

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2018
TIME: 7:02 P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS DEBORA COELHO, CHAIRPERSON; LINDA MORAD, VICE CHAIRPERSON; IAN ABREU; NAOMI CARNEY; HUGH DUNN; MARIA GIESTA; BRIAN GOMES (7:08); SCOTT LIMA; WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY; DANA REBEIRO

ABSENT: NO ONE

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

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Councillor Coelho announced the start of Citizens Input Time. Joyce Rowley started to speak on the living conditions of Ruth and Emily at the Buttonwood Park Zoo. During the course of the three (3) minutes granted, Ms. Rowley made mention of a lawsuit she had filed against the City. The Chair informed the speaker that a lawsuit discussion would not be appropriate at this time and the Citizens Input Time was stopped.

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Councillor Lopes made a motion to take items 4, 4a, 5 and 5a out of order, which was seconded by Councillor Dunn and with no objections these matters were before the Committee.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of STEVEN ROGER VERRONNEAU, New Bedford, MA as a CONSTABLE (Ref'd 1/11/18) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Dunn. (4, 4a)

Steven Verronneau, 56 Dana Street, New Bedford, the applicant was asked by the Chair to provide an overview of the application. He informed the Committee that he currently runs a private investigator business in the area. He has clients that have asked him to start serving court summons and other papers, but to do this he would need his Constable appointment approved. This will allow his business to grow.

Councillor Morad asked if he has clients now that could use these services and he replied yes he does.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Dunn, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of STEVEN ROGER VERRONNEAU, New Bedford, MA as a CONSTABLE. 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 EMMANUEL MATIAS, Dartmouth, MA as a SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER (Ref'd 10/26/17) (11/15/17- tabled) was removed from the table by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Carney. (5, 5a)

Emmanuel Matias, the applicant for the Special Police Officer designation explained he has been employed by St. Luke's Hospital in various positions over the year and has just recently been hired as a Special Police Officer. He needs the designation to do this.

Councillor Gomes asked him if he had arresting powers or was that left up to the Police Department when they arrive. He was told the Special Police Officers are the arresting authority and that they turn those arrested over to the Police for booking. Councillor Gomes asked would he as the arresting officer be the person who would go to Court or would it be the Police. He was told that he would be the one to go to Court.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of EMMANUEL MATIAS, Dartmouth, MA as a SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a PUBLIC HEARING on an APPLICATION, Daniel Freitas, D/B/A D.F.F. Realty Trust, for a SPECIAL PERMIT for Motor Vehicle Sales and Rentals, General Repairs and Light Service at 260 Dartmouth Street, New Bedford, MA 02740 (Ref'd 11/21/17) (Duly advertised in The Standard-Times on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 and Tuesday, February 6, 2018.) was received and placed on file and the hearing was opened by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Giesta. (2)

Daniel Freitas was present and gave an overview of his business. He has worked as a technician for Toyota 18 and has been a mechanic for a number of years (15) as well. He has purchased 260 Dartmouth Street to do repairs on mostly his privately owned vehicles, but that he does do repairs for friends and customers.

Councillor Abreu asked about his hours of operations, he was told 8-4 no later than 5 and he would be doing oil changes, nothing intense, light duty stuff.

Councillor Lopes asked Danny Romanowicz about the room for 28 vehicles, he was told there was.

Councillor Markey asked the petitioner if all 28 spots were taken up would people be parking their cars on the street. He was told that the 28 was an estimated high number, he wanted to cover all the bases. He did not see it going that high.

Councillor Gomes asked if he had purchased the property and was told yes.

Councillor Coelho asked if there was anyone who wanted to speak in favor of the Petition:

J. Trembley of 450 Scoticut Neck Road, Fairhaven was recognized and he spoke in favor of the petition.

J. Castelo of 1850 Acushnet Avenue, New Bedford, also spoke in favor of the petition.

Councillor Coelho asked if there was anyone who wished to be recorded in favor of the petition, there was none. She asked if there was anyone who wished to speak in opposition of the petition, there was none. She asked if there was anyone who wished to be recorded in opposition, there was none; that part of the hearing was closed.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPLICATION, Daniel Freitas, D/B/A D.F.F. Realty Trust, for a SPECIAL PERMIT for Motor Vehicle Sales and Rentals, General Repairs and Light Service at 260 Dartmouth Street, New Bedford, MA 02740. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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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: PARTIAL DEMOLITION – ROOF ONLY of 475 PURCHASE STREET, (MAP 41/LOT 52), – the property owner is proposing the partial demolition of the roof for the purpose of raising the overall height of the roof and adding another story to the building, no other demolition work has been proposed at this time or reviewed by the NBHC; the Jireh L. Ferguson House was constructed in 1841, in the Greek Revival style and is a contributing resource within the County Street National Register District; the property has historical significance due to its association with the broad architectural, cultural, economic political and social history of the City during the height of the whaling industry in the 19th century; the property owner has worked with the NBHC, and in the proposed design, dated 11/15/17, has revised the plans in an effort to mitigate the adverse effect the proposal will have on the property and District, “in light of these findings, the New Bedford Historical Commission has determined that the structure at 475 Purchase Street is Historically Significant, but is not a Preferably Preserved structure, this determination is applicable to demolition of the roof only” (Ref’d 12/14/17) (Advertised in The Standard-Times on Tuesday, January 30, 2018.) was received and placed on file and the hearing opened by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney. (3)

Anne Louro, Preservation Planner was present and gave an overview of the project. The Petitioner came before the New Bedford Historical Commission because the roof to the building was being altered; the two family home was being converted to a three family home, and the owners have been working with the NBHC.

Councillor Morad asked who will keep tabs on the owner to make sure they follow the approved recommendations and she stated that both her office and the Building Inspector’s office would be kept informed.

Councillor Lopes asked how side porches could be approved for a Greek revival and she explained that the home falls out of the downtown historical parks purview, but that it does fall within the County Street historical building guidelines and that those guidelines could allow for the side porches.

Councillor Rebeiro asked if once the roof is altered would this affect the historic significance of the home and she was told it would.

Architect Ricardo Santos, 1118 Acushnet Avenue was present on behalf of the Petitioner and he informed the Committee that the Petitioner was in Florida and before they can move forward with the construction the Petitioner would need to get approval by the Planning Board and the ZBA as it relates to set back, green space and parking concerns. The Petitioner is to be heard by these departments in the upcoming weeks.

Councillor Morad asked Commissioner Romanowicz if the home was currently zoned properly and she was told it was not, that zoning would have to be changed to accommodate a three family home.

Councillor Coelho asked if there was anyone who wished to speak in favor of the demolition, there was none. She asked if there was anyone who wished to be recorded in favor of the demolition, there was one. She asked if there was anyone who wished to speak in opposition of the demolition, there was none; she asked if there was anyone who wished to be recorded in opposition of the demolition, there was none; that part of the hearing was closed.

Councillor Morad made a motion to amend the petition to include “that the granting of the demolition be contingent on the ZBA and the Planning Board granting the petitioner the relief being sought by each Board on the project.” This motion was seconded by Councillor Lopes and passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Dunn, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to Grant the Partial Demolition – Roof only of 475 PURCHASE STREET, (MAP 41/LOT 52) contingent on the ZBA and the Planning Board granting the Petitioner the relief being sought by each Board on the project. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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

This meeting adjourned @ 7:34 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees