



## **Committee on City Services and the Northampton City Council**

Committee Members:

*Chair: Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge*

*Vice-Chair: Councilor Karen Foster*

*Councilor Rachel Maiore*

*Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr.*

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 26, 2021

Virtual Meeting

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

At 4 p.m., Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge (Chair) called the meeting to order. On a roll call, Councilor LaBarge, Councilor Karen Foster (Vice Chair), Councilor Rachel Maiore and Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr. were present. Also present was Administrative Assistant Laura Krutzler

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

4. MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2021 AND JUNE 7, 2021

Councilor Quinlan moved to approve the minutes of May 10, 2021 and June 7, 2021. Councilor Maiore seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

5. ITEMS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

A. 21.304 Appointments to Various Committees, referred by City Council - 7/15/2021

Council on Aging

**Michael Ford**, 6 Massasoit Street, Northampton, MA

Term: July 2021-June 2024

*Reappointment*

Councilor Quinlan moved to forward the appointment of Michael Ford to the Council on Aging to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Foster seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

Historical Commission

**Steven Moga**, 89 Marian Street, Northampton

WMAIA Nominee

Term: August 2021-June 2024

*To fill a vacancy as the WMAIA representative*

Dr. Moga is a professor at Smith College and has a doctorate in urban planning from MIT, Councilor Quinlan related. In his research in city planning, he seeks to understand how people have defined urban problems and how they have articulated a vision of a better city. He moved here in 2014 and bought a home on Marion Street in 2015. Dr. Moga worked for 10 years as a preservation planner before getting involved in education and has quite a bit of public meeting experience, so he feels very comfortable in a public setting. He joined the Historical Commission meeting and met Martha Lyons who was kind enough to suggest that he join the board. He is not an architect but can bring experience with architectural history and urban planning and consider questions from that perspective.

Councilor Quinlan moved to forward the appointment of Steven Moga to the Historical Commission to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Foster seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

### **Trust Fund Committee**

**Joseph Wilhelm III**, 54 Prospect Street, Northampton

Term: August 2021-June 2024

*To fill a vacancy*

Councilor Foster said she had a great conversation with Joseph Wilhelm yesterday. Mr. Wilhelm is a retired lawyer and income tax preparer. He served on the Selectboard in Williamsburg and the Council of Governments in Hampshire County, so he has a strong background that is pretty relevant to this committee and deep understanding of how many of these processes work. He is interested to learn more about the trusts the city is managing and the fine details of these accounts. He understands investing although he is not himself an investor. He decided to apply because of an email she sent out to Ward 2. This is clearly aligned with his background and interest.

Councilor Foster moved to forward the appointment of Joseph Wilhelm III to the Trust Fund Committee to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Maire seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

### **Urban Forestry Commission**

**Robert Postel**, 44 Washington Avenue, Northampton

Term: July 2021-June 2024

*Reappointment*

Councilor Foster moved to forward the appointment of Robert Postel to the Urban Forestry Commission with a positive recommendation. Councilor Quinlan seconded.

Robert is very good at bringing in new tree planters and is very gracious, Councilor Maire commented. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

### **Whiting Street Fund Committee**

**MariJon "MJ" Adams**, 60 Norwood Avenue, Florence

Term: August 2021-June 2024

*To fill a vacancy*

Councilor Maiore said it was great to talk to "MJ" because she has heard her name a lot. She has been an active member of the community for a long time, is presently the Community and Economic Development Director in Greenfield and was either the treasurer or did some financial work for First Churches for a long time. She was contemplating volunteering for the housing partnership but thought it might be a little too intensive. She was trying to find a way to use her skills and address affordability issues, so she thinks it's a great match.

She said she applied because of Councilor Foster's call for applicants. (Councilor Foster said she provided a link to the city website along with a couple of highlighted opportunities.)

MJ brought up that the description of the Whiting Street Fund Committee contains a line that is pretty offensive. It says that the will of Mr. Whiting Street is to be used for the ease and comfort of the 'worthy poor.'

The term used is 'worthy poor' but there were further specifications in the will as to how the money could be used,, Councilor Quinlan explained. He wanted it to be used for stability; for example, to help pay rent so someone wouldn't lose their home. He didn't want it to be used for a shelter. Originally, the fund was set up to receive applications from individuals. When Mayor Narkewicz changed the terms to accept applications from nonprofits, he had to negotiate with the arbiters of the will, which was quite a negotiation process.

He agreed that it stands out as a funny expression in today's language.

Councilor Maiore to forward the appointment of MariJon "MJ" Adams to the Whiting Street Fund Committee to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Quinlan seconded.

Councilor LaBarge said she has used the fund on many occasions for residents throughout the city. She has seen people use it to help them keep their apartments and to pay an electric bill. This significant change is much different than it was before. She agrees they should look at the language.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

#### 6. New Business

Councilor LaBarge said she had a lengthy talk with Marilyn Richards and she was very honored to come to their meeting on September 7, 2021 at 4 p.m. [Editor's note: the meeting date was subsequently changed due to a conflict with Rosh Hashanah.] She asked councilors to please submit questions to Marilyn ahead of time.

Councilor LaBarge said she herself wants to know what the housing board's actual responsibilities are.

She asked members to think about a guest for the month of October. She has heard a lot in recent days about councilors' roles with respect to streets.

#### 7. Adjourn

There being no further business, Councilor Foster moved to adjourn. Councilor Maiore seconded. The motion carried 4:0 by roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

*Prepared By:*

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