

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: JULY 24, 2017
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS BRIAN GOMES, CHAIRMAN; JOSEPH LOPES, VICE CHAIRMAN; IAN ABREU; NAOMI CARNEY; HUGH DUNN (7:05); STEVEN MARTINS; LINDA MORAD; DANA REBEIRO

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS DEBORA COELHO; JAMES OLIVEIRA; KERRY WINTERSON

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Councillor Gomes called the Appointments & Briefings Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read Communications from Councillors Oliveira and Winteron explaining their absences. These Communications were received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro.

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Mr. David Hammond, 70 Mott Street, New Bedford, was present for Citizens Input Time and he addressed the Committee regarding renewable energy. He explained the need for the city to get involved with the process and presented the Committee with a handout. Councillor Morad made a motion to receive and place on file the handout from Mr. Hammond, which was seconded by Councillor Rebeiro. (1)

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a PUBLIC HEARING, on APPLICATION, Humberto Martinez, D/B/A Affordable Tires, for a SPECIAL PERMIT for Motor Vehicle Tire Sales and General Repairs and Light Service at 956-958 Brock Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02744 (Duly advertised in The Standard-Times on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 and Tuesday, July 18, 2017.) (Ref'd 5/31/17) was received and placed on and the hearing was opened by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (2)

Emmanuel and Humberto Martinez, 163 Query Street, New Bedford, were present as owners of the property and gave an overview of the planned business. They own the building, they have put in a MDC trap and are looking to sell new and used tires and possibly do light repairs, and oil changes in the future. He stated that the property includes a lot adjacent to the building where cars would be parked and did not foresee any off-street parking issues.

Councillor Lopes expressed his concern that the building would be used as a tire shop; that it is a mixed residential area, and there are issues with congestion and parking in that area as it is now. He is not in favor of the proposal. He is not anti-business; he just believes this is not the right place for the planned business.

Danny Romanowicz, DIS Commissioner, stated the petition would include oil changes, break jobs, etc. and that the MDC trap was installed prior to getting approval for such a business. They have not yet been before Planning or Site Plan Review and if the petitioner is not granted the Special Permit they would most likely not incur the expense in submitting the proposal to Planning.

Councillor Morad asked the Petitioner if this was their first attempt at such a business and she was told yes. They would have a total of four (4) employees on site. A person would drive in purchase tires and they would replace them.

Councillor Gomes asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak in favor of the petition:

Mr. Tomas Rivera, 14 Harmony Street, supported the business as long as they do not operate their business later than 7 p.m.

Councillor Gomes asked if there was anyone present who would like to be recorded in favor of the petition, there were none.

Councillor Gomes asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak in opposition of the petition:

Ms. Loretta Bourque, 33 Ellen Street, expressed her concerns about congestion in the area and the issue with on-street parking in an area where there are a lot of three tenements and many vehicles from the people living in those apartments.

Ms. Celine Saraiva, 126 Fern Street, expressed her concerns about the business proposal. She travels this area daily and the congestion is horrible. She attends the Cove Street Neighborhood Association meetings and those in attendance expressed the same concerns.

Mr. Paul Moss, 141 Charles Street, expressed his concerns for being against this proposal citing there is not enough room for vehicles waiting to be serviced. This is a very heavy traffic area.

Councillor Gomes asked if there was anyone who would like to be recorded in opposition of this proposal, there was none.

Councillor Gomes asked Commissioner Romanowicz how the Petitioner could fit eight (8) cars in the area. He was told he did not know how many would actually fit, for the applicant had not gone to Planning or Site Plan Review yet. To get the vehicles out of the garage area, they would have to do a three point turn or back up onto Brock Avenue.

Councillor Lopes expressed his concerns that the building did not have a lift and tire changes would have to be done by hand cranks, and the time involved in changing tires would be time consuming, adding to the congestion in the area.

Councillor Lopes made a motion to close the hearing which was seconded by Councillor Abreu.

Councillor Morad asked Commissioner Romanowicz if it was customary for an applicant to come before the Council first for a permit prior to going to Planning. He explained the applicant was seeking approval for the permit first, prior to incurring the extra expense of going before the Planning Board if they were turned down by the Council.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council DENIAL of the APPLICATION, Humberto Martinez, D/B/A Affordable Tires, for a SPECIAL PERMIT for Motor Vehicle Tire Sales and General Repairs and Light Service at 956-958 Brock Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02744. This motion PASSED on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 0.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a PUBLIC HEARING, on APPLICATION, Maximiliano Galvan, D/B/A Union Auto Towing, Inc., for a SPECIAL PERMIT for Motor Vehicle Sales and Rentals, General Repairs and Light Service at 1466 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, MA 02740 (Duly advertised in The Standard-Times on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 and Tuesday, July 18, 2017.) (Ref'd 6/15/17) was received and placed on file and the public hearing was opened by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Dunn. (3)

Mr. Max Galvin, the Petitioner was present and informed the Committee that this is his third location dealing in car sales. The light repairs would be only for the vehicles they sell. They would not do independent repairs. They like doing business in New Bedford, they have two other locations and feel this location will allow them to branch out in this section of the city and hopefully revitalize the area business wise as well. It is a family run business that has an A+ Better Business rating and a 5 Star Google rating. The other two businesses are located 31 Rodney French Boulevard and 895 Mt. Pleasant Street.

