

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: MARCH 29, 2021
TIME: 7:02 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 NAOMI CARNEY, CHAIRPERSON (REMOTELY); WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY, VICE CHAIRMAN (REMOTELY); IAN ABREU (REMOTELY); DEREK BAPTISTE (REMOTELY); HUGH DUNN (REMOELY); MARIA GIESTA (REMOTELY); BRIAN GOMES (REMOTELY); SCOTT LIMA (REMOTELY); JOSEPH LOPES (REMOTELY); LINDA MORAD (REMOELY)

ABSENT: COUNCILLOR DEBORA COELHO

* * *

Councillor Carney called the Appointments & Briefings Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. Councillor Coelho was the only one absent from this meeting.

* * *

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of KIMBERLY RIOUX, New Bedford, MA, to the CONSERVATION COMMISSION; Ms. Rioux will be replacing Craig P. Dixon who has resigned; this term will expire in June 2023 (Ref'd 03/11/2021) was received and placed on file by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 10, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes. (1)

Kimberly Rioux, New Bedford, was present (remotely) to answer questions from the Committee. She told the Committee she was born and bred in New Bedford, went away to school but returned to the City. She is very much interested in our natural resources and sees them as being vital to our well-being. She has an education in psychology and is a Yoga teacher.

Councillor Abreu explained to the Committee that he works with Ms. Rioux but spoke to Legal Counsel and was told it would not be a conflict for him to participate when it came to vote.

Councillor Lopes also acknowledged that Ms. Rioux worked for him, but that he too was told by Legal Counsel that he could participate in the vote.

Councillor Lima asked if Ms. Rioux has attended any conservation Commission meetings and she said she had not.

Councillor Morad thanked the applicant for applying for the position. She explained that the people who are normally called before the Conservation Commission have in some way broken a law. She asked that she be mindful of those who have innocently done this, though ignorance of the law is not a reason, but to be able to judge those who deliberately break the law from those who don't.

Councillor Markey asked if there were any ideas she would bring to the Commission; she stated no, but that her goal was to connect people to the outdoors through training, so that people would respect their land.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of KMERLY RIOUX, New Bedford, MA, to the CONSERVATION COMMISSION; Ms. Rioux will be replacing Craig P. Dixon who has resigned; this term will expire in June 2023. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 10, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes.

* * *

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of ZACHARY R. BOYER, New Bedford, MA, to the COUNCIL ON AGING; Mr. Boyer will be replacing Mary Sullivan who is deceased; this term will expire in December 2022 (Ref'd 03/11/2021) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Giesta. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 10, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes. (2)

Zachary R. Boyer, New Bedford, was present (remotely) to answer questions from the Committee. Mr. Boyer explained that he was a 2016 UMASS/Dartmouth graduate. He has worked for the Mass Senior Council as the Bristol County Organizer. He also has worked with Coastline Elderly and the Mass Senior Action House in New Bedford. He specializes in bridging the technology divide that affects Seniors. Mr. Boyer was asked if the 9:00 a.m. meeting would prove difficult for him to attend, he said it would not. Mr. Boyer was asked what prompted him to want to serve on the Commission. He explained that George Smith, a current member of the Commission had mentioned to him that there was an opening and asked if he would be interested in serving and he was.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of ZACHARY R. BOYER, New Bedford, MA, to the COUNCIL ON AGING; Mr. Boyer will be replacing Mary Sullivan who is deceased; this term will expire in December 2022. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 10, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes.

* * *

Item number four (4) was taken out of order without objection.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of JENNIFER CARLONI, to the position of CITY PLANNER (Ref'd 03/11/2021) was taken out of order and received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Lima. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 10, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes. (4)

Jennifer Carloni, New Bedford, MA was present (remotely) to answer questions from the Committee. Ms. Carloni explained she was formerly employed in the Planning Department; she had left after seven (7) years to become the City Planner for North Attleboro. When she was made aware that the position had opened in the City, she applied for the position, which has led to the Mayor submitting her name for the position. She explained that she currently lives in New Bedford.

Ms. Carloni asked if she would work independently of the Administration and she explained her position would oversee the Planning issues in the City, which would ultimately be submitted to the Administration and the City Council for approval. She expected to start the position three (3) weeks after being appointed.

Councillor Gomes asked why she left the City originally and she explained that she had been with the Planning Board for several years, but there wasn't any room for personal growth. When she was offered the position in North Attleboro, she took it. Shortly after taking the position, the City's position became available. However, after spending a length of time in North Attleboro the position opened in New Bedford and she decided to apply for it.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of JENNIFER CARLONI to the position of CITY PLANNER. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 10, Nays, 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes.

* * *

Councillor Carney removed herself from the meeting acknowledging that Sean Carney was her son and that she was not able to vote on this appointment. Chairperson Carney turned the meeting over to Vice-Chairman Councillor Markey and she left the meeting.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting the APPOINTMENT of SEAN M. CARNEY, New Bedford, MA, to the CONSERVATION COMMISSION; Mr. Carney will be replacing Chancery Perks who has resigned; this term will expire in June 2022 (Ref'd 03/11/2021) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Giesta. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes; with Councillor Carney not present for the vote. (3)

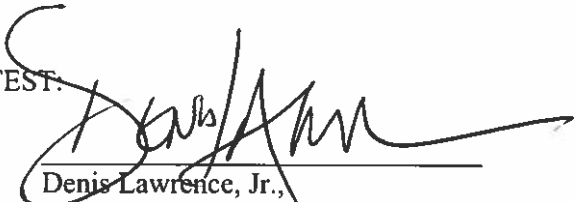
Sean Carney, New Bedford, was present (remotely) to answer questions from the Committee. Mr. Carney explained he has lived in the City for thirty (30) years and he also owns a home in the City. He is an attorney who specializes in Environmental Law. He has previously worked for an Environmental Law Firm. He has experience in municipal zoning, wetland zoning and coastal zone protection. He feels comfortable that he can analyze any upcoming projects. He believes his legal background will be a benefit to the Commission. Mr. Carney was asked how he came to be submitted for the appointment and he said that he had been approached by a member of the Administration to see if he would be interested in serving, and he said he would.

On motion by Councillor Lima and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of SEAN M. CARNEY, New Bedford, MA, to the CONSERVATION COMMISSION; Mr. Carney will be replacing Chancery Perks who has resigned; this term will expire in June 2022. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes, with Councillor Carney not present for the vote.

Councillor Abreu made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Dunn. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes, with Councillor Carney not present for the vote.

This meeting adjourned @ 7:48 p.m.

ATTEST:



Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees