

**NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS**  
**DATE: AUGUST 24, 2017**  
**TIME: 7:03 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; DANA REBEIRO**

**ABSENT: COUNCILLORS HUGH DUNN; 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 Dunn, Oliveira and Winteron explaining their absences. These Communications were received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Morad.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a PUBLIC HEARING on a COMMUNICATION/DEMOLITION New Bedford Historical Commission, to City Council, re: BUILDING DEMOLITION REVIEW OF 899 PLEASANT STREET, (MAP 58/LOT 302), a Circa 1876 Carriage House – advising that “the Humphrey House and its carriage house are contributing resources within the North Bedford National Register District; the carriage house is a rare surviving outbuilding from the period in which prominent citizens built their homes just outside the village center and it also reflects the transition of the North Bedford District from an area of large estates to an area of mixed business and residential uses; because these buildings’ original purpose is now obsolete, these structures are prone particularly to neglect and demolition; the proposed reuse of this vacant property would introduce professional offices in this area of the City which the Master Plan identifies as a commercial corridor, one particularly visible from a Downtown gateway area, due to the site’s high visibility, the retention and preservation of the carriage house would provide a more attractive and historically authentic streetscape for visitors and neighboring residents; to accommodate the City’s parking requirements, the carriage house necessitates removal or relocation; the Commission encourages the applicant to pursue the initial submitted plan to the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals which demonstrated the relocation of the carriage house and its adaptive reuse as a separate office space, and furthermore to consider the available option from the Planning Board to seek a Special Permit which would allow a reduction in the parking requirement, if according to the Ordinance, the Board “finds that the reduction is not inconsistent with public health and safety, or that the reduction promotes a public benefit.”, “in light of these findings, the New Bedford Historical Commission has determined that the structure at 899 Pleasant Street is a historically significant and a Preferably Preserved structure” (Ref’d 7/20/17) was received and placed on file and the public hearing opened by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Carney. (1)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mr. Michael Josefek, Architectural Consulting Group, agent for the project at 899 Pleasant Street, to Council President Lopes, regarding the Demolition Review of 899 Pleasant Street on the July 20, 2017 City Council Agenda (To be Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings; Copy all Councillors 07/19/2017.) (Ref'd 7/20/17) and a RELATED MOTION, Councillor Morad, requesting, that the Chairperson of the Historical Commission provide to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings the documentation that was supplied to members of the Historical Commission for their consideration related to the demolition petition of 899 Pleasant Street and that a draft of the July 10, 2017 minutes be provided to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings; and further, that both these requests for information be supplied within the next fourteen (14) days. (Ref'd 7/20/17) and a COMMUNICATION, New Bedford Historical Commission to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings, submitting the requested documentation supplied to the Historical Commission members related to their consideration of a demolition request for 899 Pleasant Street (Map 58 Lot 302) (Copy all Councillors 7/31/2017) (Ref'd 7/27/2017) were received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Carney. (1a, 1b, 1c)

Mike Josefek of 1025 Pequot Street, New Bedford, the consulting Architect for the location told the Committee that the main building is being outfitted to be a doctors and lawyers office. The carriage house abuts the property, an attempt was going to be made to preserve the structure; however, when they could not get the Zoning Board to allow the movement of the structure on the same property, it became economically unfeasible to save the structure. It would cost approximately \$150,000 not including bringing the carriage house up to current day code. The garage is old, dilapidated and needs to come down and it is a little room the size of a single car garage.

Councillor Morad asked how long has this proposal been around and she was told approximately 20 months. They found out the property could be deemed history midway through the planning for the property. During the first meeting with all involved, including the Historical Commission, the goal was to save the structure; unfortunately, it no longer is. Mr. Josefek explained they had asked for relief in the number of parking spaces which would allow them to move the garage and preserve it, but they were turned down.

Anne Louro, the City's Preservationist explained that Mr. Josefek did not apply for a Special Permit as he had said he did, she did say that the Planning Board encouraged him to do so.

Councillor Morad expressed her concern on the length of time it took to get the matter before the Committee. She questioned when the demolition clock started ticking. It was believed it was an automatic 6 months if demolition grant was denied.

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

Steven Silva, 59 Hillman Street, New Bedford, spoke in favor of the demolition.

Councillor Gomes asked if there was anyone who wanted to be recorded in favor of the demolition, there was none. He then asked if there was anyone who wanted to speak in opposition, there was none. He then asked if there was anyone who wanted to be recorded in opposition, there was none. The hearing was closed.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to GRANT PERMISSION for the DEMOLITION of 899 PLEASANT STREET, (Map 58/LOT 302) a Circa 1876 Carriage House. 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 JILL MARIE USSACH, New Bedford, MA, to the Cemetery Board, replacing Martha Crowley who has resigned; this term will expire December 2018 (Ref'd 7/20/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (2)

Jill Ussach was present and addressed the Committee. She thanked the Mayor for asking her to be on the Board and is excited at the opportunity to serve.

Councillor Morad told Ms. Ussach there is a lot to be done on the Board, and would appreciate, if approved, that she looks into the policies in place as they relate to mausoleums, stone size and removal of sentimental items left at gravesites.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of JILL MARIE USSACH, New Bedford, MA, to the Cemetery Board, replacing Martha Crowley who has resigned; this term will expire December 2018. 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 MELISSA BRANCO, New Bedford, MA to the COMMISSION FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES, replacing Kimberly Bettencourt whose term has expired; this term will expire May 2020 (Ref'd 7/20/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney. (3)

Melissa Branco, 163 Grape Street, New Bedford, was present and explained she was asked to join the Commission by Neil Melo of the Mayor's Office. Three years ago her husband took ill and she had become the primary care giver and advocate for those with disabilities. She believes her knowledge as it relates to handicap issues will prove beneficial to the Board.

Councillor Morad thanked her for wanting to serve and stated that there are supposed to be a number of individuals with disabilities on the Commission, and asked that she look into changing this statistic.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of MELISSA BRANCO, New Bedford, MA to the COMMISSION FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES, replacing Kimberly Bettencourt whose term has expired; this term will expire May 2020. 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 PETER BLANCHARD, New Bedford, MA to the CONSERVATION COMMISSION, replacing Robert Morris whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2018. (Ref'd 7/20/17) (4)

The Clerk informed the Committee that Mr. Blanchard called the Clerk of Committee's Office to say he was unable to attend this meeting as he was taking his daughter to college.

On motion by Councillor Lopes 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 COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of ALEXANDER JARDIN, New Bedford, MA, as an Alternate Member to the HISTORICAL COMMISSION, replacing Elsie Souza whose term has expired in February 1998 and has moved to Florida; this term will expire February 2019 (Ref'd 7/20/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Morad. (5)

Alexander Jardin, 150 Glennon Street, New Bedford, MA was present to answer questions from the Committee. He told the Committee that he has a degree in landscape architecture, cultural and historic preservation in construction design.

Councillor Abreu asked him about long term ideas and he was told that he would like to be able to help to meld the cultural vs. progress way of thinking to have them work in harmony with each other and have a nice balance.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of ALEXANDER JARDIN, New Bedford, MA, as an Alternate Member to the HISTORICAL COMMISSION, replacing Elsie Souza whose term has expired in February 198 and has moved to Florida; this term will expire February 2019. 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 MARCUS CHUMACK, New Bedford, MA to the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, replacing Robert Schilling whose term has expired; this term will expire December 2019 (Ref'd 7/20/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (6)

Marcus Chumack was not present at the meeting.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, 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 COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of BETHANY FAUTEUX, New Bedford, MA, to the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, replacing Irma Perez, whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2019 (Ref'd 7/20/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (7)

Bethany Fauteux informed the Committee that she ran for office prior to the Mayor reaching out to her to see if she would like to serve on the Board. She believes it is a good fit and is excited to serve on the Board.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of BETHANY FAUTEUX, New Bedford, MA, to the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, replacing Irma Perez, whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2019. 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 PATRICK E. ROGERS, New Bedford, MA to the WATER BOARD, replacing Richard Emken whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2018 (Ref'd 7/20/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Carney. (8)

Patrick Rogers was present to answer questions from the Committee. He told the Committee that the Mayor approached him to serve on this Board. He has lived in the city for 9 years now and has been looking for a way to give back.

Councillor Lopes expressed his concern on the water rate increases that have been occurring and soon the city will be required to fund additional water/sewerage projects, he did not want to see the water bills go up placing the burden on taxpayers.

Mr. Rogers said he understood and he believed his expertise in the field will serve the Board well.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of PATRICK E. ROGERS, New Bedford MA to the WATER BOARD, replacing Richard Emken whose term has expired; this term will expire April 2018. 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, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to City Council, on behalf of **Rene A. Depina Dos Reis, 813 Belleville Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02745** and **Liberio DeMelo, 70 Sharp Street, Dartmouth, MA 02747, d/b/a B & R TRANSPORTATION, INC., 303 Coggeshall Street, New Bedford, MA 02740**, hereby submits a copy of the Application requesting a **RENEWAL OF A PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE**, under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 159A, Section 1, and amendments thereto, and M.G.L. Chapter 270, Section 22 (Smoke Free Workplace Law) and all other laws applicable to such operation

to carry passengers for hire over the streets of New Bedford (**Current License expires July 21, 2017.**) (Ref'd 7/20/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (9)

Rene A. Depina Dos Reis of 813 Belleville Avenue, New Bedford and Liberio DeMelo of 70 Sharp Street, Dartmouth were present to answer questions from the Committee. They told the Committee that they provide livery service transportation to and from doctor's offices and that they recently entered into a contract with GATRA providing transportation to and from hospitals, etc.

Councillor Abreu asked if the reason the renewal was referred to the Committee was because they were caught acting as a taxi business. Ms. Dos Reis stated they were offering livery transportation to senior citizens at affordable rates, but they have stopped doing this; especially since they received a GATRA Contract.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL on behalf of **Rene A. Depina Dos Reis, 813 Belleville Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02745** and **Liberio DeMelo, 70 Sharp Street, Dartmouth, MA 02747, d/b/a B & R TRANSPORTATION, INC., 303 Coggeshall Street, New Bedford, MA 02740**, for the Application for the **RENEWAL OF A PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE**, under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 159A, Section 1, and amendments thereto, and M.G. L. Chapter 270, Section 22 (Smoke Free Workplace Law) and all other laws applicable to such operation to carry passengers for hire over the streets of New Bedford. (**Current License expired July 21, 2017.**) This motion passed on Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 0.

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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) (7/24/17-tabled and letter sent to Mr. Sousa informing him this matter will be placed on a future agenda one more time and if he does not attend, the Committee will take 'No Further Action' on this matter) was removed from the table by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (10)

Kevin Sousa was present and answered questions from the Committee. He explained that he had lived in New Bedford, but had the opportunity to buy his childhood home, which his parents had lost to foreclosure; but had always made them a promise to buy the home if he could.

Councillor Lopes asked if he had any problems with stolen property, he said no, that he works with the Police and proper screening, very rarely is there an issue.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to GRANT a Waiver of Residency to **Kevin Sousa, 67 James H. Luther Drive, Taunton, MA 02780 d/b/a GAMES TO GOLD, 10 Nauset Street New Bedford, MA 02746**, in accordance with

Section 15-18 of the City Code, to obtain a **LICENSE TO DEAL IN JUNK, GOLD METALS OR ANY OTHER SECOND HAND ARTICLES**. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 0.

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Items 11, 12, 13, 13a, and 14 were not read, but the Committee voted to follow the Chairs recommendation and take “No Further Action” and report out to the City Council, they are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of Citizen’s Input Time, Brenda Pires, 82 North Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, speaking on vacant properties in the City and greater utilization of our City Parks. (Ref’d 6/15/17) (6/15/17-tabled) (11)

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Morad, the Committee VOTED: To take “No Further Action” on Citizen’s Input Time, Brenda Pires, 82 North Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, speaking on vacant properties in the City and greater utilization of our City Parks. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of POLICE CHIEF JOSEPH CORDEIRO as HARBORMASTER for a term of five (5) years in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 109 of the Acts of 2014; and requesting a WAIVER OF RESIDENCY as required under Chapter 109. (CHARTER RULED by Council President Lopes - March 9, 2017.) (Ref’d 3/23/17) (12)

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Morad, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take “No Further Action” on the COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of POLICE CHIEF JOSEPH CORDEIRO as HARBORMASTER for a term of five (5) years in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 109 of the Acts of 2014; and requesting a WAIVER OF RESIDENCY as required under Chapter 109. (CHARTER RULED by Council President Lopes - March 9, 2017.) This motion passed on a voice vote.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the REAPPOINTMENT of LINDA ROSS, New Bedford, MA, to the ELECTION COMMISSION; this term will expire April 2021. (Ref’d 7/20/17) (13)

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Morad, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take “No Further Action” on the COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the REAPPOINTMENT of LINDA ROSS, New Bedford, MA, to the ELECTION COMMISSION; this term will expire April 2021. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Maria Tomasia, Chairperson, Board of Election Commissioners to Mayor Mitchell, regarding the attendance record for Linda Ross. (Copy all Councillors 06/27/2017.) (Ref’d 7/20/17) (13a)

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Morad, the Committee VOTED: To receive and place on file the Communication, Maria Tomasia,

Chairperson, Board of Election Commissioners to Mayor Mitchell, regarding the attendance record for Linda Ross. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Abreu, Carney, Gomes, Council President Lopes, Councillors Martins, Morad, Oliveira and Winterson, requesting, once again, that Park Board Chairperson, Peter Boswell and Director of Parks, Recreation and Beaches, Mary Rapoza, appear before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to address the status of the Military Museum and the alleged rumor that the Park Department is considering charging the Military Museum a rental fee for the building. (To be Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings.) (Ref'd 1/12/17) (14)

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Morad, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take "No Further Action" on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Abreu, Carney, Gomes, Council President Lopes, Councillors Martins, Morad, Oliveira and Winterson, requesting, once again, that Park Board Chairperson, Peter Boswell and Director of Parks, Recreation and Beaches, Mary Rapoza, appear before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to address the status of the Military Museum and the alleged rumor that the Park Department is considering charging the Military Museum a rental fee for the building. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Councillor Carney made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Rebeiro.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:21 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Denis Lawrence, Jr.,  
Clerk of Committees