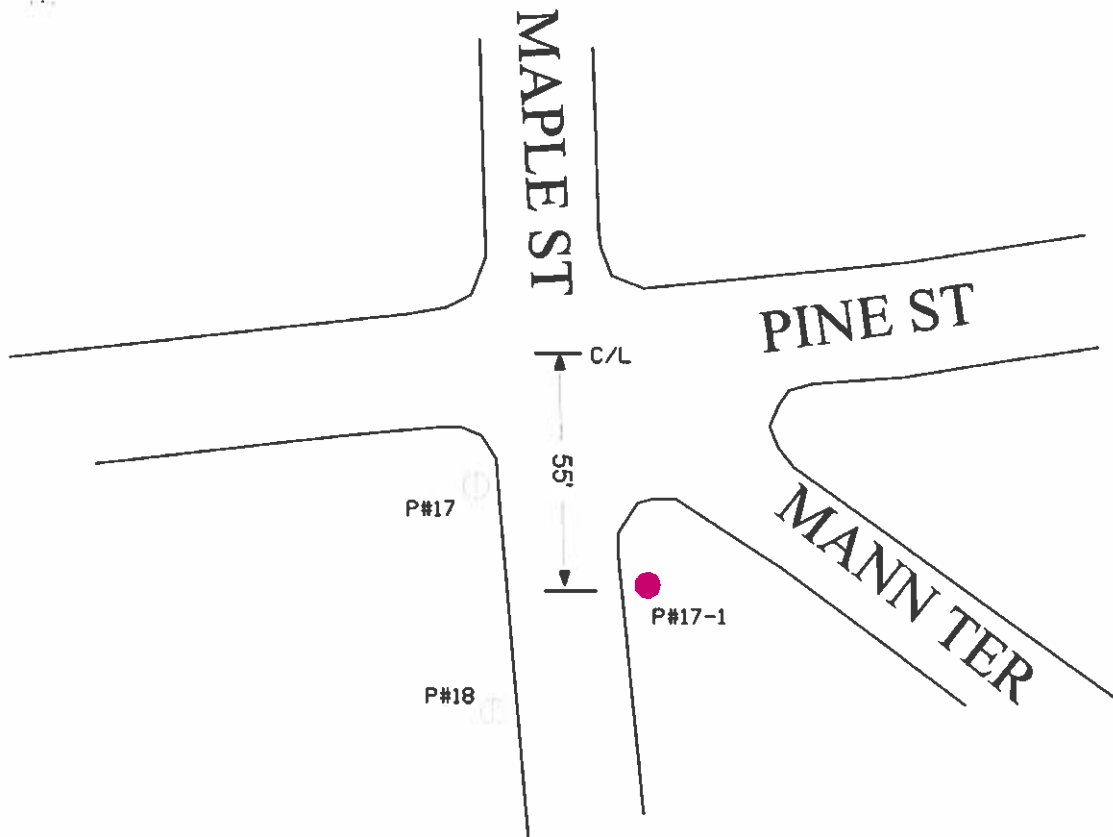
Board or Council of Town or City, Massachusetts

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the location order and certificate of hearing with notice adopted by the _____ of the City of _____ Massachusetts, on the _____ day of _____ 20____, and recorded with the records of location orders of the said City, Book _____, Page _____. This certified copy is made under the provisions of Chapter 166 of General Laws and any additions thereto or amendments thereof

Attest:
City/Town Clerk

Exhibit A - Not to Scale
 The exact location of said Facilities to be established by and upon the installation and erection of the Facilities thereof.



POLE PETITION	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Proposed NGRID Pole Locations
<input type="radio"/>	Existing NGRID Pole Locations
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Proposed J.O. Pole Locations
<input type="radio"/>	Existing J.O. Pole Locations
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Existing Telephone Co. Pole Locations
<input type="radio"/>	Existing NGRID Pole Location To Be Made J.O.
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Existing Pole Locations To Be Removed
DISTANCES ARE APPROXIMATE	

nationalgrid	
Date:	2.17.23
Plan Number:	WR# 30732483
To Accompany Petition Dated:	
To The:	CITY Of NORTHAMPTON
For Proposed:	1 Pole: SO Location: MAPLE ST
Date Of Original Grant:	



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
125 Locust Street
Northampton, MA 01060

413-587-1570
Fax 413-587-1576

Donna LaScaleia
Director

Memorandum

To: Donna LaScaleia, DPW Director
From: Greg Newman, Senior Civil Engineer
Date: May 3, 2023
Re: National Grid Petition No. 30732483

APPROVED 5-3-23 [Signature]

National Grid is proposing to install (1) SO pole on east side of Maple Street approximately 55' south of the centerline of Pine Street. Proposed Pole 17-1 will service a gas remediation cabinet. The approximate pole location is staked at the site. This petition also proposes to lay shallow conduit and wiring from the pole to a nearby Gas telemetry cabinet.

This review relies on the recently viewed locations as staked on site.

A review of City records indicates the following:

1. SEWER. There is no sewer in Maple Street at the proposed location.
2. WATER. There are two watermains in Maple Street, a 10-inch CI pipe located near the street centerline and a 24-inch DI pipe located about 3-feet from east the curb. The proposed pole location is more than 5-ft east of the curb. The proposed pole will be installed more than 8-feet from the 24-inch DI watermain.

There is also an 8-in DI waterline bearing easterly to Mann Terrace; this waterline is estimated to be more than 10-ft north of the proposed pole location. No water services are anticipated near the proposed pole location.

3. DRAIN. There is a 8-inch VC drain near the west side of the street.

Based on the above, there are no apparent conflicts with SEWER, WATER & DRAIN utilities if proposed pole installed at location staked.

A Northampton DPW Trench Permit is required prior to construction



February 22, 2023

City of Northampton

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find a petition of NATIONAL GRID, covering NATIONAL GRID pole location(s)

If you have any questions regarding this permit please contact:

Please notify National Grid's Vincent LoGuidice of the hearing date / time.

If this petition meets with your approval, please return an executed copy to:

National Grid Contact Vincent LoGuidice; 1101 Turnpike Street; North Andover, MA 01845

Phone number 978-725-1392.

Very truly yours,

Jim Kehrer
Supervisor, Distribution Design

Enclosures

Questions contact – Lisa Jasinski 413-406-6136

PETITION FOR POLE AND WIRE LOCATIONS

North Andover, Massachusetts

To the City Council
Of Northampton, Massachusetts

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid requests permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

South St - National Grid to install 1 SO Pole on South St beginning at a point approximately 160' feet northeast of the centerline of the intersection of Fairview Ave. Install 1 SO Pole for service to Eversource's gas telemetry cabinet.

Location approximately as shown on plan attached

Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provided by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked – South St - Northampton – Massachusetts.

No.# 30734983 February 22, 2023

Also for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

Your petitioner agrees to reserve space for one cross-arm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire, police, telephone, and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a

NATIONAL GRID *Jim Kehrer*

BY _____

Engineering Department

ORDER FOR POLE AND WIRE LOCATIONS

In the City of Northampton, Massachusetts

Notice having been given and public hearing held, as provided by law,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

that Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and be and it is hereby granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires to be placed thereon, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as said Company may deem necessary, in the public way or ways hereinafter referred to, as requested in petition of said Company dated the 22nd day of February, 2023.

All construction under this order shall be in accordance with the following conditions:

Poles shall be of sound timber, and reasonable straight, and shall be set substantially at the points indicated upon the plan marked – South St - Northampton – Massachusetts.

No.# 30734983 Dated: February 22, 2023. Filed with this order

There may be attached to said poles such wires, cables, and fixtures as needed in their business and all of said wires and cables shall be placed at a height of not less than twenty (20) feet from the ground.

The following are the public ways or part of ways along which the poles above referred to may be erected, and the number of poles which may be erected thereon under this order:

South St - National Grid to install 1 SO Pole on South St beginning at a point approximately 160’ feet northeast of the centerline of the intersection of Fairview Ave. Install 1 SO Pole for service to Eversource’s gas telemetry cabinet.

I hereby certify that the foregoing order was adopted at a meeting of the City Council of the City/Town of _____, Massachusetts held on the _____ day of _____ 20__.

Massachusetts City/Town Clerk.
20__

Received and entered in the records of location orders of the City/Town of _____
Book _____ Page _____

Attest:
City/Town Clerk

I hereby certify that on _____ 20__, at _____ o’clock, M
at _____ a public hearing was held on the petition of

Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid

for permission to erect the poles, wires, and fixtures described in the order herewith recorded, and that we mailed at least seven days before said hearing a written notice of the time and place of said hearing to each of the owners of real estate (as determined by the last preceding assessment for taxation) along the ways or parts of ways upon which the Company is permitted to erect poles, wires, and fixtures under said order. And that thereupon said order was duly adopted.

City/Town Clerk.

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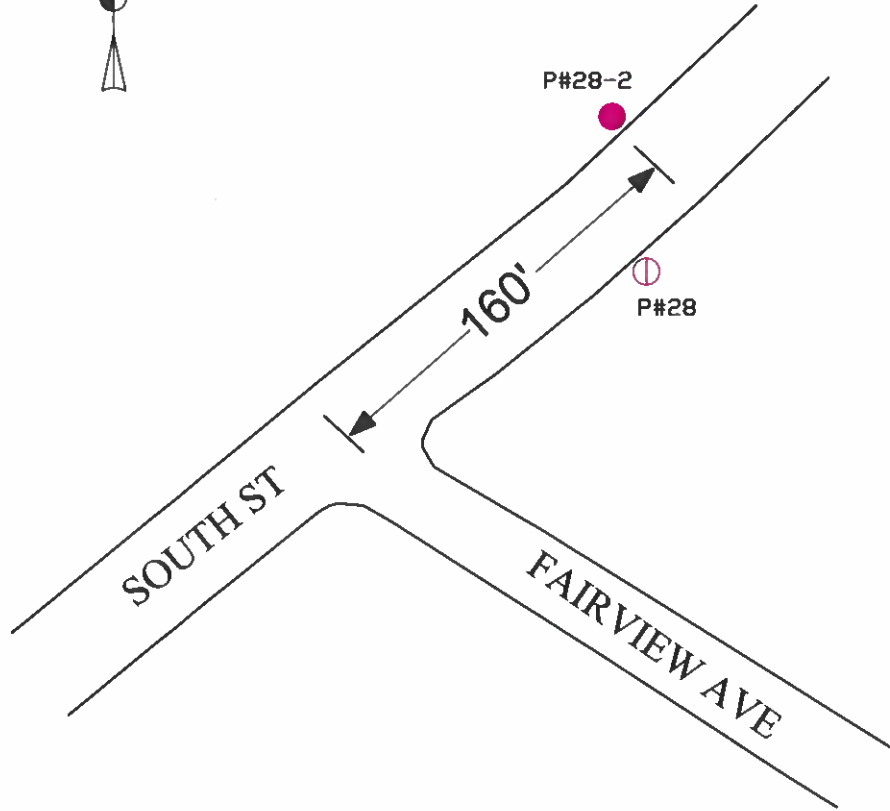
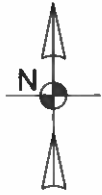
Board or Council of Town or City, Massachusetts

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the location order and certificate of hearing with notice adopted by the _____ of the City of _____ Massachusetts, on the _____ day of _____ 20____, and recorded with the records of location orders of the said City, Book _____, Page _____. This certified copy is made under the provisions of Chapter 166 of General Laws and any additions thereto or amendments thereof

Attest:
City/Town Clerk

Exhibit A - Not to Scale
 The exact location of said Facilities to be established by and upon the installation and erection of the Facilities thereof.



POLE PETITION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposed NGRID Pole Locations	Date: 2.21.23
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing NGRID Pole Locations	Plan Number: WR# 30734983
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposed J.O. Pole Locations	To Accompany Petition Dated:
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing J.O. Pole Locations	To The: CITY Of NORTHAMPTON
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing Telephone Co. Pole Locations	For Proposed: 1 Pole: SO Location: SOUTH ST
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing NGRID Pole Location To Be Made J.O.	Date Of Original Grant:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing Pole Locations To Be Removed	
DISTANCES ARE APPROXIMATE	



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
125 Locust Street
Northampton, MA 01060

413-587-1570
Fax 413-587-1576

Donna LaScaleia
Director

Memorandum

To: Donna LaScaleia, DPW Director *Approved 5-3-23 M*
From: Greg Newman, Senior Civil Engineer
Date: May 3, 2023
Re: Petition No. 30734983 to install one SO pole on South Street (Pole #28-2)

National Grid is proposing to install (1) SO pole on northwest side of South Street approximately 160' northeast of the centerline of Fairview Avenue; i.e. in front of #215 South Street. The proposed Pole 28-2 is intended to service a future gas remediation cabinet. The approximate pole location is staked at the site, about 10.5-ft NE of crosswalk and 1.5-ft behind curb. This petition also proposes to lay shallow conduit and wiring from pole to a proposed gas telemetry cabinet (by others).

This review relies on the recently viewed locations as staked on site.

A review of City records indicates the following:

1. SEWER. There is an 8-inch VC sewer in South Street more located more than 20-feet southeast of the northwest curb line at the proposed location. The location of the sewer service to this property is not clearly defined in city records. **There is a reasonable probability that the existing sewer service may be in the region of the proposed pole. As such, it is recommend that the installation of the proposed pole be excavated to by hand digging or vacuum excavation. If the sewer service is found, the proposed pole location should adjusted to provide more than 4-ft separation from the sewer service.**
2. WATER. There is a 12-inch CI watermain located in the southeast side of South Street more than 40-ft from the proposed pole location. The city records indicate that there are two water services to 215 South Street; one is about 39-ft southeast of the crosswalk centerline; the other is located more than 37-ft northeast of the crosswalk centerline.
3. DRAIN. There is a 12-inch drain in South Street located more than 4-ft South of the curb.
4. OTHER CONCERNS: The Proposed Gas Telemetry Cabinets have not yet been installed. The proposed telemetry cabinets and telemetry conduit to the new pole may conflict with a water service connection and the existing sewer service.

Based on the above, there are no apparent conflicts with WATER & DRAIN utilities if proposed pole is installed at location staked. The sewer conflict should be addressed as noted above under item 1.

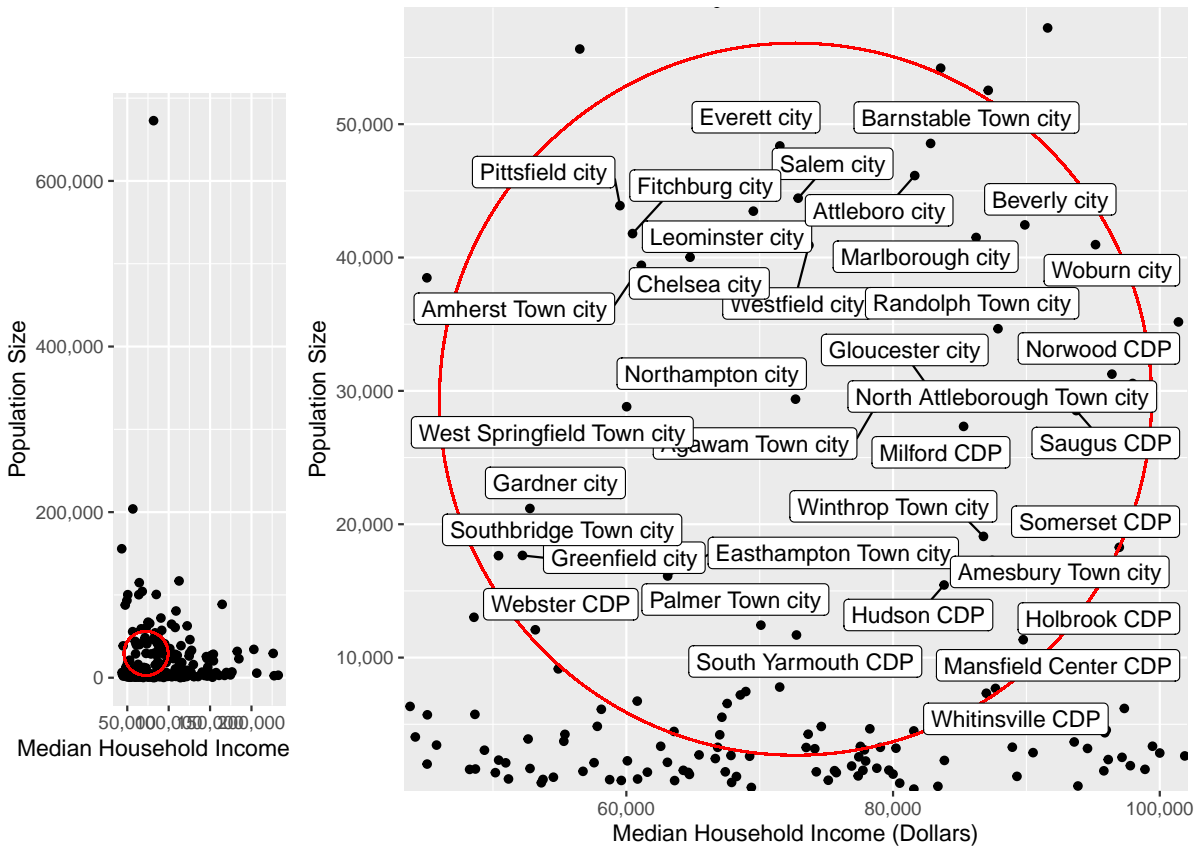
A Northampton DPW Trench Permit is required prior to construction

Northampton, MA's Nearest Neighbors

Population and income information retrieved from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2017-2022 5-year estimates (linked below):

- [Population Estimates](#)
- [Income Estimates](#)

A municipality's similarity to Northampton is defined by its Euclidean distance from Northampton in the 2D space of median income and population size (lower distance = higher similarity).



Municipality	Number of Households	Median Household Income	Population Size
Northampton city	11,949	72,687	29,379
Agawam Town city	11,785	78,619	28,715
Gloucester city	13,168	82,984	29,814
Westfield city	15,292	73,692	40,922
West Springfield Town city	12,734	60,023	28,814
Milford CDP	10,433	85,291	27,336
Chelsea city	13,353	64,782	40,025
Leominster city	17,896	69,525	43,478
Salem city	19,745	72,884	44,452
Amherst Town city	9,328	61,127	39,416
Randolph Town city	12,150	87,869	34,661
Easthampton Town city	7,796	63,098	16,120
Palmer Town city	5,207	70,090	12,434
Fitchburg city	16,398	60,466	41,796
Winthrop Town city	8,242	86,780	19,088
South Yarmouth CDP	4,846	72,759	11,696
Hudson CDP	6,490	83,828	15,445
Marlborough city	17,147	86,230	41,505
Attleboro city	17,918	81,627	46,146
Everett city	17,007	71,510	48,368
Amesbury Town city	7,326	87,433	17,286
Pittsfield city	19,290	59,522	43,890
Saugus CDP	10,581	93,737	28,521
Gardner city	8,841	52,770	21,183
Beverly city	16,717	89,882	42,448
Middleborough Center CDP	3,172	71,500	7,790
Barnstable Town city	19,748	82,816	48,556
Clinton CDP	3,216	68,958	7,455
Plymouth CDP	3,632	68,552	7,198
Foxborough CDP	2,937	67,563	6,557
Greenfield city	8,100	52,211	17,661
Norwood CDP	13,002	96,414	31,256
Bliss Corner CDP	2,266	67,167	5,529
North Westport CDP	1,993	74,621	4,835
Holbrook CDP	4,712	89,763	11,344
Northwest Harwich CDP	1,718	73,636	4,256
Southbridge Town city	7,094	50,414	17,643
Woburn city	16,292	95,184	40,967

Municipality	Number of Households	Median Household Income	Population Size
North Attleborough Town city	12,273	97,967	30,557
Ipswich CDP	2,072	78,261	4,659
East Falmouth CDP	2,872	60,820	6,739
Bellingham CDP	1,975	67,006	4,212
Webster CDP	5,069	53,176	12,086
South Dennis CDP	1,410	73,485	3,259
Fiskdale CDP	1,181	74,132	3,166
Whitinsville CDP	2,835	86,997	7,329
Mansfield Center CDP	3,198	87,681	7,689
Ocean Bluff-Brant Rock CDP	2,020	81,557	4,503
North Lakeville CDP	1,316	77,553	3,343
Winchendon CDP	1,617	63,576	4,463
Somerset CDP	7,248	96,967	18,271

Table 1: Rows of the table are ordered in order of decreasing similarity to Northampton.

May 10, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

I recently served on the City's Elected Officials Compensation Committee. I enjoyed participating with my fellow committee members who were, without exception, a very impressive group. They were all thoughtful, informed individuals, committed to the cause. However, I decided to vote to not accept the recommendations of the committee based solely on the amount of increases that were being suggested in all categories. I feel that they were too large in a time when the city's budget is strained. In addition, while I understand and do not disagree with the methodology employed by the group as they attempted to fairly compensate our officials, the recommended levels would put us far outside of what similar positions in the benchmarked cities/towns that are close to our city's demographics earn.

Thank you.

Peter J. Whalen
President
Whalen Insurance
71 King Street, Northampton, MA 01060

Advisory Report on the Compensation of Northampton Elected Officials

Recommendations of the 2023 Elected Officials
Compensation Advisory Board

Presentation to City Council | May 18, 2023





Advisory Board

John Bidwell

Chair

Tara Brewster

Felicia Corbeil

Deb Henson

Sam Hopper

Clerk

Javier Luengo Garrido

Peter Whalen

Vice Chair



Background

The Elected Officials Compensation Advisory Board (“the Board”) was created by the City Council in accordance with Sec. § 5-5 of Admin. Code. The Board was tasked with reviewing **“the adequacy and equity of compensation, benefits, and expense allowances of municipal elected officials and report(ing) its findings and recommendations to the Mayor and City Council.”**

Slide 1 of 2



Process

Meetings: January - May

Benchmarked against 6 communities

Input from elected officials: survey, interviews, Q&As

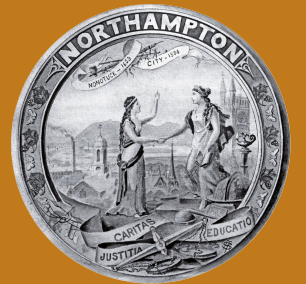


Process

Deliberated:

- Adequacy of current salaries and stipends
- Attracting qualified candidates
- Attracting candidates w/diverse talents & backgrounds
- Encouraging a diverse candidate pool that fairly represents the diversity of the City's population.
- Improving the compensation review process

Considerations





Increasing Diversity

Northampton lacks historic demographic data, but appears to follow the national norm for elected officials who are white and identify as female.

The Board assumes that:

- **As a representational governing body, the City of Northampton must strive to be a model for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.**



Increasing Diversity

- Encouraging a fair elected representation of the City's diversity, especially underserved communities that traditionally have not been well-represented and historically have been denied equity, is most beneficial to the City as a whole.



Increasing Diversity

- Elected officials who communicated with the Board expressed their belief low compensation may be a deterrent to residents running for elected positions. Encouraging elected diversity means recognizing that not everybody has the time and means to meet these heavy demands.

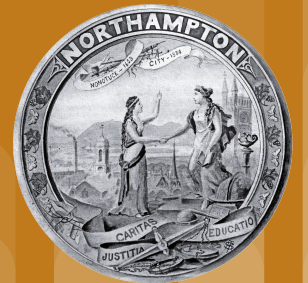
Consideration 2



Health Insurance & Retirement Benefits

- In general, the assumption is that offering benefits is beneficial to attracting a diverse candidate pool.
- Elected officials shared their beliefs that benefits are the greatest tool to increase the diversity of people serving the City.

Recommendations





The Mayor's Salary

Current	Recommended
\$92,500	\$130,000

Rationale

- 'Working mayor': full-time position w/ rigorous work demands that preclude outside employment.
- The mayor is on call 24/7 working 60-80 hours/week.



The Mayor's Salary

Rationale (cont.)

- Average work week = official duties, ceremonial duties, committee work, events, public forums, and regional and state meetings and functions.
- Increased availability and expectations continue to be exacerbated via social media.



The Mayor's Salary

Further considerations

- Current salary ranked 98th in city salaries. In 2014, the mayor's salary ranked 64th. \$130,000 would rank the Mayor's salary 16th in FY22 city salaries.
- Average mayoral salary of the 6 benchmarking cities/towns for which we have data is \$102,700.
- Taking time off is very difficult.



City Councilors' Salaries

	Current	Recommended
Ward Councilor	\$9,000	\$16,931.20
At-Large Councilor	\$9,500	\$16,931.20
Council President	\$10,000	\$21,164.00



City Councilors' Salaries

Rationale

- Average work week=20 hours for the Ward City Councilors including the At-Large City Councilor, based elected officials survey
- This 20 hours was multiplied by an individual's living wage (as defined by 1 adult, 0 children) in Hampshire County, Massachusetts (source: MIT)



School Committee's Salaries

	Current	Recommended
Ward Member	\$5,000	\$9,312.16
At-Large Member	\$5,500	\$9,312.16

Rationale

Same calculation as for the City Council but at 55% as the current Members are compensated at 55% of the City Council.



Trustees of Smith Salaries

Current	Recommended
\$5,000	\$9,312.16

Rationale

Same calculation as for the City Council but at 55% as the current Trustees are compensated at 55% of the City Council.



Benefits

Benefit	Current	Recommended
Health Insurance Benefits	<u>Eligibility for Group Health Benefits Policy</u>	Remain the same
Retirement Benefits	<u>Eligibility for Retirement</u>	Remain the same



Add Annual 2% COLA

Recommended

2.0% increase beginning in 2025 in the years that the Compensation Board does not convene.

Rationale

- Board meets infrequently
- Most jobs are reviewed annually
- COLA consideration is common in Massachusetts.



More Efficient Review Process

Recommendations

- City provides compensation data rather than relying on the Board so that the Board can more quickly focus on deliberation.
- City advocates for the Massachusetts Municipal Association ([MMA](#)) to manage up-to-date compensation information.



More Efficient Review Process

Recommendations (cont.)

- Future Compensation Boards invite the previous Board to an early meeting to talk through the previous process, experience, and answer questions.

See full Compensation Board report for details, addendum, and sources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Advisory Report on the Compensation of Northampton Elected Officials

Recommendations of the 2023 Elected Officials
Compensation Advisory Board

May 10, 2023

Advisory Board

John Bidwell – Chair

Tara Brewster

Felicia Corbeil

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Sam Hopper – Clerk

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Peter Whalen – Vice Chair

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Background

The Elected Officials Compensation Advisory Board (“the Board”) was created by the City Council in accordance with Sec. § 5-5 of Admin. Code (see Addendum 1). The Board was tasked with reviewing “the adequacy and equity of compensation, benefits, and expense allowances of municipal elected officials and report(ing) its findings and recommendations to the Mayor and City Council.”

Process

The Board convened in December 2022 and set about reviewing current compensation practices for elected officials. Publicized meetings were held from January through May 2023 in accordance with open meeting laws. The City’s compensation policies, including both salary and benefits, were benchmarked against 6 communities in the Commonwealth similar to Northampton in both population size and median household income, located in the four western counties of Massachusetts, and have the same Mayor/Council form of government as Northampton (see Addendum 2, Benchmarking Table).

Input was solicited from elected officials to better understand their responsibilities, duties, and time commitments. The Board intended to solicit feedback from current and former elected officials but was unable to obtain a full list of former elected officials and their contact information. 14 currently elected Northampton officials responded to an April 2023 survey (See Addendum 4 - Elected Officials Survey Responses) asking:

1. What elected position did you, or do you currently, hold for the City of Northampton?
2. How many years did you hold, or have you held, the elected position?
3. What year(s) was the elected position held?
4. Approximately how many hours per week did you, or do you, spend on the elected position?
5. Did the pay/benefits have an impact on your decision to run for the elected position?
6. Please explain the positive or negative impacts the pay and benefits had/have on you.
7. What type of occupation (compensated or uncompensated) did you, or do you, have while holding this elected position (if any)?
8. If the elected position has ended, why did the elected position end?
9. Did you feel the compensation was fair for the elected position you held/hold and the amount of work you did?
10. If you did not feel the compensation was fair, briefly explain why.
11. Did you, or do you, have any challenges attending required meetings?
12. If you had/have challenges attending required meetings for your elected position, what were they?
13. Would you be interested in serving as an elected official again?
14. Why or why not?
15. Do you know anybody in your community who was interested in running for an elected position, but didn’t?
16. If you do, what made them ultimately decide not to run?
17. What gender do you most closely identify with?
18. What race/ethnicity do you most closely identify with?
19. What is your age?
20. What is your annual household income?
21. What is your highest level of completed education?

Board discussion and deliberations focused on the following:

- The adequacy of current salaries and stipends
- The need to ensure competitive salaries and stipends to attract qualified candidates and encourage contested elections
- The need to ensure adequate and appropriate compensation to attract candidates with diverse talents and backgrounds to encourage a diverse candidate pool that fairly represents the diversity of the City’s population.
- Improving the compensation review process

In addition, John Bidwell (Board Chair) interviewed Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra by phone, and Councilors Jim Nash (President/Ward 3), Karen Foster (Council Vice-President/Ward 2), Jamila Gore (Councilor at Large), Alex Jarrett (Ward 5), and Rachel Maiore (Ward 7) attended meetings.

Consideration: The Role of Compensation in Increasing Diversity of Elected Officials

The Board discussed the importance of elected officials who represent the diversity of the residents of Northampton in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, beliefs, backgrounds, and income and the role compensation can have to encourage diversity amongst elected officials. Most current elected officials in Northampton are white and identify as women. Nationally, this is the norm for local elected officials and has been for some time (source: [Democracy Fund](#)), though Northampton lacks historic demographic data.

As a representational governing body, the Board feels that the City of Northampton must strive to be a model for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA). This means cultivating an elected official pool that draws from the full diversity of the City. The Board operated under the assumption that encouraging a fair elected representation of the City’s diversity—especially underserved communities that traditionally have not been well-represented and historically have been denied equity (the consistent and fair, just, impartial treatment of all individuals - source: [U.S. Government Accountability Office](#))—is most beneficial to the City as a whole.

The [representative bureaucracy](#) model, for example, argues that with diversity, the public is better represented in administrative decisions. As the American population becomes increasingly multiracial and multiethnic, a local government whose workforce does not reflect the City’s diversity may indicate that it is constrained for some reason in its appeal or its recruitment pipeline. A lack of diversity in an area of public service raises ethical concerns about whether all Americans have genuine access to that office (source: [Democracy Fund](#)).

Although the vast majority of Northampton elected officials who responded to the Board’s survey find their work rewarding and fulfilling, most felt the compensation was not adequate. Elected officials who communicated with the Board expressed their belief low compensation may be a deterrent to residents running for elected positions. In addition, elected officials reported a significant time commitment needed to fulfill their responsibilities and expectations of their constituents, as well as the role of support aside from compensation that allows them to be an elected official. Said one elected official: “Serving on City Council can be very rewarding. I am lucky that my families [sic] finances allow me the latitude to both serve on council and determine whether I want to continue.” Most elected officials said they

knew people who have considered running but have stayed away because of the time commitment and/or lack of compensation and support.

Encouraging elected diversity means recognizing that not everybody has the time and means to meet these heavy demands.

Consideration: Health Insurance & Retirement Benefits

The benefits made a significant difference for some of the elected officials surveyed. It was acknowledged that there will always be variation as elected officials' situations vary. For example, some already have benefits through work, or a spouse and others do not.

In general, the assumption is that offering benefits is beneficial to attracting a diverse candidacy. During meetings of the Board, elected officials shared their beliefs that benefits are the greatest tool to increase the diversity of who is serving the City. In subsequent discussion, the Board agreed that benefits open the doors to folks who may not have full-time jobs with benefits and can make it more plausible for a single parent, a consultant without benefits from work, and those on less-traditional paths to be able to serve as elected officials.

Health Insurance Benefits

Certain elected officials, regardless of hours worked, are eligible to participate in the City's contributory group health benefit offerings including the Mayor, City Councilors, School Committee Members, and Members of Smith Vocational and Agricultural Board of Trustees (source: [Eligibility for Group Health Benefits Policy](#)). Northampton offers a menu of individual and family plans and pays 80% of the insurance premium.

The table below shows the number of part-time elected officials enrolled in the City's health plan for FY2023 and the cost of these plans to the city.

Part-Time Elected Officials Enrolled in Municipal Health Plan - FY23			
	Number of Members in Body	Number of Members Enrolled	Cost to City FY23
City Council	9	6	\$86,282.76
School Committee	9	1	\$15,380.40
Trustees of Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School	3	2	\$19,528.20
Total	21	9	\$ 121,191.36

Retirement Benefits

The minimum requirements for eligibility changed in April 2012 to:

- Group 1 members must have at least 10 years of creditable service and be at least 60 years old.
- Group 2 members must be at least 55 years old with a minimum of 10 years of creditable service.

- Group 4 members must be at least 50 years old, with 10 years of creditable service.
- At age 55, there is no minimum service requirement for Group 4 members.

(source: [Eligibility for Retirement](#))

Recommendations

Overview

The tables below summarize the consensus recommendations of the Board. The rationale for each recommendation is presented in the following sections.

Salary Recommendations

<u>Elected Official</u>	<u>Current Salary</u>	<u>Recommended Salary</u>
Mayor	\$92,500	\$130,000
Ward City Councilor	\$9,000	\$16,931.20
At-Large City Councilor	\$9,500	\$16,931.20
City Council President	\$10,000	\$21,164.00
Ward School Committee Member	\$5,000	\$9,312.16
At-Large School Committee Member	\$5,500	\$9,312.16
Trustees of Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School	\$5,000	\$9,312.16

Additional Recommendations

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Current Practice</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Health Insurance Benefits: Apply to certain elected officials, regardless of hours worked: Mayor, City Councilors, School Committee Members, and Members of Smith Vocational and Agricultural Board of Trustees	Eligibility for Group Health Benefits Policy	Remain the same
Retirement Benefits	Eligibility for Retirement	Remain the same
2% Annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) during years the Board does not convene	None	Implement
Funding for compensation research	None	Implement

Full-Time Elected Official

Mayor

Salary History

January 1, 2000	\$65,000
January 1, 2002	\$66,950
January 1, 2003	\$68,958
January 1, 2007	\$80,000
July 1, 2009	\$75,000
July 1, 2010	\$80,000
January 4, 2016	\$92,500
Current	\$92,500

Current Compensation

Salary

\$92,500

Benefits

Eligibility to enroll in municipal health and retirement plans

Recommendations

Salary

Increase salary to \$130,000

Benefits

Remain the same

Responsibilities

Under Northampton's "strong mayor" form of government, the executive and administrative powers of the city are vested in the mayor. The mayor is responsible for the administration of all city activities and functions placed under the control of the mayor by law or by charter; coordinates the activities of all agencies of the city and all persons serving the city; and serves as a member of every appointed multiple-member body of the city.

In addition, the mayor serves Ex-Officio as the Chair of the Northampton School Committee, a trustee for Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, a member of the Board of Trustees for the Academy of Music Theatre and Look Memorial Park, and the Hampshire County Representative on the MassHire Franklin Hampshire Workforce Board where responsibilities include the cosigning of the warrants for expenditures of agency funds, among other duties. The mayor participates in a number of regional, statewide, and national municipal and educational policy boards, such as the Massachusetts Mayor Association, the Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

Rationale

The Board recommends the mayor’s salary be increased, because:

- Northampton’s mayor is a ‘working mayor’ whose responsibilities include active, hands-on, day-to-day management of the City in addition to their role as political leader and policy maker.
- The position of mayor is a full-time position with rigorous work demands that effectively preclude outside employment. The Board felt strongly that the mayor’s salary should be competitive to attract and retain competent public servants.
- The mayor is on call 24/7, with an average work week estimated at 60-80 hours (source: 2014 Compensation Board Report). The average work week includes official duties, ceremonial duties, committee work, events, public forums, and regional and state meetings and functions. The mayor’s increased availability and expectations have been exacerbated through the proliferation of social communication channels, like social media.

In recommending an adjustment to the current salary, the Board took the following factors into account:

- The current salary is ranked 98th (see Addendum 3 - [FY2022 Northampton Salaries](#)). In 2014, the last time the Board made its recommendations, the mayor’s salary ranked 64th. The Board’s current recommendation would rank the Mayor’s salary 16th in FY22 city salaries.
- The average current mayoral salary of the 6 benchmarking cities/towns for which we have data is \$102,700.
- While the mayor can take-off time, and position is supported by staff and the City Council President in emergencies, the demands and focus on the job make downtime practically difficult.

Part-Time Elected Officials

Ward City Councilors, At-Large City Councilors & City Council President

Stipend History

\$5,000 since at least 1990 (the Board from 2014 was unable to determine the initial date) with an increase to the current stipend as of January 4, 2016.

Current Compensation

Stipend

Ward City Councilor:	\$9,000
At-Large City Councilor:	\$9,500
City Council President:	\$10,000

Recommendations

Stipend

Ward City Councilor:	\$16,931.20
At-Large City Councilor:	\$16,931.20
City Council President:	\$21,164.00

Benefits

Eligibility to enroll in municipal health and retirement plans

Benefits

Remain the same

Responsibilities

[Article 2 of Northampton’s Charter](#)

Rationale

For the Ward City Councilors including the At-Large City Councilor, the Board assumed an average 20-hour work week (based on the average hours reported by elected officials in survey – Addendum 4) and multiplied that by that by an individual’s living wage (as defined as 1 adult, 0 children) in Hampshire County, Massachusetts, according to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (source: <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/25015>).

Ward School Committee Member & At-Large School Committee Member

Stipend History

\$2,500 since at least 1990 (the Board from 2014 was unable to determine the initial date) with an increase to the current stipend as of January 4, 2016.

Current Compensation

Stipend

Ward School Committee Member:

\$5,000

At-Large School Committee Member:

\$5,500

Recommendations

Stipend

Ward School Committee Member:

\$9,312.16

At-Large School Committee Member:

\$9,312.16

Benefits

Eligibility to enroll in municipal health and retirement plans

Benefits

Remain the same

Responsibilities

[Article 4 of Northampton’s Charter](#)

Rationale

For both the Ward School Committee members as well as the At-Large School Committee member, the Board used the same calculation as for the City Council but at 55% as the current School Committee Members are compensated at 55% of the City Council.

Trustees of Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School

Stipend History

\$2,500 since at least 1990 (the Board from 2014 was unable to determine the initial date) with an increase to the current stipend as of January 4, 2016.

Current Compensation

Stipend

\$5,000

Recommendations

Stipend

\$9,312.16

Benefits

Eligibility to enroll in municipal health and retirement plans

Benefits

Remain the same

Responsibilities

[Article 5, Section 5-3 of Northampton's Charter](#)

Rationale

For Trustees of Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, the Board used the same calculation as for the City Council but at 55% as the current Trustees of Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School are compensated at 55% of the City Council.

Add Annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

The Board recommends a 2.0% increase beginning in 2025 in elected officials' compensation in the years that the Compensation Board does not convene. The average cost of living increase since 2014, when the Board last convened, has been 2.7% annually, for a cumulative price increase of 27.08% (source: [CPI Inflation Calculator](#)).

Most jobs in this country, including unelected Northampton positions, are reviewed annually including opportunities for pay increase, which usually occur. The Board feels this is standard practice that should be applied to elected officials. Considering the need for compensation to remain competitive, it is important that increases occur annually rather than only in years when the Board convenes, which can be as long as ten years.

Case in point: The mayor's current salary is ranked 98th (see Addendum 3 - [FY2022 Northampton Salaries](#)). In 2014, the last time the Board made its recommendations, the mayor's salary ranked 64th. Considering the importance of the position, the fact that the mayor's compensation has dropped 34 places is concerning. It points to the fact that the City can't rely on convening a Compensation Board alone to keep pace with compensation.

COLA consideration is common in Massachusetts. They can be applied to current and/or retired employees. They are often considered yearly and may vary. Our recommendation is to implement a modest standing COLA to balance the need to keep ongoing competitive salaries with budget considerations and ease of implementation and management.

To learn more about how the State of Massachusetts reviews compensation, read this [December 2022 Boston Globe article](#).

A More Efficient Compensation Review Process

The Board recommends that the City provide compensation data to be used for compensation review rather than relying on the Board to find and gather such data. Data gathering, distillation, and recommendations are best done by experts who can do it most effectively and efficiently. This would allow the Board to more quickly focus on and fully contemplate the most salient compensation issues and considerations.

Such research could happen through the hiring of an outside consultant, such as the Employers Association of the NorthEast ([EANE](#)) or assigning a City employee to research. The Board also recommends that the City advocate the Massachusetts Municipal Association ([MMA](#)) to manage up-to-date compensation information across the towns and cities of the State.

In addition, the Board recommends that future Compensation Boards invite the previous Board to an early meeting to talk through the previous process, experience, and answer questions.

Addendum 1 – Northampton Code of Ordinances

Source: [Sec. § 5-5 Compensation of elected officials](#)

A. Compensation. Elected officials' annual compensation shall be as follows:

[Amended 10-21-2021 by Ord. No. 21.325]

Mayor	Until January 4, 2016: \$80,000 As of January 4, 2016: \$92,500
City Council President	Until January 4, 2016: \$5,500 As of January 4, 2016: \$10,000
At-Large City Councilor	Until January 4, 2016: \$5,000 As of January 4, 2016: \$9,500
Ward City Councilor	Until January 4, 2016: \$5,000 As of January 4, 2016: \$9,000
At-Large School Committee Member	Until January 4, 2016: \$2,500 As of January 4, 2016: \$5,500
Ward School Committee Member	Until January 4, 2016: \$2,500 As of January 4, 2016: \$5,000
Trustees of Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School	Until January 4, 2016: \$2,500 As of January 4, 2016: \$5,000
Elector under the Oliver Smith Will	Until January 4, 2016: \$10 As of January 4, 2016: \$10
Trustees under the Will of Charles E. Forbes	Until January 4, 2016: \$0 As of January 4, 2016: \$0
Community Preservation at Large	Until January 4, 2016: \$0 As of January 4, 2016: \$0

B. Benefits and expenses. The Mayor, City Council, School Committee and Trustees of Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School shall be eligible to enroll in the City's municipal health insurance program and retirement plans.

[Amended 10-21-2021 by Ord. No. 21.325]

C. Elected Officials Compensation Advisory Board; members; term; compensation.

- (1) The Elected Officials Compensation Advisory Board shall periodically, but not less frequently than 10 years, study the adequacy and equity of the compensation, benefits and expense allowances of municipal elected officials and report its findings and recommendations to the Mayor and City Council, and said reports shall be filed with the City Clerk.
- (2) The Board shall be composed of seven members, each appointed by the Mayor subject to confirmation by the City Council. The members shall each serve a term of two years.
- (3) Members of the Board shall serve without compensation. Members of the Board are subject to State Ethics Commission and conflict of interest laws.
- (4) Former and current elected officials, and relatives of elected officials, shall not be eligible to serve on this committee.
- (5) The committee will submit recommendations to the City Council, which will have the authorization to act/not act on these recommendations.

Addendum 2 – Benchmarking Tables

Sources: [US Census Bureau’s American Community Survey 2017-2022 5-year estimates](#), [Collins Center for Public Management at UMass Boston October 2022 survey seeking salaries for Massachusetts Mayor](#), Northampton Human Resources Department, city officials for each benchmarking municipality, municipal codes of ordinances for each benchmarking municipality

Mayor

Municipality	Number of Households	Median Household Income	Population	Municipal Budget	FY23 Mayoral Salary
Easthampton	7,796	63,098	16,120	\$48,500,000	\$83,000
Northampton	11,949	72,687	29,379	\$126,000,000	\$92,500
Greenfield	8,100	52,211	17,661	\$58,300,000	\$93,157
Westfield	15,292	73,692	40,922	\$161,000,000	\$100,000
Pittsfield	19,290	59,522	43,890	\$198,000,000	\$110,100
Agawam	11,785	78,619	28,715	\$104,400,000	\$110,424
West Springfield	12,734	60,023	28,814	\$113,100,000	\$120,000

City Council

Municipality	Number of Households	Median Household Income	Population	Municipal Budget	Council President Stipend	Councilor At-Large Stipend	Councilor Stipend
Greenfield	8,100	52,211	17,661	\$58,300,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Easthampton	7,796	63,098	16,120	\$48,500,000	\$6,500	\$6,000	\$6,000
Pittsfield	19,290	59,522	43,890	\$198,000,000	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
Northampton	11,949	72,687	29,379	\$126,000,000	\$10,000	\$9,500	\$9,000
Agawam	11,785	78,619	28,715	\$104,400,000	\$12,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
West Springfield	12,734	60,023	28,814	\$113,100,000	\$12,500	\$10,000	\$10,000
Westfield	15,292	73,692	40,922	\$161,000,000	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$14,000

School Committee

Municipality	Number of Households	Median Household Income	Population	Municipal Budget	School Committee Chair Stipend	School Committee At-Large Member Stipend	School Committee Member & Smith Voc Trustee Stipend
Pittsfield	19,290	59,522	43,890	\$198,000,000	n/a	\$0	\$0
Greenfield	8,100	52,211	17,661	\$58,300,000	n/a	\$2,000	\$2,000
Easthampton	7,796	63,098	16,120	\$48,500,000	\$4,250	\$4,000	\$4,000
Northampton	11,949	72,687	29,379	\$126,000,000	n/a	\$5,500	\$5,000
Agawam	11,785	78,619	28,715	\$104,400,000	n/a	\$5,000	\$5,000
West Springfield	12,734	60,023	28,814	\$113,100,000	\$6,250	\$5,000	\$5,000
Westfield	15,292	73,692	40,922	\$161,000,000	n/a	\$8,680	\$8,680

Benchmarking Benefits

Municipality	Health Insurance Offered (% paid by city)	Retirement/options
Agawam	Yes (50-70%)	No, but offer life insurance policy option (for retirees/active employees)
Easthampton	Yes – mayor only (75%)	Yes (Mayor = City retirement & part-time employees = OBRA 7.5%)
Greenfield	Yes - mayor only (80% HMO; 60% PPO)	No
Pittsfield	Yes	Yes (optional for elected; mandatory for others)
West Springfield	Yes – mayor only (75%)	Mayor only (mayor is only elected official who is full-time)
Westfield	Yes (77%)	Yes (no match by towns, but officials can contribute to plan)

Addendum 3 – [FY2022 Northampton Salaries](#)

Addendum 4 – Northampton Elected Officials Survey Responses

Q1 - What elected position did you, or do you currently, hold for the City of Northampton?

What elected position did you, or do you currently, hold for the City of Northampton?

City Council

Trustee, Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School

SVAHS Board of Trustees Member

City Councilor

School committee for Ward 6

City councilor at large

School Committee

City Councilor Ward 6

Trustee Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School

City Council

City Councilor

School Committee Member

City Councilor

City councilor

NA

Q2 - How many years did you hold, or have you held, the elected position?

How many years did you hold, or have you held, the elected position?

I have completed six of seven years.

1.25

Will be 2 in 11/23. Will be running for reelection

1

In my 2nd year

1 year 3 months

1.25 yr

I was elected as City Councilor for Ward 6: 26 years ago

Thirteen

3

3

3

3

15 months

NA

Q3 - What year(s) was the elected position held?

What year(s) was the elected position held?

2016, 2017, 2019, 2021

2022-present

2022 & 2023

2021 - present

Nov 2021

2022-present

2021

I've been City Councilor for Ward 6 from 1997 - 2023

2010

January 2020

2020-2023

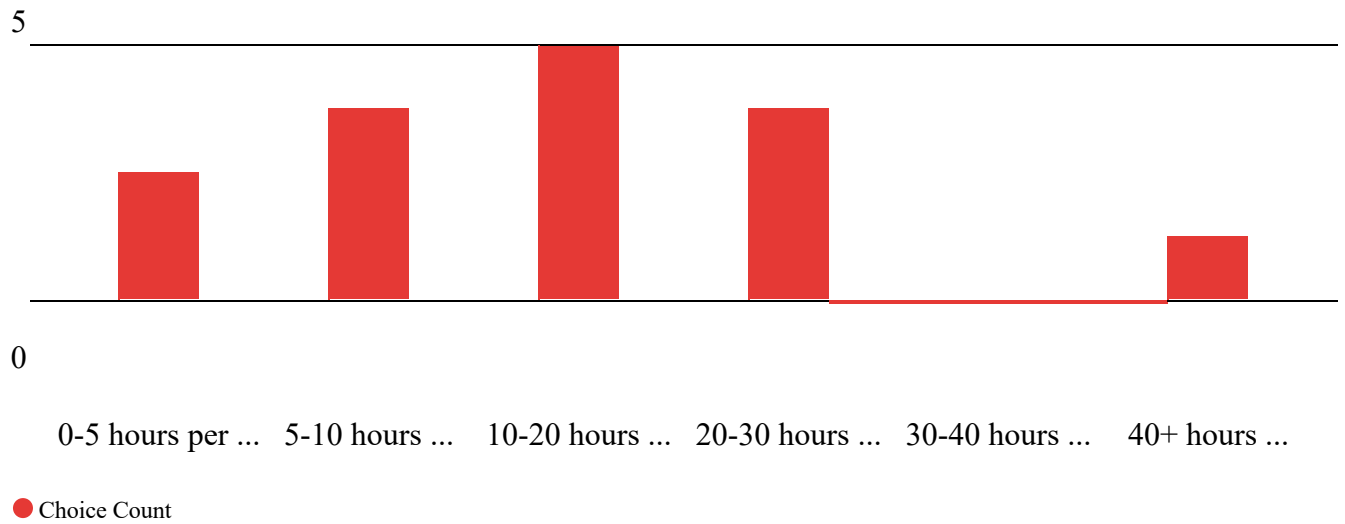
2020-present

2020 - present

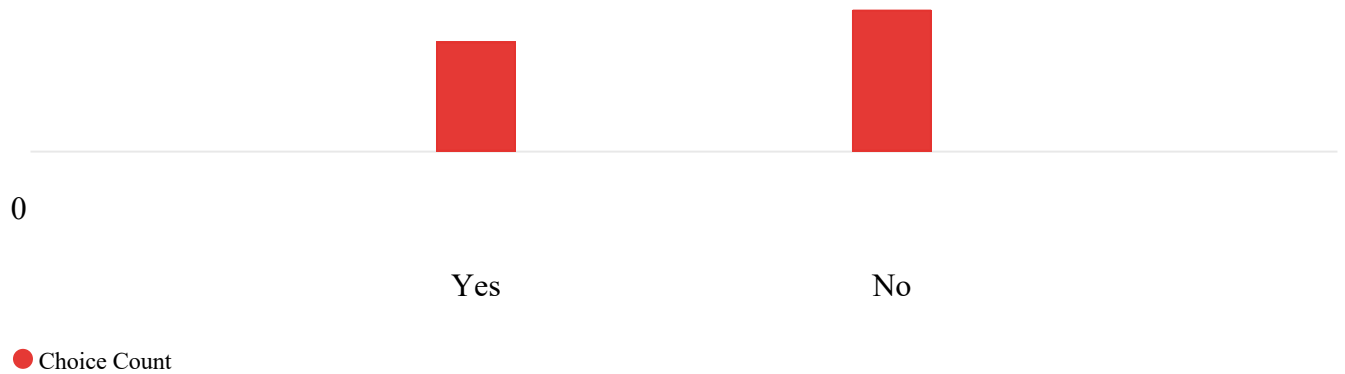
2022-23

NA

Q4 - Approximately how many hours per week did you, or do you, spend on the elected position?



Q5 - Did the pay/benefits have an impact on your decision to run for the elected position?



Q6 - Please explain the positive or negative impacts the pay and benefits had/have on you.

Please explain the positive or negative impacts the pay and benefits had/have on you.

The pay and benefits are not reasons to seek elected office. The stipend for City Councilors is welcome, however it should not be considered pay as it falls significantly short of adequate compensation for time and energy required. Access to medical insurance through the City is meaningful. As part of the GIC, the City offers access to a large group with a strong benefit plan, which, sadly, most people do not have access to. The City's medical plan has benefited my entire family and afforded us considerable comfort.

My primary motive is to serve the school and the stipend feels like a thank you.

Positive-Health Insurance Negative-Stipend of \$5k not enough

It has been helpful to be able to get health insurance for my family.

They help to acknowledge the amount of time I put onto this work. Some weeks are far more than 10-20 hours

The pay is minimal, I already have health benefits, I do it as a service to my community

When I was elected as City Councilor I did not run for the money. I ran because I wanted to represent Ward 6 and the residents of Northampton when I was elected.

Positive

If there had been no compensation, I would not have run.

Health insurance and the limited pay are an essential part of meeting my needs.

I don't take part in the benefits and the pay is fairly unnoticeable

My family currently access our health insurance and FSA through the city - I would not have been able to consider serving without the stipend and benefits

I view it as a stipend that validates the importance of the job,, but is not intended to be direct compensation for all the hours worked.

NA

Q7 - What type of occupation (compensated or uncompensated) did you, or do you, have while holding this elected position (if any)?

What type of occupation (compensated or uncompensated) did you, or do you, have while holding this elected position (if any)?

I am a Vocational Consultant that specializes in working with youth transitioning out of high school who have an IEP. My job allows me flexibility around my schedule so I can meet my City Council obligations.

Education consultant

Construction Project Representative

Attorney

I am a 3/4 time psychologist

Writer and working at a retail store

Currently retired

Retired

Part time auto dealer shuttle driver

Health data research/ solo parent of three young children

A combination of administration of manual labor.

Full time job, compensated

Compensated - nonprofit director

I am otherwise retired.

NA

Q8 - If your elected position has ended, why did the elected position end?

If your elected position has ended, why did the elected position end?

NA

NA

N/A

N/A

I am still a City Councilor of Ward 6 and the election will take place for re-election in November 2023.

N/A

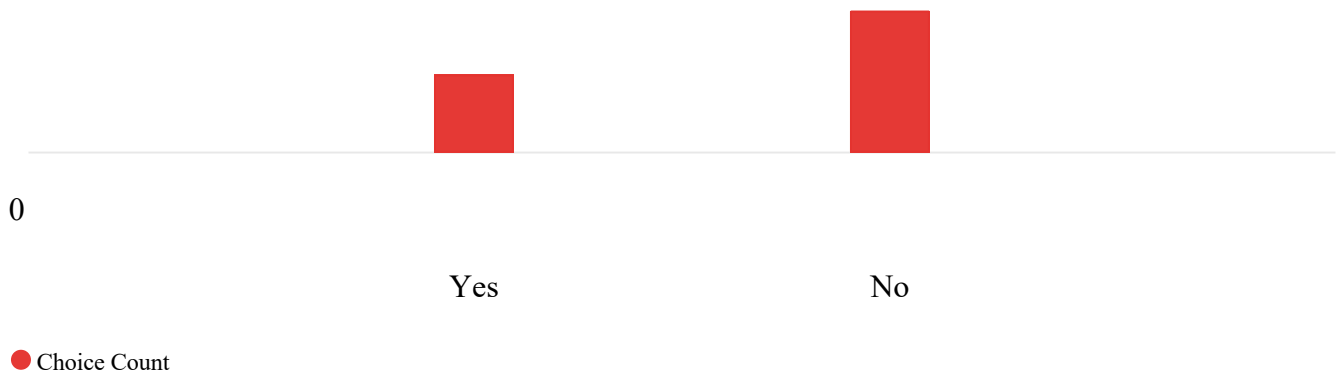
n/a

I am currently serving my last year for now; I can not continue juggling both my elected responsibilities and my occupation responsibilities (and do it all well!)

NA

NA

Q9 - Did you feel the compensation was fair for the elected position you held/hold and the amount of work you did?



Q10 - If you did not feel the compensation was fair, briefly explain why.

If you did not feel the compensation was fair, briefly explain why.

I am going to speak about the role of City Councilor. I ran for City Council with the knowledge that the level of service expected would not be matched by the salary and benefits and I have never evaluated my compensation as being “fair” or “unfair”. The stipend and access to the city’s health insurance plan are very much appreciated. That said, this compensation does not match the demands of the job. While councilors are not volunteers, they provide many hours of service with the understanding that they are being under-compensated. Here are the demands of the job of City Councilor. During 2022 the City Council took the following actions: considered 221 pieces of legislation, including 141 Orders, 42 Ordinances, 13 Resolutions; convened in full City Council 27 times and in City Council committees 46 times; held 24 Public Hearings on matters such as the budget, zoning, administrative orders, and pole petitions. City Council Budget narrative for FY2024. Between City Council and Committee Meetings, Councilors will participate in 50 or more public meetings a year. City Councilors often attend additional committee meetings because the topic is of importance and the discussion will inform them around improving legislation and on their vote. Beyond council meetings, City Councilors research and study legislation before deliberating and casting their voting. Councilors may also draft and sponsor legislation. Councilors answer phone calls, respond to emails, and meet directly with constituents over zoom, at City Hall, at cafes, and on the street where folks live. Councilors routinely meet with the Mayor, Administrators, State Officials, and community organizations. They attend community forums and participate as dignitaries at events. Council business can occur any day of the week, sometimes on short notice as issues arise, and very often the work is in the evening or on weekends. Northampton is a politically active community and residents hold high expectations for their elected representatives. They expect Councilors to be responsive and ready to listen to their ideas and concerns. Councilors may be publicly lauded or criticized during public comment, public hearings, in the press, and in social media. Taking all of this in, increasing compensation to better match the demands of the job while also recognizing the impacts on family and professional life would broaden the range of residents interested in serving on City Council.

The stipend is definitely fair but the health care benefits make it unfair. It means the position is rewarded much more for the elected trustees who have the city pay for their health insurance. It also means they don't want to lose the position because they'll lose the health insurance.

Not enough for the time commitment required to be effective

City councilor requires, at least, 10+ hours a week to just provide a minimal level of representation. Considerably more time should be spent on this role. The authorized compensation is not just a sacrifice from private sector work, it amounts to less (far less) than minimum wage depending on how the job is performed.

The time I spend varies, but I figure I'm making \$10-22/hr which seems a little low for the responsibility of the position

As a City Councilor, I have learned that I can't predict the number of hours I work in a week. As an example, City Council meetings are much longer than in the past. City Council meetings start at 7 pm and for 2 council meetings, the first ended at 3:25 am in the morning. The second council meeting went from 7 pm to 2:20 am. City Councilor Bill Dwight had to tell the Mayor it was time to close our meeting. I never know, from day to day, 24 hours a day, how long I will be working for that day or for the week. The amount of Committees we have to attend, the number of site visits with the Building Inspector, during COVID-19 due to complaints and working along with the DPW Director of complaints.

Knowledge and years of experience

The expectation of Councilors is extremely high- and growing. Northampton's demographics skew older. We have a quite a large population of retired residents who have time to be active in City affairs. The Culture of

Northampton is such that our residents are particularly engaged in local governance. There is a point of pride for us.

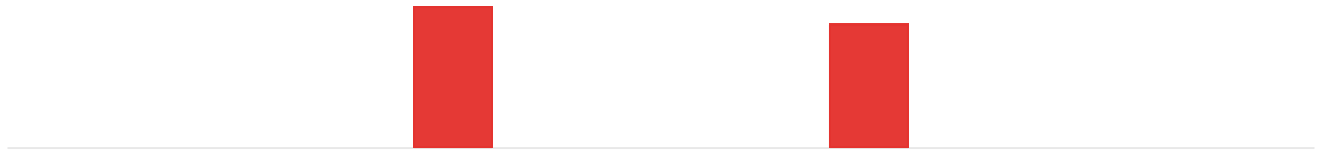
It also means that the amount of inquiries, correspondence, public comment, etc. is quite high. The Pandemic, Climate Emergency and Anti-Racism movement have added another layer of civic engagement. All good things but just to say that the expectations and demands on Councilors are formidable. Our full Council Meetings regularly go past the 5 hour mark. We also serve on three sub-committees and sometimes sub-committees of those sub-committees. And those are just the required meetings. We also, of course, regularly meet with resident groups, activists, and city staff and individual constituents.

On average, I work about 20 hours per week as a City Councilor, which works out to below minimum wage. A job that requires this much knowledge and skill needs to pay a living wage for Northampton.

While most weeks require an average of 10 hours of work, some weeks require much, much more. I spent 20 hours on school committee related meetings and work each of the past two weeks, which draws me away from my family and work responsibilities. Also, meetings go so late at night that it takes me a full day to recover the next day, but because of my work and family, I can't take that time to recover.

The question above is a tricky one - I had to work very very hard to set boundaries to hold the amount of work I've done as a councilor to my available time and in line with compensation; people often want us to do significantly more (have more oversight, more responsibility, more meetings, etc.) than is possible as a very part time responsibility

Q11 - Did you, or do you, have any challenges attending required meetings?



● Choice Count

Q12 - If you had/have challenges attending required meetings for your elected position, what were they?

If you had/have challenges attending required meetings for your elected position, what were they?

Meetings can be taxing on family life. Lots of missed dinners. For Councilors with children, missed bedtime, performances, sporting events, school open houses, etc. I personally chose not to run for election until my children were out of high school because of this. Meetings that are especially long ending around midnight can throw my sleep schedule off for a few days. Fridays can be a sleepwalk.

NA

NA

Only if they are held on the night I work late at my job

Most of the regular school committee meetings are 5-6 hours long, ending around midnight which is late to be making thoughtful decisions.

Rarely

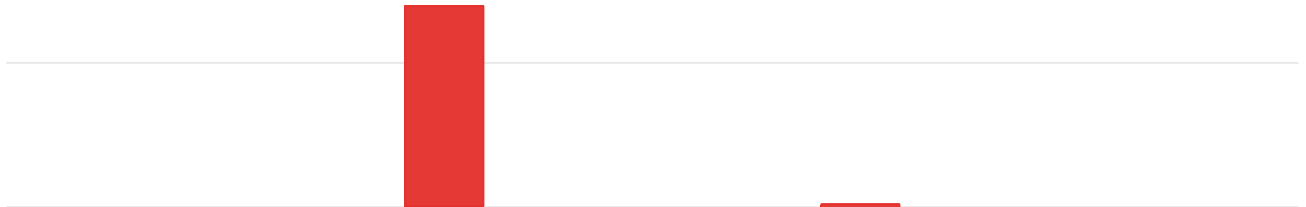
As as a solo parent of three kids, I am grateful for the flexibility that remote meetings offer. There's no way I could afford the amount of childcare I'd need if I had to pay for it in my absence. Still, the sheer amount of meetings make it a challenge.

Regularly scheduled meetings run late into the night. Sub-committee and special meetings often get scheduled when I need to be with my kids - as a two-working parent household, I need to be with kids many afternoons and evenings.

Often it is my family responsibilities that make meeting times challenging, but I have had to leave work early or schedule someone to take my place at work so I could attend a meeting

NA

Q13 - Would you be interested in serving as an elected official again?



● Choice Count

Q14 - Why or why not?

Why or why not?

I am on the cusp of deciding whether I will run again or not. Serving on City Council can be very rewarding. I am lucky that my families finances allow me the latitude to both serve on council and determine whether I want to continue. A significant responsibility outside of elected duties, but very much tied to holding office, is running for election. This is a job in itself.

It's really rewarding. I like making a contribution to civic life.

More work to be done as SVAHS-BOT member. 2-year term is too short, should be changed to 4-years

I enjoy it and think I am of service to the city.

I am committed to the work of helping the schools

As a retired teacher I have experience with and interest in working with the schools to offer the best education possible for our students

Because I have been involved from the time I became a City Councilor in designing many ordinances and resolutions throughout my years of service. These have given residents a better quality of life.

Many residents who have talked to me want to be heard. I want to be able to continue on with total communication and transparency which I feel is essential, all residents in the City want to be heard. I will always work hard to make myself available to my residents and in the City day and night and I will always want to hear their concerns. Also to, as a City Councilor it is my fiscal responsibility to look at the budget carefully. My priorities: the budget, the roads, intersections in ward 6 and in the City, quality education, public safety, economic development, human rights, and best practices. I fully support affordable housing and Habitat for Humanity along with working with the Planning Department, Wayne Feiden, Habitat for Humanity homes have been build on the Glendale Road area, Westhampton Road area, Burts Pit Road area and now a lot on Woodland.

still serving

I love serving and now have the skill set and acquired knowledge to more efficiently serve my community.

It's an important public service.

I'm not sure. Not only have the hours taken a toll, the incredible disrespect from some members of the public has been disheartening and I'm not sure it's worth it

Very fulfilling, chance to make a difference - I would serve again when my other responsibilities lessen

I find the job challenging and fulfilling, and believe I make a positive contribution.

NA

Q15 - Do you know anybody in your community who was interested in running for an elected position, but didn't?



Q16 - If you do, what made them ultimately decide not to run?

If you do, what made them ultimately decide not to run?

Children, career, family, stress.

NA

They didn't have enough time to devote to it

Not enough support

N/A

They told me, due to the long hours of City Council and having children would not fit their schedule to run. Also, very difficult for a single parent to be able to do these hours and hire childcare.

Too much work; commitment; too many meetings.

Costs/unpaid time of running an election, low pay after election, difficulty of dealing with constituents.

The immense number of hours required

Concerns about public pressure and time commitment

Inability to balance the demands of being an elected official with their family and "day job" responsibilities.

NA



CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Northampton, Massachusetts

Roll Call

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| At-Large Councilor Marissa Elkins | At-Large Councilor Jamila Gore |
| Ward 1 Councilor Stanley Moulton, III | Ward 2 Councilor Karen Foster |
| Ward 3 Councilor James Nash | Ward 4 Councilor Garrick Perry |
| Ward 5 Councilor Alexander Jarrett | Ward 6 Councilor Marianne LaBarge |
| Ward 7 Councilor Rachel Maiore | |

Announcement that Meeting Audio/Video Recorded

Council President Nash announced that the meeting was being audio/video recorded.

Public Hearings
Announcement of Public Hearing on 23.251 National Grid Pole Petition for Pleasant Street (Petition #30684497)

Public Hearings
Announcement of Public Hearing on 23.251 National Grid Pole Petition for Pleasant Street (Petition #30684497)

Councilor Nash made the following announcement:
Per M.G.L. Ch. 166, Section 22, the Northampton City Council will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7 p.m.** in Council Chambers, 212 Main Street, Northampton, MA on National Grid's petition to install a single-owned pole on Pleasant Street. (Petition #30684497). Instructions for accessing the hearing remotely may be found on the May 18, 2023 City Council agenda to be posted on www.northamptonma.gov no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City Council will hear all persons who wish to be heard thereon.

Announcement of Public Hearing on 23.254 National Grid Pole Petition for Maple Street (Petition #30732483)

Announcement of Public Hearing on 23.254 National Grid Pole Petition for Maple Street (Petition #30732483)

Councilor Nash read the following notice:
Per M.G.L. Ch. 166, Section 22, the Northampton City Council will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7:05 p.m.** in Council Chambers, 212 Main Street, Northampton, MA on National Grid's petition to install one single-owned pole on Maple Street. (Petition #30732483). Instructions for accessing the hearing remotely may be found on the May 18, 2023 City Council agenda to be posted on www.northamptonma.gov no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City Council will hear all persons who wish to be heard thereon.

Announcement of Public Hearing on 23.255 National Grid Pole Petition for South Street (Petition #30734983)

Announcement of Public Hearing on 23.255 National Grid Pole Petition for South Street (Petition #30734983)

Councilor Nash announced a public hearing as follows:
Per M.G.L. Ch. 166, Section 22, the Northampton City Council will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7:10 p.m.** in Council Chambers, 212 Main Street, Northampton, MA on National Grid's petition to install one single-owned pole on South Street. (Petition #30734983). Instructions for accessing the hearing remotely may be found on the May 18, 2023 City Council agenda to be posted on www.northamptonma.gov no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City Council will hear all persons who wish to be heard thereon.

Public Comment

Public Comment

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

Peter Kakos, 220 Rocky Hill Road, Florence, thanked councilors for their public service. He is here to follow up on a proposed resolution submitted at the end of March. He has talked to two councilors in the meantime and realized there's an awful lot more than they could handle in a single resolution. He left a copy of the amended resolution for them. It tones down some of the language about the need for suicide and instead just talks about hospice and more indirectly refers to what people might need in the event of a nuclear attack. The resolution calls for the council to establish a commission but he decided that was too much as well. He decided that if it was his big idea he should carry the ball if he could, so what he is going to do is create what he calls a 'Nuclear Attack Assessment Team (NAAT).' He will be working to get six or

eight citizens on this team, two medical doctors if possible – people he knows and trusts and who have been at this work for a long time. The assessment team will discover 1) where the targets are in southern New England if there's a nuclear war, 2) what their distances are to Northampton, 3) the range of health effects people might suffer from radioactive poisoning, 4) potential symptoms, 5) treatment and 6) medicine necessary, 7) including enough morphine sufficient to meet the need. He will return, he promised. He thought he could take this on by himself as a lower case public servant.

Jacqui McCreanor, Ward 3, said she was appalled by the city's decision-making at the recent March 9, 2023 Planning Board, April 10, 2023 Legislative Matters and April 13, 2023 City Council meeting where city officials and staff rushed to pass the two-family reduced lot line (RLL) uses allowed by right zoning ordinance changes for Urban Residential B (URB) and Urban Residential C (URC) districts. This 'yes' vote cements developers' right to cut down healthy, mature trees and tear down modest, historic starter homes to build enormous, out-of-scale, fossil-fuel dependent luxury housing. Faced with an affordable and attainable housing crisis, climate crisis, potential nuclear crisis, social justice crisis, aging city infrastructure, sustainability issues, environmental and wetland concerns and the demolition of historic neighborhoods, Northampton city officials and staff are choosing to look the other way and embrace archaic, antiquated, harmful residential zoning ordinances reminiscent of the 1980's 'build, build, build at whatever cost' mentality. Residents have asked repeatedly to no avail to have public meetings arranged jointly with the Planning Board, Historical Commission and City Council to discuss concerns about developer-initiated housing projects and proposed solutions such as creating neighborhood conservation districts and requiring special permits for developer-initiated projects so that they are actually held accountable to the criteria set forth in the Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan 2021. Simply stated, RLL uses allowed by right is an attack on affordable and attainable housing, social justice, historic preservation, sustainability and climate action goals. She believes it is critically important for each city councilor to fully understand what they are voting for and to do proper due diligence before passing harmful residential zoning ordinances such as RLL uses allowed by right.

Nick Mottern, 16 Strong Avenue, said he wanted to mention three things. 1) He thanked the council for putting barriers up on streets so people can start eating and enjoying being outside. 2) He would like the city to cause the owner of Pearl Street nightclub to properly maintain the night club so it is not an eyesore on that street. 3) He wanted to support what Peter Kakos said about the need to provide medicine including morphine and hospice care for people who would be made grievously ill by nuclear radiation if there was a nuclear attack. The policies of the United States government right now are very pro-nuclear weapons. They have a situation where drones have been flown over the Kremlin and exploded; people are clearly not using their heads and it would seem to be commonsensical that the city would make preparations for a nuclear attack given the number of nuclear-related industries and military bases in their area.

There being no further comments, at 7:19 p.m., public comment ended.

Announcements

Announcements

At their next meeting on the 18th she will be presenting her budget message which she will be getting to them on or before May 17th as required by the city charter, Mayor Sciarra reminded. The budget book will be available for inspection at Forbes Library, Lilly library and in the City Clerk's office and posted on line on the city website. Budget hearings are the following week.

Pride is back; this Saturday is Hampshire Pride, Mayor Sciarra announced. She hopes to see councilors there. The parade will step off at 11 a.m. from Sheldon Field. The parade route is different from 2019 and is up Route 9 to the Armory Street lot where the festival will be. Those marching are asked to arrive by 10:30 a.m. There will be a stage and vendors and music and a chance to celebrate pride together as well as to assert their commitment to support and stand up for the rights, safety and health of community members that are under fierce attack in this country. She would love councilors to join her on stage for a proclamation at 1 p.m.

The following Saturday, May 13th, is the 26th annual National Education Foundation (NEF) plant sale and garden market at Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School (SVAHS) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This year there will be a seed starting station for kids. The proceeds raise money for NEF's book fund which is distributed to all public schools in Northampton.

Speaking of school funding, in the beginning of April, she announced plans to use \$1.2 million from stabilization to cover a large portion of the \$2.3 million shortfall in the FY2024 Northampton Public Schools budget, Mayor Sciarra continued. This decision is part of a two-year plan to balance the school budget, return to strong fiscal principles and work together as a community to advocate for more and equitable school funding. Their community work needs to start now. The immediate goal is to have a positive impact on the choices for the state budget this year, including the Fair Share Amendment. Northampton voters overwhelmingly favored the Fair Share Amendment last November with 82% voting in favor of it. Concerningly, preliminary proposals for this new state revenue have seen little focus on K-12 funding. She is asking others to please join her, the Northampton Association of School Employees (NASE), state Senator Jo Comerford, state Representative Lindsay Sabadosa and the broader Northampton community in asking to increase state funding for public schools. She asked them to please add their names to a letter to state legislators she has asked the administrative assistant to forward and to share the URL with their constituents. (This link will also be up on the city website.) They are asking people to add their names to the letter to advocate for the following critical increases to the final state budget for education:

- ❖ \$100 per pupil for minimum state aid communities like Northampton (The governor’s budget had \$30 per pupil and the House budget raised it to \$60; they are going to ask the House Ways and Means Committee to increase it to \$100.)
- ❖ fully fund the charter school tuition reimbursement formula
- ❖ fully fund the special education circuit breaker
- ❖ reimburse the 14% increase in costs assessed to districts for out-of-district placements
- ❖ allocate \$166 million from the Fair Share Amendment for K-12 education. (The Fair Share Amendment is supposed to be for education and transportation so this would be half of its revenue with one-third for early childhood, one-third for K-12 education and one-third for higher education.)

Right now revenue is very skewed towards higher ed and early childhood education. She is asking them to join them in advocating for long-term goals as well. She thanked Andrea Egitto from NASE who created the form. NASE is organizing a trip on May 16th to the state house to lobby for these needs.

Legislative Matters will be cancelled this Monday, Councilor Jarrett related.

Not this Saturday but the following (May 13th) will be a community mural painting party between Thornes and the downtown parking garage from 1 to 3 p.m., Councilor Perry shared.

The city has extended the deadline for applications for the commission to study racialized harms, Councilor Nash announced. The deadline is tomorrow so last call for folks interested in serving. They have flyered neighborhoods and buildings and councilors have sent the notice out on their listservs. If interested, now is the time to get those applications in.

Councilor Nash invited Community Resources Committee Chair Garrick Perry to address a concern raised after last week’s meeting that it is actually taxpayer money going toward the Ninja Turtle manhole covers.

That is not the case, Councilor Perry assured. In a presentation, Leslie Laurie, a representative of the Northampton Vibrancy Project, talked about other projects in addition to the Ninja Turtle project. He encouraged people to check out the recording of that meeting for a fuller picture. The money being used is from ARPA funds which are for one-time use. They are using it for economic stimulation and are very confident that it will be a boon to their city and surrounding communities. It is rare to have such a unique icon birthed and founded in their city but it is not being funded by any taxpayer money, he stressed.

Presentations
Third Quarter
Financial Report

Presentations
Third Quarter Financial Report

Finance Director Charlene Nardi reviewed the third quarter financial report. MUNIS was upgraded April 17th so the report looks a little different, she noted.

For General Fund (GF) revenue, three-quarters of the way through the fiscal year they would like to see 75% collections for most line items. For the most part, things are looking really good. For real estate and personal property taxes, 74.1% and 64.8% are the normal percentages they would expect to see at this time.

For motor vehicle excise tax, the city has collected \$2.1 million and they are at 91%, so they are above projected revenues.

At \$756,000, Hotel/Motel tax is at 112% of projections, exceeding not only budget estimates for FY2023 but 22% higher than the same time last year and 10% above FY2020, the last pre-pandemic time period for this revenue source. The same for meals. They have collected \$588,000, 106% of the estimated budget. This is 12% higher than the same time last year and about \$10,000 more than in FY2020. She really feels like those revenue sources have rebounded and are starting to grow again.

With \$643,000 collected, cannabis revenue continues to decline. It is only 66% of the projected budget, 29% below the same time period last year and 53% below the same time period in FY2020. She doesn't know where the bottom is but it continues to decline.

For PILOT accounts, these amounts are calculated and invoiced after the tax rate is set and most have been received. They will make sure those revenues come in before the end of the year.

Collectively, parking revenue for the third quarter is at \$1,090,088, an increase of \$76,000 from the same time last year (\$1,014,000). They are running about \$350,000 below what they took in for parking before the pandemic. As they have noted before, parking is different from other revenue sources. The way people visit the city and dine and shop is different than pre-pandemic.

Ambulance services continues to be a significant source of revenue at \$2.4 million. This continues to grow.

At 68.6%, Charges for Services is a little behind. It tends to run slightly behind and to catch up in the 4th quarter.

Under Licenses and Permits, if they look at the Building Inspector, this was running slightly behind before. Now, they are at 122.7% of the projected budget. They are definitely seeing an ease in some factor, whether it is in transportation or the supply chain she doesn't know, but they are seeing an increase in building fees, which is good news.

In state revenue, they will notice that a few are a little behind. It will be interesting to see how those come in because she generally sees them at closer to 73 or 74%.

Parking tickets on pg. 4 are at 75%. This is a line item they don't expect to grow very much. They now offer ParkMobile which gives folks a different way to make sure they keep feeding the meter. Overall, general revenues are in sync with budget projections at 75.8%.

In Enterprise Fund revenue, everything is tracking as expected. Revenue funds are running at equal or slightly ahead of budget expectations. Sewer revenue is running slightly ahead at 83.4%, water is running ahead at 79.4%, stormwater is at 73.2% and solid waste is at 78.9%.

On the spreadsheet for GF expenses, Director Nardi pointed to the values for Personnel Services (PS) and Ordinary Maintenance budgets for departments. In percentages used they are looking for 75% or less. They don't like to see overages. The council did vote to transfer money into departmental budgets on April 13th which is not yet reflected in the report because it is as of March 31st. Also, they will not see the most recent payroll.

In Enterprise Fund expenses, again they can see percentages in the right hand column. They can't really tell until the end of the year if budgets are completely on target because not everything is spent equally throughout the year. She looks historically and these are all the percentages she would generally see throughout the year.

The only thing that seemed a little behind was the payments from the state through the cherry sheets, Councilor Nash said. He asked what she thought was behind this.

Director Nardi said she honestly didn't know. If she learns anything new, she will let them know.

Councilor Jarrett noted that in GF expenses, a few departments were significantly lower; i.e., Assessors at 51%, Parking at 52% and the health department/Division of Community Care at 34.5% and 31.7%. Is that because they are going to be ramping up in the last few months?

The Assessors' Office budgets for revaluation and other work that might not necessarily be needed that year but that they have to budget for. If it is not used, the money will flow to the GF.

At 52.3%, the parking enforcement department has been challenged with finding folks to work in that department.

The Division of Community Care (DCC) is no longer a separate budget line but was absorbed by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Those funds were encumbered because they were already attached to contracts and are being used this year for contracts signed before the end of last year. The DHHS is using those funds for all of the purposes they were originally budgeted for.

Councilor Moulton asked about highways at 41%. He recognizes that work slows during the winter. Given the requests for street repairs, he asked if she expects all the money to be expended by the end of June.

Director Nardi said she didn't know if all the money would be used but she does know that spring is the busiest time for them and they are working hard. The DPW Director is struggling to hire staff and that is reflected in the department's expenses and in PS.

When talking about water/sewer rates, the DPW director was talking about still seeing a slight downward curve, Councilor Maiore noted. She asked if they are still seeing that.

Director Nardi said her recollection is that the director said they are seeing inconsistent revenue /use. She thinks they are still seeing inconsistencies. Director LaScaleia noted that the city can't rely on this revenue because every month it has been inconsistent. Now they are hearing that Coca-Cola is leaving in six months.

Councilor Nash thanked Director Nardi, commenting that he enjoys the quarterly report because it gives him a sense of how well their city is run.

Select Committee to Study Barriers to Serving on City Boards and Commissions Final Report

Select Committee to Study Barriers to Serving on City Boards and Commissions Final Report

As one of the sponsors of the resolution to create this select committee, he really appreciates the work this committee has done over the past year, Councilor Nash said. He finds the report's recommendations to be largely actionable although some are aspirational. He gave a shout out to all those serving the city in appointed positions.

Javier Luengo-Garrido thanked Councilor Foster, Councilor Nash, Administrative Assistant Laura Krutzler and Vice Chair Councilor Gore for their help and support. The reality is that Northampton is a vibrant community with a lot of people who want to use their professional skills in service to the city even if that is unpaid work.

He reviewed some of the committee's findings as presented in the Executive Summary. Among other things, he shared a recurrent theme that some people felt lost after submitting their initial application because of not knowing what happened to it and/or not hearing whether they had been chosen to serve and not understanding that if not chosen for one committee they might be selected for another. In reflecting on the people who have applied and not been called to serve, select committee members realized this talented pool offers Northampton the possibility of filling the roughly 21 positions open right now. (They are cognizant that some commissions call for specific professional qualifications, he noted.)

In reflecting on the city council process itself, he shared the committees' assumption that whenever the charter requires the City Council to take a vote, it has a deep meaning and there is a reason behind it. In light of this principle, one of the committee's recommendations is the creation of a uniform process for the subcommittee interviewing prospective candidates so that every applicant goes through the same process and has the same set of questions.

One of the downsides to the survey conducted is that they had a captive audience – people who have had or have the privilege of serving, Javier observed. Often this comes with a certain privilege of having disposable time which often comes with a certain social position and disposable income. That made it difficult to find people who were not serving such as people of color. Primarily, the survey was answered by upper-middle class white folks, mostly females. They didn't have a tool to reach other members of their diverse community to ask why they were not serving. They did have a chance to meet one-on-one with some people of color as every member of the select committee was encouraged to meet individually with people they knew or those referred by others. Often in these conversations they found a single mother or father coming home after a full day of work having problems getting out of the house again.

This is in line with the observation that with the remote access available during COVID, the community was able to engage even more. They do believe that keeping the hybrid model in the city of Northampton will help those with children coming home from a day of work.

With regard to the role of the mayor's office, they have seen that the process for reviewing applications there is thoughtful. Coincidentally, the report lines up with a transition in the position in the mayor's office which handles appointment applications, offering an opportunity to reimagine this position.

Many people expressed that one of the reasons they stopped serving is that they didn't understand what they were getting into from the beginning, he continued. They didn't understand the workload or the frequency of the meetings or that they were going to be expected to do things outside of the meetings. To address this, they are recommending that city boards use a template designed by Human Rights Committee (HRC) Chair Megan Paik to create a handbook with a detailed description of their committee's work so that people considering applying have access to first-hand knowledge of the board's activities. Adding a section to the website with specific information about each committee's workload and charge would help people understand upfront what they are getting into, he suggested.

They also recommend adding input and participation into the appointment process from the chair and vice chair of the committee, he added.

Councilor Nash clarified that they would not be deliberating on the report tonight. Discussion of what to do with the report will be placed on a future agenda.

With respect to the recommendation that applicants receive an automated response, Mayor Sciarra noted that there currently is an automated system on the website to acknowledge applications. When residents submit an application online, a message pops up explaining the process going forward and letting them know that their application will be held for two years. She said she was not sure how long this feature had been in place. She said she is very sorry if people didn't receive it for a period of time.

Members and the mayor asked questions and offered comments. Councilor Perry and Councilor Gore shared reflections on their experience serving on the committee.

Councilor LaBarge shared her perception that the excessive length of some meetings and incidental cost of service can be a barrier to participation.

One of the committee's more long-term, aspirational recommendations is for the city to conduct a needs assessment to find a way to compensate volunteer board members for childcare and other expenses, Javier responded. When they consulted the city solicitor, he raised some red flags since people can't receive compensation from a municipality without technically being considered employees and a per diem could affect a low-income person's eligibility for other programs or services. At this point, while recognizing this as a sticking point and hugely

important, as a select committee with limited expertise, they recommended a further needs assessment and more in-depth evaluation.

As a member of the standing committee that makes recommendations on appointments (City Services), Councilor Gore said she thinks having a standard set of questions with the option for interviewers to elaborate is a good idea. Asking people the same questions makes the process more transparent in a way, she suggested.

Being on the City Services Committee also gave him a unique perspective, Councilor Perry commented. While the select committee tried to cast a wide net, they were limited in what they could do. Even though they took a survey and held a public forum, he thinks there are still more answers to be sought. While it was often insightful it was also inspirational. 53% of the people said the experience of applying was positive, and 68% said they would consider applying for another board in the future. Although there are things that could be improved, what stood out to him and surprised him was that people seemed to enjoy the process.

The mayor thanked the committee for its recommendations, saying she thinks some can be implemented quite easily.

Councilor Nash thanked Select Committee members for their work, Beth Kaplowitt for her support and Javier Luengo-Garrido for his leadership

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

Councilor Nash reviewed the items on the consent agenda offering to remove any item for separate consideration upon request.

The administrative assistant respectfully requested removal of the April 13, 2023 minutes.

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the consent agenda with the removal. Councilor Moulton seconded. The motion carried 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda:

- A. 23.283 Appointments to Various Committees, all positive recommendations, City Services - 5/1/2023

Conservation Commission

Kevin Lake, 35 Washington Avenue, Northampton
Term: July 2023-June 2026
Reappointment

Disability Commission

Kathy Murri, 50 Laurel Park, Northampton
Term: July 2023-June 2026
Reappointment

Housing Partnership

Edgardo Cancel, 37 Indian Hill Road, Florence
Term: July 2023- June 2026
Reappointment

Gordon Shaw, 482 Haydenville Road, 4th Floor, Leeds,
Term: July 2022-June 2025
Reappointment

Hannah Shaffer, 115 Milton Street, Florence
Term: July 2023-June 2026
Reappointment

Ace Tayloe, 14 Fruit Street, Northampton
Term: July 2023-June 2026
Reappointment

Parks & Recreation Commission

Julia Chevan, 8 Cosmian Avenue, Florence
Term: July 2023-June 2026
Reappointment

David Cronin, 103 Pioneer Knolls, Florence
Term: July 2022- June 2025
Reappointment

Whiting Street Fund Committee

Joseph Misterka, 312 Chesterfield Road, Leeds
Term: July 2023- June 2026
Reappointment

- B. 23.290 An Order to Reprogram Funds for NHS Heating System Repair - 2nd reading
- C. 23.295 Appointments to Various Committees, all positive recommendations, City Services - 5/1/2023

Energy & Sustainability Commission

Angela Gregory, 595 Haydenville Road, Leeds
Term: May 2023-June 2026
To fill a vacancy

Eric Winkler, 105 Pine Street, Florence
Term: May 2023-June 2026
To fill a vacancy

Urban Forestry Commission

Richard Parrish, 138 South Street, Northampton
Term: May 2023-June 2026
To fill a vacancy

Zoning Board of Appeals

Sherry Taylor, 25 Edwards Square, Northampton (Associate Member)
Term: May 2023-June 2026
To fill a vacancy

- D. 23.298 An Order to Reprogram Funds for Ryan Road School Renovations - 2nd reading

- E. 23.303 Applications for Renewal of Secondhand Dealer Licenses
Applications for Renewal of Secondhand Dealer Licenses:

Feeding Tube Records, 221 Pine Street, Room 141
Applicant: Ted Lee

Phoenix Rising, 5 Old South Street
Applicant: Robert J. Templeton

Urban Exchange, 233 Main Street
Applicant: Sylvia Naumburger

VNA Hospice Shop, 18 Bridge Street
Applicant: Nancy Case

- F. 23.304 Applications for Ten (10) Taxicab Licenses, Jeffrey Miller - Cosmic Cab Company

Taxicab Licenses for the following vehicles:

- 2013 Chrysler Town & Country - Blue
- 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan - Gray
- 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan - White
- 2007 Chevy Suburban - Brown
- 2012 Chrysler Town & Country - Gray

- 2008 Dodge Grand Caravan - Gray
- 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan - Gray
- 2009 Dodge Grand Caravan - Blue
- 2011 Dodge Grand Caravan - Gray
- 2014 Chrysler Town & Country - Gray

G. 23.305 Application for Business Owner's Permit, Jeffrey Miller - Cosmic Cab Company

Renewal License for:

Jeffrey David Miller, Cosmic Cab Company
Business Address: 160 Main Street, #8

H. 23.313 Appointments to Various Committees - for referral to City Services Whiting Street Fund Committee

Andrea Murray, 54 Day Ave., Northampton
Term: July 2023 - June 2026
Reappointment

Board of Assessors

David Murphy, 78 North Elm St., Northampton
Term: July 2023 - June 2026
Reappointment

Central Business Architecture Committee

Melissa Frydlo, 123 South St. #2, Northampton
Term: July 2023 – June 2026
Reappointment

Council on Aging

Adrienne Andrews, 84 Pines Edge Drive, Northampton
Term: July 2023 – June 2026
To fill a vacancy

Mark Bird, 19 West Center St., Florence
Term: July 2023 – June 2026
To fill a vacancy

Housing Partnership

Spencer Ghazey-Bates, 86 Massasoit St., Northampton
Term: July 2023 – June 2026
To fill a vacancy

For the text of financial orders approved as part of the consent agenda, see Financial Orders (on 2nd reading) below.

Financial Orders (on 1st reading)
23.308 An Order to Reprogram funds to NPS Playground Account - 1st reading

Financial Orders (on 1st reading)
23.308 An Order to Reprogram funds to NPS Playground Account - 1st reading
School Supervisor of Maintenance Tony Kuznierz has requested that funds be reprogrammed from the chimney repair account and Leeds School Playground Account for expenses related to other playgrounds in the school system, Director Nardi presented. He is asking for the extra money to be used for playground equipment and projects. While they are taking \$15,000 from the Leeds playground account, they are leaving money to finish some fencing work that needs to be done there. He is getting a lot of requests to address playground needs from all of the schools and this gives him that flexibility.

Councilor LaBarge moved to refer the order to the consent agenda. Councilor Jarrett seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.

See minutes of May 18, 2023 for final reading.

23.309 An Order to Accept DA Sullivan \$10,000 Gift for Public Art and Economic Development Project - Portable Stage - 1st reading

23.309 An Order to Accept DA Sullivan \$10,000 Gift for Public Art and Economic Development Project - Portable Stage - 1st reading

As some may know, DA Sullivan has very generously been gifting \$10,000 to the city every year for quite a few years now, Mayor Sciarra related. The desks councilors are sitting in were purchased with this donation in 2016, and other gifts have been used for early childhood playgrounds at the Leeds and Bridge Street elementary schools, to purchase a water fountain in Pulaski Park, for public art projects and for the Senior Center technology lending program. They have been trying to find really great uses for this gift that benefit the community and, this year, their idea is to use it to buy a portable stage for economic development and the Arts and Culture Department. It will actually have its debut this weekend at the Pride parade. This will be a stage that the city will own and can use for events in Pulaski Park, etc. They will be using it all summer for a new entertainment venue (Garage Band) between the parking garage and the buildings on Hampton Avenue and will use it for the Taste of Northampton. It will get an amazing amount of use, and they can also lend it to folks for events. It will pay for itself very shortly in savings on rentals. As always, they are remarkably grateful for this continual gift.

The Sullivan family is so generous and so many people appreciate what they do every year, Councilor LaBarge said.

Councilor Perry said he's very excited about this and excited to help Ryan set it up this weekend. If anyone wants to help them they'll be there at 8 a.m. setting up for Pride.

Councilor Elkins said she's very excited that the first use of the stage will be for the Pride parade and looks forward to many epic, epic drag performances on this platform.

Councilor Elkins moved to refer the order to the consent agenda. Councilor Perry seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.

See minutes of May 18, 2023 for final reading.

23.310 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Smith Charities Phase 2 Rehabilitation Project - 1st reading

23.310 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Smith Charities Phase 2 Rehabilitation Project - 1st reading

Councilor Nash read the order aloud.

As they know, she comes before them twice a year to pass on the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), Assistant Director LaValley reminded. The CPC conducts two funding rounds; one in the spring and one in the fall. This is the final round for the fiscal year and represents the expenditure of nearly all the funds allocated. This project is essentially a continuation of work that was funded in the fall through a partial grant award. Smith Charities returned with another application and made the case that this is work that really needs to be completed. They had a lot of discussion with the committee about the public visibility of the building and its importance to the streetscape. CPC members wanted to send a clear message that Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds shouldn't be the sole source of funding and that Smith Charities needs to develop other funding sources.

Councilor Jarrett said he looked through some of the letters of support and appreciated that there was discussion that Smith Charities considered selling the building and moving to a different space but that because of the historic restrictions on the building they wouldn't actually be able to get very much for it and it made more sense to occupy it.

Often appropriations come with a requirement for historic preservation protections but in this case that wasn't necessary because the building is already permanently protected, Assistant Director LaValley confirmed. The building has a historic preservation restriction held by the Massachusetts Historical Commission as a result of state grant funding. It is a quirky structure because the first floor is 1,500 square feet of space and occupied by a giant walk-in bank vault that greatly reduces the usable space so it presents a challenge on the open market. It's really unique in the downtown because, as far as they are aware, it is the only building still occupied by the original tenant for whom it was constructed.

In combination with the earlier request it is certainly a large amount for the city to be giving, Councilor Jarrett pointed out. He appreciates the work Smith Charities does but wonders if

there is a way to get more public use from the building other than the view from the street. Could the outdoor space become a park that could be open to the public at certain times or is there additional room in the building for public activities? He asked.

Those are things that come to mind for a building that they are supporting so much.

Those are things CPC members discussed with trustees as well, Assistant Director LaValley said. The trustees are excited about opening the building to the public and looking for more opportunities to do so.

Councilor Moulton said he appreciates the language that refers to establishing a strategic plan for securing funds for long-term capital needs. This is at least the third CPA grant; one in 2020, one last fall and one now. The application states that, according to the architects, the project will require another phase in future years to complete the exterior of the building. The commitment to a long-term plan is very important and he expects they will monitor it. If people are aware of Smith Charities they know it for its charitable work and the money it distributes but are not as familiar with the space, the building. He thinks promoting that public awareness is important to justify the city's investment which, as Councilor Jarrett said, is significant. The total of the two grants for this fiscal year is \$583,836, he noted.

Councilor Maiore said she was thinking about the cost of preserving historic buildings and residences in Northampton and how they are balancing the goal of historic preservation with sustainability goals. Historic preservation restrictions drive cost ups, she suggested. If they have to preserve a building according to historic standards they may not be prioritizing energy efficiency which is part of their climate regeneration plan and this potential drawback needs to be balanced with their desire to preserve their history. She is assuming that costs are much higher because of its status as a historic building. She is wondering if it might be time to review some of their tenets of historic preservation with an eye toward balancing them with sustainability, energy efficiency and cost considerations.

This project is really about securing the envelope of the building, which is also definitely working toward the goals of sustainability and energy efficiency, Ms. LaValley advised.

She is glad to see the trustees realizing that they really need to keep control of the building, Councilor LaBarge commented. She has not seen them come into City Council for any kind of help in restoring the building, she said. For a long time a lot of people didn't know what Smith Charities was all about. She would like to see more on the website about them. She can't wait to see the renovations done as part of Phase 1.

Councilor Elkins moved to refer the order to the consent agenda. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.

See minutes of May 18, 2023 for final reading.

23.311 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to Historic Northampton for Collections Preservation Project - 1st reading

23.311 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to Historic Northampton for Collections Preservation Project - 1st reading

Councilor Nash read the order.

Historic Northampton has a 40,000-plus item collection, Assistant Director LaValley presented. This work will allow Historic Northampton working with museum professionals to assess each item, identify objects at risk, look for potentially-damaging storage conditions, recommend conservation treatments and determine the best long-term care protocols. It is also part of an effort to make items more accessible to people on line. They are not really stored in accessible storage conditions and this is moving forward towards that.

The whole historic grounds are absolutely beautiful, Councilor LaBarge said. She wholly believes in preservation and thinks it's well worth the investment of CPA money.

Councilor Nash asked if she could give examples of some of the items in the collection.

Articles of clothing and accessories make up roughly 5,000 of the items, which are known throughout New England as a large and culturally-significant collection, Director LaValley

shared. Items include 19th century dresses made from silk products grown and spun locally and, coming all the way up to the present, artifacts from the LGBTQ movement. Other items include household textiles such as blankets, sheets, napkins, tablecloths and window coverings and shelves, clocks, chests and boxes, many of which were used to furnish local houses.

Councilor Perry moved to refer the order to the consent agenda. Councilor Maiore seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.

See minutes of May 18, 2023 for final reading.

23.312 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Forbes Library Restroom Ventilation Project - 1st reading

23.312 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Forbes Library Restroom Ventilation Project - 1st reading

This project is a little bit different for the CPA but is one the committee is really excited about, Director LaValley said. The Forbes Library bathroom doors are a really important architectural feature and historic in their own right. They are made from heavy wood and incorporate design elements used throughout the library. They are designed to be really heavy and to have a tight seal on purpose to separate the humidity and moisture of the bathrooms from the use of the library and to protect the collections. They serve their purpose well; however, the bathrooms were not designed with adequate ventilation. They have no fresh air exchange, they're really humid and they have high CO2, so they are just unpleasant to be around from everything they heard from patrons. This will allow the bathrooms to be brought up to modern code.

Councilor Maiore asked if they didn't have some funding last year for a ventilation project at Forbes Library.

Not with CPA money, Director LaValley said. Additional upgrades to the library are being done with a variety of other funds, she confirmed.

Councilor Maiore said she's heard of the need for this and will be supporting it.

Councilor Elkins moved to refer the order to the consent agenda. Councilor Jarrett seconded.

Councilor Foster said she had the pleasure of chaperoning a 2nd grade field trip to the library today. The first question 2nd graders were asked when they entered the room was who owns the library. There were a lot of answers before the correct answer of 'we all do' was finally given. Forbes has always sought ways to stay a really relevant public space used by all sectors of the community. She will be supporting this.

The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of March 2, 2023 for final reading.

<u>Recess</u>	<u>Recess</u> At 9:03 p.m., the City Council recessed briefly. The City Council reconvened at 9:11 p.m.
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<u>Ordinances (Not Yet Referred)</u>	<p><u>Ordinances (Not Yet Referred)</u></p> <p><u>23.306 An Ordinance Relative to Accessible Parking Spaces - 1st reading</u></p> <p>The city's ADA coordinator Keith Benoit has done a lot of research and gone through the city's ordinance relative to accessible parking, Councilor Nash explained. He has been out in the community photographing and measuring parking spaces and has a detailed presentation he will be showing to the committees to which the ordinance is referred.</p> <p>The bigger question he is pursuing is whether the accessible parking spaces on the ground match what is laid out in the general ordinance, Mr. Benoit explained. To determine that, he has been looking at on-street accessible parking spaces and off-street accessible spaces in city-owned lots. City officials wants to understand if the city is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Also, a major redesign of Main Street is in process and they want to make sure the language in the ordinance is correct before they start changing it. His full presentation contains a lot of details. Planners want to make sure the schedule of on- and off-street parking is correct and right now it is not. For example, they have added parking spaces</p>
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mostly to parking lots that have not been reflected in the ordinance and have taken away parking spaces on the street. Taking away a regular parking space changes the reference point for the accessible space since, rather than being the fifth parking space; if one is taken away, the accessible space becomes the fourth space. The language in the schedule needs to be updated to reflect changes to the physical environment. Also, there is a lot of inconsistency in how spaces are referenced. Some references use ordinal numbers (1st parking space, 2nd parking space, etc.) and others use the distance from a fixed point (i.e. 400 feet from the intersection of Maple Street). He wants to make sure the language is consistent and able to be audited, meaning that parking spaces can be found without the use of measuring tools.

He presented the changes to the Disability Commission, which was enthusiastic and provided a letter of positive recommendation. As a parking ordinance, he is expecting it to be referred to the Transportation and Parking Commission (TPC) and Legislative Matters (LM).

It is a lot of detail but is not technically or politically challenging. As an example, there used to be two accessible spaces on Elm Street in front of the high school. When the road in front of the high school was closed, the spaces were never taken off the schedule. Similarly, on Center Street across from Serio's there is an accessible parking space on the end but the paint has disappeared. While this is largely a maintenance issue, it could appear that a new accessible parking space will just appear when, in reality, it has been on the schedule for a while.

Councilor LaBarge moved to refer the schedule of parking changes to Legislative Matters and the TPC. Councilor Elkins seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.

Financial Orders (on 2nd reading)
23.290 An Order to Reprogram Funds for NHS Heating System Repair - 2nd reading

Financial Orders (on 2nd reading)

The following orders were approved as part of the consent agenda:

The following order passed final reading:

23.290 An Order to Reprogram Funds for NHS Heating System Repair - 2nd reading

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council April 13, 2023

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

23.290 An Order to Reprogram Funds for NHS Heating System Repair

Ordered, that

\$10,000 from the Northampton High School Chimney Repairs Account (19303 586406) be reprogrammed for repairing a heating system glycol line at the Northampton High School.

Passed final reading and enrolled.

The following order passed final reading:

23.298 An Order to Reprogram Funds for Ryan Road School Renovations - 2nd reading

23.298 An Order to Reprogram Funds

for Ryan Road School Renovations - 2nd reading

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council April 13, 2023

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

23.298 An Order to Reprogram Funds for Ryan Road School Renovations

Now, Therefore be it Ordered, that

\$136,122.81 from the Ryan Road Bathroom project account (19303 586909) be reprogrammed to do general renovation work at the Ryan Road school.

Passed final reading and enrolled.

<p><u>Orders</u></p>	<p><u>Orders</u> None</p>
<p><u>Ordinances</u></p>	<p><u>Ordinances</u> None</p>
<p><u>Resolutions</u></p>	<p><u>Resolutions</u> None</p>
<p><u>New Business</u></p>	<p><u>New Business</u></p>
<p><u>Adjourn</u></p>	<p><u>Adjourn</u> Councilor Foster moved to adjourn. Councilor Elkins seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.</p> <p>Attest: _____, Administrative Assistant</p>



CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Northampton, Massachusetts

Roll Call

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| At-Large Councilor Marissa Elkins | At-Large Councilor Jamila Gore |
| Ward 1 Councilor Stanley Moulton, III | Ward 2 Councilor Karen Foster (7:25 p.m.) |
| Ward 3 Councilor James Nash | Ward 4 Councilor Garrick Perry (7:45 p.m.) |
| Ward 5 Councilor Alexander Jarrett | Ward 6 Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge |
| Ward 7 Councilor Rachel Maiore | |

Announcement that Meeting Audio/Video Recorded

Council President Nash announced that the meeting was being audio/video recorded.

Public Hearings

Public Hearings

None.

Public Comment

Public Comment

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

Regarding the time limit on public comments, **Claudia Lefko of 40 Valley Street** said the two minutes is getting harder and harder the older she gets and she thinks they should consider returning it to three minutes. Thirty-six years ago in 1987 she was elected to an at-large seat on the Northampton School Committee. She thinks she was the first outsider to break into city government. Her beloved neighbor and late campaign manager Bart Gordon quit a month or so into her campaign saying her positions were too radical and she'd never get elected. She was running on a platform for more parental involvement in the schools, more collaboration with parents, teachers and administrators. It didn't sound that radical to her. She was the top vote getter that year and in each of the next two elections. The other seat would be won each time by the more conservative, Northampton-born shoe-in candidate Jim Dostal. She is not saying this to brag; she is saying this to demonstrate that advocating for the rights of people beyond voting to participate in decisions that affect their lives has been a cornerstone of her life. She thinks they'll have better schools, better neighborhoods and a better city with more resident involvement. A number of city councilors have disparaged them, saying, 'we're seeing the same few people; why aren't more people participating?' She'd say that people are losing faith and trust in a city that gives a development corporation \$500,000 for a project with very little benefit but doesn't seem willing to pay a penny for the thoughts of residents. Please vote 'no' on this zoning ordinance and instead begin a formal assessment of the impact of infill on their neighborhoods, something they've been asking for for a long time.

Nancy Smith, Chapel Street, thanked Councilor Moulton for requesting that data be made available to the public on how ordinance changes were actually used as a condition of his recommendation for the zoning change on tonight's agenda. Many have been abused by builders for greater profit, raising housing and rental costs, causing more gentrification and making the housing crisis worse, not better. She spoke at Legislative Matters about the importance of the city and neighborhoods working together. She would like to address comments made by two other councilors and the planning director at Monday's meeting. They disagreed with what some people wanted and said, 'if they don't like it, they can run for office and then they can build the way they want.' Unfortunately, in a democracy, people elect leaders to represent them in office, not to do whatever builders or they themselves want to do with no accountability. Not everyone is a public speaker. If people show up, it matters, and they are showing up; hence the frustration. If their councilors and Mayor do not want what the people want, they do need to recruit new leaders. Their honesty helps them to know where to focus their efforts. She is really hoping to recruit that guy who wrote the 2013 Op Ed on zoning changes, she commented facetiously.

If they're tired of hearing about the past, like last year's 107 Williams Street, Landy Avenue, etc., "City and builders won; get over it, right?" Very simply, those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it and they don't want to repeat it. The last few years have been rough.

She often speaks about how poorly they pay city councilors for the hours they put in. Residents do not get paid at all, she reminded. Keeping 'hamp 'hamp for everyone is vitally important to them. Please vote no on RLL ordinance 23.247 tonight. At Legislative Matters, one honest answer, straight upfront, from someone who does get paid pretty well would have saved them all a lot of time, she suggested. [Time was ended.]

Daniel Evans said he's known as 'downtown Daniel Evans.' He identified himself as the creator, founder and producer/director of Pioneer Valley access TV on Northampton Open Media, author of the Taylor/Floyd Honesty and Equitable Equality Amendment and Arbery-Brooks New Deal 2020 and founder of the Brothers and Sisters of Humanity and Tuskegee Toddler Fund. They can find PV Access TV on Facebook.

He read an excerpt from FDR's 1944 state of the union address beginning as follows: "In our day these economic truths have become accepted as self-evident. . . ."

He and the Mayor are doing a press release with Channel 22 next week about the amendments. He said he would leave information at the council office.

Jacqueline McCreanor of Northampton said a monumental decision is before city councilors tonight. They will be voting on two-family reduced lot line (RLL) [projects] being uses allowed by right. Justice cannot be done in expressing the weight and consequence of this vote, and she respectfully and strongly urges them to vote 'no.' Residents were told the planning department would look into and share information before tonight's meeting with residents and councilors about the number of developer-driven RLL projects vs. the number of homeowner-driven RLL's over the last five years. They have not received this information. Proponents of RLL say it is good because it reduces urban sprawl, creates walkable downtown neighborhoods thereby reducing the use of cars and carbon dioxide emissions and gives property owners more flexibility to build housing on their land. But that is only half of the story and, more to the point, RLL is not necessary to achieve these admirable goals; in fact, other ordinances exist which are much more effective in achieving these goals.

The whole story is that some very powerful city officials and staff wish to maximize developer profit, luxury housing and property tax revenue at the expense of Northampton residents' health and historic neighborhoods, social justice in the housing sector, affordable and attainable housing, natural resources, the city's old existing infrastructure, life-giving trees, wetlands and true sustainability and climate-related measures, she asserted. Yes, there is a housing crisis, but the housing crisis in Northampton and across the United States is the shortage of affordable and attainable workforce housing units, not the oversized, expensive luxury housing units this amendment prioritizes. The city does not prioritize their historic town's sustainability or affordable housing. It does not prioritize their ability to respond effectively to the intensifying climate crisis. At Monday's Legislative Matters meeting, Director Misch basically said the planning department is not interested in sustainability and climate measures in URB districts if they conflict with RLL housing and development goals. With this amendment the city is pushing for reduced lot line for two families. The city has replaced accessory dwelling units (ADU's) with a new two-family regulation. ADU's were adored by residents as they enabled them to provide housing for an aging relative, college-aged kid or even rental income. The new two-family regulation eliminates the old ADU 900 square foot maximum and gives developers the opportunity to build even more gigantic, out- of-scale, out-of-proportion, fossil-fuel dependent, expensive luxury housing. A 'yes' vote will be catastrophic for Northampton on many levels. She respectfully and strongly urged them to vote 'no' on the amendment, to conscientiously reflect on the consequences of this amendment and, as they hear residents speak, to reflect and act on the greater good for all.

James Lowenthal of 181 Crescent Street spoke on behalf of Northampton City Lights, an organization with a steering committee of 10 Northampton residents and roughly 100 active members. They are here to congratulate and thank the city for its proclamation of International Dark Sky Week. By issuing this proclamation, the mayor and city are joining hundreds of other communities around the country and world in celebrating International Dark Sky Week, which

starts Saturday. It is a celebration of the natural darkness at night and a raising of awareness of the importance of protecting the night time for human health, wildlife, energy savings, aesthetics, economics and the starry sky itself. Here in Northampton, Smith College is celebrating by turning off the lights in the quad for several hours on Saturday so students can enjoy darkness. Sunday, April 23rd, they anticipate having a night walk where they will explore some of the hidden downtown night-time environments. He invites them to step outside and enjoy one of the great gifts of nature, natural darkness at night and the starry sky.

Myla Kabat-Zinn, 32 Ward Avenue, a member of Northampton City Lights, said she has been working on lighting issues for many years not only here but in her former home of Lexington, MA. She applauded the city for issuing the proclamation in support of International Dark Sky Week. The whole issue of light pollution - one of the few issues they can address quite simply by making small changes in their day-to-day life - has a big effect not only on their health but on their spirits and also, of course, on insects, wildlife and plants. This is a 'win-win' for them all.

She thanked the city for issuing the proclamation.

Councilor Foster arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Tusi Gastonguay, Willow Street, Florence said the revised RLL proposal is a terrible idea and makes a mockery of the Sustainable Northampton comprehensive plan. It shows no sustainability awareness and instead invites the city's favorite out-of-town developers to purchase single-family homes which could be affordable for their own middle-income residents, destroy older trees which sequester literally tons of carbon, cut down all plant life, destroy wildlife corridors and cover every inch of the land with monster buildings for wealthy out-of-towners. Allowing a second dwelling to be enlarged from 800 to 2,000 s.f. just increases the carbon footprint despite shared walls. For example, a typical two thousand square foot home requires cutting down 20 mature trees to build. Just one of these trees can hold an average of 10,000 pounds of carbon. Is getting the property tax money this way really what Northampton needs? No; they need real city planning with neighborhood involvement from the beginning and throughout the process, not top-down decision-making that benefits developer friends that make their once-charming neighborhoods look like downtown Springfield. The RLL ordinance is not a sweet proposal to help family residents build an in-law apartment next to their single-family home. Rather, it is inviting big development that drives out that family because they can't afford to live here anymore. She urged the council to vote 'no' on this very bad proposal.

Diane Scott, 44 Landy Avenue, asked the City Council to vote 'no' on the proposed changes to RLL uses allowed by right. This change does not benefit our city; it threatens our trees and neighborhood character. She was offended Monday night when Councilor Elkins and Councilor Nash insinuated that if they wanted change, they needed to run for and serve on the council. She doesn't believe that's how their government was intended to work; she believes that's where the word 'representative' comes into play. The councilor doesn't only bring to other councilors their personal concerns but the concerns of their constituents. She expects her councilors to do what is in their job description which is represent her. It was also said that not many people disagreed with this proposed change, but the last opportunity to speak to this was several years ago, so there hasn't been an open forum to discuss these RLL changes. She urged them to vote 'no' on this proposed change.

Debra Bercuvitz, 41 Warner Street, said she was at a meeting where Councilor Elkins said they were being heard but that there was disagreement and she wants to disagree. She doesn't think they are being heard because getting heard means an exchange. What she sees is tremendous polarization between residents speaking up and those representing them in their government. Basically what they're engaging in is mutual monologues and not conversation. She is a public servant; she works for state government and is responsible for policy changes and laws being changed. In her work, they bring all the different constituent groups together, everyone is meaningfully heard and they look at the advantages and disadvantages for each group and try to find common ground. That is not happening. Everybody is frustrated because they are just going ahead on their parallel tracks. Every example they've been given about ZLL development has been one-sided. There hasn't been a single example representing the concerns residents are bringing. She doesn't think it's honest and transparent and she doesn't think it is leadership acting with integrity when they don't present the downside. What she wants is a meaningful, data-driven process, and she begged councilors to vote 'no' just for

tonight to give them more time. They all say that they want sustainability but they have different understandings. She keeps hearing 'walkability' and 'infill' from councilors and the planning department but residents are bringing up different parts of sustainability. They are not even opposed to infill just thought-less infill. The only rush is that John Handzel is about to develop two lots on Garfield Street and Landy Avenue, and the kind of development he is looking for is dependent on this change going through.

Jackie Ballance, Baystate Village, said she thinks they have been overlooking one tiny bit of their zoning history and that is that the minimum frontage for zero lot line (ZLL) was originally 60 feet for a single-family home. When the frontage requirement was reduced to 50 feet, the appearance of ZLL houses was radically changed in relation to the streetscape.

They now know from Monday that ZLL permits have been used principally by one particular developer and that homeowner use of this provision has been negligible. "We're not giving our citizens more flexibility, we're giving one developer maximum flexibility." The real housing crisis is the lack of housing for middle income people to buy or rent. Northampton has a good record of providing affordable subsidized housing and has a glut of luxury housing. Why do we want more of it? What is the city's plan for promoting workforce housing? Why doesn't our city encourage more housing to actually meet the needs of the people who live here?

She referred to a development in Greenfield where a unit sold in 2020 for \$165,000. "That's an affordable starter home or retirement home" for middle-income working class people. She said she wished she had time to read Director Misch's description of the original intention of ZLL when asked by Councilor Nash. It was a word salad. "You can defend our neighborhoods and vote 'no' this evening," she concluded.

Espy Thomson, Leeds, said she is really interested in urban planning and infill and feels really conflicted about this particular discussion because she thinks infill is a fantastic idea. What a lot of her friends and her generation are looking for in infill is sustainability. They are onboard with the idea of sustainability but sustainability comes in many forms including affordability for young people and inclusivity. It's really hard to find affordable rentals right now. What a lot of her friends want is small houses with gardens and communal living where they can make their own food and feel like they belong to a small area connected to the earth. The houses that are being built aren't houses they can live in. She asked them to vote 'no' until more thought can be put into how houses can be built for young people like her.

Rue Walther of 16 Warner Street in Florence, which she described as 'next to one of the unsustainable developments built by Mr. Handzel,' said she would really ask that councilors vote 'no' tonight. She feels that Director Misch promised them data on the housing built by people who owned their property vs. those owned by developers. Since they have not received that material she feels it is not fair to go forward. Addressing Councilor Elkins directly, she said she was highly insulted by her remarks the other night and feels that it was really wrong of her to berate the public especially at a time when they were not able to retort. She felt it was very unprofessional and not representative of the people who voted her in.

There being no further comments, at 7:38 p.m., public comment was concluded.

Announcements

Announcements

The mayor is at School Committee and not present this evening, Councilor Nash advised. A Planning Board meeting is also going on.

Councilor Nash read a proclamation proclaiming the week of April 15th to April 22nd, 2023 "International Dark Sky Week."

Councilor Elkins announced enthusiastically that 'Pride is back!' May 6th. Northampton will have the first pride parade since 2019. A group of hardworking and earnest folks are trying to get it off the ground and make it happen. This is annually her favorite day of the year in Northampton.

Wednesday, April 26, 2023 from 6 to 8 p.m. MassDOT will be holding a 25% virtual design hearing for the redesign of Main Street, Councilor Jarrett announced. Participants do need to register for the hearing. Additional information can be found at www.northamptonma.gov/plan.

Councilor Perry arrived at 7:45 p.m. He gave props to the arts and culture department for putting on 'KidsBestFest,' a movie festival for kids and adults with free admission during Spring school break at the Academy of Music. A free movie is being shown every day.

Councilor Nash sent out a 'thank you' to the Friends of Northampton Trails for coordinating a city-wide cleanup of the bike path last weekend. Things look spectacular. He also offered thanks to USA Hauling for providing dumpsters for all the trash that was collected.

For people interested in serving on the commission to study racialized harms, there is now an e-application, he continued. It is not yet posted on the website but will be going up tomorrow. Sponsors and he met with the mayor and have established a plan for moving forward. Applications will be accepted, sponsors will advise them and he and the mayor will appoint. They will be meeting in an open meeting process so everyone can see what they're up to and what they are thinking. He and the mayor will take sponsors' recommendations and make appointments to the new commission.

Saturday, April 29, 2023 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, in celebration of the week of the young child, a children's festival and community baby shower is planned, Councilor Foster related. Among other things, the event will feature a free pop-up baby shop by the nonprofit 'It takes a village' with free clothes and toys, hands on art and live performances. The event is rain or shine.

Councilor LaBarge announced that, as many of them already know, the city of Northampton is adding 229 acres to the Sawmill Hills Greenway. As the Ward 6 councilor, she reminded listeners that Paul Foster, Dr. Joanne Bessette and the Ward 6 Association worked tirelessly to save the quarry. The quarry was a problem with 62 18-wheelers a day five days a week; a retired resident actually counted how many went up and came down. Residents went to court and Doug Kohl, a local builder who owned property near the quarry was also involved. The owner of the quarry was sick and tired of people going and complaining to him.

"We won," she reported. From then on, for the 22 years she has been a councilor, the city has been constantly preserving open space and this tops it off. They now have a total of over 1,000 acres of conservation land with trails. It's their people who made all this happen, she confirmed.

<p><u>Presentations</u></p>	<p><u>Presentations</u> None.</p>
<p><u>Consent Agenda</u></p>	<p><u>Consent Agenda</u> Councilor Nash reviewed the items on the consent agenda, offering to remove any item for separate discussion upon request.</p> <p>There being no removals, Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilor Jarrett seconded. The motion carried 9:0 by roll call vote.</p> <p>The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda:</p> <p>A. Minutes of March 16, 2023 and March 30, 2023</p> <p>B. <u>23.276 Appointment to the Arts Council, positive recommendation, City Services - 4/3/2023</u> <u>Arts Council</u></p> <p>Ronald Smith, 14 Emily Lane, Northampton</p> <p>Term: February 2023-June 2026</p> <p><i>To fill a vacancy</i></p> <p>C. <u>23.284 An Order to Reprogram Funds for Ryan Road Fire Alarm Panel Repair – 2nd reading</u></p> <p>D. <u>23.285 An Order to Accept Smith College Gift to Conduct School Corridor Safety Study – 2nd reading</u></p>

E. 23.287 An Order to Appropriate \$30,000 to Evaluate the Feasibility of Geothermal Heating and Cooling Systems – 2nd reading

F. 23.292 Applications for Renewal of Secondhand Dealer License

Applications for Renewal of Secondhand Dealer Licenses:

Antiques Corner, 81 Loudville Road

Applicant: Louis M. Farrick

Cancer Connection Thrift Shop, 375 South Street

Applicant: Christine Quinn

Cumberland Rare Books, 9 1/2 Market Street

Applicant: Hosea Baskin

Electric Eye Records, 52 Main Street, #6

Applicant: Andrew Crespo

The Family Jewels, 56 Green Street

Applicant: Richard J. Stone

Le Bonton, LLC, 150 Main Street, Suite 292

Applicant: Cigdem Turkomer

Roz's Place, 6 Bridge Street

Applicant: Timothy Saldo

The Vintage Cellar, 11 Bridge Street

Applicant: Daniel Egan

G. 23.293 Applications for Two (2) Taxicab Licenses, Charles Bandoh Ackeifi - Hampton Taxi Service LLC

Renewal Licenses for Taxicabs for the following vehicles:

- 2009 Chrysler Town & Country - Silver

- 2010 Chrysler Town & Country - Silver

H. 23.294 Application for Business Owner's Permit - Charles Bandoh Ackeifi, Hampton Taxi Service LLC

Renewal License for:

Charles Bandoh Ackeifi, Hampton Taxi Service, LLC

Business Address: 19 Maple Street, Easthampton, MA 01027

I. 23.295 Appointments to Various Committees, for referral to City Services Energy & Sustainability Commission

Angela Gregory, 595 Haydenville Road, Leeds

Term: May 2023-June 2026

To fill a vacancy

Eric Winkler, 105 Pine Street, Florence

Term: May 2023-June 2026

To fill a vacancy

Urban Forestry Commission

Richard Parrish, 138 South Street, Northampton

Term: May 2023-June 2026

To fill a vacancy

Zoning Board of Appeals

Sherry Taylor, 25 Edwards Square, Northampton (Associate Member)

Term: May 2023-June 2026

To fill a vacancy

J. 23.296 Petitions for Pool Table Licenses - Packard's

Renewal Licenses for:

Packards, 14 Masonic Street
Weekday and Sunday Pool Table Licenses
Applicant: Robert E. McGovern

For the text of financial orders approved as part of the consent agenda, see Financial Orders (on 2nd reading) below.

Financial Orders (on 1st reading)

23.290 An Order to Reprogram Funds for NHS Heating System Repair - 1st reading

Financial Orders (on 1st reading)

23.290 An Order to Reprogram Funds for NHS Heating System Repair - 1st reading

Director Nardi paraphrased an email sent to council prior to the meeting explaining that the 'glycol line' referred to in the order is the heating and cooling line in the building. Glycol is an additive used as an anti-freeze primarily to avoid frozen pipes.

There was an unexpected break in the line and Supervisor Kusnierz is asking for \$10,000 to be transferred from another line item. The repair has been made.

Councilor Foster moved to refer the order to the consent agenda. Councilor Maiore seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of May 4, 2023 for final reading.

23.291 An Order Authorizing Taking Parcel N to Expand the Connecticut River Greenway - 1st reading - WITHDRAWN

23.291 An Order Authorizing Taking Parcel N to Expand the Connecticut River Greenway - 1st reading

Councilor Nash read an email from Office of Planning and Sustainability Director Carolyn Misch requesting withdrawal. Mr. Skibiski has signed an option with the City for the purchase of this and other land along the Connecticut River and the city is happy to pursue the purchase on a willing buyer/willing seller basis, she explained.

No action will be taken, Councilor Nash advised.

23.297 An Order to Reprogram Funds for City Wide Elevator Upgrades - 1st reading

23.297 An Order to Reprogram Funds for City Wide Elevator Upgrades - 1st reading

As they may remember, a total request of \$160,000 was included in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) over two years to install SF90 stop switches in 10 city elevators to bring them up to code, Director Nardi reminded. Four of the 10 just need the stop switches themselves. The other six are older and need communication components to allow the new stop switches to work. The original thought was to split the work up over two years but, in speaking to the vendor, they learned that many municipalities are in the same boat, so they would like to order them now instead. A more recent quote has brought the price down to \$135,885. Since they would like to have them done by January of 2024, Central Services Director Pat McCarthy is asking for \$55,885 to be added this year so he can do all 10 elevators as soon as possible.

Councilor Elkins moved to suspend rules to allow approval without consideration at a second meeting. Councilor Moulton seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.

Councilor Perry moved to approve the order. Councilor Elkins seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 b roll call vote.

The following order passed final reading:

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council April 13, 2023

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

23.297 An Order to Reprogram Funds for City Wide Elevator Upgrades

Whereas, the City Council adopted the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) plan for FY2024 – FY2028 on March 30, 2023; and

Whereas, City Council appropriated \$80,000 to do elevator upgrades to bring them into compliance as part of the FY2024 projects in the CIP plan, and

Whereas, additional elevator upgrades were identified for FY2025; and

Whereas, the City would like to do more upgrade work with TK Elevator prior to the end of their FY2023 contract with the City, which expires on June 30, 2023.

Now, Therefore be it Ordered, that

\$16,414.64 from the Fire Dept. Headquarters Parking Lot project (19303 586915) and \$27,292.23 from the Central Service Recreation 7 Safety Village Replacement (19303 586231) and \$12,178.13 from the Round House Parking Lot Parking project (19303 586802) for a total of \$55,885 be transferred to the City Wide Elevator upgrades account (19303 – 585705).

Rules suspended, passed final reading and enrolled.

23.298 An Order to Reprogram Funds for Ryan Road School Renovations - 1st reading

23.298 An Order to Reprogram Funds for Ryan Road School Renovations - 1st reading
Supervisor of Maintenance Kuznierz is asking to reprogram these funds, Director Nardi said. When the funds were first voted back in 2018, there was some discussion and thoughts of not only refreshing the bathrooms and making changes to them but also making changes to the nurse’s suite. The decision was made not to do that work. The current principal is now requesting not only refreshing the bathrooms but making some changes and renovations to the main office and general maintenance. He would like a little more flexibility in the use of the funds.

If she remembers correctly, the original order was for the restrooms to be made accessible because there was a student who could not be accommodated, Councilor Foster noted. She would love an update as to whether the student is now able to be accommodated.

At the time the student was in attendance, a little more than ADA compliance was required and the student was able to be accommodated, Director Nardi confirmed. The mayor was also concerned about that so she did check in with the school. That student has since left the school.

She had talked to the superintendent and principal and also spoke to teachers and an assistant in the hall and they actually brought her into the bathroom, Councilor LaBarge related. There were three young children in wheelchairs there and one child had to be put on a lift to be placed on the toilet. The plan at the time was to expand the bathroom into the nurse’s station. The previous Mayor said there was a hold on the project because of the cost associated with it. She asked what was being done with the nurse’s station.

The only thing she was told is that they are not making changes to the nurse’s suite as originally planned back in 2018, Director Nardi said.

Councilor Foster said she doesn't personally feel this needs to go to Finance because it can be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion, but she asked if it would be possible to get more information on the history.

Director Nardi said she would get more information.

Councilor Jarrett moved to refer the order to the consent agenda. Councilor Moulton seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.

See minutes of May 4, 2023 for final reading.

Financial Orders
(on 2nd reading)
23.289 An Order to
Establish Water
and Sewer Rates
for FY2024 – 2nd
reading

Financial Orders (on 2nd reading)

23.289 An Order to Establish Water and Sewer Rates for FY2024 – 2nd reading

DPW Director LaScaleia gave two presentations explaining the reasoning behind the proposed rate increase and the order was the subject of a public hearing and received a positive recommendation from the Finance Committee, Councilor Nash reported. He opened the floor to discussion.

Councilor Maiore said she had received a couple of questions from constituents. One resident asked why the cost doesn't go down with the departure of Coca-Cola and end of its usage.

They have a very extensive system with a water treatment plant, WWTP and miles and miles of distribution and collection pipes on the water and sewer side, Director LaScaleia explained. They are not able to decommission portions of the system; they can't take a pump station off line or shut down a portion of the treatment plant. They will absolutely be flowing less water out of the water treatment plant and treating less water at the WWTP and they do expect limited savings but it remains to be seen what those savings are. She anticipates they will have a savings in things like treatment costs and electricity, but they have to remember that prices are rising a lot faster than their ability to keep up with them.

There will be some level of limited operational savings which will become clearer as time goes by, she concluded.

The other theme was why they can't delay or stagger pending capital projects, Councilor Maiore said.

Director LaScaleia asked for slides from her Powerpoint presentation to be displayed. As mentioned, the system is inspected and regulated by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), she reminded. Every three years, the DEP conducts what's called a sanitary survey or onsite inspection for the purpose of evaluating the system's ability to produce and distribute safe drinking water. Once the survey is done, DEP issues a report and compliance plan. The last survey was in the summer of 2021 and the report included specific recommendations the city is obligated to follow. Among other things, the city is required to follow all requirements of the Office of Dam Safety as they relate to reservoirs and dams. Their dams have known deficiencies which they have been working with the dam safety office to correct.

As far as the Main Street water main reconstruction, it is not possible to reconstruct Main Street on top of the old water mains as it would cause them to fail, she reiterated.

DEP also requires the city to update its water asset management plan. One of the deficiencies flagged was the condition of the main transmission line, which actually runs through a swamp. Its recommended replacement happens to coincide with a TIP project on Mountain Street in Williamsburg, so coordinating with that project will avoid the need to dig up that road twice.

These examples of projects in the works are ones required by the city's regulators. Deferring them is not something the city can reasonably do because they are requirements in order to continue to provide safe drinking water. On the water side, they are stuck with large expenses but they are necessary expenses, she stressed.

On the sewer side, as shown on pg. 16, they are looking at Phase 2 of the WWTP upgrade, Director LaScaleia continued. They were actually under a consent order from DEP to complete Phase 1 due to deferred maintenance. Projects for the sewer enterprise are in various stages

of development and, again, all are things that their regulators take an interest in. Deferral of them does not make them go away but creates a scenario where they could have failure in the meantime. And, costs are always rising.

Councilor Maiore thanked her for her invaluable slide presentation because it has been invaluable in answering emails.

Coke is leaving them in December but the budget makes up for an entire year's worth of revenue as if they were leaving them in July, Councilor Jarrett pointed out.

When they submit a budget to the Department of Revenue (DOR) July 1st, they have to prove revenue for the entire year, Director LaScaleia explained. They have to show the amount of revenue they reasonably expect to bring in and that it covers expenses. Coca-Cola has given them conflicting information about its schedule; its departure was originally last December, then it was later than December with a taper.

They can't put the enterprises in a position where something may or may not happen. They are dealing with very variable revenue and usage from Coca-Cola now and the company is under no obligation to stay. If they guess wrong or it doesn't have the expected level of consumption, the budget will be in deficit and they will have to make an immediate transfer from stabilization to stabilize the enterprise and balance the budget. That is not a risk she would recommend the city take. It puts them in a situation of potentially being unable to cover their expenses.

Councilor Jarrett asked why they didn't anticipate this by building up reserves over a long period of time. They are asking residents to pay a considerable amount more and that's a concern.

Coca-Cola did put them on notice of its departure some months ago, Director LaScaleia acknowledged. Over that time, they have continued to manage the enterprises and maintain level-funded budgets with no rate increase. Despite level-funded budgets each year, they have built their reserves to the maximum extent possible. The reserves are going to be needed to pay for debt service coming to them from various projects since they are not able to account for rising costs or additional expenses within the existing budgets. In particular, reserves are going to be needed to offset the significant debt service associated with Phase I of the WWTP upgrade which will hit the budget in 2025.

He asked if they anticipate lowering these base costs if they were to get a large water user in the future to replace Coca-Cola.

If they were to get a large user, the best-case scenario would be getting back to where they have healthy revenue to support the enterprise, Director LaScaleia suggested. At that time, a reassessment could be made. They reassess utility rates every year, she noted. If they had stability and a large user a la Coca-Cola, she thinks they could revisit the conversation.

Councilor LaBarge referred to an email sent to the council by Tom Riddell, a professor at Smith College. She quoted Mr. Riddell's email as saying that the total annual increased cost for typical residential users with 5/8" meters is \$244 and that, when compared to the total charge, it amounts to a 28.6% increase (\$244 divided by the FY2023 total cost of \$854). In the current economic situation, even that is an unexpectedly large increase, according to Mr. Riddell. "But if you calculate the change in the base charge, it is an even larger and astounding 400% increase," he claimed. (The \$32.16 increase in the quarterly water base charge plus the \$28.85 increase in the quarterly sewer base charge = \$61.01 divided by the \$15.29 current charge.)

She read the remaining two paragraphs verbatim. (See Email from Tom Riddell re: Proposed Water and Sewer Rates for 2024.)

There has been some conversation about math and percentages, Director LaScaleia observed. They need to be careful about how they're talking about these numbers in order to accurately represent what they're talking about, she cautioned.

She asked Director Nardi to share slide 22.

She reviewed the two components to water and sewer rates: a quarterly base charge based on meter size and a usage charge. The quarterly base charge is the only thing that's changing. The only difference in proposed water rates is going to be the difference in numbers for the quarterly base charge; the usage rate stays the same, she stressed.

For sewer, what's changing is the addition of quarterly base charges; usage charges are staying exactly the same. Mathematically, they want to make sure they are putting the right information out there. She showed the slide "Annual User Cost Impacts," noting that while percentages can seem high, they need to talk about the actual dollar amount. The actual increase is \$20.25 per month.

The city is losing significant revenue and they have to look at the best way to amortize this loss across the connections in the city in the fairest and least impactful way possible, she advised.

She would never say it is not burdensome or cannot be disruptive but they have built this model to help stabilize the enterprises. She reiterated that income exemption discounts are available for folks who qualify. Principal Assessor Marc Dautreuil and Director Nardi will be holding a presentation on abatements for seniors in May which will be publicized.

She appreciates Tom Riddell's email but thinks what is most helpful is to talk about the dollar impact to the average residential user. She thinks talking about percentages can be misleading.

She has people so upset about this increase, Councilor LaBarge reported. "Right now, people are outraged." Some may be \$500 over and cannot get an exemption. She is getting calls from people all over the city. She has met with people and brought information about the exemptions with her. "You're gonna hear it, that many people want to move out of here."

She feels bad for people because this is a big increase. She wishes they could help people that are over that threshold and they cannot.

Councilor Foster said she hears her. People are being squeezed. She thanked the director for her presentations. She has heard from people who originally were deeply concerned or not understanding. She has shared the link to the presentation and people who watched it said they understand and it hurts but they get it. She appreciates all of the thought and work that has gone into not only making up for the loss of Coca-Cola but making it something where as many people as possible will qualify for exemptions. She also appreciates that they will be putting on a presentation for people about exemptions.

"The hard truth is that we have to pay for our services," she stated. She recognizes the difficult position that the DPW, the city and residents themselves are in. She does intend to vote for the proposed water and sewer rates, she shared.

There is no question there is severe stick shock with this; they've all heard it, Councilor Moulton commented. It has to be put in the context that for the last three years there has been no increase and for four out of six years there have been no increases. It does not diminish the fact that for quarterly base charges, the quarterly bill will be going up 400%. That is an accurate percentage. "It's unfortunate."

Once they understand the initial operational savings he asked if that would be factored into recommendations for future rate increases.

Director LaScaleia stressed that it will take some time to assess operations and determine what the impact is. It will absolutely be reflected in her remarks moving forward, she assured.

One of her residents asked if it might make sense to cut the meter increase in half and raise the usage rate slightly so people who are struggling could save a little by conserving water, Councilor LaBarge said. The resident was sure there would be overuse by a few to make up for any decrease in volume.

Director LaScaleia reiterated that they looked at a lot of different scenarios for how to make up the lost revenue. If they were to alter usage rates, it could create a disincentive to use. Creating a disincentive to use is not what they are going for; they are trying to stabilize the enterprise.

What could potentially happen is that they would not achieve their usage target so they would not raise the revenue required to run the enterprise. They are trying to achieve immediate stabilization of the enterprise without the possibility of a deficit. "If we're wrong; the budget does not balance, and that's a problem," she pointed out.

Discussion continued. Director LaScaleia confirmed that replacing the transmission line on Mountain Street while the TIP project is in process will result in a savings to the city since it will be spared the expense of digging up and repaving the road.

In talking to residents, there is a perception that the city is making money off them, Councilor Nash volunteered. However, it is the city's water system. "This is a collective operation and we're all in this together," he pointed out. He acknowledged the increase presents a hardship. "We've benefitted from having Coca-Cola here for all of these years paying a good rate for our really good water," he observed.

It does feel a bit like they're left holding the bag. It doesn't feel great; but it's their bag. He appreciates the idea of raising the lost revenue through the meter fee because exemptions and abatements are available. He understands they don't work for everybody but if they did this through usage rates, none of this would be available. Another thing he appreciates about doing it through the meter rates is that it is 100% predictable. They can tell people exactly what their increase will be.

As he said in Finance, he thinks this is something they need to do. It is one of those votes hard for them as councilors but it is a well thought-out approach to a tough situation. He will be supporting this.

Councilor Moulton commended the mayor's office for pursuing the low-income household water assistance program administered through Community Action Pioneer Valley after councilors raised concern about the impact of the increase on renters. It seems to be a promising avenue of relief.

Councilor Elkins moved to approve the order. Councilor Foster seconded.

Councilor Jarrett said he appreciated all the presentations. He is certainly uncomfortable with how it charges people more without an incentive to reduce, with the general increasing burden, with how exemptions are tied to the CPA and with how the city accommodated Coca-Cola for its expansions but now has to deal with the repercussions. It is all very difficult but he sees the necessity of it and that it's the best way forward with what they've got, so he'll be voting for it.

The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following order passed final reading:

23.289 An Order to Establish Water and Sewer Rates for FY2024 – 2nd reading

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council, March 30, 2023

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

23.289 AN ORDER TO ESTABLISH WATER AND SEWER RATES FOR FY2024

Ordered, that:

Effective July 1, 2023, the per 100 cubic foot (CCF) rates for water and sewer and the quarterly base rate charges for Fiscal Year 2024 will be as follows:

WATER

Customers with 1” meter or smaller:

Tier 1 consumption: 0 – 16 CCF \$4.51 per CCF

Tier 2 consumption: >16 CCF \$6.09 per CCF

Customers with meter larger than 1”

All consumption \$5.99 per CCF

Quarterly Base Rate Charges:

Quarterly Base Rate Charge FY24		
Water		
Meter Size	FY23	FY24
5/8 Inch	\$ 15.29	\$ 47.45
3/4 Inch	\$ 22.95	\$ 71.25
1 Inch	\$ 38.23	\$ 118.65
1.25 Inch	\$ 57.34	\$ 177.95
1.5 Inch	\$ 76.44	\$ 237.25
2 Inch	\$ 122.30	\$ 379.55
2.5Inch	\$ 175.81	\$ 545.60
3 Inch	\$ 229.31	\$ 711.65
4 Inch	\$ 382.18	\$ 1,186.05
6 Inch	\$ 764.35	\$ 2,372.05
8 Inch	\$ 1,222.95	\$ 3,795.25

SEWER

Non-metered

\$7.86 per CCF based on 80% of metered water consumption

Metered

\$7.86 per CCF

Quarterly Base Charges:

Quarterly Base Rate Charge FY24		
Sewer		
Meter Size	FY23	FY24
5/8 Inch	0.00	28.85
3/4 Inch	0.00	36.06
1 Inch	0.00	50.49
1.25 Inch	0.00	86.55
1.5 Inch	0.00	86.55
2 Inch	0.00	129.83
2.5Inch	0.00	230.80
3 Inch	0.00	230.80
4 Inch	0.00	375.05
6 Inch	0.00	735.68
8 Inch	0.00	1,168.43

Passed final reading and enrolled.

Recess

Recess

The City Council recessed briefly. The council reconvened at 9:17 p.m.

Ordinances
23.278 Ordinance to Reclassify Parking Meter Zones on Elm Street – 2nd reading

Councilor Nash proposed moving Items #12 A and B up on the agenda and taking them out of order.

Ordinances

23.278 An Ordinance to Reclassify Parking Meter Zones on Elm Street – 2nd reading

The ordinance proposes changing the parking class for certain groups of meters on Elm Street, Councilor Nash explained.

These changes are tweaks to the parking class codes inadvertently left out of the package of system-wide changes to the parking regulations approved in January and recently implemented, OPS Director Misch explained.

Councilor Nash asked if the Transportation and Parking Commission had weighed in on this.

They didn't weigh in on these specific adjustments but reviewed the package of comprehensive changes, Director Misch advised.

Councilor Foster said she almost views this as a scrivener's error. As a TPC member, she doesn't see the need to review it.

Councilor Jarrett moved to approve the ordinance. Councilor Perry seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following ordinance passed final reading:

In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three

Upon the recommendation of Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra

23.278 An Ordinance to Reclassify Parking Meter Zones on Elm Street

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

An ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts providing that the Code of Ordinances, City of Northampton, Massachusetts be amended by amending section 312-109 Meter Zones to reclassify sections on Elm Street consistent with changes made previously to surrounding streets.

Amend §312-109 as shown:

§312-109 Schedule VIII: On-Street Parking Meter Zones

Location	Side	From	To	Time Limit/Class
Elm Street	Northeast and North	A point 185 feet northwesterly of State Street	Round Hill Road (unless otherwise specified)	10 hours/Class 3C-3D and Class 4C-4A
Elm Street	Southwest and South	West Street	College Lane (unless otherwise specified)	10 hours/Class 3C-3D and Class 4C-4A

Passed final reading, ordained and enrolled.

23.279 An Ordinance to Clarify Parking Garage Time Limits – 2nd reading

The change is to properly name the E. John Gare parking garage and add the Gothic Street garage, Councilor Nash advised.

Councilor Moulton moved to approve the ordinance. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following ordinance passed final reading:

23.279 Ordinance to Clarify Parking Garage Time Limits – 2nd reading

In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three
Upon the recommendation of Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra

23.279 An Ordinance to Clarify Parking Garage Time Limits

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

An ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts providing that the Code of Ordinances, City of Northampton, Massachusetts be amended by amending section 312-36 A clarification about parking garage fees.

§312-36 A The above shall not apply to the Downtown ~~Parking~~ E. John Gare Parking Garage and the Gothic Street Parking Garage. Parking in the E. John Gare ~~said facility~~ Garage shall be allowed for 24 hours per day seven days per week based on a fee and time limit to be found in ~~Schedule E(1) below of this chapter.~~ Parking in the Gothic Street Garage shall be allowed based on the fee and time limits to be found below.

Passed final reading, ordained and enrolled.

Zoning Ordinances
23.247 Ordinance to Clarify Reduced Lot Line Uses Allowed by Right - 2nd reading

Zoning Ordinances
23.247 An Ordinance to Clarify Reduced Lot Line Uses Allowed by Right - 2nd reading

Some questions were raised in Legislative Matters so she thought it would be helpful to run through some slides, Director Misch said. She screen-shared a Powerpoint presentation. The change only affects Urban Residential B (URB) and Urban Residential C (URC) districts.

This is a change in definition or allowances within the allowed by right section of the tables of use, she presented. Right now reduced lot line (RLL) is allowed for a single-family home and this proposal is to allow it for a single-family or a two-family as long as the units are under the same roof structure. It meets the goals of the Sustainable Northampton Plan to create housing options and flexibility. It is not about creating new units; it is a reversion to what was previously allowed. The effect of the change is not to increase the total number of units because a property owner could still add units to a property within the context of a larger lot without creating a new lot. It is just about allowing property owners to create a dividing line to create separation of ownership of the units and allowing flexibility for the placement of structures on a parcel. It reinstates what was previously allowed through the accessible dwelling unit (ADU) provision since a home with an ADU was still considered a single-family home.

Back in 2021, the city made a lot of changes to encourage housing production, including allowing two-families by right. There was a package of zoning related to residential housing and another package to change zero lot line (ZLL) to reduced lot line (RLL) to address concerns being raised in neighborhood discussions about dimensions between structures. The impetus for that was to create minimum standards for separation between houses.

With the introduction of two-family by right zoning, the definition of an ADU which was previously defined as being part of a single-family home was merged with the definition of a two-family, modifying the concept of what was meant by two units. What was previously considered a single-family home with an ADU was placed in the bucket of 'two families.' When ZLL was changed to RLL, this type of two-family was left out of uses allowed by right.

