

Committee on Rules, Orders, Appointments, & Ordinances

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

Meeting Date: February 18, 2015
Meeting Time: 5:00pm
City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street
Northampton, Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes

*Activate NCTV Camera to Record Minutes

2/18/2015 - Minutes

1. Announcement Of Audio/Video Recording Of Meeting
At 5:06 pm Councilor Murphy announced that the meeting would be video taped.
2. Members Present/Absent

Present:

Councilor Carney (Note: Councilor Carney left at 6:00pm)

Councilor O'Donnell

Councilor Murphy, Chair

3. Meeting Called To Order
4. Joint Public Hearing W/ Planning Board

Councilor O'Donnell moved to open the Public Hearing at 5:07 pm. Councilor Carney seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

Senior Planner Carolyn Misch presented 14.347 - the Ordinance revising section 350-2, 350-8.11, and 350-11.6 providing for bicycle parking and pedestrian access standards. The ordinance addresses bicycle parking. In section 2 the proposal is to add a definition. The Ordinance also establishes bicycle parking standards, spelling out where and how much parking should be made available. If a site plan review were triggered with a new building project, then the project will need to address bicycle parking standards. The Ordinance also outlines requirements for bicycle racks, such as where the racks shall be located in relation to building and curbing, how they shall be positioned, and the preferred design of a bike rack.

The ordinance also specifies that pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular traffic movement on a site shall be separated to the extent possible. Sidewalk specifications are outlined. Requirements of grating, if used, is also specified. Is there a standard for the size of the treebelt? 7 feet for a residential subdivision; in commercial areas it is 10 feet with 6 foot sidewalk.

At 5:20pm Councilor Carney moved to close the Public Hearing for bicycle parking and pedestrian access standards. Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0

No. Councilor Carney moved to send the Ordinance back to City Council as amended without recommendation; Councilor O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

Zoning amendment for Stormwater Management - 14.331

Carolyn Misch reviewed the proposed standard. When reviewing projects, the Planning Board wants to see that project designers have given consideration to on-site stormwater management as opposed to using piping to carry stormwater to an off-site location.

Modifications to Section F look to update standards that have not been considered in a number of years.

At 5:40pm Councilor O'Donnell moved to close the public hearing regarding Best Management Practices for Stormwater as part of the Site Plan Review; Councilor Carney seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

Councilor O'Donnell moved to send the Ordinance back to City Council without recommendation; Councilor Carney seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

4.I. 14.333 As Recommended By Public Works Committee For ROAO Consideration

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment during the Public Hearing.

6. Approve Minutes Of The Previous Meeting

6.I. Minutes Of January 12, 2015

Councilor O'Donnell moved to approve the Minutes as presented; Councilor Carney seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

7. Orders And Ordinances For Review

7.I. 14.229 & 14.245 Solid Waste Reduction Ordinances-Plastic Bag & Non-Criminal Penalties / Enforcing Officers

These Ordinances are still under review by other committees. The Committee on Rules, Orders, Appointments and Ordinances will take up these Ordinances once all other committees have made their recommendations.

7.II. 14.347 Ordinance Regarding Bicycles & Pedestrian Facilities

7.III. 14.331 Ordinance Pertaining To Best Management Practices For Stormwater As Part Of The Site Plan Review

See above

7.IV. 14.333 Ordinance Regarding Section 280.4 & 280.6 Stormwater Flood Control Utility

The Public Works Committee took up this Ordinance and amended the document to reflect the Public Works Committee as co-sponsors of the Ordinance, as well as added language to codify current billing practices for storm water utility fee.

The City Solicitor is not in favor of the practice recommended by the Public Works Committee, and so the ROAO Comm. is recommending sending the original version of the Ordinance back to City Council with only the sponsors amended.

Councilor O'Donnell moved to send the Ordinance back to City Council with a positive recommendation as noted above; Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 2 Yes, 0 No.

7.IV.i. 14.333 With Amendments By The Public Works Committee Of The City Council

See note above.

7.V. 14.327 Ordinance For Code Section 312-102 Schedule I: Parking Prohibited All Times

This Ordinance removes the parking ban where the crosswalk once was and now allows parking in a certain section of South Street.

Councilor O'Donnell moved to send back to City Council with a positive recommendation; Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. the motion was approved on a voice vote of 2 Yes, 0 No.

7.VI. 15.355 & 15.356 Ordinances Pertaining To Snow & Ice On Sidewalks

Regarding 15.355, the Ordinance for List of enforcing officers and penalties for non removal of snow on City sidewalks, the committee made for the following recommendations:

Change Officer responsible for issuing non-criminal tickets, change wording to: Department of Public Works Director or his/her designee, Chief of Police or his/her designee, or Parking Enforcement Officers.

Change Penalty as follows: First violation: \$50, Second violation, same event: \$100, Subsequent violation, same event: \$250

Councilor O'Donnell moved to send the Ordinance back to the City Council with a positive recommendation as amended; Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 2 Yes, 0 No.

Regarding 15.356, the Ordinance for Snow and Ice Removal on City Sidewalks, Councilor O'Donnell proposed the following amendment:

Add: For property located in the Central Business District or in areas of Florence zoned General Business as delineated on the Northampton Zoning Map, the above requirements must be met within 24 hours or by 8:00 am on the next business day, whichever is sooner.

Councilor O'Donnell moved to accept the ordinance as amended and sending it back to City Council with a positive recommendation as amended; Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 2 Yes, 0 No.

Gina - Louise Sciarra 145 State Street-agrees with the Ordinance. She will get many complaints this time of year regarding people who do not shovel their sidewalks.

7.VII. 14.320 Ordinance Amending Section 312-103-II

Councilor O'Donnell moved to return this Ordinance back to the City Council with a negative recommendation; Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 2 Yes, 0 No.

8. Appointments For Committee Approval

8.I. New Appointment To The Agricultural Commission

Councilor O'Donnell is still trying to contact Mr. Smith. This item will be continued to the next ROAO meeting.

9. New Business

None

10. Adjourn

At 7:00 pm Councilor O'Donnell moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 2 Yes, 0 No.

*Respectfully submitted by
Pamela L. Powers
Clerk to the City Council
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