



# *Appointments & Briefings*

February 12, 2013 – 6:50 PM – **Minutes**  
City Council Chamber, Room 214, Municipal Building

**\*\*View Agenda \*\***

**MEETING:** COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS  
**DATE:** FEBRUARY 12, 2013  
**TIME:** 6:50 P.M.  
**PLACE:** CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

**PRESENT:** COUNCILLORS DENIS LAWRENCE, JR., CHAIRMAN; DAVID ALVES, VICE-CHAIRMAN; HENRY BOUSQUET; DEBORA COELHO; BRUCE DUARTE, JR.; BRIAN GOMES (7:30); JANE GONSALVES (7:40); JOSEPH LOPES; STEVEN MARTINS; JAMES OLIVEIRA; JOHN SAUNDERS

**ABSENT:** NO ONE

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Councillor Lawrence called the Appointments & Briefings Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. A MEMO was read into the record from Councillor Gonsalves stating she would be unable to attend due to her work schedule, this MEMO was received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Martins.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of the discussion regarding the South Terminal Project and Land Transfers, in Committee on Appointments & Briefings.

City Solicitor John Markey stated that the Administration wanted to bring this to the Council with just a broad overview of this project as it stands right now, along with an introduction to the key players. Moving forward, he added that they would be coming before the City Council with requests for specific actions to be taken.

Councillor Saunders stated that in his discussions with Solicitor Markey, it became apparent that it is quite important to the expediency of the project that the City Council take a vote on this by the end of the month. Therefore, Councillor Saunders stated that he stressed that Solicitor Markey bring this to the Council sooner rather than later. He suggested that if there are questions, a Special City Council Meeting can be called prior to the meeting on 2-28-13 so that questions can be thoroughly asked and answered and this project can remain on the fast track with a vote being taken no later than the 28<sup>th</sup> of February.

Matt Morrissey explained where the “Wind Energy Area” would be and how New Bedford and its industry would benefit from harnessing this natural resource. He stated that this is an entirely new industry in the United States because this does not exist anywhere else in the nation. He also explained and stressed the significant economic impact this has had in the cities of Cuxhaven and Bremerhaven in Denmark.

Mr. Bill White, Director of Offshore Development for the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center spoke next. Mr. White provided an overview of the project. He stated it has three main points, which are:

- Building of the Facility on the Land Side
- Dredging on the Water Side
- Mitigation

He stated that this will be the very first facility in the United States for offshore wind deployment and will provide New Bedford with new opportunities for heavy marine cargo and still significantly increase the economic growth of the

city, SouthCoast, and the entire commonwealth. He stressed that there will be tens of millions of dollars invested into the area for construction, a long term economic boost from increased shipping, etc.

He noted that there is a Project Labor Agreement written into the bid, which includes a “No Work Stoppage” clause. He stated that there will also be employment, training and educational opportunities for New Bedford and SouthCoast residents.

Mr. Chet Myers, Project Manager and Lead Engineer for APEX explained how the accommodations would be made for boaters, sea life, etc.

Councillors began asking questions about types of materials, the impact on fisheries, environmental issues, etc. Notably, it was brought up that Cad Cells would be used to store contaminated materials as opposed to removing the materials and shipping them out. Several Councillors stressed the fact that Cad Cells had previously been met with skepticism amongst their constituents and local environmentalists. Chet Myers stressed that Cad Cells are absolutely the way to go from not only an economic perspective, but also a scientific one, adding that Cad Cells are able to hold contaminants indefinitely.

Referring to his statements about how fishing, boaters, etc. would be re-directed during construction, etc., Councillor Saunders asked Chet if any consideration had been given to allowing small fishing boats to go into the harbor for a transplant program. Chet responded that the state did propose that idea to the EPA, but it was rejected.

Councillor Saunders then asked how deep the dredging would be in the bulkhead area. Chet stated that it would most likely be 600 ft. there and 400 ft. in the low water areas, but the EPA is currently considering all proposals now.

Councillor Saunders then asked what happens if this does not happen here as they hope...who would have control of the bulkhead after it is built. Mr. White stated that the state and city would work out a long term lease, which would include use, operations, etc.

Mr. White, responding to a request from Councillor Oliveira, stated that they would email all Councilors with the slide presentation.

Mr. White also stressed that the Coalition for Buzzards Bay is on board as having endorsed this plan, including the use of Cad Cells. He explained that the state is making a \$100,000,000 investment into this project, and it will make New Bedford the hub for this industry in the state and region.

Solicitor Markey thanked the Councillors for asking such great questions and stated that the administration has many of the same questions and concerns, and they will come back to the Council with a Land Transfer request later in the month of February.

Mr. White also stressed that Cape Wind has invested between \$50,000,000 and \$60,000,000 into this project as well – so far. He concluded by stating that it is important to recognize that this is not some “magical technology” that they are unsure of. It already exists and has worked in Europe (for over 20 years). Therefore, it is just a matter of getting things organized and moving forward in a timely manner.

Councillor Lopes asked about the lease term with the state. Solicitor Markey stated it would be a 99 year lease, most likely.

Councillor Duarte made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Saunders.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk of Committees