They are back here today to effectively revert to what was previously allowed. Some concerns were raised at LM about the ratio of larger structures relative to lot width since the minimum lot width in these districts is 50 feet. She thought it would be instructive to consider the existing context in some neighborhoods. There are no restrictions on the width of single-family homes, she pointed out. She showed examples of 27- and 30-foot wide houses on 51' lots showing that it is not inconsistent with many neighborhoods in the URB and URC districts. Also, the median size of units in two-family structures are smaller than the median size of single-family homes, so two-families use less land per unit and also create less impervious surface and use less energy. Creating opportunities for two families accomplishes other goals of the Sustainable Northampton Plan as well.

The question was raised of how many ANR's have been created for the purpose of allowing RLL. There have been nine throughout the city. The change is about creating flexibility in lots and not necessarily new units, she reiterated.

In the discussion that followed, a few councilors responded not only to the proposed change but to the assertion of several residents throughout the process that they felt they were not being heard.

When asked for an explanation by Councilor LaBarge, Director Misch said that whenever the city makes changes, some people are happy and some people are not. They try to build consensus to the extent they can. Since adoption of the updated Sustainable Northampton Plan in 2010, the plan has received a lot of input and public comment. The city has also done a lot of studies on housing needs and barriers to housing development and it all has led to the creation of implementation mechanisms to try to address the deficits in housing and implement other plan policies. Zoning is one tool to address the policies identified, such as the need to provide housing for people at all income levels. They need to create housing and in order to do that they need to adjust zoning to match the policies adopted by the City Council and various committees. It is typical that even though people participate in conversations about policy and regulations to match the policy, it is hard to envision what that will look like on the ground in a real project and it obviously creates change in a neighborhood. That can be unsettling and can create concerns about individual projects, even though they might meet the overall goals of the plan, she suggested.

Councilor Elkins acknowledged expressing some frustration with folks feeling like they're not being heard. She did not mean to insult anybody and doesn't recall berating anyone. What she meant is that she fully supports the policies of the Sustainable Northampton Plan and thinks it's been the product of a very robust community conversation. She recited the history of adoption and amendment of various components of the plan and the plan itself, citing the wide range of organizations involved in its consideration and approval, including the City Council, Historical Commission, Conservation Commission, Transportation and Parking Commission and Youth Commission. She also named many of the 41 community participants recognized in the plan's acknowledgement including the Broad Brook Coalition, Friends of Northampton Trails, Grow Food Northampton, the Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce, PVPC, Mothers Out Front, Climate Action Now and the Cooley Dickinson Hospital.

"That is a remarkably collaborative community effort over the course of a decade," she stated. What she was trying to express Monday is that she supports this policy and supports the process that got them here and agrees with the zoning changes they have enacted. She would vote again for the two family by night provision. "We have to implement this work that was done by so many people," she proposed.

"We are listening and there's not always agreement," she suggested. She supports this ordinance and thinks it continues to effectuate their goals. She will vote 'yes,' she confirmed.

Councilor Nash expressed his understanding that the reduced lot line (RLL) provision is already in place so what they are doing tonight is merely bringing it into alignment with the two-family by right ordinance recently approved. When the RLL amendment moved forward, it lost the ability to apply to single-family homes with an ADU since they are now considered two-families. He hears that some folks would like to see the entire zoning package taken away and that's what they are hoping for. As Director Misch knows, probably no one pushed back against some zoning that went through more than him as part of the Ward 3 Neighborhood Association and protections were put in place as a result of that advocacy.

He doesn't think there is the will in the room to throw the whole package out. If folks really feel that way, it's something that needs to be brought to the voters. Throwing the whole system out would be a mandate. If people want to do that, there is an election coming up in the fall so they can see if there is a mandate for it.

Councilor Maiore commented on the fact that there is unanimous agreement on the goal of sustainability and this appears to be a disconnect. Councilor Elkins spoke about sustainability and people who spoke in opposition in public comment talked about sustainability too. "We have this common base of these goals." The question is whether this is supporting those goals or taking away from them.

A wide-ranging discussion followed. Among other things, Director Misch elaborated on the planning department's strategies for creating more housing. What they're trying to do is not create new barriers. The bottom line is they want to make sure they are thinking creatively about different ways to allow opportunities for people to find homes.

Also, from a regulatory perspective, they need to be blind to who's doing what. Developers are the ones who are building housing for people in Northampton. "We definitely don't differentiate between residents and nonresidents when it comes to allowing development;" it has to be across the board.

One idea in the Sustainable Northampton Plan is to create incentives in the Site Plan Approval process for negotiations between neighbors and developers for projects in residential neighborhoods, Councilor Foster pointed out. She asked about the possibility of incorporating incentives for this type of negotiation.

There is never unanimity when a project finally comes forward for approval, Director Misch stated. She shared her perspective that zoning regulations adopted by the council should set the guardrails for what is allowed so residents and applicants know going in what the rules are. Zoning are pre-established requirements that are 'off the table,' so to speak, but there are lots of other areas where negotiations could lead to refinements that could make the project more acceptable to neighbors, she suggested. The process could be more formalized than it is now where the city just strongly encourages applicants to speak to the neighborhood. Maybe if an applicant agrees to have one or two meetings before a public hearing, there could be some relief in terms of the timing of the project or fees.

Councilor Foster said she would be interested to see what could be formalized or incorporated. She thinks it helps give the neighborhood some ownership and buy in.

Councilor Moulton said it has been a very instructive conversation. He thanked Director Misch for following up on the questions raised Monday night and thanked councilors for addressing what he believes was correctly referred to as a 'disconnect' in their understanding of objectives.

The median size for a two-family unit is 1,200 square feet and what they are considering tonight is reversion to what was formerly allowed, i.e., that a single-family homeowner can add a second family unit of up to 2,000 square feet by right. Anything over 2,000 s.f. still goes back to the Planning Board for review. That is a very narrow change in his mind. It does allow more flexibility and more economic accessibility and allows property owners to take equity out of the value of their land. To him, it meets many of the energy goals found in the Sustainable Northampton Plan. He doesn't see this as opening a Pandora's box; he sees it as a positive reversion to what has been the practice in Northampton, and he supports it.

Councilor Jarrett related his experience of being able to buy in Northampton because he bought a two-family with friends. Zoning only influences so much. Nothing that gets built on the open market today is going to be affordable for people in the 80% area median income (AMI) range and even the 80 to 120% AMI. They need a subsidy not only for the 80% or less but for the middle. They also need enough supply to allow the demand for older housing to fall. They need housing at all income levels to increase the supply.

People who have single-family lots that were created with RLL will now be able to add a 2nd unit to their home, he added. Director Misch did send councilors a map of the lots created with RLL and he said he would be happy to send it to any residents.

Councilor Perry said he is heartened to see that the city is trying to think creatively and is willing to use any tool at its disposal to provide additional opportunities to create housing. If anyone wants to study up some more, he encouraged them to go back and look at some of the recent Community Resources Committee meetings.

Councilor Elkins moved to approve the ordinance. Councilor Perry seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following ordinance passed final reading:

City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In the Year Two Thousand Twenty Three

Upon the Recommendation of Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra and Planning & Sustainability

23.247 AN ORDINANCE TO CLARIFY REDUCED LOT LINE USES ALLOWED BY RIGHT

An Ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts, providing that the Code of Ordinances, City of Northampton, Massachusetts, be amended to allow specific two-family homes to be allowed with reduced lot line to restore what was previously allowed as single family with accessory dwellings.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

Amend 350 Attachment 7, 8 for URB and URC tables with additions and strikethroughs as follows, with *no other changes to those attachments*:

Uses Allowed By Right:

- Reduced lot line single ~~or two-family~~ so long as the two units are under a single roof structure; see § 350-6.13.

Passed final reading, ordained and enrolled.

Ordinances (Not Yet Referred)

Ordinances (Not Yet Referred)

17.240 Order to Lower Default Speed Limit to 25 mph

The order's prefix is 17 instead of 23 because he and former Council President Ryan O'Donnell first introduced it in 2017, Councilor Nash explained. At the time, it was referred to both LM and the TPC. LM eventually acted on it and returned it with a neutral recommendation but TPC tabled it and the next meeting was snowed out. (He was TPC chair at the time.)

Sponsors read the order into the record.

They have added amendments and would like to re-refer it to both LM and the TPC, Councilor Nash advised.

Councilor Moulton moved to refer the order to Legislative Matters and the TPC. Councilor Jarrett seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote.

Financial Orders (on 2nd reading)

Financial Orders (on 2nd reading)

The following orders were approved as part of the consent agenda:

23.284 An Order to Reprogram Funds for Ryan Road Fire Alarm Panel Repair – 2nd reading

23.284 An Order to Reprogram Funds for Ryan Road Fire Alarm Panel Repair – 2nd reading

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council March 30, 2023

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

23.284 An Order to Reprogram Funds for Ryan Road Fire Alarm Panel Repair

Ordered, that

\$4,773 from the Ryan Road Library A/C Account (19303 586217) be reprogrammed for the purpose of paying the costs to fix the failed fire alarm panel at Ryan Road school.

Passed final reading and enrolled

23.285 An Order to Accept Smith College Gift to Conduct School Corridor Safety Study – 2nd reading

23.285 An Order to Accept Smith College Gift to Conduct School Corridor Safety Study – 2nd reading

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council March 30, 2023

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

23.285 An Order to Accept Smith College Gift to Conduct School Corridor Safety Study

WHEREAS, the Route 9 and Route 66 corridors in the vicinity of the Smith College Campus are heavily traveled by vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, roadway safety is a high priority for both the City and Smith College; and

WHEREAS, Smith College wishes to fund a corridor safety study which will consider pedestrian improvements to crossings along Route 9 and Route 66 from the intersection of Paradise Road and Rt. 9 to the Smith College Athletic Fields on Route 66.

Now Therefore Be It Ordered,

the City Council gratefully accepts the \$66,800 gift from Smith College and in accordance with Massachusetts General Law 44, Section 53A approves using the funds to support the safety study of the roadways in the vicinity of the Smith College Campus.

Passed final reading and enrolled.

23.287 An Order to Appropriate \$30,000 to Evaluate the Feasibility of Geothermal Heating and Cooling Systems – 2nd reading

23.287 An Order to Appropriate \$30,000 to Evaluate the Feasibility of Geothermal Heating and Cooling Systems – 2nd reading

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council March 30, 2023

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

23.287 An Order to Appropriate \$30,000 to Evaluate the Feasibility of Geothermal Heating and Cooling Systems

- Whereas, in 2023 Mayor Sciarra, with approval of the City Council, created a Climate Change Mitigation Stabilization Fund; and
- Whereas, this Fund is for the purpose of allocating expenditures relative to the city's operations and capital needs to mitigate the impacts of climate change and to support the city's net carbon neutral goals; and
- Whereas, the city has adopted a goal to become net carbon neutral for energy in its municipal buildings and services by 2030; and
- Whereas, in 2021 the city conducted a Capital Improvement Planning Study to Upgrade Seven Municipal Buildings to Net-Zero Energy Use and this study recommended ground source heat pump systems for municipal buildings; and
- Whereas, Forbes Library has heating ventilation and air conditioning systems that are at the end of their functional and operational life cycles; and
- Whereas, the city is in negotiation to purchase 298 Main Street for the Resilience Hub and is also exploring the possibility of alternative heating and cooling for this building in conjunction with Forbes Library.

Now, Therefore be it Ordered, that

the sum of up to \$30,000 be allocated from the Climate Change Mitigation Stabilization Fund to pay for a feasibility study to evaluate geothermal district heating and cooling systems for the downtown municipal campus, 298 Main Street, and Forbes Library.

Passed final reading and enrolled.

New Business

New Business
None.

Adjourn

Adjourn
Councilor Elkins moved to adjourn. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

Attest: _____, Administrative Assistant



Joint City Council and School Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

On January 31, 2023 a joint meeting of the Northampton City Council, Northampton School Committee and Trustees of the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School (SVAHS) was held via teleconference. The meeting was called in accordance with Northampton Charter §7-2 Annual Budget Policy.

At 7:01 p.m. Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra called the joint meeting to order. A roll call was taken by Laura H. Krutzler, Administrative Assistant to the City Council. Present were:

Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra, School Committee Chair
Meg Robbins, Ward One School Committee Member
Emily Serafy-Cox, Ward Three School Committee Member
Michael Stein, Ward Four School Committee Member
Dina Levi, Ward Five School Committee Member
Margaret Miller, Ward Six School Committee Member
Kaia Goleman, Ward Seven School Committee Member
Gwen Agna, School Committee Member At-Large
Karen Foster, Ward Two City Councilor, Council Vice-President
Jamila Gore, City Councilor At-Large
Stanley Moulton, III, Ward One City Councilor
James Nash, Ward Three City Councilor, Council President
Alex Jarrett, Ward Five City Councilor
Marianne L. LaBarge, Ward Six City Councilor
Rachel Maiore, Ward Seven City Councilor

Ward Two School Committee Member Holly Ghazey and School Committee Member At-Large Aline Davis were not present on roll call. Also absent was Ward Four City Councilor Garrick Perry.

Also present were: School Superintendent Jannell Pearson Campbell, Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School (SVAHS) Board of Trustees Chair Michael Cahillane and SVAHS Trustees Julie Spencer Robinson and Richard Aquadro

Mayor Sciarra presented a detailed financial forecast including projected revenues and expenses for fiscal year 2024. (See Powerpoint presentation entitled, "Mayor's FY2024 Financial Trends and Projects for the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Process.") Among other things, she reviewed the following topics:

- Budget Process
- Revenues
- Property Taxes
- Proposition 2 ½

- Expenditures
- Reserves
- Financial Indicators and Comparative Communities
- Review of Revenue and Expenditure Trends
- Five-Year Fiscal Stability Plan – General Fund
- Revenue and Expenditure Projections for Fiscal Year 24
- Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Calendar
- Questions and Comments

She began by describing the budget process, which begins with the joint meeting of the City Council, School Committee and Trustees of the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School (SVAHS) taking place tonight and concludes with the adoption of an operating budget by the City Council following a required public hearing.

Mayor Sciarra showed a list of revenue sources, noting that the city's main source of revenue is local taxes with 70% of revenue coming from real estate, personal property and motor vehicle excise taxes.

She reviewed terms and definitions and presented a chart showing the calculation of the property tax levy limit.

State revenue makes up about 15% of total revenue and includes Ch. 70 school aid, Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA), charter school tuition reimbursement, PILOTS for state-owned land, reimbursement for veterans' services, offsets for incoming school choice students, etc.

The next largest source of revenue at 11% is charges for services such as parking revenue, departmental fees from programs or services, revenue from inspections by the health department, building and fire department and revenue to SVAHS from sending communities.

She reviewed other miscellaneous sources of revenue such as interfund operating transfers (a little less than 2%) including indirect charges such as a percentage of employee health insurance costs.

Total projected revenue for the current year (FY2023) is \$110,489,639.

FY2023 Budgeted Expenditures equal \$110,489,639. Education is about 41% of the overall budget at \$45,225,000. The next biggest cost is employee benefits; i.e. - health insurance and retirement.

Reserves

Mayor Sciarra reviewed the value of reserves, stressing that they cannot be relied on for recurring and compounding expenses. She gave examples of the potential uses for reserves, such as response and recovery from natural and weather-related disasters, failure of major infrastructure and to provide stability during periods of revenue volatility due to regional or national economic downturns.

The fact that Northampton had reserve accounts gave them the flexibility and the ability to pivot quickly to emergency operations during the early pandemic, she pointed out. Financial reserves also provide the operational stability to fund a capital improvement program.

The Mayor noted that Free Cash certification this year included one-time ARPA loss revenue funds. The City Council voted to appropriate this funding for several important purposes: to purchase a ladder truck for Northampton Fire Rescue, purchase a building for the resilience hub, for city-side costs for the Main Street redesign, to establish a Climate Change Mitigation Stabilization Fund and \$500,000 for the design, bidding and construction administration costs for needed road safety changes at Northampton High School (NHS). Remaining loss revenue funds are mainly earmarked for infrastructure for the Main Street redesign project.

The Mayor showed a slide with the current balances of the various stabilization funds:

- \$2,670,069 in Undesignated Fund Balance/Free Cash
- \$3,409,344 in Undesignated Fund Balance/ARPA Revenue Loss
- \$6,294,535 in General Fund Stabilization Fund
- \$3,966,342 in General Fund Capital Stabilization Fund
- \$3,562,742 in General Fund Fiscal Stability Stabilization Fund (FSSF) and
- \$3,000,000 in recently created Climate Change Mitigation Stabilization Fund

In discussing projected expenditures, the Mayor disclosed that she is committing to a 4% increase to the school districts (NPS and SVAHS) for FY2024. She is making this commitment in recognition of the fact that the schools are still struggling to recover from the pandemic and its impact on learning and students' social and emotional well-being. The commitment is also to address a deficit created by the over-reliance and use of school choice funds and non-recurring revenue like federal ESSER funds for recurring and compounding expenses.

It is unusual and not sustainable to have this high an increase after a year of previously high increases, she stressed. Last year, at 5.07%, the Northampton Public School (NPS) budget increase was the second highest in 15 years with the highest being 6.27% in FY2014 after the June, 2013 override. The previous year in FY2013 the increase had been 0.5% and it was followed by a 3.3% increase in FY2015.

The goal is to return to a stable pattern with consistent, reliable and sustainable increases for the schools, she stated.

As far as what this forecast means for FY2024, while a lot is still unknown, they do know that Northampton will continue to maintain a competitive and stable residential and commercial tax rate as compared to surrounding communities. Single-family home values continue to remain strong and new growth will continue to provide additional levy capacity. Some local receipts have rebounded to pre-pandemic levels while others such as parking have not come back.

The city will continue to be conservative and careful in its budgeting and management practices, she assured.

DISCUSSION

Following her presentation, the Mayor entertained questions and comments.

Council President Nash complimented the mayor on her excellent presentation. The good news is that he didn't hear the word override. He expressed his understanding that they are on course not to need one in the coming year but wondered if she could speak to when they city *would* need another override.

They are not predicted to go over the fiscal cliff this year since they are only in year two of the four-year fiscal stability plan (FSP), Mayor Sciarra confirmed. They are watching it very carefully to make sure they can push it off at least until it is expected, which is in a couple of years.

The initial plan called for an override in FY2025, Director Nardi related. She knows Mayor Sciarra is looking at revenues and doing her best to make sure they don't have to go out for one sooner. FY2025 would be the earliest they are projecting but the hope is to push it off even one more year.

Councilor Nash asked about the Fair Share Amendment and anticipation that it might result in additional revenue coming their way.

What Governor Healey has said is that she is looking at potentially using it for bussing for districts, Mayor Sciarra advised. She hinted that she is looking at melding its two stated purposes - education and transportation – by using it to help fund transportation in the schools.

She asked Senator Comerford for any updates and was told there are no solid updates yet as to how it is going to be used or distributed. There is continual talk about it not being replacement for other funds but additional revenue. Other than that, there is not a lot of information.

School Deficit

Members asked questions to clarify the information presented. Among other things, member Stein asked if it is known what percentage of their overall budgets comparison communities are committing to education. He expressed his understanding that school spending in Northampton is at 54.8% of the overall budget when benefits and other expenses paid out of the city budget are included.

Finance Director Nardi said she didn't have that information but noted that most net school spending in those other communities is covered by Chapter 70.

In response to a question from Member Serafy-Cox, Mayor Sciarra confirmed that the city will reach its target balance of five percent (5%) of the overall operating budget in the General Fund Stabilization Account in FY2023 but has not yet reached its goal in the other stabilization account. Since they will have met the goal, they will look at how to reallocate contributions to that account in the future, she indicated.

School Committee Member Goleman said she appreciates how the city has tried to stabilize budget increases from year to year so the percentages are not so inconsistent. She asked the Mayor to talk about the city's position on when it is appropriate to increase this percentage and her ideas for filling the remaining significant gap in the NPS budget.

She doesn't have clear ideas on how to fill that gap, Mayor Sciarra said. Within the school district, school choice funds have effectively served as the district's stabilization fund. For a long time, the policy was to use them carefully for one-time expenses and that has not recently been the case.

These are perhaps better questions for School Business Manager Bobbie Jones or Dr. Pearson-Campbell, she suggested. She is not sure how to answer. They surely do not want to create further holes elsewhere.

In years like this where they are looking at quite a deficit, would it be okay to fund the stabilization accounts at a lower amount? Member Levi asked.

Mayor Sciarra said she feels like the real question is why one-time non-recurring funds can't be used to fill the gap.

The funding that goes into the stabilization funds is one-time revenue, Director Nardi reminded.

When money is used to fill a gap in an operating budget, unless there is recurring revenue behind it, you're going to find yourself in a bigger hole the next year, Mayor Sciarra explained. She understands why it feels like a fix but what it does is creates a bigger deficit in the following year. It sort of compounds the problem.

Eventually you need to find a revenue source to fill the gap or you have to make cuts, Director Nardi added.

Michael Stein suggested that a larger conversation about the purpose and use of school choice funds might be in order. He thinks they are probably at a moment where they should rethink how to do things moving forward. He recommended the City Council consider establishing an 'Excellence in Education' stabilization fund.

Now that the stabilization fund has reached its 5% goal, Emily Serafy-Cox asked what happens to the money that otherwise would have gone into it.

With the newly-established Climate Change Mitigation Stabilization Fund, they will have to figure out how to rebalance those contributions, Mayor Sciarra responded.

There being no further questions or comments, **School Committee Member Serafy-Cox moved to adjourn. School Committee Member Levi seconded. The motion carried unanimously 10:0 by roll call vote. The School Committee adjourned.**

SVAHS Trustee Spencer Robinson moved to adjourn. Dr. Pearson-Campbell seconded. The motion carried 3:0 by roll call vote with Mr. Aquadro and Mr. Cahillane absent.

Councilor Elkins moved to adjourn. Councilor Perry seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The joint meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Prepared by:

Laura Hill Krutzler, Administrative Assistant to the City Council
lkrutzler@northamptonma.gov 413.587.1210

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

May 4, 2023

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

23.308 An Order to Reprogram funds to NPS Playground Account

Ordered, that

\$8,792.07, the balance in the Northampton Public School (NPS) Chimney Repair account (19303 586705) and \$15,000 from the Leeds School Playground account (19303 586514), for a total of \$23,792, be transferred into the district wide Northampton Public School Playground account (19303 586817) to address issues as needed at all the NPS playgrounds.

City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

May 4, 2023

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

23.309 An Order to Accept DA Sullivan \$10,000 Gift for Public Art and Economic Development
Project - Portable Stage

Ordered, that

The Northampton City Council gratefully accepts the donation of \$10,000, a gift to the City of Northampton from D.A. Sullivan and Sons, Inc., and in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53A approves using the gifted funds to fund a public arts and economic development project, the purchase of a portable stage to facilitate performances at various locations throughout the city, for events like the Taste of Northampton, Salsa in the Park, and other events, under the direction of the Northampton Arts and Culture and the Economic Development Departments.

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council, May 4, 2023

Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee
23.310 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Smith Charities Phase 2 Rehabilitation Project

Ordered, that

WHEREAS, the Trustees of Smith Charities submitted a CPA application for continued critical exterior repairs to the Smith Charities Building at 51 Main Street;

WHEREAS, the project will continue to address the most critical needs identified in an historic building assessment to ensure that it will remain a unique part of the downtown streetscape in the future, and will leverage state grant funds;

WHEREAS, CPA funds will be utilized exclusively for critical exterior repairs, and in no way contribute to the operating expenses of Smith Charities;

WHEREAS, Smith Charities agrees to pursue a strategic plan for establishing and securing funds for long-term capital needs;

WHEREAS, the Trustees of Smith Charities will open the building to the public during historic tours and other events, and will work to promote public awareness of this downtown historic resource;

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2023, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously to recommend that \$234,618 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That \$234,618 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to the Smith Charities for the Smith Charities Phase 2 Rehabilitation project. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$234,618 is appropriated from the CPA Budgeted Reserve (account #2344930-359930).

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council, May 4, 2023

Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee
23.311 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to Historic Northampton for Collections
Preservation Project

Ordered, that

WHEREAS, Historic Northampton, Inc. submitted a CPA application for Community Preservation Act funding for preservation assessment of its clothing and accessories, textiles, and furniture collections;

WHEREAS, the project will ensure the long-term preservation and public accessibility of Historic Northampton's significant local collections, a resource determined significant to the City and the region by the Historical Commission and valued by the community;

WHEREAS, on March 15 2023 the Northampton Community Preservation Committee, voted unanimously to recommend that \$128,000 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That \$128,000 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to Historic Northampton, Inc. for the Collections Preservation Project. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$128,000 is appropriated from the CPA Budgeted Reserve (account #2344930-359930).

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council, May 4, 2023

Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee
23.312 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Forbes Library Restroom Ventilation Project

Ordered, that

WHEREAS, the Trustees of Forbes Library submitted a CPA application for bathroom ventilation upgrades at the library;

WHEREAS, the project will address building code requirements, and will adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Properties;

WHEREAS, Forbes Library is valued not only as a National-Register listed historic resource and Presidential Library, but as a critical public space accessible to the entire community;

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2023, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously to recommend that \$66,500 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That \$66,500 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to the Forbes Library for the Bathroom Mechanical Systems Improvements project. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$66,500 is appropriated from the CPA Budgeted Reserve (account #2344930-359930).

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

May 18, 2023

Upon recommendation of Mayor Sciarra

23.315 An Order to Approve FY2023 Budgetary Transfers

Ordered, that

the following FY2023 budgetary transfers be made:

Department	Org	Object	Transfer To:	Transfer From:
DPW Admin & Engineer Salaries	14211	511000		\$ (3,000)
DPW R & M Buildings	14212	524001	\$ 3,000	
Highway Salaries	14221	511000		\$ (62,941)
Snow and Ice Overtime	14231	513000	\$ 62,941	
DPW Forestry, Parks, Cemeteries Salaries	14921	511000	\$ -	\$ (44,077)
Snow Removal Supplies	14232	553020	\$ 44,077	
Undesignated General Fund				\$ (20,000)
Contracted Inspections Service	12412	531007	\$ 20,000	
Total			\$ 130,018	\$ (130,018)

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

May 18, 2023

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

23.316 An Order to Approve FY2024 General Fund Budget

Ordered, that

the sum of \$110,731,459 which is the full amount necessary for the Fiscal Year 2024 General Fund Budget (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024), be appropriated for the purposes stated, provided that the appropriation for Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School shall be used solely for the purposes of meeting net school spending as defined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and no funds so appropriated shall be transferred to any account or expended for any purpose that would not be included in the calculation of net school spending. To meet this appropriation, \$1,210,000 will be raised and appropriated from Parking Meter Receipts Reserved, \$969,011 from Sewer Enterprise Funds, \$626,335 from Water Enterprise Funds, \$75,075 from Solid Waste Enterprise Funds, \$319,479 from Storm Water Enterprise Funds, \$12,680 from Community Preservation Act Administrative Funds, \$15,848 from the Reserve for Police Station Debt Service, and \$1,284,954 from the Fiscal Stability Stabilization Fund and \$106,218,077 will be raised and appropriated.

CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS
FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDER

GENERAL FUND	Personal Services	Operations & Maintenance	Other Than Ordinary Maintenance	FY 2024 Total Expenditures
GENERAL GOVERNMENT				
CITY COUNCIL	149,660	63,900	0	213,560
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR	438,985	16,942	0	455,927
OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR	333,402	15,282	0	348,684
OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR	190,498	32,700	95,000	318,198
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER/COLLECTOR	430,809	266,435	0	697,244
CITY SOLICITOR	0	275,000	0	275,000
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT	318,830	21,550	0	340,380
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DEPARTMENT	519,460	846,050	0	1,365,510
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK	335,095	34,565	0	369,660
OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY	404,632	65,735	0	470,367
CLIMATE ACTION AND PROJECT ADMINISTRATION	230,506	15,150	0	245,656
CENTRAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT	809,493	1,140,289	0	1,949,782
	4,161,371	2,793,598	95,000	7,049,969
PUBLIC SAFETY				
POLICE DEPARTMENT	6,295,758	539,531	0	6,835,289
PARKING DIVISION - ENFORCEMENT	194,582	12,200	0	206,782
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER	706,210	18,223	0	724,433
FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT	6,587,559	621,330	69,000	7,277,889
BUILDING DEPARTMENT	534,380	20,400	0	554,780
PARKING DIVISION - MAINTENANCE	287,180	268,576	80,000	635,756
	14,605,669	1,480,260	149,000	16,234,929
EDUCATION				
SMITH VOCATIONAL & AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL	0	0	0	10,760,022
NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	0	0	0	36,565,747
One-time Funds to stabilize the NPS FY24 Budget	0	0	0	1,200,000
	0	0	0	48,525,769
PUBLIC WORKS				
ADMINISTRATION AND ENGINEERING DIVISION	263,935	39,325	0	303,260
HIGHWAYS DIVISION	886,650	448,150	595,000	1,929,800
SNOW AND ICE DIVISION	131,000	369,000	0	500,000
FORESTRY, PARKS AND CEMETERIES DIVISION	1,041,233	319,900	190,000	1,551,133
	2,322,818	1,176,375	785,000	4,284,193
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES				
HEALTH DEPARTMENT	1,066,956	206,230	0	1,273,186
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY CARE	0	0	0	0
SENIOR SERVICES DEPARTMENT	380,046	63,437	0	443,483
VETERANS SERVICES DEPARTMENT	232,442	467,185	0	699,627
	1,679,445	736,852	0	2,416,297

	Personal Services	Operations & Maintenance	Other Than Ordinary Maintenance	FY 2024 Total Expenditures
CULTURE AND RECREATION				
FORBES LIBRARY	1,314,310	215,132	0	1,529,442
LILLY LIBRARY	285,572	100,317	0	385,889
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT	352,283	29,500	0	381,783
ARTS AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT	74,468	23,000	0	97,468
	2,026,633	367,949	0	2,394,582
DEBT SERVICE				
MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS	0	3,774,900	0	3,774,900
INTEREST ON MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS	0	1,169,874	0	1,169,874
	0	4,944,774	0	4,944,774
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS				
CONTRIBUTORY RETIREMENT SYSTEM	7,480,027	0	0	7,480,027
PENSIONS: NON-CONTRIB. & OPEB	400,000	10,000	0	410,000
WORKER'S COMPENSATION	769,845	0	0	769,845
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	100,000	10,000	0	110,000
GROUP MEDICAL INSURANCE	13,185,387	15,000	0	13,200,387
LIFE INSURANCE	66,200	0	0	66,200
EMPLOYEE TAXES	1,062,660	0	0	1,062,660
UNUSED SICK LEAVE	180,000	0	0	180,000
	23,244,119	35,000	0	23,279,119
CAPITAL PROJECTS & MISCELLANEOUS				
CAPITAL PROJECTS	0	200,000	0	200,000
GENERAL LIABILITY FUND	0	107,484	0	107,484
PROPERTY & AUTO INSURANCE	0	467,297	0	467,297
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES LIABILITY INSURANCE	0	277,046	0	277,046
RESERVE FOR PERSONNEL	100,000	0	0	100,000
TRANSFER TO FISCAL STABILITY STABILIZATION FUND	0	0	0	0
TRANSFER TO CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND	0	450,000	0	450,000
	100,000	1,501,827	0	1,601,827
TOTAL GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION				110,731,459
NON-APPROPRIATED USES				
RESERVE FOR ABATEMENTS & EXEMPTIONS	0	552,438	0	552,438
OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED	0	0	0	0
CHERRY SHEET OFFSET RECEIPTS	0	1,245,520	0	1,245,520
STATE ASSESSMENTS - CHERRY SHEET	0	4,129,833	0	4,129,833
	0	5,927,791	0	5,927,791
TOTAL BUDGET PLAN - GENERAL FUND				116,659,250

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

May 18, 2023

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

23.317 An Order to Approve FY 2024 Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget

Ordered, that

the sum of \$6,177,500 which is the full amount necessary for the Fiscal Year 2024 Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024), be appropriated for the purposes stated and to meet said appropriation, \$5,208,489 is to be raised from sewer receipts and \$969,011 shall be allocated to indirect costs.

	Personal Services	Operations & Maintenance	Other Than Ordinary Maintenance	FY 2024 Total Expenditures
SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND				
SEWER GENERAL SANITARY	748,780	179,000	175,000	1,102,780
SEWER TREATMENT	1,063,030	1,295,800	210,400	2,569,230
SEWER DEBT	0	0	205,502	205,502
SEWER INTEREST	0	0	124,352	124,352
SEWER DIRECT & INDIRECT COSTS	0	0	969,011	969,011
SEWER RESERVE FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS	0	0	1,206,625	1,206,625
	1,811,810	1,474,800	2,890,890	6,177,500
TOTAL SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND APPROPRIATION				6,177,500

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

May 18, 2023

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

23.318 An Order to Approve FY 2024 Water Enterprise Fund Budget

Ordered, that

the sum of \$6,945,000 which is the full amount necessary for the Fiscal Year 2024 Water Enterprise Fund Budget (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024), be appropriated for the purposes stated and to meet said appropriation, \$6,318,665 is to be raised from water receipts, and \$626,335 shall be allocated to indirect costs.

	Personal Services	Operations & Maintenance	Other Than Ordinary Maintenance	FY 2024 Total Expenditures
WATER ENTERPRISE FUND				
WATER TREATMENT AND OPERATIONS	1,654,878	1,134,450	170,000	2,959,328
WATER DEBT	0	0	1,775,625	1,775,625
WATER INTEREST	0	0	125,184	125,184
WATER INDIRECT COSTS	0	0	626,335	626,335
WATER RESERVE FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS	0	0	1,458,528	1,458,528
	1,654,878	1,134,450	4,155,672	6,945,000

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

May 18, 2023

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

23.319 An Order to Approve FY 2024 Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Budget

Ordered, that

the sum of \$534,754 which is the full amount necessary for the Fiscal Year 2024 Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Budget (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024), be appropriated for the purposes stated and to meet said appropriation, \$440,884 is to be raised from solid waste receipts, \$75,075 shall be allocated to indirect costs, and \$18,795 to be made available from the Retained Earnings Balance of the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund.

	Personal Services	Operations & Maintenance	Other Than Ordinary Maintenance	FY 2024 Total Expenditures
SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND				
OTHER WASTE MGT PROGRAMS	239,379	220,300	0	459,679
SOLID WASTE DIRECT & INDIRECT COSTS	0	0	75,075	75,075
	239,379	220,300	75,075	534,754
TOTAL SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND APPROPRIATION				534,754

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

May 18, 2023

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

23.320 An Order to Approve FY 2024 Stormwater and Flood Control Enterprise Fund Budget

Ordered, that

the sum of \$1,996,486 which is the full amount necessary for the Fiscal Year 2024

Stormwater and Flood Control Enterprise Fund Budget (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024), be appropriated for the purposes stated and to meet said appropriation, \$1,677,077 is to be raised from Stormwater and Flood Control receipts and \$319,479 shall be allocated to indirect costs.

	Personal Services	Operations & Maintenance	Other Than Ordinary Maintenance	FY 2024 Total Expenditures
STORMWATER ENTERPRISE FUND				
STORM WATER DRAIN OPERATIONS	410,483	76,900	370,000	857,383
STORM WATER FLOOD CONTROL OPERATIONS	60,973	32,700	50,000	143,673
STORM WATER DEBT	0	35,000	0	35,000
STORM WATER INTEREST	0	1,663	0	1,663
STORM WATER INDIRECT COSTS	0	319,479	0	319,479
STORM WATER RESERVE FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS	0	0	639,289	639,289
TOTAL STORMWATER AND FLOOD CONTROL ENTERPRISE FUND	471,455	465,742	1,059,289	1,996,486
TOTAL STORM WATER ENTERPRISE FUND APPROPRIATION				1,996,486

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

May 18, 2023

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

23.321 An Order to Approve FY2024 Revolving Funds

Ordered that, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53 E 1/2 the city shall vote the limit on the total amount that may be expended from each revolving fund established by Chapter 16 of the City Ordinances.

Fund Number	Name of Fund	Annual Spending Limit
2420	Energy and Sustainability Revolving Fund	\$150,000
2416	Hazmat Revolving Fund	\$95,000
2419	DPW Public Works Construction Services Revolving Fund	\$25,000
2408	Senior Services Transportation Revolving Fund	\$50,000
2428	Senior Services Activities Revolving Fund	\$175,000
2433	Senior Services Food Services Revolving Fund	\$90,000
2440	Senior Services Publications Revolving Fund	\$35,000
2406	Athletic League Fees Revolving Fund	\$200,000
2405	JFK Family Aquatic Center	\$125,000
2422	NPS Transportation Revolving Fund	\$200,000
2452	SVAHS Farm Revolving Fund	\$100,000
2435	Tourism Directional Sign Program Revolving Fund	\$10,000
2436	Public Health Nursing Program Revolving Fund	\$40,000
2410	James House Revolving Fund	\$85,000
2439	Sharps Disposal Program Revolving Fund	\$15,000
2442	Fire Alarm Monitoring Program Revolving Fund	\$60,000
2443	DPW Reuse Committee Revolving Fund	\$15,000
Total Revolving Funds		\$1,470,000

National Flood Insurance Program

 NFIP

Document Path: Z:\GIS_Projects\Projects\Public\MXD\NFIP_overlay_20230516.mxd
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Massachusetts Mainland FIPS 2001
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
Datum: North American 1983
False Easting: 200,000.0000
False Northing: 750,000.0000
Central Meridian: -71.5000
Standard Parallel 1: 41.7167
Standard Parallel 2: 42.6833
Latitude Of Origin: 41.0000
Units: Meter

NORTHAMPTON



Floodplain Data:
MassGIS
FIRM 04/03/1978
Panel 250167-001
Panel 250167-002



**City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS**

In City Council, May 18, 2023

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

23.322 An Ordinance to Create a National Flood Insurance Program Overlay District

An Ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts, providing that the Code of Ordinances, City of Northampton, Massachusetts, be amended to create a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Overlay district, to ensure the City of Northampton meets or exceeds minimum requirements of the NFIP.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

Amend § 350-3.1 Division into districts, by adding text shown

The City of Northampton, Massachusetts, is hereby divided into zoning districts to be designated as follows:

Full Name	Short Name	Class
National Flood Insurance Program	NFIP	Overlay "O" District

Amend § 350-3.6 by adding text shown

The Floodplain, **NFIP**, Residential Incentive Development, and Water Supply Protection Districts are superimposed over any other districts established by this chapter. The rules for these superimposed (overlay) districts shall be in addition to, rather than in place of, the rules for such underlying other districts. The boundaries of these districts are shown on the Zoning Map and, for the Floodplain District, shall be interpreted as lying 100 feet horizontally from the normal high-water line of a stream, river or pond unless another dimension is otherwise apparent.

Amend § 350-13.1 by adding text shown

The purposes of the Special Conservancy District are:

A.

To protect the public health and safety, persons and property against the hazards of seasonal and periodic flooding. **See also § 350-16:**

Amend § 350-14.1 by adding text shown

The purpose of the Floodplain District is:

B.

To protect the health and safety of persons and property against the hazards of flooding and contamination, as specified in § 350-13.1 and § 350-16;

Add the following as § 350-16

§ 350-16.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Floodplain Overlay District is to:

- A) Ensure public safety through reducing the threats to life and personal injury
- B) Eliminate new hazards to emergency response officials
- C) Prevent the occurrence of public emergencies resulting from water quality, contamination, and pollution due to flooding
- D) Avoid the loss of utility services which if damaged by flooding would disrupt or shut down the utility network and impact regions of the community beyond the site of flooding
- D) Eliminate costs associated with the response and cleanup of flooding conditions
- F) Reduce damage to public and private property resulting from flooding waters

The District includes all special flood hazard areas within the City of Northampton designated as Zone A, AE, AH, AO, A99, V, or VE on the Hampshire County Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) dated April 3 1978 issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program. These are defined by the 1%-chance base flood elevations shown on the FIRM and further defined by the Hampshire County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report dated November 1976. The FIRM and FIS report are incorporated herein by reference and are on file with the City Clerk, Office of Planning and Sustainability, and Building Department.

§ 350-16.2 Definitions

For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following definitions:

DEVELOPMENT means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to building or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

FLOOD BOUNDARY AND FLOODWAY MAP means an official map of a community issued by FEMA that depicts, based on detailed analyses, the

boundaries of the 100-year and 500-year floods and the 100-year floodway. (For maps done in 1987 and later, the floodway designation is included on the FIRM.)

FLOOD HAZARD BOUNDARY MAP (FHBM.) An official map of a community issued by the Federal Insurance Administrator, where the boundaries of the flood and related erosion areas having special hazards have been designated as Zone A or E. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

FLOODWAY. The channel of the river, creek or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202]

FUNCTIONALLY DEPENDENT USE means a use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water. The term includes only docking facilities, port facilities that are necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo or passengers, and ship building and ship repair facilities, but does not include long-term storage or related manufacturing facilities. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59] Also [Referenced Standard ASCE 24-14]

HIGHEST ADJACENT GRADE means the highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

HISTORIC STRUCTURE means any structure that is:

- (a) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;
- (b) Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;
- (c) Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or
- (d) Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:
 - (1) By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or
 - (2) Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.

[US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

NEW CONSTRUCTION. Structures for which the start of construction commenced on or after the effective date of the first floodplain management

code, regulation, ordinance, or standard adopted by the authority having jurisdiction, including any subsequent improvements to such structures. *New construction includes work determined to be substantial improvement.*

[Referenced Standard ASCE 24-14]

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE means a vehicle which is:

- (a) Built on a single chassis;
- (b) 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection;
- (c) Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and
- (d) Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

[US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

REGULATORY FLOODWAY - see FLOODWAY.

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA. The land area subject to flood hazards and shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard map as Zone A, AE, A1-30, A99, AR, AO, AH, V, VO, VE or V1-30. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202]

START OF CONSTRUCTION. The date of issuance for new construction and substantial improvements to existing structures, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement or other improvement is within 180 days after the date of issuance. The actual start of construction means the first placement of permanent construction of a building (including a manufactured home) on a site, such as the pouring of a slab or footings, installation of pilings or construction of columns.

Permanent construction does not include land preparation (such as clearing, excavation, grading or filling), the installation of streets or walkways, excavation for a basement, footings, piers or foundations, the erection of temporary forms or the installation of accessory buildings such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main building. For a substantial improvement, the actual "start of construction" means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202]

STRUCTURE means, for floodplain management purposes, a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

SUBSTANTIAL REPAIR OF A FOUNDATION. When work to repair or replace a foundation results in the repair or replacement of a portion of the foundation with a perimeter along the base of the foundation that equals or exceeds 50% of

the perimeter of the base of the foundation measured in linear feet, or repair or replacement of 50% of the piles, columns or piers of a pile, column or pier supported foundation, the building official shall determine it to be substantial repair of a foundation. Applications determined by the building official to constitute substantial repair of a foundation shall require all existing portions of the entire building or structure to meet the requirements of 780 CMR. [As amended by MA in 9th Edition BC]

VARIANCE means a grant of relief by a community from the terms of a flood plain management regulation. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

VIOLATION means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's flood plain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in §60.3(b)(5), (c)(4), (c)(10), (d)(3), (e)(2), (e)(4), or (e)(5) is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

§ 350-16.3 Abrogation and greater restriction

The floodplain management regulations found in this Floodplain Overlay District section shall take precedence over any less restrictive conflicting local laws, ordinances or codes.

§ 350-16.4 . Disclaimer of liability

The degree of flood protection required by this bylaw ordinance is considered reasonable but does not imply total flood protection.

§ 350-16.5. Severability

If any section, provision or portion of this ordinance is deemed to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court, the remainder of the ordinance shall be effective.

§ 350-16.6. Requirement to submit new technical data

If the Town/City acquires data that changes the base flood elevation in the FEMA mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas, the Town/City will, within 6 months, notify FEMA of these changes by submitting the technical or scientific data that supports the change(s.) Notification shall be submitted to: FEMA Region I Risk Analysis Branch Chief
99 High St., 6th floor, Boston, MA 02110

And copy of notification to:

Massachusetts NFIP State Coordinator
MA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, 251 Causeway Street, Boston, MA
02114

§ 350-16.7. Variances to building code floodplain standards

The City will request from the State Building Code Appeals Board a written and/or audible copy of the portion of the hearing related to the variance, and will maintain this record in the community's files. The Town/City shall also issue a letter to the property owner regarding potential impacts to the annual premiums for the flood insurance policy covering that property, in writing over the signature of a community official that (i) the issuance of a variance to construct a structure below the base flood level will result in increased premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as \$25 for \$100 of insurance coverage and (ii) such construction below the base flood level increases risks to life and property. Such notification shall be maintained with the record of all variance actions for the referenced development in the floodplain overlay district.

§ 350-16.8. Variances to local Zoning Bylaws related to community compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

A variance from these floodplain bylaws must meet the requirements set out by State law, and may only be granted if: 1) Good and sufficient cause and exceptional non-financial hardship exist; 2) the variance will not result in additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, or fraud or victimization of the public; and 3) the variance is the minimum action necessary to afford relief.

§ 350-16.9. Permits are required for all proposed development in the Floodplain Overlay District

The City of Northampton requires a permit for all proposed construction or other development in the NFIP overlay district, including new construction or changes to existing buildings, placement of manufactured homes, placement of agricultural facilities, fences, sheds, storage facilities or drilling, mining, paving and any other development that might increase flooding or adversely impact flood risks to other properties. Proponents must acquire all necessary permits, and must demonstrate that all necessary permits have been acquired.

§ 350-16.10. Subdivision proposals

All subdivision proposals and development proposals in the floodplain overlay district shall be reviewed to assure that:

- (a) Such proposals minimize flood damage.
- (b) Public utilities and facilities are located & constructed so as to minimize flood damage.
- (c) Adequate drainage is provided.

§ 350-16.11. Base flood elevation data for subdivision proposals

When proposing subdivisions or other developments greater than 50 lots or 5 acres (whichever is less), the proponent must provide technical data to

determine base flood elevations for each developable parcel shown on the design plans.

§ 350-16.12. Unnumbered A Zones

In A Zones, in the absence of FEMA BFE data and floodway data, the building department will obtain, review and reasonably utilize base flood elevation and floodway data available from a Federal, State, or other source as criteria for requiring new construction, substantial improvements, or other development in Zone A as the basis for elevating residential structures to or above base flood level, for floodproofing or elevating nonresidential structures to or above base flood level, and for prohibiting encroachments in floodways.

§ 350-16.13 Floodway encroachment

In Zones A, A1-30, and AE, along watercourses that have not had a regulatory floodway designated, the best available Federal, State, local, or other floodway data shall be used to prohibit encroachments in floodways which would result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.

In Zones A1-30 and AE, along watercourses that have a regulatory floodway designated on the Town's/City's FIRM or Flood Boundary & Floodway Map (choose map which delineates floodways for your community) encroachments are prohibited in the regulatory floodway which would result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.

§ 350-16.14 Watercourse alterations or relocations in riverine areas

In a riverine situation, the Building Commissioner shall notify the following of any alteration or relocation of a watercourse:

- Adjacent Communities, especially upstream and downstream
- Bordering States, if affected
- NFIP State Coordinator
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, 8th floor
Boston, MA 02114
- NFIP Program Specialist
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region I
99 High Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

§ 350-16.15. Recreational vehicles

In A1-30, AH, AE Zones, V1-30, VE, and V Zones, all recreational vehicles to be placed on a site must be elevated and anchored in accordance with the zone's regulations for foundation and elevation requirements or be on the site for less than 180 consecutive days or be fully licensed and highway ready.