

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: JULY 14, 2020
TIME: 7:01 P.M.
PLACE: HELD REMOTELY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS' MARCH 12, 2020 ORDER SUSPENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW G. L. C. 30A, SECTION 20 AND THE CITY COUNCIL'S VOTE TO WAIVE RULE 21A

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS DEBORA COELHO, CHAIRPERSON; NAOMI CARNEY, VICE CHAIRPERSON; DEREK BAPTISTE; HUGH DUNN; MARIA GIESTA; SCOTT LIMA; JOSEPH LOPES; WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY; LINDA MORAD

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS IAN ABREU; BRIAN GOMES

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Councillor Coelho called the Appointments & Briefings Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read Communications from Councillors Abreu and Gomes explaining their absences from this meeting. These Communications were received and placed on file by Councillor Giesta and seconded by Councillor Morad.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to City Council, on behalf of Nasar Bokhari, 347 North Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, d/b/a GOOD LIMOUSINE/AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION, LLC. hereby submitting a copy of the Application requesting a NEW PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE, to carry passengers for hire over the streets of New Bedford (License will expire June 30, 2020.) (Ref'd 03/12/2020) (Tabled 6/09/2020) and a COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to City Council, on behalf of Nasar Bokhari, 347 North Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, d/b/a GOOD LIMOUSINE/AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION, LLC. hereby submitting a copy of the Application requesting a RENEWAL of a PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE, to carry passengers for hire over the streets of New Bedford (Term of License July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.) (Ref'd 03/12/2020) (Tabled 6/09/2020) were removed from the table by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Morad. (1, 1a)

The applicant was not present, and this was the second attempt to hear this matter.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Morad, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take "No Further Action" the Application of Nasar Bokhari, 347 North Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, d/b/a GOOD LIMOUSINE/AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION, LLC, requesting a NEW PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE, to carry passengers for hire over the streets of New Bedford. (License will expire June 30, 2020). This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Morad, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take "No Further Action" on

the Application of Nasar Bokhari, 347 North Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, d/b/a GOOD LIMOUSINE/AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION, LLC, requesting a RENEWAL of a PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE, to carry passengers for hire over the streets of New Bedford. (Term of License July 1, 2020 – June 20, 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 REAPPOINTMENT of BETHANY FAUTEUX, New Bedford, MA to the HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION; this term will expire April 2022 (Ref'd 4/7/20) (Tabled 6/09/2020) was removed from the table by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Giesta. (2)

The applicant was not present, and this was the second attempt to hear this matter.

Councillor Morad expressed concerns on the applicant's attendance on the Committee; since 2017 she has a 40% record of attending Human Relation Commission Meetings.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Giesta, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take "No Further Action" on this matter and to ask the Administration to remove her from the Commission. This motion FAILED on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 5, Nays 4, with Councillors Baptiste, Dunn, Lima and Lopes opposed.

Councillor Lima spoke on the issue and thought this was too harsh of a request. He knows the applicant and knows that there have been some personal issues that may have contributed to the applicant not being able to attend meetings.

This matter will remain in Committee.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of TRACY TARVERS, New Bedford, MA to the COMMISSION FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES, replacing Linda Carreiro; this term will expire May 2021 (Ref'd 5/14/2020) (Tabled 6/09/2020) was removed from the table by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lima. (3)

The applicant was not present, and this was the second attempt to hear this matter.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Giesta, 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 TRACY TARVERS, New Bedford, MA to the COMMISSION FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES, replacing Linda Carreiro; this term will expire May 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 REAPPOINTMENT of PETER BOSWELL, New Bedford, MA, to the PARK BOARD, this term will expire May 2025 (Ref'd 5/28/2020) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (4)

Peter Boswell was present to answer questions from the Committee.

Councillor Lopes expressed his frustration with the actions of the Park Board as of late, to include Councils request for increased signage at the Parks and that the city installed cook-out grills have not been allowed at Brooklawn or Buttonwood Parks.

Councillor Carney expressed similar concerns stating the Park Board has lack of oversight as it relates to the Parks and Recreation Departments. She cited the Whaling City Golf Course and how the new owners were chosen and the H2O water park approval as examples.

Peter Boswell understood their concerns and he stated that he has been a member of the Park Board for seventeen (17) years and has perfect attendance. He also makes himself readily available to answer Councillors calls and attend their meetings when he is invited.

Councillor Morad reminded the body that the Committee has a lot of issues with the Parks and Recreation Department, but they are primarily with the Department and its Management Team. She reminded the Committee that Mr. Boswell is a volunteer member of this Committee and that any Park concerns should be brought up to the Department Head. She supports the reappointment request.

Councillor Lima expressed concerns with the Park Department as well and is bracing for discussions as work to Buttonwood Park progresses, but he does support the reappointment of the applicant.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Giesta, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the REAPPOINTMENT of PETER BOSWELL, New Bedford, MA, to the PARK BOARD, this term will expire May 2025. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 7, Nays 2, with Councillors Carney and Dunn opposed.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of PAULA POPEO, New Bedford, MA to the AIRPORT COMMISSION, replacing Paul L. Barton; this term will expire December 2021 (Ref'd 6/11/2020) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Giesta. (5)

Paula Popeo was present to answer questions from the Committee and gave a summary of her history in the city, having lived in the city for the past three (3) year in the downtown area. She is currently employed at Bristol Community College. She worked on the rewriting the Economic Development Plan for the City through BCC. She was asked to serve on the Airport Commission by Mayor Mitchell and the Commission intrigues her, so she agreed to serve.

Councillor Morad thanked her for wanting to serve the city but felt that her lack of Airport experience does not make her suitable for the position, though she seems very qualified for other Commissions within the city.

Councillor Markey asked her if she was placed on the Commission what would be some of her ideas she would like to accomplish, and she stated increasing the use of the Airport by Bridgewater State University and BCC. She would also like to look towards more commercial airline involvement.

Councillor Dunn spoke in favor of her appointment.

On motion by Councillor Dunn and seconded by Councillor Giesta, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of PAULA POPEO, New Bedford, MA, to the AIRPORT COMMISSION, replacing Paul L. Barton; this term will expire December 2021. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council to City Council, on behalf of Marco Merisier, 23 Salisbury Street, New Bedford, MS 02744 d/b/a M&R LUXURY CAR SERVICE, 23 Salisbury Street, New Bedford, Ma 02744, hereby submitting a copy of the Application requesting a NEW PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE, to carry passengers for hire over the streets of New Bedford (Term of License – July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) (Ref'd 6/25/2020) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (6)

Mr. Merisier was not present to answer questions from the Committee.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes, 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 PUBLIC HEARING, on a COMMUNICATION/DEMOLITION REVIEW - 23 ROBESON STREET (Map 71/Lot 45) Circa 1903 two-story wood framed residence-partial demolition of east façade bay, the building is a contributing property (NBE.419) within the Acushnet Heights National Register District, this area is characterized by its late 19th and early 20th century residences developed on the rise of County Street overlooking the inner harbor; the building is associated with the political and social history of the City, as it was constructed in 1903 by Thomas Desmond, a local leading Attorney and a City Solicitor for several years, the Desmond Family also constructed the abutting properties at 17 and 27 Robeson Street, this house is locally known as the longtime residence of former Senator, Councillor and Mayor George Rogers; the building is architecturally significant as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Queen Anne style, the subject building is part of a group of buildings which share identical architectural features including cut shingles, arched openings, swag motifs and full bays with stained glass windows

and the property owner has indicated that he will follow the Historical Commission's recommendations to mitigate the partial demolition of the façade wall; therefore, in light of these findings, the New Bedford Historical Commission has determined that the building at 23 Robeson Street is Historically Significant but the east façade bay is not a Preferably Preserved Historic Structure (Ref'd 4/23/2020) (Advertised in the Standard-Times on Wednesday, July 1, 2020) was received and placed on file and the hearing opened by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Markey. (7)

Anne Louro, Preservation Planner, gave an overview of the home and the work that was being done. The Historical Commission found that the homeowner was doing work on the home that was taking away from the historical nature of the home that sits within a designated historical neighborhood known as Acushnet Heights. The Commission put a cease on the construction being done, met with the owner and discussed future construction plans. The owner of the home agreed to the requests. The Commission, after review, agreed that the three-story bay window the homeowner wanted to remove is not of historical significance and can be removed.

Susan Malone of 12 Robeson Street was present and had questions about the porches that were being drastically changed. Ms. Louro explained they discussed this with the homeowner, and he agreed to restore the porches to be historically compliant with the homes in the neighborhood.

Donna Blain of 15 Robeson Street was present and had additional questions and concerns.

Councillor Coelho asked if anyone other than the two individuals recognized already wanted to speak and /or be recorded in favor of the demolition request, there were none. She asked if there was anyone who wanted to speak and/or be recorded against the request, there were none.

On motion by Councillor Markey and seconded by Councillor Giesta, the hearing was closed.

Councillor Lopes made a motion to approve the partial demolition relative to the east side of the Robeson Street home. The motion was not seconded.

Councillor Morad expressed concern that she was receiving information during the meeting that many of the abutters did not receive notifications about the meeting.

Ms. Louro stated that the same abutters list used by the Historical Commission was sent to the Clerk of Committees office to use. When asked by Councillor Morad how many abutters attended the Historical Commission meeting she was told none.

Councillor Morad felt as though not all the abutters knew about this meeting and that there were questions that neighbors want answered.

The Clerk explained it was difficult for individuals to ask questions, in a normal meeting the abutters are not recognized to ask questions but are able to do so through a Councillor. This makes it difficult for Zoom invitees to ask questions.

Councillor Morad felt that the neighbors should be able to reach out to Ms. Louro with any questions they might have. Ms. Louro said they could visit the city website to get her email and phone information and reach out to her.

The Clerk informed the Committee that he spoke to the City Council's Legal Counsel Attorney David Gerwatowski and was told since Councillor Lopes' motion to approve the partial demolition was not seconded, the Committee could move to reconsider their vote to close the hearing and then vote to continue the hearing to another meeting but it would have to be date specific.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Morad, the Committee VOTED: to reconsider the vote to close the public hearing. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 0.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Giesta, the Committee VOTED: To continue the public hearing to September 29, 2020 at 7 PM. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Councillor Morad asked that the abutters be sent a Communication from the Clerk of Committee's Office informing them of the September 29th meeting.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Markey, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter until September 29, 2020 at 7 PM. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Councillor Lima made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Giesta.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:17 p.m.

ATTEST:



Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees