



Council Meeting - Agenda

CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

Thursday, January 14, 2010 - 7:00 p.m.

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OPENING OF SESSION BY: CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT DENIS LAWRENCE, JR.

***PRAYER LED BY: REVEREND LEONA FISHER, PASTOR
IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHURCH***

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITATIONS

1. CITATION, Councillor Alves, honoring and thanking RODRIGUES BROTHERS TOWING, in recognition of their participation in the Seventh Annual Safe Rides Home Program.
2. CITATION, Councillor Alves, honoring and thanking SOUTH COAST TOWING, in recognition of their participation in the Seventh Annual Safe Rides Home Program.

HEARINGS

3. HEARING, on Petition of NSTAR Electric Company for location of four (4) 4" Conduits in 185 MACARTHUR DRIVE, at Fairfield Inn.
- 3a. ORDER,
4. HEARING, on Petition of NSTAR Electric Company for location of five (5) 4" Conduit, one (1) 4" Conduits, and one (1) 45" x 45" x 36" Handhole in SOUTH SIXTH STREET, South of Russell Street.
- 4a. ORDER,
5. HEARING, on Petition of NSTAR Electric Company for location of one (1) 45" x 45" x 36" Handhole in PALMER STREET, North of Arnold Street.
- 5a. ORDER,

MAYOR'S PAPERS

- M1. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of ARTHUR GLASSMAN, 3540 Acushnet Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02745, as an ASSOCIATE (ALTERNATE) MEMBER to the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, replacing William Villineau, whose appointment was rescinded; this term will expire December 2012.
- M2. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting the REAPPOINTMENT of ATTORNEY MOIRA TIERNEY, 89 Hawthorn Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, to the AIRPORT COMMISSION; this term will expire December 2012.
- M3. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of JENNIFER T. NERSESIAN, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park Superintendent, 33 William Street, New Bedford, MA

02740, to the HISTORICAL COMMISSION, replacing former Park Superintendent Celeste Bernardo, who was transferred; this term will expire February 2012.

M4. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of TAMMY CANASTRA-CALLAHAN, 150 Armour Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, to the COMMISSION FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES, replacing Kimberli Bettencourt, who resigned in May 2009; this term will expire May 2010.

M5. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting the REAPPOINTMENT of DAVID HIRSHLAG, 39 Caroline Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, as a SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER.

M5a. APPLICATION,

M6. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of CHRISTOPHER CLOUGH, 33 Trinity Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, as a SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER.

M6a. APPLICATION,

M7. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$4,500.00 from COMMUNITY SERVICES, OTHER FINANCING USES, TO COMMUNITY SERVICES, CHARGES AND SERVICES.

M7a. AN ORDER,

NEW BUSINESS

6. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Coelho, seeing that the snow parking ban was not enforced during the recent snowstorm, requesting that the Police Department update the City Council on what their procedure is regarding the snow parking ban and how it is implemented; and further, requesting from the Fire Department that they inform the City Council why the Fire Station's blow horns are not being used as they were in the past. (To be Referred to the Police Department and Fire Chief Leger.)

7. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Gonsalves and Martins, requesting that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with officials from the Police Department responsible for enforcement of the parking ban, the Executive Secretary of the Traffic Commission and the Commissioners of the Department of Public Facilities and the Department of Public Infrastructure to discuss parking ban enforcement and how changes in parking ban restrictions might improve plowing, specifically, restricting parking to alternating sides of the street after forty-eight hours have passed since a large storm, so as to allow the plows to clear the streets from curb to curb.

8. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Gomes, Martins, Council President Lawrence, Councillors Gonsalves, Morad, Coelho, Duarte, Dehner, Lopes, Alves and Saunders, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with DPI Commissioner Ronald Labelle, DPF Commissioner Lawrence Worden, DPF Superintendent Kenneth Blanchard, Chief Teachman and a Representative from the Administration to discuss what can be done and what assistance we may give to the City in order to resolve the snow plowing issues that have arisen again this year after 20 inches of snow had fallen; looking back to the 1990's, when Rosemary Tierney was Mayor, there was an implementation at that time of a grid and a procedure that was followed in this City of what main streets were plowed throughout the City from the north to the south, and we would like to take a look at that again and make sure we are following that procedure because it worked very well back in the 1990's, when we had almost fifteen weekends of snowstorms in New Bedford and took hold of snow plowing in this City; further, that the implementation of a parking ban be put into effect at least six hours before snow is even due to fall, and, once the implementation of that snow ban is in effect, that immediate action be taken by New Bedford Police and towing companies (that at one time in the 1990's were structured in groups from the south end, to the west end, to the east and to the north end) that handled removing cars from streets; further, that we start giving out tickets early, and that cars begin to be towed, approximately two hours right after the parking ban has been implemented, and that the City of New Bedford not wait until the snow begins to fall and then go into these neighborhoods to ticket and tow cars and try to enforce the parking ban, but that this be done in the six hours before snow even begins to fall; further, that the City Council also request a list of all the equipment that is available for snow removal be provided to the Council, and that an inventory be taken of all equipment, as to where trucks and snow removal equipment are located throughout the City; further, that this list be provided to the Council, as well as, if possible, to the Department Heads to review if at this time they feel they have a "wish list" in order to handle the snow removal here in the City, so that we can update and bring in the equipment that may be needed, this should include all plows, sanders, pick-up trucks, anything used to remove snow from our City streets or sidewalks; and further, asking that this request be put on the first meeting of the

Committee on Appointments and Briefings Agenda so that we may address this issue, and we may try to help resolve some of the problems that occurred during the first big snowfall in December, so that we can clean the streets and make the streets safe for all that live in or visit New Bedford.

9. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting for the second time, that Chief Teachman at his earliest convenience (the request was delayed due to the implementation of the cameras,) meet with the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods to discuss the location of where camera monitors have been placed, and to see what has been implemented throughout the City in order to fight crime; further, since this idea originated with the City Council and the City Council has worked diligently on the idea of bringing cameras to the City, the Council should have the opportunity to see if they have been implemented, and whether they have been placed in the areas that are the "hot spots" for crime in our City; further, to also provide us with information as to what are the Police Department's and the City's positions regarding the further implementation of cameras throughout the City, especially where crime is a nuisance and/or danger to the residents who live in these areas; and further, that this meeting of the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods be held as soon as possible, again, this being the second request of this matter being referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, Chief Teachman and Mayor Lang.

10. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting that a copy of the Comcast contract that has recently been signed and negotiated by City Solicitor Irene Schall be provided to the City Council; also requesting, that the Council be informed of what advantages were implemented into this contract that were beneficial to the people of this City besides offering lower rates to Senior Citizens; further, if anything in this contract states that Comcast will not increase their prices within the next five years, since this is a ten-year contract, which is a long time, and, with only one cable television provider in this City, it holds the people of New Bedford hostage; and further, requesting that the Administration inform the City Council of what was done to bring back the local cable news that was supposed to be a big part of the negotiations of this next contract as it came along, and what was done, if anything, to have the local news re-implemented within the Comcast system, and whether or not that issue was even discussed during the contract negotiations; once again, requesting that a copy of this contract be made available to each Councillor to read, and in addition, that it be placed on the City's website so that every Citizen of this City can read what the City and Comcast have committed to for the next ten years, which is the length of this new contract.

11. WRITTEN MOTION, Council President Lawrence, requesting that the New Bedford Harbor Development Commission provide us with a copy of their annual audit as well as a list of their annual expenditures since the time of the Commission's inception. (To be Referred to the Committee on Appointments and Briefings.)

12. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting that a Certified Letter be sent to Police Chief Ronald Teachman requesting for the third time the amount of overtime that has been spent on Commanding Officers be provided to the City Council; further, that five (5) business days be given for the response to be forwarded to the City Council, and further, that if this information is not provided within the five (5) business days, that we request the City Council's Legislative Counsel, David J. Gerwatowski to subpoena the information that we have requested for the third time from the Police Department.

13. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gonsalves, requesting, on behalf of the Humane Coalition for Animals of Greater New Bedford, Pamela Holmes, President, that the following street(s) be CLOSED: LT. WALTER P. FULLER MEMORIAL PARKWAY, from Rockdale Avenue, West to the Monument, on SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2010, from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., for their annual DOG WALK AND PET FEST IN BUTTONWOOD PARK.

14. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Duarte, requesting, on behalf of RELAY FOR LIFE, that the following street(s) be CLOSED: HUNTER STREET, from Parker Street to Maxfield Street, FROM FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2010, AT 8:00 A.M. TO SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2010, AT 12:00 P.M. (NOON), for the purpose of the RELAY FOR LIFE WALK AT PAUL WALSH ATHLETIC FIELD.

15. COMMUNICATION, STEVEN A. BEAUREGARD, DIRECTOR - NEW BEDFORD HALF-MARATHON/FRIENDLY SONS OF SAINT PATRICK, to City Council/City Clerk, requesting THE CLOSING/OBSTRUCTION OF: WILLIAM STREET, at Sixth Street, MIDDLE STREET, at Sixth Street, MARKET STREET, at Sixth Street, PLEASANT STREET, at Union Street, ELM STREET, at Acushnet Avenue, FROM:

8:00 A. M. TO: 3:30 P. M. ON SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2010, FOR THE PURPOSE OF: THE 2010 NEW BEDFORD HALF-MARATHON (COMMENCING AT 11:00 A.M.) ALSO REQUESTING:- that they be allowed to place cones on the centerline of HATHAWAY ROAD from Mt. Pleasant Street West to Rockdale Avenue, creating two-way traffic on the WESTBOUND LANE; - that the Police close ROCKDALE AVENUE, from Hathaway Road South to Potter Street, for approximately 30 MINUTES, or until the runners have passed; - that two-way traffic on ROCKDALE AVENUE, South from Grape Street to Cove Road, be stopped, and cones be placed in the middle of ROCKDALE AVENUE and COVE ROAD, to create a lane for runners on South Side; - that the WEST LANE of WEST RODNEY FRENCH BOULEVARD and the EAST LANE of EAST RODNEY FRENCH BOULEVARD, be blocked to traffic, except at intersections where autos must cross - horses or cones will be placed at WEST RODNEY FRENCH BOULEVARD and Portland, Hudson, Seymour, Bayview, Rodney French Boulevard and Brock Avenue and SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC at SEYMOUR STREET will be BLOCKED to prevent autos from entering the race course; - that WESTBOUND traffic on COVE ROAD be directed NORTH onto Orchard Street, then if they choose, be detoured WEST on SWIFT STREET, again detoured SOUTH onto BOLTON STREET, to eventually cross ROCKDALE AVENUE and continue SOUTH; - that COUNTY STREET be closed to two-way traffic from COVE STREET, NORTH to Kempton Street; - that KEMPTON STREET be closed to all EASTERLY traffic, from County Street EAST to Pleasant Street, and cones be placed in the South corridor of the Octopus intersection, preventing traffic entrance to SIXTH STREET, and guiding runners to Pleasant Street; - that SIXTH STREET be closed to traffic at Kempton Street; and - that DETOUR SIGNS be installed directing EASTERLY traffic on KEMPTON STREET to detour traffic NORTH on COUNTY STREET, then EAST on HILLMAN STREET, then SOUTH on PURCHASE STREET, thus allowing EASTERLY TRAFFIC access to the New Bedford/Fairhaven Bridge. (Submitted by Councillor Saunders.)

16. COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to City Council, on behalf of **WALTER J. CALLAHAN, 61 Crystal Spring Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739, d/b/a TRANSIT SERVICES, 987 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, MA 02740**, hereby submit a copy of the Application requesting a **RENEWAL** of a Private Livery License, under the provisions of M.G.L. 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 January 22, 2010.)

17. COMMUNICATION, Councillor Morad, submitting her copy of a letter dated December 18, 2009, from Commander Lawrence Santos, SouthCoast Young Marines, requesting a meeting with the City Council, and the Chairperson of the Recreation Commission, concerning the current approved usage of the Fort Taber Community Center. (To be Referred to the Committee on Internal Affairs and the Recreation Commission.)

18. COMMUNICATION, Councillor Morad, to the six (6) property owners along Fieldstone Drive regarding the action of the New Bedford City Council on Thursday, December 17, 2009, for the acceptance of said proposed street by the City of New Bedford. (To be Received and Placed on File.)

19. COMMUNICATION, Councillor Morad, submitting her copy of a letter dated December 16, 2009, from the Greater New Bedford Industrial Foundation, outlining 2009 New Bedford Business Park Highlights. (To be Received and Placed on File.)

20. COMMUNICATION (SPECIAL), New Bedford Fire Department Chief Leger, to All Members of the New Bedford Fire Department and to be Read at All Roll Calls, (copied to City Council President and Mayor) Recognizing and Commending Firefighter Kevin Sweet on Resuscitation of Infant on Christmas Day. (Copied all Councillors 01/07/10.)

TABLED BUSINESS

12/17/09 RESOLUTION, Councillor Lawrence, honoring the GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER TEAM, THE BEARS, on Winning the State Vocational Title.