

Committee on Rules, Orders, Appointments, & Ordinances

Councilor David A. Murphy
Councilor Maureen T. Carney
Councilor Ryan R. O'Donnell

Minutes

Meeting Date: July 20, 2015
Meeting Time: 6:30 pm
City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street
Northampton, Massachusetts

Opening: At 6:35 pm Councilor Murphy called the meeting to order. Councilor Murphy announced that the meeting would be video and audio taped. Present at the meeting were Councilors Murphy (Chair), O'Donnell and Carney.

Public Comment: None.

Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Councilor O'Donnell noted that there was an error in the minutes of June 29, 2015—the vote to approve the appointment of Jody Kasper as Police Chief was corrected to read, “2 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Carney)”. Councilor O'Donnell moved to approve the minutes as amended; Councilor Carney seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

Appointments for Committee Approval

15.471 Appointment of Fire Chief - Assistant Chief Duane Nichols- Mayor Narkewicz introduced the appointment candidate to the Committee. He stated that Assistant Chief Nichols joined the Northampton Fire Rescue Department in 1987. He has been with the department for 28 years. During his tenure, he worked his way up through the ranks: firefighter, shift captain, acting deputy chief, training officer, deputy chief of the fire prevention/operations and finally assistant chief. As the assistant chief, he is responsible for overseeing the department's sixty-eight members, as well as the fire prevention bureau, training division, and fire suppression.

Assistant Chief Nichols thanked the Mayor for his support and for recommending him for the position of fire chief. He also thanked the many members of the audience who came to show support for him.

Councilor O'Donnell thanked Assistant Chief Nichols for his willingness to step up and serve Northampton as the Fire Chief. Councilor Carney mentioned that she is honored to have served with Assistant Chief Nichols on various committees over the years.

Councilor O'Donnell moved to send the appointment back to the full city council with a positive recommendation; Councilor Carney seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

Orders and Ordinances for Review

15.463 Ordinance to Specify Parking Limits on No. Maple St., Florence

Councilor O'Donnell requested that the ordinance be continued until the next Committee on Rules, Orders, Appointments and Ordinances meeting since the Transportation and Parking Commission has not yet reviewed the ordinance. This ordinance will be reviewed at the next meeting in August.

Adjourn: At 6:50 pm Councilor O'Donnell moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Carney seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

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