



Appointments and Briefings

March 13, 2017 – 7:02 PM – **Minutes**
Chambers of the City Council, Room 214

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: MARCH 13, 2017
TIME: 7:02 P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS BRIAN GOMES, CHAIRMAN; JOSEPH LOPES, VICE CHAIRMAN; IAN ABREU;
NAOMI CARNEY; DEBORA COELHO; STEVEN MARTINS; JAMES OLIVEIRA; DANA REBEIRO;
KERRY WINTERSON

ABSENT: COUNCILLOR LINDA MORAD

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Councillor Gomes called the Appointments & Briefings Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read a Communication from Councillor Morad explaining her absence. This Communication was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Carney.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a PUBLIC HEARING, CONTINUED, on a COMMUNICATION/DEMOLITION, New Bedford Historical Commission, to City Council, re: 1494 East Rodney French Boulevard, (Map 12, Lot 77), circa 1890 wood framed structure; the structure retains historical significance due to its association with New Bedford's 20th century boat building industry and the widely recognized innovative boat design and manufacturing techniques attributed to Palmer Scott; the structure has been vacant for nearly a decade, has experienced a high level of deferred maintenance, and the level of rehabilitation required to meet current building code standards far exceeds the value of the property; and therefore, in light of these findings, the New Bedford Historical Commission has determined that the structure at 1494 East Rodney French Boulevard is Historically Significant, but is not a Preferably Preserved Structure (Ref'd 12/8/16) (2/13/17-Public Hearing continued to 3/13/17) was received and placed on file and the hearing was continued by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Carney. (1)

Attorney Chris Saunders spoke on behalf of his client Gregory Kulpinski; he informed the Committee that the owner of the property is a Commercial Fisherman and was not able to be present at the meeting. Attorney Saunders explained that the owner's intention is to raise the structure and turn it into a parking lot. He intends to keep the large stones in the area, and will have gravel and grass in the area; it is not the intent of the owner to build on the site. It is not economically feasible to rehab, it is a financial burden to the owner; the taxes total near \$20,000 a year. The owner of the property is not averse to putting up a plaque explaining the historical significance of the property. It will be done. The owner will not keep the flagpole which is a streetlight post with a mast on it. If there is anyone that would want the mast the owner will gladly turn it over to them.

Anne Louro, Preservation Planner for the City, clarified that the property was owned by William Wood and not the Beetle family. The hearing was closed.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Martins, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to Grant the Demolition of 1494 East Rodney French Boulevard even though the structure is historically significant but should not be preserved. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 0, Councillor Lopes not present for vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting a ONE YEAR WAIVER OF RESIDENCY for STEPHANIE (HARRINGTON) SLOAN, Grants Administrator in the Health

Department, who resides in Fall River, MA (Ref'd 1/26/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Winterson. (2)

Ms. Sloan was present and explained to the Committee that she started out as an intern three (3) years ago in the Health Department, she was hire, and originally given a waiver; however, when she was retained under a grant she was told she did not require a waiver. Now with her new position she was told she needed a waiver. She currently resides in Dartmouth.

A series of questions about her qualifications as a Grant Writer and Administrator was discussed; however the Committee seems more frustrated that Ms. Sloan had been employed with the city for three (3) years with only one waiver, and that the Health Department should know better. They explained they did not blame Ms. Sloan but the Director of the Board of Health. She was asked if she would ever consider moving into the city, she said that she might.

Councillor Lopes asked that the Clerk of Committees, in the future, on new waivers of residency request Sandra Vezina, Personnel Director be invited to the Committee Meeting and provide the Committee with the job posting, the letter from the Department Head stating why this waiver is being requested, and if anyone from New Bedford applied or was interviewed for the position.

On motion by Councillor Oliveira and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to Grant a One-Year Waiver. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 7, Nays 2, with Councillors Carney and Rebeiro opposed.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of STEPHEN S. BROWN, New Bedford, MA, 02740 to the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, replacing James Mathes, who resigned from the Board on March 31, 2016; this term will expire December 2017 (Ref'd 2/23/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Oliveira. (3)

Attorney Stephen Samuel Brown, 187 Newton Street, New Bedford, was present to answer questions from the Committee. The Committee asked Attorney Brown what are his qualifications and what would he bring to the Zoning Board of Appeals as a member. He told the Committee he received his MBA at UMASS Dartmouth, worked at several Citizens' Banks in New Bedford; was in the MBJD at UMASS Law School and was picked as a Judicial Fellow at the Massachusetts Land Court in Boston and worked on some exciting zoning cases, which he feels qualifies him for the position. Members of the Committee Councillors Carney, Lopes and Coelho spoke highly of Attorney Brown and stated they would be voting for him.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of STEPHEN S. BROWN, New Bedford, MA, 02740 to the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, replacing James Mathes, who resigned from the Board on March 31, 2016; this term will expire December 2017. The motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Bousquet and Council President Morad, requesting, that Den DeMarinis, Chairperson of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities and Cynthia Wallquist, Director of the Department of Community Services, appear before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to provide an overview of the projects and initiatives the Commission is currently undertaking. (Ref'd 8/18/16)

The Chair explained this is Councillor Morad's motion, and since she is unable to attend this evening he would entertain a motion to table.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, an increase in Police patrols especially on weekends in Hazelwood Park, on the West Beach side of the park due to the amount of complaints from residents from the south and north side abutting the park of drug activity, inappropriate activity, including persons openly urinating on residential properties; and further, that the Police Chief consider using motorcycle Police patrols in these Park areas due to the fact that motorcycle patrols can get through the whole entire park; and further, that the Department

of Parks, Recreation and Beaches consider putting up signage on both sides of the park reminding visitors of the rules and regulations of our City Parks. (To be referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, Police Chief Cordeiro and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches.) (Ref'd 8/18/16) (9/8/16-returned unsigned by the Mayor)

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To follow the Chair's recommendation to "Follow the Recommended Action". This motion passed on a voice vote.

Councillor Abreu made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Winterson.

This meeting adjourned @ 7:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees