

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2019
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS DEBORA COLEHO, CHAIRPERSON; IAN ABREU; HUGH DUNN (7:10); MARIA GIESTA; BRIAN GOMES; SCOTT LIMA; WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY; DANA REBEIRO

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS NAOMI CARNEY, VICE-CHAIRPERSON; LINDA MORAD

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Councillor Coelho called the Appointments & Briefings Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk informed the Committee that he received phone calls from Councillors Carney and Morad stating they would not be in attendance at tonight's Committee meeting due to personal emergencies.

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The Clerk announced the start of Citizen's Input Time not to exceed the first thirty (30) minutes of the meeting.

Ronald McKeon, 187 Durfee Street, speaking on Rehabilitation Centers. (Ref'd 1/14/19) (1)

Ronald McKeon was not present at this meeting.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Lima, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter to next meeting. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Edward Correia, New Bedford, MA was present and spoke on bulky item notifications. (1a)

Ed Pacheco, New Bedford, MA was present and spoke on Vehicles for Hire permitting issues. (1b)

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of JENNIFER SMITH, New Bedford, MA 02740, as an Alternate Member to the HISTORICAL COMMISSION; Ms. Smith will be replacing Meghan Kish, whose term has expired; this term will expire March 2021 (Ref'd 11/8/18) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro. (2)

Jennifer Smith, New Bedford, MA, was present and answered questions from the Committee.

Councillor Abreu asked her why she wanted to get involved and what ideas would she bring to the Commission. Ms. Smith stated in her position as an employee of the National Park, she has a love for the city. She had left the city to serve the National Park program in Rhode Island; she has now returned to New Bedford and would like to serve. She would like to see an increase in civic engagement when she joins Commission.

Councillor Rebeiro asked if she has previously served on a Commission and she was told that prior to her having to move to Rhode Island, she served on the New Bedford Historic Commission 2000-2008, as well as the New Bedford Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. She currently does not serve on a Committee or Commission.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of JENNIFER SMITH, New Bedford, MA 02740, as an Alternate Member to the HISTORICAL COMMISSION; Ms. Smith will be replacing Meghan Kish, whose term has expired; this term will expire March 2021. 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 CAROL PIMENTEL, New Bedford, MA to the REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, replacing Celia Brito, whose term has expired and recently ceased being a City resident; this term will expire July 2022 (Ref'd 11/20/18) was received and placed on file by Councillor Rebeiro and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (3)

Carol Pimentel, New Bedford, MA was present and answered questions from the Committee.

Councillor Lima asked if Ms. Pimentel had any plans for when she joins the Redevelopment Authority. Ms. Pimentel stated she was approached by the Administration to serve, that this authority is being revamped and it will become more involved. She saw it as an opportunity to make sure that any plans are all inclusive to all areas of the city and not just a few specific areas.

Councillor Rebeiro asked Ms. Pimentel if she currently serves on the Economic Development Commission and she was told yes she is currently on that Board. Councillor Rebeiro asked if she had issues with voting against a proposal supported by the Administration and she said she would not.

Councillor Abreu asked why the interest in the Authority and she stated she was approached by the Mayor and asked if she would like to serve. She stated anyone that knows her knows that she loves this city and wants to serve.

Councillor Giesta spoke in favor of the appointment.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Dunn, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of CAROL PIMENTEL, New Bedford, MA to the REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, replacing Celia Brito, whose term has expired and

recently ceased being a City resident; this term will expire July 2022. 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 PAUL CHASSE, New Bedford, MA to the REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, replacing Attorney Peter Paul, Jr., who has resigned; this term will expire July 2021. (Ref'd 11/20/18) (4)

Councillor Coelho informed the Committee that Mr. Chasse was not able to attend due to a prior commitment.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time. 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 a request to rescind Mr. Barry Trahan's appointment to serve on the Library Board of Trustees replacing Jill Horton Simms; and further submitting the APPOINTMENT of ANN R. O'LEARY, New Bedford, MA to the LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES, replacing Jill Horton Simms who has resigned, this term will expire APRIL 2020 (Ref'd 1/10/19) was received and placed on file by Councillor Rebeiro and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (5)

On motion by Councillor Rebeiro and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to rescind Mr. Barry Trahan's appointment to serve on the Library Board of Trustees replacing Jill Horton Simms. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Ann R. O'Leary, New Bedford, MA was present and answered questions from the Committee.

Councillor Lima asked Ms. O'Leary about the art at the Library. She stated she is a thirty (30) year employee of New Bedford, working at Roosevelt and New Bedford High School. She finds the library to be an incredible resource, especially its artwork and that it should continue to be preserved.

Councillor Abreu asked Ms. O'Leary what she brought to this appointment and what future ideas does she have. She stated that prior to going to work for the School Department she was employed by the Library and it has always been a special place for her. When she was approached to see if she would be interested in serving on this Board, she said yes.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of ANN R. O'LEARY, New Bedford, MA to the LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES, replacing Jill Horton Simms who has resigned, this term will expire APRIL 2020. 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 MARTIN BENTZ, New Bedford, MA, to the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, replacing Kevin Thomas, whose term has expired; this term will expire FEBRUARY 2021 (Ref'd 1/10/19) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (6)

Martin Bentz, New Bedford, MA was present and answered questions from the Committee.

Councillor Abreu asked Mr. Bentz what drew him to the position and what does he feels he can add to the Commission. Mr. Bentz explained he is retired after working for the United Nations for the past thirty (30) years. He came to know New Bedford from his brother-in-law and chose to locate here. He feels he can bring his UN experience to make the Commission more inclusive and diverse.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of MARTIN BENTZ, New Bedford, MA, to the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION, replacing Kevin Thomas, whose term has expired; this term will expire FEBRUARY 2021. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION/DEMOLITION, Anne Louro, Preservation Planner, to City Council, re: BUILDING DEMOLITION REVIEW OF 61 WAMSUTTA STREET, (MAP 78, LOT 125) a Circa 1889 two-story brick mill structure – advising that “the purpose of the Demolition Delay Ordinance is to preserve and protect significant buildings and structures within New Bedford and to encourage owners of Preferably Preserved Historic Buildings and Structure to seek out alternative options that will preserve, rehabilitate or restore such buildings; the structure is located in the Wamsutta Mill National Register Historic District and is associated with the broad architectural, cultural, economic, political and social history of the City; as part of the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the structure to accommodate 30 units of housing, partial demolition of non-historic fabric will occur; including the replacement of windows; the rehabilitation is utilizing both the Federal and the State Rehabilitation Tax Credit Programs; as such, the project must meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation; “in light of these findings, the Preservation Planner has determined that the structure at 61 Wamsutta Street is a Historically Significant and a Preferably Preserved Historic Building; however, the building is not regulated by the Demolition Delay Ordinance, as the intent is to restore and preserve the building, not to demolish” (Ref'd 1/10/19) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lima and seconded by Councillor Dunn. (7)

Councillor Dunn asked Anne Louro, Preservation Planner, to explain what this proposal was all about. Ms. Louro explained that the building is in the process of being restored into apartments by Acorn Development. Where the building is historical the Commission needed to make a recommendation as it related to the partial demolitions that would take place within the structure. She explained it would be what is called soft demolition, which means the replacement of windows, walls etc. The company is not demolishing the historical structure itself; because of the historic preservation ordinance it had to go through the process.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to follow the Recommendations of the Historical Commission and Grant Partial Demolition and replacement of existing windows at 61 WAMSUTTA STREET, (MAP 78, LOT 125). This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a PUBLIC HEARING on an APPLICATION, Dennis and Grace Madeira, D/B/A Manny's Auto Body, for a SPECIAL PERMIT for Motor Vehicle Sales and Rentals, Body Repair, General Repair and Light Service at 262 Myrtle Street, New Bedford, MA 02746 (Application Rec'd 12/19/18) (Duly advertised in The Standard-Times on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 and Tuesday, February 19, 2019.) was received and placed on file and the hearing was opened by Councillor Lima and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro. (8)

Dennis Madeira, 260 Myrtle Street, New Bedford, MA, the applicant was present to answer questions from the Committee.

Councillor Abreu asked what the business would entail and he was told that Mr. Madeira has been a mechanic for a number of years and now that the opportunity to purchase an existing business and run it as a family with his son and himself he could not pass it up. The hours of operation would be Monday – Friday, 8 am to 4 pm; Saturday 8 am to 12 pm. He will have three (3) to four (4) employees on site. The request for auto sales is as needed. If business is slow he would like the ability to be able to sell vehicles.

Councillor Markey asked about the applicants qualifications. Mr. Madeira informed him that he worked for Manny's Auto Body for thirty (30) years and the business came up for sale and he saw this as an opportunity to be his own boss.

Mr. Lucien Tetreault of Tremblay's Bus Service submitted a letter in favor of Mr. Madeira's application. This letter was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu.

Councillor Coelho asked if there was anyone who wished to speak or be recorded in favor of the application, there was none. She then asked if there was anyone who wished to speak or be recorded in opposition of the application, there was none. 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, Dennis and Grace Madeira, D/B/A Manny's Auto Body, for a SPECIAL PERMIT for Motor Vehicle Sales and Rentals, Body Repair, General Repair and Light Service at 262 Myrtle Street, New Bedford, MA 02746. 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 BARRY G. TRAHAN, New Bedford, MA, to the LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES, Mr. Trahan will be replacing Jill Horton-Simms who has resigned; this term will expire APRIL 2020. (Ref'd 7/19/18) (9/24/18-tabled) (10/15/18-tabled) (9)

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take "No Further Action" on the COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of BARRY G. TRAHAN, New Bedford, MA, to the LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES, Mr. Trahan will be replacing Jill Horton-Simms who has resigned; this term will expire APRIL 2020. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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

This meeting adjourned @ 7:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees