



Appointments and Briefings

March 31, 2010 - 7:00 p.m. – **Agenda**
City Council Chamber, Room 214, Municipal Building

View Minutes

* * *

1. Citizens Input Time – Not to exceed the first (30) thirty minutes of the meeting.

No one signed up to speak at Citizens Input Time.

2. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of WHITNEY WHITE, 396 Middle Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, to the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, replacing Beth L. Sylvia, who resigned December 2008; this term will expire December 2010. (Ref'd 2/25/10)

INVITEES: Whitney White

3. COMMUNICATION, Mayor Lang, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of ATTORNEY TIMOTHY WALSH, 186 Reed Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, to the AIRPORT COMMISSION replacing Jennifer Vasques Gomes, who resigned January 2010; this term will expire December 2011. (Ref'd 2/25/10)

INVITEES: Attorney Timothy Walsh

4. Written Motion, Councillor Lawrence, requesting that the New Bedford Harbor Trustee Council provide us with a copy of their annual audit as well as a list of their annual expenditures since the time of the Council's inception. (Ref'd 1/14/10)

- 4a. Communication, Councillor Denis Lawrence, Jr., to Councillor David Alves, Chairman, Committee on Appointments & Briefings, informing, that as sponsor of the following motion, "Written Motion, Councillor 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", that a technical change to the wording has been made by amending the words "New Bedford Harbor Development Commission", by replacing them with the words "New Bedford Harbor Trustee Council". (2/16/10)

INVITEES: New Bedford Harbor Trustee Council Members

5. Written Motion, Councillor Saunders, requesting that the City Council's Committee on Appointments & Briefings meet with the School Building Committee from the New Bedford Public Schools to discuss the cost overrun and Change Orders at the Andre McCoy Athletic Field (formerly Keith Junior High School site); what started out as a \$1.9 million project is now estimated to cost the City between \$12 and \$15 million and the City Council needs answers as to how this figure grew, and why. (Ref'd 2/11/10)

INVITEES: School Building Committee Members

6. WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Alves, Coelho, Dehner, Duarte, Gomes, Gonsalves, City Council President Lawrence, Councillors Lopes, Martins, Morad and Saunders, requesting that the City Council's Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet as soon as possible, with Department of Environmental Stewardship Director Scott Alfonse, City Solicitor Irene Schall, City Auditor Peter

Schmidt, and a Representative of the Mayor's Office, to update the City Council on the financial ramifications of the recent ruling by the Department of Environmental Protection, (DEP), the Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA), and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in declaring that the City of New Bedford will be held as the responsible party for the expanded Parker Street site sampling, testing and clean up. (Ref'd 3/11/10)

INVITEES: Environmental Stewardship Director Scott Alfonse; City Solicitor Irene Schall; City Auditor Peter Schmidt; Chief of Staff William Burns

7. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings meet with the School Department's Chief Administrator of Finance & Operations Lawrence Oliveira and Purchasing Agent Debra Travers, IMMEDIATELY, to discuss the present condition of the new Lincoln Elementary School located on Ashley Boulevard; and further, that the Committee invite the Engineering firm, or any other responsible parties that take part in the constructing said school, to discuss any type of construction flaws that have occurred, so that the City Council will be well informed of the situation; and further, that the discussion also find out whether the flaws would be detrimental to the building structure in the coming years following the construction completion. (Ref'd 2/25/10)
- 7a. Related Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the School Department's Chief Administrator of Finance and Operations, Purchasing Agent Debra Travers and any other responsible parties address the Committee on Appointments & Briefings as to what "green or energy saving" procedures or products have been implemented at the Lincoln School to save City money. (Ref'd 2/25/10)

INVITEES: School Department Chief Administrator of Finance & Operations Lawrence Oliveira; Purchasing Agent Debra Travers

8. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings meet with Lawrence Oliveira, Chief Administrator for Finance and Operations for the School Department, and the contractor who is responsible for building Keith Middle School, for the purpose of having the contractor explain why the mortar is falling down from that building, which is not very old, the many cracks inside the building, water damage to the ceiling due to leaks into this building in the front hallways and other areas throughout the school; and further, to explain why the air and heating systems in the ceilings are continuously found with oil leaking out of them, and other mechanical problems, along with the company that installed the closed circuit cameras throughout the school that, at this time, are not visible to the staff within this building, and to discuss how these issues will be addressed with the School Department and the City as to the repairs that have been made to damages, and cracks in the walls on all three levels, in the middle of the school, causing damage to the entire structure of the building. (Ref'd 5/14/09, tabled 12/8/09)
- 8a. Communication, Councillor Gomes, submitting a copy of a Standard-Times article dated August 3, 2009, titled "Despite the cracks, Keith 'sound', school officials says." (Ref'd 8/20/09, 12/8/09 – received and placed on file)

INVITEES: School Department Chief Administrator of Finance & Operations Lawrence Oliveira; Agostini Construction, Inc. Finance and Operations Manager Paula Bizer

9. Substitute Motion, Councillor Gonsalves, asking that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with the National Park Service, Executive Director of Economic Development Council, Representatives of LaFrance Hospitality and the City's Preservation Planner, to find how it is that it has come to pass that the building was gutted, where the remaining artifacts are stored, who currently owns the artifacts, who is going to take possession of those artifacts and will, in fact, the National Park Service be displaying those artifacts since I understand they are the property of the National Park Service and the management of that building is part of the National Park Service plan. (Ref'd 3/11/10)

INVITEES: National Park Service Representative; Economic Development Executive Director Matthew Morrissey; LaFrance Hospitality Representative

Chairman suggests taking “No Further Action”, on the following items:

10. Communication/Email, Kurt Gaertner, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, to Mayor Scott W. Lang (forwarded to Councillors by Assistant Council Clerk) stating that New Bedford’s response to The Gateway Urban Parks RFP was selected; as well as an email from Assistant City Planner Jill Maclean, stating that she will keep all posted on status. (Ref’d 1/22/09)
11. Written Motion Councillors Gomes and Morad, asking that the Committee on Appointments & Briefings meet in Executive Session, with a representative of the Mayor’s Office, Personnel Director, and Auditor Peter Schmidt, to discuss the personnel layoffs that occurred on February 12, and 13, 2009, in the City of New Bedford, eliminating Unit C, Police, Fire, and AFSCME personnel, to advise the Council as to the criteria used to determine these layoffs, what consideration was given to any seniority/years of service of the employees that were laid off, and the overall affect, from a personnel and budgetary perspective, to each City department. (Ref’d 2/26/09)
12. Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, on behalf of parents/grandparents across the City, requesting that the swings in Parks throughout the City be evaluated, due to the fact that some of the swings that have been installed are not compatible to small children and some sort of “Baby Seat” should be put in place for the little tots; further, requesting that the Department of Parks and Recreation look into this as soon as possible, and respond to the Council as to whether this can or cannot be done. (Ref’d 6/25/09)
13. COMMUNICATION / EMAIL, RE: 5 More Layoffs in the City’s Fire Department. (Ref’d 8/20/09)
14. Written Motion, Councillors Gomes & Pimental, requesting that the Department of Inspectional Services ensure that the two buildings at Hazelwood Park are secured and steps have been taken to stop the damage and/or vandalism to said buildings; further, that the City take immediate action to stop the buildings from further deterioration, as well as to initiate repairs to the buildings as soon as possible, and that they also request help from the various shops at New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School, Youth Build, the Sheriff’s Department and any other entity who could lend assistance and manpower needed to restore these Historical Buildings; and further, that the City Council send a letter asking Home Depot and Lowe’s if they could assist with the historic preservation of these buildings, by providing building materials for the project and/or help in any other way they can. (Ref’d 1/24/08, tabled 2/19/08 – Sent letters to Sheriff, Youth Build, Voc, Home Depot, Lowe’s, WHALE, 4/15/08 – tabled, 11/10/09 – severed from NFA, 12/9/09 – Send a letter to Comm. Development for status, letter to DPF for a needs assessment, 2/5/10 – Response Community Development, see below)
- 14a. Communication, Office of Housing and Community Development Director Patrick Sullivan, to Appointments and Briefings Committee Chairman Councillor Denis Lawrence, Jr., in reference to a request from the Committee on December 8, 2009, regarding the current funding and coordinating activities associated with the stabilization and repairs to the Congdon Lucas House at Hazelwood Park. (2/5/10)