



# *Special Committee on Gaming & Casinos*

September 10, 2015– 6:42 PM - **Minutes**  
William Saltzman Antechamber, City Hall, Room 213

**MEETING: COMMITTEE ON GAMING/CASINOS**

**DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2015**

**TIME: 6:42 P.M.**

**PLACE: COUNCILLOR WILLIAM SALTZMAN ANTECHAMBER, ROOM 213, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLORS DAVID ALVES, CHAIRMAN; BRIAN GOMES, VICE-CHAIRMAN; STEVEN MARTINS**

**ABSENT: COUNCILLORS JOSEPH LOPES; JAMES OLIVEIRA**

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Councillor Alves called the Gaming/Casinos Committee Meeting to order and took attendance.

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On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Martins, the Committee VOTED: To waive the reading and follow the Chair's recommendation and take "No Further Action" on items one (1) through seventeen (17), This motion passed on a voice vote. They are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Alves, asking that the City Council's Special Committee on Gaming meet with representatives of the Wampanoag Tribe to discuss the Tribe's potential interest and proposed plans for a Gaming Facility/Casino in Massachusetts, and to determine if the Tribe is planning to go forward with plans to develop a Casino, and what consideration would New Bedford be given in their planning (as their first and strongest advocate,) so that we can decide how to best develop our plans for the future, in light of the potential interest from private developers and the potential that the Federal Government may recognize another Federally-authorized tribe in the future. (Ref'd 2/8/07, tabled 6/27/07) (1)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Alves, requesting that the Special Committee on Gaming set up and schedule a meeting with the Tribal Council Chairman, Glenn Marshall, and the Members of the Tribal Council of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, to introduce them to, and acquaint them with, the benefits of the City of New Bedford as a potential site for an off-Cape gaming facility, due to their new status and Federal recognition from the U. S. Interior Department as a Sovereign Nation. (Ref'd 2/22/07, tabled 6/27/07) (2)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Alves, pursuant to a conversation between this Councillor and Mashpee Tribal Council Chairperson, Glenn Marshall, requesting that he and Tribal Members responsible for the future economic development of the Tribe be cordially invited to meet with the City Council Special Committee on Gaming at its next meeting, and that we also invite and encourage representatives of the New Bedford Economic Development Council, New Bedford Redevelopment Authority,

New Bedford Industrial Park Foundation, Chamber of Commerce, Greater New Bedford Career Center, the City's Offices of Tourism/Marketing and Planning/Planning Board to attend the meeting, to emphasize, highlight and make a brief presentation as to the advantages and potential (in addition to a possible gaming venue) the more immediate possibilities for the development of Tribal Economic ventures and businesses in the City of New Bedford, as well as the benefits the City can provide through funding, grants, TIF's, and private financing, to leverage Tribal resources and funding sources, in an effort to encourage the development/opening of Tribal businesses by Tribal Members in the City of New Bedford, as well as with the goal that we all work together to jointly seek to offer job opportunities/assistance to Tribal Members and City Residents, and encourage the Tribe to **take advantage of our great work force and their strong ties to the New Bedford Community and Citizens.** (Ref'd 3/22/07) (3)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Alves, requesting that representatives of the Wampanoag Aquinnah Tribe be invited to meet with the City Council Committee on Gaming to discuss future plans and/or potential development of any Economic Development Projects and/or Casino Gaming Facilities in the City of New Bedford or the surrounding area, in light of the Governor's inclination to consider Gaming in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. (Ref'd 5/10/07) (4)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Gaming, meet with the Wampanoag Tribe, or any other Indian Tribe interested in locating a casino in the City of New Bedford, for the purposes of again considering the Whaling City Golf Course as a possible location for a casino because of its accessibility to the highway, railroad, and airport; and further, that the City Solicitor's Office look at the present lease for the Golf Course that has been given to Mr. Johnson, in order to see if there is any way the Golf Course can be considered as a possible site, by negotiating with Mr. Johnson, if the site were to be picked by the Tribe or Gaming Committee. Amended by the maker to add: and further, ask the City Solicitor to provide copies of the lease to all Councillors and request that the City Solicitor's Office look into that Lease to see if that Lease is being upheld by the Johnson Company. (Ref'd 6/28/07) (5)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Related Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Special Committee on Gaming, meet once again, and invite any interested parties that would like to locate a resort casino in the City of New Bedford, and further, that this City Council once more look at the most valuable piece of land to locate such casino which is the golf course on Hathaway Road. (Ref'd 10/11/07) (6)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Related Motion, Councillor Gomes, asking that the City Council meet as a whole in Special Committee on Gaming/Casinos for the purposes of strategizing what our positions will be, and how we will work with our Legislators, right up to Beacon Hill, and the Administration, in order to address this issue and make sure that we're in the forefront. (Ref'd 4/8/10) (7)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Council President Alves, asking that the City Council's Special Committee on Gaming/Casinos encourages and ensures that **Any and all developers** expressing an interest in **developing/operating a Casino in the City of New Bedford**, consider establishing a Reward Program for players at the proposed local gaming facility in New Bedford, similar to that proposed by the Boston Suffolk Downs Gaming Facility, which encourages a co-operative relationship with their local Boston Restaurants, Hotels, and Commercial Facilities, to **allow and encourage the redemption of any earned "player points" to be used in local New Bedford Restaurants, Hotels, and Commercial Facilities as a way to spread the economic impact and support the local economy,** which are of major concern to the local business community. (Ref'd 11/20/07) (8)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Alves, requesting that the Special Committee on Gaming/Casinos meet with Leon Dragone, President of Northeast Resorts, to discuss his proposed plans for the development of a slot machine parlor in the City of New Bedford, and his future plans for the development of a full casino in the City. (Ref'd 3/12/09) (9)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Alves, asking that the City Council Special Committee on Gaming/Casinos hold an informational meeting with the proposed property developers of the NSTAR site. (Ref'd 12/17/09) (10)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Alves, requesting that a ballot question be placed on the ballot for the general election in November 2010, asking voters if they support the development of a casino within the limits of the City of New Bedford; further, that the City Council's Legislative Counsel, Attorney David J. Gerwatowski, assist the Council in preparing any information necessary to get a question on the November 2010 ballot; and further, that Election Commissioner Tomasia and City Solicitor Schall also assist, as needed, in drafting and/or providing necessary information so the question appears on the November 2010 ballot. (Ref'd 6/10/10) (11)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Alves, requesting that the City Council's Committee on Gaming/Casinos meet with the representatives of the Foundation Gaming Group, to discuss their plans for the development of a proposed Casino in the City of New Bedford at the site formally proposed for development by the National Resorts Group and what the City can do to support their efforts. (Ref'd 7/15/10) (12)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Lawrence, Alves & Martins, requesting, that in light of the Commonwealth's move to approve legalized gaming in Massachusetts, that a Joint Committee meeting take place between the Committee on Gaming/Casinos and the Committee on Appointments & Briefings to discuss Section 89 of the proposal currently before the State Legislature; and further, that the commercial developers along with the local tribes interested in erecting a casino in the City of New Bedford, be invited to discuss the pros and cons of the approval of Section 89 with the Joint Committees this meeting is to ensure that the City of New Bedford does not lose out on the placement of a casino in our City. (Ref'd 9/22/11) (13)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication, Councillors Lopes and Alves, submitting a copy of the Boston Herald article dated March 13, 2012 entitled "Robert A. DeLeo tied to tribe flack." (Ref'd 3/22/12) (14)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Communication/Email, Council President Martins, Member of the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Workforce Collaboration Team for the Casino, submitting a copy of a PowerPoint presentation from their first meeting, held on August 21, 2012. (Ref'd 9/13/12) (15)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Coelho, Alves, Gonsalves, Oliveira, Duarte and Gomes, requesting, that the City Council sponsor a fact finding trip to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to study the impact the Bethlehem Sands Casino has had on that City and to determine whether a similar casino would be a viable option for the City of New Bedford; and further, that New Bedford Government Cable Access be included in the fact finding trip so that the Citizens of New Bedford will have the better opportunity to view the effect a casino would have on New Bedford. (Ref'd 11/14/13) (16)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Alves, requesting, that the Special Committee on Gaming/Casinos take the initiative and invite the developer of the New Bedford Casino to work with said Committee on holding a series of meetings throughout New Bedford, to present and respond to local residents as to economic benefits of the future Casino proposed at the Cannon Street site and to have the developers listen and respond to the concerns of our residents, so that we can work with the Administration and KG Urban Enterprises to develop and prepare for the best options for the City and to educate residents as to the benefits of a positive vote during the proposed referendum to be scheduled in the next sixty (60) days. (Ref'd 04/09/15) (17)

Councillor Gomes thanked the Chairman for his advocacy over the years in support of the Casino issue in New Bedford. It has been the hard fight for the Council as a whole and he was disappointed to see it end the way it has.

Councillor Alves thanked Councillor Gomes for his words. The City Council got the issue on the field, won the votes in New Bedford and attracted a developer. It is however, no secret that the Administration blew this one, when they decided to sit at the table and present so many restrictions making it really impossible for the project to have moved forward. He reaffirmed that as a team the City Council did a great job.

Councillor Gomes made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Martins.

This meeting adjourned @ 6:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk of Committees