

**NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MEETING: COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**  
**DATE: APRIL 21, 2021**  
**TIME: 6:31 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 SCOTT LIMA, CHAIRMAN (REMOTELY); IAN**  
**ABREU (REMOTELY); HUGH DUNN (REMOTELY); MARIA**  
**GIESTA (REMOTELY); JOSEPH LOPES (REMOTELY); LINDA**  
**MORAD (REMOTELY)**

**ABSENT: COUNCILLORS WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY, VICE**  
**CHAIRMAN; DEREK BAPTISTE; NAOMI CARNEY; DEBORA**  
**COELHO; BRIAN GOMES**

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Councillor Lima called the Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read Communications from Councillors Markey & Carney explaining their absences from this meeting. These Communications were received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 6, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Morad, yes.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Gomes, Dunn and Giesta, requesting, that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods meet with officials from the Department of Inspectional Services, the Department of Public Infrastructure, the Fire Department, the Health Department and the owner of Bob's Tire Company located at 85 Brook Street, due to the local resident's complaints of the foul odor and runoff water from the site where the shredding of tires is occurring, this has become a quality-of-life issue for the residents of that area; and further, that an explanation be given to the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods as to when permission was given to shred tires at this location; and further, that if Bob's Tire Company has any Code violations, that the shredding of tires be halted immediately at this site (To be Referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods and the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs) (Ref'd 02/13/2020) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Giesta. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 6, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Morad, yes. (1)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Lima, Council President Lopes and Councillor Abreu, requesting that the Inspectional Services Commissioner Danny Romanowicz, Environmental Stewardship Director Michele Paul and Health Director Damon Chaplin appear before the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs to provide a written report detailing the business name and

location of all tire storage and tire recycling facilities within the City with a determination as to whether or not each tire facility is in compliance with the City's Planning and Zoning regulations and Environmental protocols (Ref'd 06/11/2020) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Giesta. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 6, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Morad, yes. (2)

Councillor Lima explained to the Committee that he received a letter from Michelle Paul, Director of Environmental Stewardship, explaining that in January and February she spoke with Mass Department of Environmental Protection and discussed the issues with the three (3) used tire processing facilities in the City. There were issues as it related to drainage of chemicals from the tires into the City's wastewater system. F & B Tires on Washburn Street were cited for the use of an improper storage system.

Commissioner Romanowicz, stated that the regulations in place now for such facilities falls with the Fire Department and he recommended that the City create some type of enforcement that his department would be able to use. Unfortunately, the three (3) locations are grandfathered into the locations they currently operate in since the creation of new MGL's.

Damon Chaplin, Health Director, explained that the Committee might want to look at an Ordinance to address the environmental impact. He realizes there are already State laws in place but that the City should also address the contamination issue on the local side. He stated that the City should investigate the grandfathering language to see if the facilities are in violation and would that allow the City to remove them from their being grandfathered businesses.

Committee Members expressed their concern of the constant violations that have been applied to each of these establishments. That the neighborhood in the Hicks Street area stated it was getting better, when the issues were addressed, but when they were not enforced, they started to see an increase in rats and mosquitos and the like.

The Committee agreed that the City should stay on top of this issue to make sure these establishments are following the guidelines that are in place. It was revealed that Bob's Tires was recently fined \$35,624 for violations at their facility.

It was agreed that the Committee should meet with the City Solicitor's office to see how it can address non-conforming businesses that become an environmental nuisance.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Giesta, the Committee Voted: To table these two matters at this time. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 6, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Morad, yes.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Lima, Abreu, Gomes, Morad and Markey, requesting, that the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs discuss the Boston University Superfund Research Program's findings that there exists a potential airborne health hazard emanating from contaminated

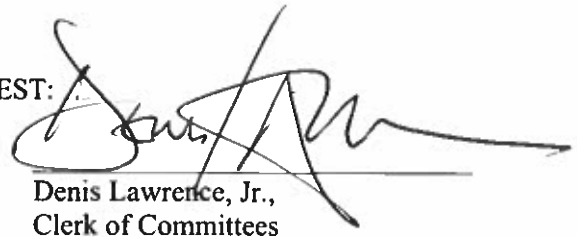
water in New Bedford Harbor; and further that Health Director Damon Chaplin, Environmental Stewardship Director Michele Paul and BUSRP Researchers be invited to said Committee meeting (Ref'd 02/13/2020) (02/27/2020 - tabled) and a COMMUNICATION, Councillor Lima, submitting an article entitled "Potentially Harmful Air Contamination from New Bedford Harbor" dated December 5, 2019 by the Boston University's School of Public Health. (To be Referred to the Committee on Environmental Affairs.) (Ref'd 02/13/2020) (02/27/2020 - tabled) (3, 3a)

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Giesta, the Committee Voted: To waive the reading and recommend to the City Council to take "No Further Action" on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Lima, Abreu, Gomes, Morad and Markey, requesting, that the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs discuss the Boston University Superfund Research Program's findings that there exists a potential airborne health hazard emanating from contaminated water in New Bedford Harbor; and further that Health Director Damon Chaplin, Environmental Stewardship Director Michele Paul and BUSRP Researchers be invited to said Committee meeting; and on the COMMUNICATION, Councillor Lima, submitting an article entitled "Potentially Harmful Air Contamination from New Bedford Harbor" dated December 5, 2019 by the Boston University's School of Public Health. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 6, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Morad, yes.

Councillor Lopes made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Giesta. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 6, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Morad, yes.

This meeting adjourned @ 6:56 p.m.

ATTEST:



Denis Lawrence, Jr.,  
Clerk of Committees