



*CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CONDUCTED AS AN ON-LINE ZOOM MEETING
Northampton, MA*

<p><u>Announcement of Audio/Video Recording</u> <u>Public Comment</u></p>	<p>A regular meeting of the City Council was called to order by Council President Gina-Louise Sciarra at 7:01 p.m.</p> <p>Councilor Sciarra announced that the meeting was being audio and video recorded. The City Council accepted public comment for eight minutes. (See Public Comment Record Sheet for names and topics of people making public comments.)</p>										
<p><u>Roll Call</u></p>	<p>At 7:09 p.m. on a roll call the following City Councilors were present:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">At-Large Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra</td> <td style="width: 50%;">At-Large Councilor William H. Dwight</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ward 1 Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr.</td> <td>Ward 5 Councilor Alex Jarrett</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ward 2 Councilor Karen Foster</td> <td>Ward 6 Councilor Marianne LaBarge</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ward 3 Councilor James B. Nash</td> <td>Ward 7 Councilor Rachel Maiore</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ward 4 Councilor John Thorpe</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	At-Large Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra	At-Large Councilor William H. Dwight	Ward 1 Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr.	Ward 5 Councilor Alex Jarrett	Ward 2 Councilor Karen Foster	Ward 6 Councilor Marianne LaBarge	Ward 3 Councilor James B. Nash	Ward 7 Councilor Rachel Maiore	Ward 4 Councilor John Thorpe	
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<p><u>Public Hearings</u> <u>Announcement of Public Hearing on Administrative Order</u></p>	<p><u>Public Hearings</u> <u>Announcement of Public Hearing on Administrative Order</u></p> <p>Councilor Sciarra made the following announcement: BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL, the Northampton City Council will hold a Public Hearing by remote participation on Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 7:05 p.m. Instructions for accessing the hearing may be found on the September 2, 2021 City Council agenda to be posted on the city website (www.northamptonma.gov) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City Council will consider proposed amendments to the City of Northampton Administrative Code, Part I Administrative Organization, Section 2.04 Office of the City Clerk. The City Council will hear all persons who wish to be heard thereon. The City Council meeting begins at 7 p.m.</p>										
<p><u>Updates from Council President and Committee Chairs</u></p>	<p><u>Updates from Council President and Committee Chairs</u></p> <p>Councilor Dwight asked the mayor to give councilors and the public an update on the final disposition of the charter amendments sent forward to the legislature and recently signed by the governor.</p> <p>Councilor LaBarge announced that the September City Services Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, September 8th at 4 p.m.</p> <p>The City Council Select Rules Committee will meet this Monday at 6 p.m., Councilor Maiore advised.</p>										
<p><u>Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors</u></p>	<p><u>Recognitions and One-Minute Announcements by Councilors</u></p> <p>Florence Night Out returns Saturday, September 25th from 4 to 10 pm., Councilor Jarrett announced. Downtown Florence will be filled with live music from local bands. There will be an open-air artisan market, interactive family-friendly events, art installations and film screenings. He will be helping Valley Bike Share with valet bike parking.</p>										
<p><u>Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor</u></p>	<p><u>Communications and Proclamations from the Mayor</u></p> <p>By way of update, on Friday the 13th, Governor Baker signed into law Chapter 40 of the Special Acts of 2021, which is the base package of the many technical changes to the charter recommended by the Charter Review Commission that the council and Mayor approved and sent to the state legislature, Mayor Narkewicz reported.</p> <p>Mayor Narkewicz thanked Representative Lindsay Sabadosa and Senator Jo Comerford</p>										

for helping shepherd these back and forth between the house and the senate and for getting them to the governor's desk. They were hoping to get them signed prior to August 17th which was the deadline for candidates to remove themselves from the ballot. One of the key changes was changing the City Clerk from an elected to an appointed position. The City Clerk had filed nominations papers not knowing if this would happen in time. Several other technical changes also went into effect including changes to the name of the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School (SVAHS) governing body (from superintendents to trustees), the method of filling some vacancies and a number of other technical changes identified during the committee's process. Other aspects of the committee's work were filed as separate measures such as 16 and older voting, voting by non-citizens and ranked choice voting. The main charter changes have now been approved and signed into law and the City Clerk has sent the changes to General Code so they will be updated on line soon.

<p><u>Resolutions</u> <u>21.315 Resolution</u> <u>Relative to COVID-</u> <u>19 Housing</u> <u>Security - 1st</u> <u>reading</u></p>	<p><u>Resolutions</u> <u>21.315 A Resolution Relative to COVID-19 Housing Security - 1st reading</u> Councilor Sciarra read the resolution.</p> <p>Councilor Dwight moved to approve the resolution in first reading. Councilor Jarrett seconded.</p> <p>Councilor Jarrett gave a big thanks to Pamela Schwartz of the Western Mass Network to End Homelessness. The biggest thing to him is that the money is there; the agencies just need time to build their capacity to get it to the property owners. No one should be facing eviction when they have the resources to solve it. As the resolution states, there are no protections against foreclosures although mortgage loans can easily be modified to extend the time of payments at the end of the loan. From a public health perspective, evictions create incredible stress in people's lives and that ripples outward. Many folks would move in with friends and families which would increase the risk of COVID exposure and spread just as cases are rising again. Two readings are requested as they see momentum building for the passage of these bills by the legislature. The sooner they get this passed the better.</p> <p>Councilor Thorpe also thanked Pamela Schwartz and Councilor Jarrett for taking the lead. He is cosponsoring this resolution because it is critical that, in the midst of a pandemic, they support tenants to avoid a crisis that threatens without stable living conditions. It is also critical to acknowledge that these times have been difficult for landlords too. These are not easy policy decisions, but it is more important than ever for them to protect the most vulnerable among them.</p> <p>Councilor Quinlan added his thanks to Pamela Schwartz and fellow councilors and to Carolyn Misch who answered a big question for them about the number of rental households in Northampton. As he thought about the resolution, he thought back to the joint meeting of Community Resources and City Services where they talked about the housing crisis and met with a number of local people with great information. He remembered being stunned by the fact that all of these people are here and ready to help and that \$842 million is available and only 17% of it has been spent so far. That to him points to the crisis upon the crisis.</p> <p>It almost feels like they are a little late when they see the number of people who have already voiced support for this but making their voice heard means a lot to him. He asked his colleagues to join him in joining the chorus.</p> <p>Councilor Dwight thanked sponsors. To Councilor Quinlan's point, he's grateful for the initiative. He agreed it would have been better if they had pulled this off sooner, but the fact is that these are shifting sands and shifting times. His ignorance allowed him to believe that the dispersal of these funds was active and ongoing and the program was going to work. He is shocked and disturbed by the fact that this money is sitting there earmarked for this use and not being employed. The crisis impacts the very infrastructure of what they call community. He referred to the combined stress of being bound to one's house and one's apartment not knowing how COVID is going to shake out and, at the same time, facing the very real prospect of losing one's home. He has no problem signing onto this declaration of urgency. It makes brilliant sense and he is very grateful to be given the opportunity to vote</p>
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in favor of this.

Councilor LaBarge thanked Pamela Schwartz and the three sponsors. This is crucial; there's no question about it. They heard Pamela Schwartz come out and tell all of them how serious it is. The money is sitting there, \$842 million. No family deserves to lose their home when there's \$842 million sitting in the pot. She will support this 100% and supports a 2nd reading.

Councilor Nash thanked the sponsors and Pamela Schwartz, Senator Comerford and Rep. Sabadosa for bringing this to their attention and their work on this. He really appreciates it when their resolutions can have an immediate impact as is the case tonight. While the resolution definitely is in support of tenants at risk, it is also in support of landlords who are owed back rent. As they know, there are a lot of people in Northampton with two and three-family houses and it is hard when a tenant falls behind on rent. He too is surprised to hear there is such a backlog/bottleneck on these funds getting out to people; he knows the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans to businesses went out in a snap. He is glad they are taking steps to help push this forward.

Councilor Maiore thanked sponsors, adding she is heartened to see this on the agenda. This time has really become a real breaking point for people. The resolution is timely because of the pending bills and also because of the state that a lot of renters find themselves in. She appreciates the simplification of the application process in the House bill and the emphasis on sustainable forbearance plans. She will support it, she stated.

Councilor Sciarra joined in thanking sponsors. She does feel like maybe they are a little bit behind the curve but this is a quickly moving crisis. She first heard about these bills at a Housing First Taskforce meeting just a few weeks ago. She wanted to make sure people know that in addition to ERAP funds, the city also has a program for people who live in Northampton, Florence and Leeds administered by Community Action Pioneer Valley (CAPV). Anyone interested can find out more by contacting CAPV at (413) 475-1570.

The motion to approve in first reading passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

Councilor LaBarge moved to suspend rules to allow a second reading. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the resolution in second reading. Councilor Jarrett seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following resolution passed two readings:



City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In the City Council, August 19, 2021

Upon the Recommendation of: Councilor Alex Jarrett
Councilor John Thorpe
Councilor Michael Quinlan

R-21.315 A RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO COVID-19 HOUSING EQUITY

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has left tens of thousands of Massachusetts residents in a health, economic, and housing crisis; and

WHEREAS, The temporary federal eviction moratorium is set to expire on October 3, is vulnerable to legal challenge and as written still leaves thousands of tenants at risk of eviction; and

WHEREAS, Current state protections (Chapter 257 of the Acts of 2020) provide some safeguards against evictions but they do not go far enough to keep tenants housed; and

WHEREAS, No federal or state law currently exists to provide any protection against foreclosure; and

WHEREAS, Over 2,700 new eviction cases have been filed in Western Massachusetts since the lifting of the state eviction moratorium in October, 2020 (over 20,000 statewide) and 585 homes in Western Massachusetts face the threat of foreclosure; and

WHEREAS, 45% of Northampton households are rented; and

WHEREAS, The economic crisis in general and the eviction crisis in particular created by the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a disproportionate effect on communities of color and low income individuals across Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, The federal government has allocated over \$800 million in rental assistance to

the Commonwealth with only a fraction of those funds having yet reached eligible tenants; and

WHEREAS, Western Massachusetts' largest administrator of rental assistance, Way Finders, reports receiving 400-500 applications for rental assistance per week, as many as 100 per day, with an application processing time of 4-5 weeks; and

WHEREAS, Taking this public health emergency out of the courts will spare tenants the trauma of an eviction proceeding while ensuring payment to the landlord for back rent due; and

WHEREAS, Preventing displacement is in the interest of public health, racial justice, equity, and fairness; and

WHEREAS, Strong legislative action is required to prevent unnecessary evictions, foreclosures, displacement, and to ensure a more timely and equitable distribution of rental assistance funds; and

WHEREAS, An Act to Prevent COVID-19 Evictions and Foreclosures and Promote an Equitable Housing Recovery (H.1434/S.891) would protect public health, support tenants, homeowners, and small-scale landlords alike; and

WHEREAS, This Act has garnered support from Northampton Mayor Narkewicz, and four other mayors and town managers in the region; 94 Representatives and Senators (20 from Western Massachusetts) including Senator Jo Comerford and Representative Lindsay Sabadosa; and over 50 Western Massachusetts groups and 150 statewide from every sector of our communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Northampton asks the State Legislature to move with all deliberate speed and urgency to pass S.891 and H.1434, An Act to Prevent COVID-19 Evictions and Foreclosures and Promote an Equitable Housing Recovery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall send a copy of this Resolution to Governor Charles Baker; the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Housing, Senator John Keenan and Representative James Arciero; the presenters of the bills, Representatives Frank A. Moran and Kevin G. Honan and Senator Patricia D. Jehlen; and Representative Lindsay Sabadosa and Senator Jo Comerford.

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

Interim Procedure for Conducting City Council Meetings

Interim Procedure for Conducting City Council Meetings

Councilors started this discussion back in July, but what a difference a month makes, Councilor Sciarra observed. Northampton now has an indoor mask mandate in public spaces regardless of vaccination status due to the rise in cases nationally and in the state driven by the highly contagious Delta variant. As health director Merridith O'Leary has noted, the pandemic is not over and is evolving.

She certainly supports the decision to require masks and to try to limit the spread here in Hampshire County. Being vaccinated is still the very best protection, and the city is still offering vaccine clinics on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Pulaski Park and on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in council chambers and from 3 to 6 p.m. at Northampton High School. Additionally, there are pop-up clinics at events and other locations.

Councilor Dwight moved to recognize Northampton Open Media (NOM) Director Al Williams. Councilor Maiore seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The short answer is that NOM is ready to go hybrid whenever the council is ready to do so, Director Williams reported. In terms of the council and anyone in council chambers, those present would see Zoom participants up on the screen. Councilors themselves could be on Zoom but would have to be muted. People only watching on Zoom would see the center camera in the room. Someone from the council would have to moderate the Zoom meeting to recognize people participating remotely.

Councilors asked questions and offered comments.

The council president was right in pointing out that they are in a vastly different place than they were in a month ago, Councilor Dwight agreed. The fluidity here really recommends that they stay remote for the time being. They now know that they have the means to do a hybrid version. Right now, there seems to be a new level of urgency and level of stress related to the Delta variant and the aging out of the vaccines. As of an hour ago, the White-house is recommending boosters on the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines. The fact is, they are seeing an increased number of breakthroughs and exposures in the hospital. Hampshire County has one of the lowest transmission rates in the state but they realize that this virus doesn't care about boundaries or anything other than that all of them are convenient hosts. Circumstances are not too different than they were eight months ago when they were waiting on a vaccine. Now that vaccines have been administered, the fact is they are aging out. "I really don't see the upside to us meeting in person in council chambers," he said, adding that vaccine clinics are presently being conducted there.

It seems to him most appropriate to stay participating remotely for the time being. As the situation hopefully changes for the better, it is clear that they have the means to do any variation of the meeting that would work as long as it conforms to the Attorney General's regulations.

Councilor LaBarge said she also supports staying remote for the safety of herself, her family and her residents. "We are in a critical situation right now," she noted. She referred to a recorded message from the health director sent out this evening at 5:25 p.m. advising residents to resume social distancing and wearing facemasks inside. Here in Northampton, she has been told there are six cases with the variants. There is an uptick. They have only eight meetings to go before the end of the session, which will go by very quickly. Hopefully the variant will gone by the time the new council starts up in January. She is uncomfortable returning to council chambers.

Councilor Quinlan said he thinks they've got to respect the science and stay remote.

Councilors Foster, Maiore, Jarrett, Thorpe and Nash each spoke in turn in favor of remaining remote.

Councilor Foster noted that they have been able to conduct the business of this council pretty effectively. "We've proven that we can do this working remotely," she pointed out.

Councilor Maiore said she was glad it is sounding like they are all on the same page. Together, they have six children not able to be vaccinated and that's not going to change anytime soon. The other thing to think about is what they want to model for the community. Going back into the chambers is a big statement, she observed. "I think caution is what we need to see."

Although he admitted looking forward to being in the same room again and being able to interact not only with fellow councilors but with the public, Councilor Nash said he also supports the decision to remain remote.

Councilor Jarrett said he agreed and was prepared to make a motion. **He moved to stay remote until the end of the calendar year. Councilor LaBarge seconded.**

Councilor Sciarra noted that if they were to return in person they would all have to be masked, so in terms of public accessibility, the decision also makes sense. Both she and Councilor Dwight expressed wistfulness at ending their council careers without going back in chambers. "Believe it or not, I actually have some fond attachment to the chamber itself," Councilor Dwight admitted.

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

<u>Consent Agenda</u>	<u>Consent Agenda</u> Councilor Sciarra reviewed the items on the consent agenda, offering to remove any item for separate consideration upon request. Councilor Sciarra requested removal of the
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appointment of Adam Novitt to the Transportation and Parking Commission. Councilor Dwight requested removal of the appointment of David Bloomberg to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Councilor Dwight moved approval of the consent agenda with the two removals. Councilor Foster seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

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

A. Minutes of October 8, 2020 and November 12, 2020 City Council Meetings (never accepted), Minutes of June 17, 2021 and July 15, 2021

B. Amend Term of Appointment to Urban Forestry Commission

Process note: This amendment is to correct an error. Molly Hale's reappointment to the Urban Forestry Commission was approved by the City Council on June 17, 2021 with a term expiration date of 2023. The term should end June 30, 2024.

Urban Forestry Commission

Molly Hale, 96 Oak Street, Florence

Term: July 2021-June 2023~~4~~

Reappointment

C. 21.316 Appointments to Various Committees - for referral to City Services Committee

Council on Aging

Monica V. Grezzi-Mulea, 573 Burts Pit Road, Florence

Term: September 2021-June 2024

To fill a vacancy

Energy & Sustainability Commission

Benjamin Weil, 123 Audubon Road, Leeds

Term: July 2021-June 2024

Reappointment

Planning Board

Melissa Fowler, 87 Chesterfield Road, Leeds

Full Member

Term: July 2021-June 2024

Reappointment

Christian Tait, 46 Upland Road, Leeds

Associate Member

Term: July 2021-June 2024

Reappointment

Transportation & Parking Commission

Jami Albro-Fisher, 50 Manhan Street, Northampton

Term: July 2020-June 2023

Reappointment

Whiting Street Fund Committee

Michael Shaughnessy, 575 Bridge Road, Unit 11-5, Florence

Term: July 2021-June 2024

Reappointment

Joseph Misterka, 312 Chesterfield Road, Leeds

Term: July 2021-June 2023

Reappointment

Andrea Murray, 54 Day Avenue, Northampton

Term: July 2021-June 2023

Reappointment

Councilor Dwight moved approval of the referral of Adam Novitt. Councilor Nash seconded.

Councilor Sciarra disclosed that Adam Novitt had contributed to her campaign but said it

would not preclude her from participating in discussion and voting on the referral. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following appointment was referred to City Services:

Transportation & Parking Commission

Adam Novitt, 17 Hooker Avenue, Northampton

Term: July 2021-June 2024

Reappointment

Councilor Dwight moved approval of the referral of David Bloomberg. Councilor Quinlan seconded.

Councilor Dwight disclosed that David Bloomberg is his attorney but confirmed that there is no real or evident conflict. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following appointment was referred to City Services:

Zoning Board of Appeals

David Bloomberg, 86 Vernon Street, Northampton

Term: July 2021-June 2024

Reappointment

Recess for Committee on Finance Meeting

Recess for Committee on Finance Meeting
The City Council recessed for Finance Committee at 8:02 p.m. The Finance Committee adjourned at 8:27 p.m. The council reconvened at 8:27 p.m.

Financial Orders (On 1st reading pending Finance Committee review) 21.305 Order to Reprogram CS Surplus Funds to CS 2005 Vehicle Replacement - 1st reading

Financial Orders (On 1st reading pending Finance Committee review)
21.305 An Order to Reprogram CS Surplus Funds to CS 2005 Vehicle Replacement - 1st reading
Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.
Councilor Dwight moved to suspend rules to allow a second reading. Councilor Maiore seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.
Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following order passed two readings:

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council _____ August 19, 2021

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

21.305 An Order to Reprogram CS Surplus Funds to CS 2005 Vehicle Replacement

Ordered, that

\$8,526.25 of the surplus funds remaining in the Central Services HVAC 1 Van account (19303 585902) and \$9,473.75 of the surplus funds remaining in the Centra Service Recreation Roof Field project (19303 586230), be reprogrammed and added to tl original appropriation of \$45,000 for a total of \$63,000 for the Central Services Replacer the 2005 City Maintenance Vehicle.

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

21.306 Order to Appropriate Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Funds to Hotel Bridge Improvements - 1st reading
21.307 Order to Reprogram \$15,000 from Safety Village Surplus to Sheldon Field Dugout Replacement - 1st reading

21.306 An Order to Appropriate Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Funds to Hotel Bridge Improvements - 1st reading
Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of September 2, 2021 for second reading:

21.307 An Order to Reprogram \$15,000 from Safety Village Surplus to Sheldon Field Dugout Replacement - 1st reading

21.308 An Order to Reprogram Funds for Safety Netting for Florence Recreation Fields - 1st reading

21.309 An Order to Authorize Spending \$2,577.62 from Equipment Firefighting Donation Account on UTV and Trailer - 1st reading

21.314 An Order to Reprogram Funds for Florence Fire Station Repaving - 1st reading

Councilor Jarrett moved to approve 21.307, 21.308, 21.309 and 21.314 as a group in first reading. Councilor Dwight seconded.

Councilor Nash said he wanted to speak briefly to the order for the new dugouts at Sheldon Field. He echoed what Councilor Quinlan said about the condition of the fields. He has had a number of residents reach out to him about improving ball field conditions and he met a constituent there on site. He appreciates the solution of having students from SVAHS working on this project. It is very much keeping the money/investment within Northampton and provides a great opportunity for the students.

The motion passed unanimously 9:0 in first reading.

Councilor Jarrett moved to suspend rules to allow second readings. Councilor Dwight seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

Councilor Dwight moved to approve 21.307, 21.308, 21.309 and 21.314 as a group in second reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following orders passed two readings:

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council August 19, 2021

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

21.307 An Order to Reprogram \$15,000 from Safety Village Surplus to Sheldon Field Dugout Replacement

Whereas, the City is working with the students of Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School to remove and replace the dugouts at Sheldon Field;

Whereas, the City will provide the materials and Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School students will provide the labor;

Ordered, that

\$15,000 of the remaining balance in CS Rec 7 Safety Village Replacement (19303 586231) be reprogrammed to support the Sheldon Field Dugout Replacement Project.

21.308 Order to Reprogram Funds for Safety Netting for Florence Recreation Fields - 1st reading

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council August 19, 2021

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

21.308 An Order to Reprogram Funds for Safety Netting for Florence Recreation Fields

Ordered, that

\$9,844 of the remaining balance in CS Rec 7 Safety Village Replacement (19303 586231) be reprogrammed to support the Safety Netting – Florence Recreation Fields Project (19303 586237).

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

21.309 Order to Authorize Spending \$2,577.62 from Equipment Fire-fighting Donation Account on UTV and Trailer - 1st reading

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council August 19, 2021

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

21.309 An Order to Authorize Spending \$2,577.62 from Equipment Firefighting Donation Account on UTV and Trailer

Ordered, that

the Northampton City Council in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53 A (Grants and gifts; acceptance and expenditure) authorizes the expenditure of \$2,577.62 from the Equipment Firefighting Donation account (2529) to be used together with the original appropriation of \$26,500 to replace the 1998 Quad with a UTV (19303 586508) and purchase a trailer.

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

21.314 Order to Reprogram Funds for Florence Fire Station Repaving - 1st reading

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council August 19, 2021

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

21.314 An Order to Reprogram Funds for Florence Fire Station Repaving

Ordered, that

\$11,658.52 in the Reserve for Bond Premium (3000 328100) and \$3,061.48 remaining in the CS Forbes Window Project FY20 (19303 586219), be reprogrammed and added to the original appropriation of \$65,000 for a total of \$79,720 for the Florence Fire Station Repaving Project (19303 584192).

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

Financial Orders
(On 2nd reading)
21.303 Order to
Surplus City Land
for Affordable and
Attainable
Housing at Chapel
Street, Oak Street
and Evergreen
Road – 2nd reading

Financial Orders (On 2nd reading)
21.303 An Order to Surplus City Land for Affordable and Attainable Housing at
Chapel Street, Oak Street and Evergreen Road – 2nd reading
Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in second reading. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following order passed two readings:

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council, July 15, 2021

Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz and Planning & Sustainability

21.303 An Order to Surplus City Land for Affordable and Attainable Housing at Chapel Street, and Evergreen Road

WHEREAS, Consistent with the city’s *Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan Space, Recreation, and Multi-Use Trail Plan, Housing Needs Assessment Strategic Housing Plan, and Unlocking Opportunity: An Assessment of Barriers to Fair Housing*, the city has a comprehensive limited development, funding regulatory program to create and fund affordable and attainable housing, including surplus unneeded city-owned land;

WHEREAS, In the last year, for example, city efforts include 1) transferring land from a development project on Burts Pit Road for nine affordable units, 2) authorizing the transfer of land at the former state hospital on Burts Pit Road for two or three affordable units, 3) authority to transfer land on Laurel Street for multiple rental affordable units, and 4) authority to transfer land at Woodland Drive from a back tax transfer for an affordable unit;

WHEREAS, An inventory of potential city land includes the opportunity to create affordable housing (available to those earning at or less than 80% of area median income) and attainable units (the “missing middle” to those who can’t afford market rate units but eligible for affordable housing) at three sites:

- o Chapel Street (Map ID 38A-149) for a 99-year lease
- o Oak Street (Map ID 17C-001) for sale, with a portion of the property retained by the city for future conservation or recreation uses
- o Evergreen Road (Assessors Map ID 11A-002) for sale

WHEREAS, As with the other recent projects, once City Council approval is received the city will do due diligence and further neighborhood engagement to determine the parameters and conditions, with authority needed to allow the expenditure of city resources, apply for any needed grants or funding, and ensure legislative affordable housing support for these projects.

Ordered, that

The City Council declares these parcels surplus to City needs;

Further that the Mayor is authorized to transfer deeds and/or leases for the land subject to any restrictions and conditions that the Mayor imposes to accomplish these needs.

Passed two readings and enrolled.

Orders
21.310 Warrant for
September 28,
2021 Preliminary
Election - 1st
reading

Orders
21.310 Warrant for September 28, 2021 Preliminary Election - 1st reading
Councilor Sciarra read the order.

Councilor Dwight moved approval of the order in first reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

Councilor Quinlan asked why early voting dates and times for the preliminary election are

not included on this warrant.

City Clerk Pamela Powers said she put early voting dates and times for both the September preliminary and November general election on a single warrant. She is trying to get as much advance notice out to the public as possible, so she decided to keep early voting information separate from the warrant for election day. Also, the location of early voting is different than same day voting for the September preliminary election.

Councilor Dwight congratulated Clerk Powers as the appointed rather than elected City Clerk. Clerk Powers said she believed she was still elected until the council decides otherwise.

Councilor Jarrett said he noticed in the past that there had been no school on election days and he didn't see that this year. He asked if there is any concern about a conflict between school usage and voting. The school calendar shows there being school on November 2nd.

The city usually doesn't have school on the day of the general election, so she's surprised school is in session that day, Clerk Powers said.

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

See minutes of September 2, 2021 for second reading.

21.311 Warrant to Set Early Voting Dates, Times and Locations in Northampton - 1st reading

21.311 Warrant to Set Early Voting Dates, Times and Locations in Northampton - 1st reading

Councilor Sciarra read the early voting dates and times.

Councilor Quinlan moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

Councilor Foster asked what the process is for requesting a mail-in ballot for this election.

The Secretary of State is going to mail out advisory postcards to every household with a voter to let them know the no excuse voting protocol is in place and that they can either go on the state's website or contact the City Clerk's office to request an application, Clerk Powers advised. It is okay for voters to vote by mail, vote in person, or to order a mail-in ballot and then decide to go to the polls anyways.

The state will be mailing out postcards advising folks of early voting dates for the September 28th election. She asked that the council consider taking two readings tonight since the state is waiting for her office to define those dates.

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

Councilor Dwight moved to suspend the rules to allow a second vote. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in second reading. Council LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

The following order passed two readings:

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council August 19, 2021

Upon the recommendation of City Clerk Pamela L. Powers

O-21.311

Warrant to Set Early Voting Dates/Times/Locations in Northampton

Whereas, On July 29, 2021 Governor Charlie Baker signed a supplemental budget to allow communities to provide no-excuse in-person and mail-in early voting for all municipal preliminary and regular elections until December 15, 2021; and

Whereas, Northampton has a city wide preliminary election on September 28, 2021 and a biennial municipal election on November 2, 2021; and

Whereas, early in-person voting provides expanded opportunity for voters to cast a ballot in their preferred manner when they cannot go to the polls on Election Day; and

Whereas, voter engagement is the cornerstone of our democracy and voters should not have to sacrifice voting in person in order to safeguard their health during the public health emergencies cause by the COVID-19 pandemic;

Ordered that,

In-person early voting shall be as follows:

Before the September 28, 2021 Preliminary Election:

Tuesday	September 21	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Senior Center, 67 Conz St.
Wednesday	September 22	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Senior Center, 67 Conz St.
Thursday	September 23	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Senior Center, 67 Conz St.
Friday	September 24	8:30 am – 4:30 pm.	Senior Center, 67 Conz St.

Before the November 2, 2021 Biennial Municipal Election:

Saturday	October 23	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	Senior Center, 67 Conz St.
Sunday	October 24	1:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Senior Center, 67 Conz St.
Monday	October 25	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Senior Center, 67 Conz St.

Tuesday	October 26	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Senior Center, 67 Conz St.
Wednesday	October 27	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Senior Center, 67 Conz St.
Thursday	October 28	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Senior Center, 67 Conz St.
Friday	October 29	8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Senior Center, 67 Conz St.

Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.

21.312 An Order to Submit a Measure to the Voters at the 2021 Regular City Election - 1st reading

Councilor Sciarra read the order.

Councilor Dwight moved to approve the order in first reading. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

He knows there were some questions about the language here since it is rather arcane and obscure, Councilor Dwight said. The referendum is directly relevant to the municipal internet/broadband system and is state-mandated language, he clarified. “We’re not going to be generating light or power,” he confirmed.

This is the system by which municipalities are allowed to establish a municipal broadband/internet system in the community, he elaborated. By law, the city is required to ask the community to weigh in. It’s going to be incumbent on elected officials to explain the intent of the question and to provide an educational campaign.

Councilor LaBarge said a couple of residents approached her about this. One wanted to

21.312 An Order to Submit a Measure to the Voters at the 2021 Regular City Election - 1st reading

know where the money was coming from for the new plant. The language is confusing, she agreed. She acknowledging that it will be up to them to explain it.

Mayor Narkewicz said the city solicitor offered a modification to the summary language. It's not possible to modify the question itself because it is not modifiable since the statute refers to the system as a 'municipal light plant.' The base language is the same language voted on in Easthampton in 2019 and adopted unanimously, he noted.

Councilor Maiore drew attention to a scrivener's error referring to a Municipal Lighting Plant instead of light plant.

Councilor Maiore moved to amend the order to correct the scrivener's order and include the amendment of the city solicitor. Councilor Dwight seconded.

Mayor Narkewicz also noted that the word 'systems' should be singular, not plural.

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

Councilor Foster expressed her understanding that they will be expecting the cost to be covered through subscriptions. She asked if there is an upfront cost they will be asking voters to cover.

The city has completed the marketing survey and consultants are now starting the feasibility phase of the study from which they will be getting this type of information, Mayor Narkewicz advised. The question can only be presented at a municipal election, so they are sort of doing this pre-emptively to avoid having to call a special election. He pointed out that the question is non-binding. This will not commit the city to any spending but is a required vote if and when the city chooses to proceed.

That will be important to explain, he stressed. It is the legal mechanism required in Massachusetts if a community wants to set up municipal broadband. Because they only have municipal elections every two years, not putting it on this ballot could really delay things.

"This is one of the hoops the state requires that we leap through but in fact does not commit us to anything," Councilor Dwight confirmed. "This commits not a cent . . . it just allows us to do it should it be determined that it makes sense."

Councilor Nash expressed his understanding that a decision to move forward will be made by the city council in the future based on the results of the feasibility study, and the Mayor confirmed that is the case.

The motion to approve the order as amended in first reading passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.

See minutes of September 2, 2021 for second reading.

<p><u>Zoning Ordinances (Not yet Referred)</u> <u>21.313 Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Map, §350-3.4, at Chapel Street</u></p>	<p><u>Zoning Ordinances (Not yet Referred)</u> <u>21.313 An Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Map, §350-3.4, at Chapel Street</u> Councilor Dwight moved to refer the ordinance to Legislative Matters and the Planning Board. Councilor LaBarge seconded.</p> <p>Councilor Nash said he would be happy for the ordinance to be referred to Community Resources too since it is a zoning issue.</p> <p>Councilors Dwight reluctantly accepted this as a friendly amendment to the motion. The motion passed unanimously 9:0 by roll call vote.</p>
<p><u>New Business</u></p>	<p><u>New Business</u> None.</p>

Motion to Adjourn

Upon motion made by Councilor Dwight and seconded by Councilor Thorpe, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m. The motion passed 9:0 by roll call vote.

Attest: _____ Administrative Assistant to the City Council