Councillor Dunn expressed his excitement for the revitalization the business would bring to the Weld Square area. He thanked the applicant for reaching out to him with his proposal and supports the granting of the permit.

Councillor Gomes informed the Committee that there was an error in the address that printed in the newspaper advertising the public hearing, it printed 1466 Purchase Street and it should have been 1466 Pleasant Street.

Councillor Gomes asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak in favor of the Special Permit, there was none. He also asked if there was anyone who wished to be recorded in favor of the Special Permit, there was none. He then asked if there was anyone who wished to speak or be recorded in opposition of the Special Permit, there was none. The Hearing was closed.

On motion by Councillor Dunn and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPLICATION, Maximiliano Galvan, D/B/A Union Auto Towing, Inc., for a SPECIAL PERMIT for Motor Vehicle Sales and Rentals, General Repairs and Light Service at 1466 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, MA 02740. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 0.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of RICKY NUNEZ, New Bedford, MA as a CONSTABLE (Ref'd 6/8/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Dunn. (4, 4a)

Ricky Nunez, 42 Hudson Street, New Bedford, was present to answer questions from the Committee. He told the Committee he has been a Realtor in the city for 14 years and in lumber sales for 10 years prior to that. He is looking to become a Constable on a part-time basis in the City. He believes that his being multi-lingual will allow him to conduct a good business as a Constable. He speaks Spanish fluently.

Councillor Lopes spoke in favor of Mr. Nunez's application.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of RICKY NUNEZ, New Bedford, MA as a CONSTABLE. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 0.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting APPOINTMENT of MARIA A. ROSARIO, New Bedford, MA, to the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, Ms. Rosario will be replacing Maria Mojica-Mosquea whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2019. (Ref'd 6/22/17) (5)

The Clerk informed the Committee that Ms. Rosario called the Clerk of Committee's Office to inform the Committee that she would be unable to attend this meeting as she is out of town.

On motion by Councillor Rebeiro and seconded by Councillor Carney, 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 PETITION, **Kevin Sousa, 67 James H. Luther Drive, Taunton, MA 02780 d/b/a GAMES TO GOLD, 105 Nauset Street, New Bedford, MA 02746**, requesting that he be granted a Waiver of Residency in accordance with Section 15-18 of the City Code, to obtain a **LICENSE TO DEAL IN JUNK, OLD METALS OR ANY OTHER SECOND HAND ARTICLES** (Ref'd 6/8/17)

The applicant was not present.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time and to send a Communication to Mr. Sousa stating that this application will be placed on a future agenda one more time and if he does not attend, then the Committee will take no further action on this matter.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Council President Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, meet with all Veteran agencies that are presently utilizing the Waldron Barracks to provide services to the Veterans of the Greater New Bedford area; and further that all Veteran agencies provide the City Council's Committee on Appointments and Briefings with paperwork for the assistance they provided to Veterans along with the name of the Commanding Officer for each agency of service, that provide Veterans services out of this location. (Ref'd 11/12/15) (6/15/17-Follow Recommended Action; 6/16/17-Per Veterans' Services Office: ***The space is currently uninhabitable and undergoing restorations. There are no agencies utilizing the space for any reason at this time.***) (7)

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take "No Further Action" on the WRITTEN MOTION, Council President Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, meet with all Veteran agencies that are presently utilizing the Waldron Barracks to provide services to the Veterans of the Greater New Bedford area; and further that all Veteran agencies provide the City Council's Committee on Appointments and Briefings with paperwork for the assistance they provided to Veterans along with the name of the Commanding Officer for each agency of service, that provide Veterans services out of this location. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Rebeiro, requesting that a representative from DPI come before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, to explain the dissemination of salt throughout the City for the upcoming winter (Ref'd 11/22/16) (6/15/17-Follow Recommended Action) and a COMMUNICATION, DPI Commissioner Euzebio Arruda to Councillor Brian K. Gomes, explaining the dissemination of salt throughout the City. (Letter dated 6/26/17) (8, 8a)

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To receive and place on file the COMMUNICATION, DPI Commissioner Euzebio Arruda to Councillor Brian K. Gomes, explaining the dissemination of salt throughout the City. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take "No Further Action" on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Rebeiro, requesting that a representative from DPI come before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, to explain the dissemination of salt throughout the City for the upcoming winter. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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

This meeting adjourned @ 8:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees