



Appointments and Briefings

May 22, 2017 – 7:06 PM – **Minutes**
Chambers of the City Council, Room 214

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: MAY 22, 2017
TIME: 7:06 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; HUGH DUNN; STEVEN MARTINS; LINDA MORAD; JAMES OLIVEIRA; DANA REBEIRO; KERRY WINTERSON

ABSENT: NO ONE

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Councillor Gomes called the Appointments & Briefings Committee Meeting to order and took attendance, everyone was present.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of SARAH MORRIS, MD, New Bedford, MA to the BOARD OF HEALTH, replacing Dr. Athena Xifaras, whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2020 (Ref'd 4/12/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney. (1)

Dr. Sarah Morris of 26 Grove Street, New Bedford, was present and addressed the Committee. She is an Emergency Room Physician with 6 young children all in public schools. She has had an interest in serving on such a Board and would like to concentrate on child safety issues and injury prevention as well as child nutrition issues.

Members of the Committee voiced their happiness that Dr. Morris lives in the city.

On motion by Councillor Winteron and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of SARAH MORRIS, MD, New Bedford, MA to the BOARD OF HEALTH, replacing Dr. Athena Xifaras, whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2020. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of LESLIE J. MAGALIOS, New Bedford, MA to the AIRPORT COMMISSION, replacing Moira Tierney, this term will expire December 2018 (Ref'd 4/27/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (2)

Ms. Leslie Magalios of 80 Oesting Street, New Bedford, MA was present to address the Committee. She was asked by the Committee as to how she arrived at wanting to be on the Airport Commission and what she could bring to the table.

Ms. Magalios moved to the city a few years back to work for the Standard Times, she is responsible for marketing at the paper. She believes with the airport moving towards having commercial airlines fly to and from the city, that her marketing background would be an asset to the Commission.

She was asked if this was her first Board, she said yes, though she does serve on the New Bedford Art Museum Board. She was asked how she came to know of the vacancy on the Commission, she said that a fellow Board member on the Art Museum Board mentioned it to her. (Christina Connolly of the Mayor's Office)

Councillor Morad expressed that though the applicant has an outstanding resume, she believes the applicant would not be a good fit at this time, especially since the Airport is going through a major restructuring/reorganization and she feels the Commission would be better served with someone who has airport/airline operation expertise.

Councillors Carney, Martins and Coelho voiced similar concerns.

Councillor Oliveira spoke in favor of her appointment.

On motion by Councillor Oliveira and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of LESLIE J. MAGALIOS, New Bedford, MA to the AIRPORT COMMISSION, replacing Moira Tierney, this term will expire December 2018. This motion FAILED on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 3, Nays 8.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Abreu, Winterson, Gomes, Lopes and Martins, requesting that Representatives from both Eversource Energy and Spectra Energy come before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to discuss both the potential economic and social impact the Acushnet LNG Proposal would have on not only New Bedford, but on the surrounding communities as well, since Representatives of the "SouthCoast Neighbors United" came before this body and the local media recently to voice their opposition of this project, it is only fair, in the spirit of full transparency, that the Committee invite the proponents of the project as well. (To be Referred to the Committee on Appointments & Briefings, Dennis D. Galvam, Manager of Community Relations & Economic Development for Eversource Energy and Representatives from Spectra Energy) (Ref'd 4/28/16) (3)

Councillor Gomes explained that he spoke to Dennis Galvam of Eversource on this issue and Mr. Galvam asked that he be given 30 days to appear before the Committee on this matter. Councillor Gomes asked the Clerk to read a letter into the record from John P. Sheridan, Director of State Government Affairs for Algonquin Gas Transmission asking for 30 days as well in order to update the Committee on this issue.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Martins, the Committee VOTED: To receive and place on file the Communication from John P. Sheridan, Director of State Government Affairs for Algonquin Gas Transmission.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter for 30 days. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 7, Nays 2, with Councillors Abreu and Martins opposed and Councillors Carney and Rebeiro not present for the vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting that Mr. Dennis Galvam or a Representative of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, come before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to explain to the Council and City Residents the high cost of delivery charges appearing on the electrical bills and their request to the State Regulators for a rate increase (To be Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings) (Ref'd 3/9/17, tabled 4/20/17) was removed from the table by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho. (4)

Dennis Galvam was present along with his team Kerry Rutland, Regulatory Affairs; Charlie Tavares, Account Executive and Jerry McDermott, Community Relations.

Ms. Rutland told the Committee that because of new upgrades and a rate deficiency of \$60,000,000 Eversource petitioned the State Legislature and the DOE for a rate increase. This is the cost to get quality energy service into Massachusetts and the area. They are modernizing their grid and continue to provide energy efficiency plans offering discounts to low income residents by approximately 30%. This allows most of those customers to see a \$3.00 decrease.

Councillor Coelho asked what additional investments will be made. She was told Eversource will be moving from the Waterfront to the Industrial Park and new Sub-stations, pre infrastructure upgrades will result in improved reliability.

The last time a rate increase as such was requested by then NSTAR now Eversource was in 2005.

Councillor Gomes asked that as Eversource moves forward they consider that their costs are being passed on to a city that is primarily lower income people and that the commercial establishments will be affected as well.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take “No Further Action” on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting that Mr. Dennis Galvam or a Representative of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, come before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to explain to the Council and City Residents the high cost of delivery charges appearing on the electrical bills and their request to the State Regulators for a rate increase. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Abreu, Winterson, Gomes, Lopes, Council President Morad and Councillors Carney and Martins, requesting that Jean Fox, Project Manager of “SouthCoast Rail” for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, and the “Rail to Boston” Coalition come before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to discuss the recent updates of this project to both the Council and the Residents of New Bedford as it approaches its 30% permitting and design phase; and further, how this body can help further the advocacy of this project amongst both our State and Federal delegations (To be Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, SouthCoast Rail Project Manager Jean Fox and Paul Chasse, Chair of the “Rail to Boston” Committee.) (Ref’d 4/28/16) was received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Martins. (5)

Ms. Jean Fox, Project Manager MA Department of Transportation gave an overview of the project explaining that the original plan for the rail to go through Stoughton has been scratched due to the expenses involved. The new phase one has the rail utilizing the Middleboro Line. This would result in a \$150,000,000 savings, but will result in longer travel times to Boston. The Middleboro Line will meet up with 3 active Lines, including the Greenbush Line and the Red Line itself.

Councillor Dunn asked if the permitting has been completed yet and he was told they are in the process of securing all of the environmental permitting for phase one. The time line for completion of the line is 2020-2022. The Governor is fast tracking this project. He was also told that MASS DOT CIP funding was being advocated for to help with the cost involved in constructing the rail.

Mr. Paul Chasse, Chair of the Rail to Boston Coalition told the Committee that as the Boston Rail Chair his Committee is in support of the project as proposed.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Martins, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take “No Further Action” on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Abreu, Winterson, Gomes, Lopes, Council President Morad and Councillors Carney and Martins, requesting that Jean Fox, Project Manager of “SouthCoast Rail” for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, and the “Rail to Boston” Coalition come before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to discuss the recent updates of this project to both the Council and the Residents of New Bedford as it approaches its 30% permitting and design phase; and further, how this body can help further the advocacy of this project amongst both our State and Federal delegations. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting, on behalf of the Cape Verdean Recognition Day Parade Committee, that the City waive all cleanup costs associated with the Recognition weekend, including the streets and parks being utilized for the Recognition weekend; and further, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with all organizations sponsoring events in the City to discuss this waiver fee that has been implemented and how this current fee may possibly cause upcoming events to be cancelled in the City (Ref’d 6/23/16) (7/12/16-tabled) (7/15/16-returned unsigned by the Mayor) was removed from the table by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Carney. (6)

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take "No Further Action" on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting, on behalf of the Cape Verdean Recognition Day Parade Committee, that the City waive all cleanup costs associated with the Recognition weekend, including the streets and parks being utilized for the Recognition weekend; and further, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with all organizations sponsoring events in the City to discuss this waiver fee that has been implemented and how this current fee may possibly cause upcoming events to be cancelled in the City. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Lopes, requesting, that the City establish a permitting application for the private delivery of Port-A-Johns onto City parks and recreational property (To be Referred to the Board of Parks Commissioners, Mary Rapoza, Director of Parks, Recreation and Beaches and the Committee on Appointments and Briefings) (Ref'd 7/21/16) (8/29/16-returned unsigned by the Mayor) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Martins. (7)

Mary Rapoza, Director of Parks, Recreation and Beaches was present and addressed the Committee. She told the Committee that this motion stemmed from a family function at Ft. Taber Park, where a family had a huge gathering at the Park, cookout/outing (without the need for a Special Permit) and they ordered port-a-johns that were placed at the Park without permission from the Park Board. She explained they have taken steps to prevent this from happening again. All local port-a-john companies have been informed, in writing that they are not allowed to do this without reaching out to the Park Board for permitting and approval.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take "No Further Action" on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Lopes, requesting, that the City establish a permitting application for the private delivery of Port-A-Johns onto City parks and recreational property. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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

This meeting adjourned @ 8:58 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees