

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: JUNE 14, 2022
TIME: 7:02 P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS NAOMI CARNEY, CHAIRPERSON; IAN ABREU; SHANE BURGO (8:08); HUGH DUNN; MARIA GIESTA; BRIAN GOMES (7:05); SCOTT LIMA; WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY; LINDA MORAD (7:10); RYAN PEREIRA

ABSENT: COUNCILLOR DEREK BAPTISTE, VICE CHAIRMAN

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

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Councillor Carney announced the beginning of Citizen's Input Time – Not to exceed the first thirty (30) minutes of the meeting.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of CITIZEN'S INPUT TIME, Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, 578 County Street, New Bedford, speaking on Charges for Sewer Pipe Repairs (Ref'd 05/26/2022) was received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Lima. (1, 1a)

Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, New Bedford, was present and spoke on being charged by the city for sewer line repairs that were not her fault. She told the Committee that the city is charging her \$35,000 in sewer pipe replacement fees, when she had not experienced any issues until construction was being done by a third-party vendor retained by the city.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a PUBLIC HEARING on a COMMUNICATION/DEMOLITION, New Bedford Historical Commission, to City Council, re: ***BUILDING DEMOLITION REVIEW – NS MANOMET STREET (Map 105/Lot 207)*** circa 1940 coal bin structure; the structure is associated with the Manomet Mills, an early 20th century textile mill complex which became a National Register Historic District in 2012; the structure has been a long-term, vacant, blighted structure and has become a nuisance property, attracting trash, dumping and illegal activities; the City's Neighborhood Task Force has sought demolition to cure the violations associated with this property; the structure consists of a brick building, metal canopy and bunker-type concrete walls, all parts of the structure must be removed as they currently have an adverse effect on the nearby historic resources and will continue to be a blight to the neighborhood and attract nuisance activity, ***"in light of these findings, the New Bedford Historical Commission has determined that the structure located at NS Manomet Street***

is not Historically Significant nor a Preferably Preserved Historic Structure" (Ref'd 05/12/2022) (Advertised in The Standard-Times on Tuesday, May 31, 2022.) was received and placed on file and the hearing opened by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Giesta. (2)

Anne Louro, Preservation Planner, was present and gave an overview of the demolition request for NS Manomet Street. She reported that the Historical Commission determined that the structure is not Historically Significant nor a Preferably Preserved Historic Structure. The property has not been kept up and is a detriment and has become a nuisance property in the city. The property currently created adverse effect on the nearby historic resources, and it was determined that it would continue to be a blight to the neighborhood as well as attract nuisance activity.

Councillor Carney asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak or be recorded in favor of the demolition, there were none. She then asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak or be recorded in opposition to the demolition, there were none. The hearing was closed.

On motion by Councillor Giesta and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to Grant the DEMOLITION of NS MANOMET STREET (Map 105/Lot 207) circa 1940 coal bin structure. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a PUBLIC HEARING on a COMMUNICATION/DEMOLITION, New Bedford Historical Commission, to City Council, re: ***BUILDING DEMOLITION REVIEW – 24 N FRONT STREET (Map 79/Lots 2 & 4) Buildings 4, 12, 19, western part of 2;*** a historic resources survey, funded through a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission found the property at 24 N Front Street, known as the former Revere Copper site, to be eligible as a National Register District; the property is significant as the largest copper manufacturing facility in New Bedford during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and as a relatively unaltered example of a large-scale, mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth century manufacturing complex; the property is significant because of its association with the Paul Revere Copper Company (founded in 1801 in Canton, MA) and Paul Revere's great-grandson Edward H.R. Revere (1867-1957), who became general manager in 1920 and lent his surname to the present company name in 1929; the existing buildings are in fair to poor condition and the current configuration of the buildings on the site does not lend itself to the operations of a water-dependent facility; the waterfront site has the potential to be a valuable port facility and the redevelopment of the site will mitigate site environmental hazards, have positive impacts on local employment and the commercial tax base, as well as help catalyze other economic investments in the adjacent Hicks Logan and Wamsutta Mills districts, ***"in light of these findings, the New Bedford Historical Commission has determined that Buildings 4, 12, 19 and western part of 2, located at 24 N Front Street are Historically Significant but are not Preferably Preserved Historic Buildings"*** (Ref'd 05/12/2022) (Advertised in The Standard-Times on Tuesday, May 31, 2022.) was received and placed on file and the hearing opened by Councillor Dunn and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (3)

Alan Hanscom, Pare Corporation, the petitioners representative, gave an overview of the project as it relates to their securing a demolition agreement at 24 N Front Street (Map 79/Lots 2 & 4) Buildings 4, 12, 19, western part of 2; 24 N Front Street (Map 79/Lots 2 & 4) Buildings 1, 3, 3A, eastern part of 2; and 24 N Front Street (Map 79/Lots 2 & 4) Building 15, northern part of 14, and eastern part of 10. It was noted that the Historic Commission did determine that the properties above were found to be historically significant but not preferably preserved historic buildings.

Mr. Hanscom explained that this would be developed into a ship repair yard, fish processing plant and a possible restaurant in the old former icehouse building, which would be preserved as it is the last one standing in the city, and hopefully turned into some form of technical incubator or perhaps a restaurant.

The applicants were asked if the area would be dredging enough to allow boating activity in the facility. Mr. Michael Quinn, the owner of the property, explained that the federal government is conducting the dredging and when complete it will be able to accommodate vessels up to a minus 15.

Councillor Carney asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak or be recorded in favor of the demolition, there were none. She then asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak or be recorded in opposition of the demolition, there were none. The hearing was closed.

On motion by Councillor Lima and seconded by Councillor Pereira, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to Grant the DEMOLITION of 24 N FRONT STREET (Map 79/Lots 2 & 4) Buildings 4, 12, 19, western part of 2, formally known a Revere Copper site. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a PUBLIC HEARING on a COMMUNICATION/DEMOLITION, New Bedford Historical Commission, to City Council, re: ***BUILDING DEMOLITION REVIEW RE: 24 N Front Street (Map 79/Lots 2 & 4) Buildings 1, 3, 3A, eastern part of 2;*** a historic resources survey, funded through a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission found the property at 24 N Front Street, known as the former Revere Copper site, to be eligible as a National Register District; the property is significant as the largest copper manufacturing facility in New Bedford during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and as a relatively unaltered example of a large-scale, mid-nineteenth- to mid-twentieth-century manufacturing complex; the property is significant because of its association with the Paul Revere Copper Company (founded in 1801 in Canton, MA) and Paul Revere's great-grandson Edward H. R. Revere (1867-1957), who became general manager in 1920 and lent his surname to the present company name in 1929; the existing buildings are in fair to poor condition and are unable to be adapted for the purposes of modern fish processing; the property owner will be collaborating with the City to construct a new building which is architecturally sensitive to the Hicks Logan District and provide an easement to assist in the potential widening of N Front Street, per statements made by the applicant team during the presentation to the Historical Commission; ***"in light of these findings, the New Bedford Historical Commission has determined that Buildings 1, 3, 3A and eastern part of 2, located at 24 N Front Street are Historically Significant but are not***

Preferably Preserved Historic Buildings” (Ref’d 05/12/2022) (Advertised in The Standard-Times on Tuesday, May 31, 2022.) was received and placed on file and the hearing opened by Councillor Dunn and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (4)

Councillor Carney asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak or be recorded in favor of the demolition, there were none. She then asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak or be recorded in opposition of the demolition, there were none. The hearing was closed.

On motion by Councillor Lima and seconded by Councillor Pereira, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to Grant the DEMOLITION of 24 N Front Street (Map 79/Lots 2 & 4) Buildings 1, 3, 3A, eastern part of 2, formally known as the Revere Copper site. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a PUBLIC HEARING on a COMMUNICATION/DEMOLITION, The New Bedford Historical Commission, to City Council, re: ***BUILDING DEMOLITION REVIEW, 24 N Front Street (Map 79 Lots 2 & 4) Buildings 15, northern part of 14, and eastern part of 10;*** a historic resources survey, funded through a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission found the property at 24 N Front Street, known as the former Revere Copper site, to be eligible as a National Register District; the property is significant as the largest copper manufacturing facility in New Bedford during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and as a relatively unaltered example of a large-scale, mid-nineteenth- to mid-twentieth century manufacturing complex; the property is significant because of its association with the Paul Revere Copper Company (founded in 1801 in Canton, MA) and Paul Revere’s great-grandson Edward H. R. Revere (1867–1957), who became general manager in 1920 and lent his surname to the present company name in 1929; the selective demolition of these buildings within the site will allow for its productive use and provide parking to support the future rehabilitated Ice House and other activities throughout the site; ***“in light of these findings, the New Bedford Historical Commission has determined that Buildings 15, northern part of 14 and eastern part of 10, located at 24 N Front Street are Historically Significant but are not Preferably Preserved Historic Buildings”*** (Ref’d 05/12/2022) (Advertised in The Standard-Times on Tuesday, May 31, 2022.) was received and placed on file and the hearing opened by Councillor Dunn and seconded by Councillor Abreu. (5)

Councillor Carney asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak or be recorded in favor of the demolition, there were none. She then asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak or be recorded in opposition of the demolition, there were none. The hearing was closed.

On motion by Councillor Lima and seconded by Councillor Pereira, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to Grant the DEMOLITION of 24 N Front Street (Map 79 Lots 2 & 4) Buildings 15, northern part of 14, and eastern part of 10, formally known as the Revere Copper site. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Councillor Carney asked without objection she would like to take items six (6) and seven (7) up together; there were no objections.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to City Council, on behalf of **Jenny Mejia, 88 Sagamore Street, New Bedford, MA 02740 d/b/a JENNY'S TRANSPORTATION LLC, 88 Sagamore Street, New Bedford, MA 02740**, 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, 2022.) (Ref'd 04/28/2022) (05/17/2022 – applicant not present; tabled) was removed from the table and received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Giesta. (6)

Jenny Mejia, New Bedford, was present and answered questions from the Committee. She told the Committee she currently has one vehicle, a nine-passenger van in which she transports children to and from school. She is hoping to further her business in doing medical runs but is waiting on permission to do so from the state. She hopes to grow her business, however, right now the two employees consist of herself and another driver. Her current vehicle is parked on her street but the addition of a new vehicle she has secured off-street parking in a commercial area.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Giesta, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL on behalf of **Jenny Mejia, 88 Sagamore Street, New Bedford, MA 02740 d/b/a JENNY'S TRANSPORTATION LLC, 88 Sagamore Street, New Bedford, MA 02740**, of the APPLICATION for a **NEW PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE** to carry passengers for hire over the streets of New Bedford (License will expire June 30, 2022). This motion passed on a voice vote.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, to City Council, on behalf of **Jenny Mejia, 88 Sagamore Street, New Bedford, MA 02740 d/b/a JENNY'S TRANSPORTATION LLC, 88 Sagamore Street, New Bedford, MA 02740**, 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, 2022 – June 30, 2023.) (Ref'd 04/28/2022) (05/17/2022 – applicant not present; tabled) was removed from the table and received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Giesta. (7)

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Giesta, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council, on behalf of **Jenny Mejia, 88 Sagamore Street, New Bedford, MA 02740 d/b/a JENNY'S TRANSPORTATION LLC, 88 Sagamore Street, New Bedford, MA 02740**, the APPLICATION for **RENEWAL of a PRIVATE LIVERY LICENSE** to carry passengers for hire over the streets on New Bedford (Term of License – July 1, 2022 – June 20, 2023.) 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 ELIZABETH BLANCHARD, MD, FASCO, New Bedford, MA, to the BOARD OF HEALTH; Dr. Blanchard will be replacing Dr. Sarah Morris, whose term has expired; this term will expire in April 2023 (Ref'd 05/24/2022) was received and placed on file by Councillor Giesta and seconded by Councillor Lima. (8)

Dr. Elizabeth Blanchard, MD, FASCO, New Bedford, was present and answered questions from the Committee. She provided a brief bio of herself, to include that she is a practicing Oncologist for SouthCoast Health. She has heard from Dr. Morris, who is stepping down from the Board, that there would be a vacancy and thought it would be a good fit for her. She approached the administration and was nominated for the position.

Dr. Blanchard was asked several questions that related to the city's response to the pandemic. She stated the city did well, but that they should still be pushed to increase vaccinations in the city. She also explained, that as an Oncologist she is particularly interested in environmental issues.

On motion by Councillor Lima and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of ELIZABETH BLANCHARD, MD, FASCO, New Bedford, MA, to the BOARD OF HEALTH: Dr. Blanchard will be replacing Dr. Sarah Morris, whose term has expired; this term will expire in April 2023. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with a representative from the Mayor's Office, the Massachusetts Undersecretary of Energy Patrick Woodcock and a representative from Vineyard Wind that has a signed contract with the State, City of New Bedford and the Marine Commerce Terminal Clean Energy Center, that they provide the Committee with a company breakdown and action plan for the terminal; and further, how many jobs have been created to date for residents of the City and what has been the economic boost to the City (Ref'd 06/27/19) (05/17/2022 – Remain in Committee) was received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Lima. (9)

It was noted that the invitees for this issue were not present to discuss the motion. The Clerk confirmed the timeliness in issuing the invites.

An emailed communication from Vineyard Wind was read into the record by the Clerk and received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Pereira.

Councillor Gomes expressed his frustration that not "one" of the invitees showed up for this evening's meeting.

It was agreed that the Chair would contact the Clerk's office to set a date for September for this issue and that the invites would be sent out as soon as this date was set.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Lima, 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 WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with the owner and operator of Nice N' Clean Car Wash located at Bolton Street and Bliss Street, this property has an ongoing problem with trash and maintenance affecting the entire neighborhood and businesses surrounding the property, it also affects the Veterans monument located just across the street south of said business; and further, that the Health Department and the Department of Inspectional Services take a look at this location and issue notices for trash and maintenance violations and that the owner be notified of any violations (Ref'd 12/14/17) (01/03/18-returned unsigned by the Mayor) (07/31/18-Remain in Committee) (02/10/2020 – Remain in Committee) (03/16/2021 – tabled; secure address for owner to invite to meeting when heard) (04/20/2021 – tabled) (05/17/2022 – Remain in Committee) was removed from the table by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Markey. (10)

The Clerk acknowledged that the owner of the property in question was invited to attend this meeting.

Councillor Gomes, the maker of the motion expressed his disappointment that the owner was not present and that time after time he continues to violate city rules in keeping his property clean.

Jennifer Vieira, Acting Director DFFM, explained that the city has taken steps to enforce various code violations with this particular property and that it is considered a nuisance property.

George Ostler, DFFM Code Enforcement, provided the Committee with a history of citations issued by DFFM to the business owner. Since 2017 a multitude of offences have been issued, so much so that the property is deemed a nuisance. DFFM has been visiting the location twice weekly to make sure the property is being attended to. They have had discussions with the property owner as well.

The Committee asked if businesses such as these continues to violate city code and are deemed a nuisance property can the city issue a cease and desist and prevent the business from operating. The DFFM representatives did not believe this was possible.

The consensus of the Committee was that the fines were too low and that most businesses would pay the fine rather than address the issues because it was cheaper this way. Councillor Giesta suggested the Committee look at the fine schedule and increase the amount by way of the ordinance in place.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Pereira, 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 the APPOINTMENT of ASHLEY PAYNE as the DIRECTOR OF TOURISM AND MARKETING, at a salary of Grade M-11, \$69,302.00 (Ref'd 05/24/2022) was received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Burgo. (11)

Ashley Payne, the Mayor's appointee to serve as the Director Tourism was present and gave an overview of her qualifications.

The Committee stressed the importance of building Tourism for the entire city and not just the Downtown area.

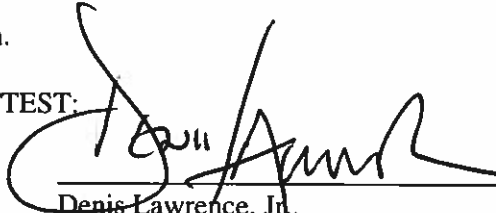
Ms. Payne stated that the approach would be city-wide, and that she would look to meet with each Councillor and discuss their vision on who to promote the city. She plans on increasing and building up tourism by using a digital strategy.

On motion by Councillor Markey and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of ASHLEY PAYNE as the DIRECTOR OF TOURISM AND MARKETING, at a salary of Grade M-11, \$69,302.00. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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

This meeting adjourned @ 8:27 p.m.

ATTEST:



Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees