

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: NOVEMBER 16, 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; IAN ABREU; HUGH DUNN; MARIA GIESTA; BRIAN GOMES; SCOTT LIMA; JOSEPH LOPES; WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS DEREK BAPTISTE; LINDA MORAD

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

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On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Giesta, the Committee voted to take item three (3) out of order, without objection. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a PUBLIC HEARING on an APPLICATION, José Encarnacion and Jonathan Pittman, d/b/a J&J's Small Auto Repairs & Sales, for a SPECIAL PERMIT for Motor Vehicle Sales and Rentals, General Repair and Light Service at 1519 Purchase Street, New Bedford, MA 02740 (Application Rec'd 10/23/2020) (Duly advertised in The Standard-Times on Monday, November 02, 2020 and Monday, November 09, 2020) was received and placed on file and the hearing opened by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (3)

The Applicants Jose Encarnacion and Jonathan Pittman were present to answer questions from the Committee.

Councillor Lopes asked the applicants to give an overview of the business. They will be opening a mechanic and auto repair shop and sales. They will be doing general repairs, not major repairs; they will sell tires. They have a verbal agreement with Bob's Tires to provide and remove tires from the location. They will be charging customers a disposal fee to dispose of the tires. Mr. Encarnacion is a licensed mechanic and has been working on cars since he was fourteen (14) years old. Mr. Pittman will oversee the auto sales.

Councillor Abreu asked about the number of employees and they said to start it will be just the two of them. Councillor Abreu asked how many cars would be sold on the site and they will have just one to start with.

Councillor Markey asked where the vehicles would come from and he was told from auto auctions.

Councillor Lopes asked Commissioner Romanowicz if the operation met City Code and guidelines. He was told yes it does. He said the design submitted for the area if four (4) cars at an angle on one side and three (3) cars on the opposite side and two (2) parked straight. He said the lot was approved for nine (9) vehicles.

Councillor Coelho asked about the hours of operation and she was told Monday – Friday 9 am to 6 pm and Saturdays 9 am to 3 pm.

Councillor Coelho asked if there was anyone who wished to speak in favor or be recorded in favor of the petition, there was none. She also asked if there was anyone who wished to speak in opposition or be recorded in opposition of the petition, there was none. The hearing was closed by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPLICATION, José Encarnacion and Jonathan Pittman, d/b/a J&J's Small Auto Repairs & Sales, for a SPECIAL PERMIT for Motor Vehicle Sales and Rentals, General Repair and Light Service at 1519 Purchase Street, New Bedford, MA 02740. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to the City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of JEFFREY PELLETIER, New Bedford, MA, to the AIRPORT COMMISSION; replacing Moira Tierney, this term will expire in December 2021 (Ref'd 10/22/2020) was received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Lima. (1)

Jeffrey Pelletier, New Bedford, was present to answer questions from the Committee.

Councillor Abreu asked Mr. Pelletier why he wanted to serve and what would he bring to the Commission. Mr. Pelletier told the Committee that he was happy to have been approached to serve. He is a local person who is presently the Director of Junior Achievement in the Greater new Bedford area. He has spoken with Scot Servais, the Airport Manager and discussed strategic plans for the Airport. He believes that the Airport can be an economic engine for the City and would also look to increase commercial flights and concentrate on marketing.

Councillor Lopes asked if he has attended any Commission meetings since he was asked to be on the Commission, and he said he has not; but he is excited to bring new ideas and energy to the Commission.

Councillor Lima mentioned that as of late there has been a great deal of attendance issues discussed in other appointments to the Commission and asked if he thought his employment would be obstructing his ability to serve on the Committee and attend meetings. He told the Committee he has looked at the Airport meeting schedule and does not see his attendance will be an issue.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Dunn, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of JEFFREY PELLETIER, New Bedford, MA, to the AIRPORT COMMISSION; replacing Moira Tierney, this term will expire in December 2021. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to the City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of VIORICA IVONE SILVA, New Bedford, MA, to the COMMISSION FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES; replacing Linda Carreiro who has resigned, this term will expire in May 2021 (Ref'd 10/22/2020) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Lima. (2)

Viorica Ivone Silva, New Bedford was present to answer questions from the Committee.

Councillor Lopes asked Ms. Silva what she would bring to the Commission. She told the Committee that she saw this as an opportunity to speak up for people who do not normally have a voice. She also sees herself as a fresh eye and voice for the Commission. Cynthia Wallquist asked her if she would be interested in joining the Commission and she said she would.

Councillor Abreu asked what her background was, and she said that she is currently a volunteer for the children with disabilities, primarily focusing on children with autism.

John Lobo, Neighborhood Liaison for Community Services was present to answer questions from the Committee on this matter. He explained that Cynthia Wallquist asked her to serve and that currently the Commission has not been able to meet due to a lack of members to create a quorum.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of VIORICA IVONE SILVA, New Bedford, MA, to the COMMISSION FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES; replacing Linda Carreiro who has resigned, this term will expire in May 2021. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To waive the reading and follow the Chairs recommendation to take "No Further Action" on items four (4) through seven (7). This motion passed on a voice vote. These items are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Dunn, requesting, that Director of Tourism and Marketing, Dagny Ashley provide an update to the City Council on efforts to leverage the upcoming Plymouth 400 to attract tourism to the City of New Bedford. (Ref'd 04/25/19) (4)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Lopes, requesting, that a representative from the Department of Public Infrastructure meet with

the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to discuss the street closures associated with the Rt. 18 Phase II project. (Ref'd 09/12/19) (5)

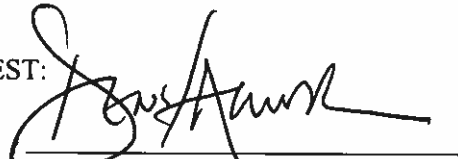
Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Dunn, requesting that the New Bedford City Council hold a hearing to explore implementing a vote-by-mail system for the upcoming 2020 elections due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure safety and accessibility in the voting process; and further, that Representatives of the Secretary of State's Office, the New Bedford Elections Office and Commission, community organizations, and relevant City departments shall be invited to testify. (Ref'd 05/14/2020) (6)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a RELATED MOTION, Councillor Morad, requesting that the Airport Manager Scot Servis appear before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings prior to the Committee taking up these three renewals of Board Members' terms to discuss with the Committee on Appointments and Briefings the jobs and responsibilities of Airport Commissioners and the characteristics that would be preferred in candidates being recommended to the Board for approval. (Ref'd 08/20/2020) (7)

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

This meeting adjourned @ 7:24 p.m.

ATTEST:



Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees