



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS
DATE: JUNE 17, 2025
TIME: 7:08 P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS NAOMI CARNEY, CHAIR; IAN ABREU;
DEREK BAPTISTE; SHANE BURGO; MARIA GIESTA;
BRIAN GOMES; JOSEPH LOPES; SHAWN OLIVER;
RYAN PEREIRA

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS LEO CHOQUETTE; LINDA MORAD

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Councillor Carney called the Appointments & Briefings Committee meeting to order, took attendance, and explained that the meeting was being recorded and live-streamed. The Clerk read a Communication into the record from Councillor Choquette explaining his absence. The Communication was received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Burgo.

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PUBLIC HEARING on an APPLICATION, Eric Medeiros, d/b/a Hathaway Road Holdings, LLC, for a SPECIAL PERMIT for Motor Vehicle Light Service, at 366 Hathaway Road, New Bedford, MA 02740. (Application Received – April 24, 2025.) (Duly advertised in The Standard-Times on Tuesday, June 03, 2025 and Tuesday, June 10, 2025.)

On motion by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Oliver, the Committee VOTED: To receive and place on file the Motor Vehicle Special Permit application and open the public hearing.

The Chair recognized Steven Gioiosa of SITEC Engineering, who was representing the applicant. Mr. Gioiosa explained that the applicant would like to put a two-stall automated carwash in the location of the old Lickity Splits on Hathaway Road, near the off-ramp area of Route 140. It would consist of a new structure, new landscaping and the design would be architecturally appealing for the area. He went on to say that the Planning Board has approved the plans.

Councillor Oliver was concerned that due to the heavy traffic in that area, the proposed ingress and egress might cause a problem; he asked if the cuts could be made differently. He was told that they considered placing the entrance and exits differently, but the topography had traffic coming in at an odd angle. The Councillor asked what the anticipated amount of vehicles daily would be. Mr. Gioiosa answered it was projected between 50 to 150 vehicles per day, and added that the area has adequate parking.

Councillor Lopes asked if patrons would have monthly passes, as that could increase the number of patrons. He was told they would not.

Councilor Oliver asked Danny Romanowicz, Commissioner for the Department of Inspectional Services, if he had any concerns. Mr. Romanowicz stated that even though this area is a high-traffic area, the designs have a common sense approach in making it work.

The Chair asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak and/or be recorded in favor of the petition. There were none. The Chair asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak and/or be recorded in opposition of the petition. There were none.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Oliver, the Committee VOTED: To close the public hearing.

On motion by Councillor Oliver and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the APPLICATION, Eric Medeiros, d/b/a Hathaway Road Holdings, LLC, for a SPECIAL PERMIT for Motor Vehicle Light Service, at 366 Hathaway Road, New Bedford, MA 02740.

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COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, submitting a PETITION, **Dionne R. Reyes, Fall River, MA d/b/a SAVER'S THRIFT DEPT. STORE, 1014 King's Highway, New Bedford, MA**, requesting a Waiver of Residency in accordance with Section 15-38 of the City Code, to obtain a **LICENSE TO DEAL IN JUNK, OLD METALS OR ANY OTHER SECONDHAND ARTICLES**. (Matter ID #0540) (Referred – April 10, 2025.) (May 20, 2025 – tabled)

On motion by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To remove the item from the table.

The Chair recognized Dionne Reyes, the applicant, who stated that she had lived in New Bedford when she became the Manager of Saver's Thrift Store on King's Highway. She has since moved to Fall River and now that she has, the City requires that she receive a Waiver of Residency.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Burgo, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the PETITION, **Dionne R. Reyes, Fall River, MA d/b/a SAVER'S THRIFT DEPT. STORE, 1014 King's Highway, New Bedford, MA**, requesting a WAIVER OF RESIDENCY in accordance with Section 15-38 of the City Code, to obtain a **LICENSE TO DEAL IN JUNK, OLD METALS OR ANY OTHER SECONDHAND ARTICLES**.

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COMMUNICATION, City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council, submitting a PETITION, **Jerome Alferes, Mattapoisett, MA d/b/a TEMPTATIONS GUITARS AND COMICS, 2331B Acushnet Avenue, New Bedford, MA**, requesting a Waiver of Residency in accordance with Section 15-38 of the City Code, to obtain a **LICENSE TO DEAL IN JUNK, OLD METALS OR ANY OTHER SECONDHAND ARTICLES**. (Matter ID #0928) (Referred – May 22, 2025.)

The Chair recognized Jerome Alferes, the applicant, who explained that he runs a used guitar and comic book business in the City. Where he lives outside of the area, he is required to secure a Waiver of Residency to continue his operations.

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the PETITION, **Jerome Alferes, Mattapoisett, MA d/b/a TEMPTATIONS GUITARS AND COMICS, 2331B Acushnet Avenue, New Bedford, MA**, requesting a Waiver of Residency in accordance with Section 15-38 of the City Code, to obtain a **LICENSE TO DEAL IN JUNK, OLD METALS OR ANY OTHER SECONDHAND ARTICLES**.

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WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with MIS Director, John Costa, along with City Council Clerk Dennis Farias for the purposes of discussing the creation of a New Bedford City Council Facebook page along with a Twitter page, the creation of these two website pages will give the City Council the opportunity to make sure that it reports out work and proposals along with actions and Committee reports in addition to the work throughout the community and ceremonies that the City Council participate in throughout the New Bedford, these website pages could also contain news, faxes, and commentary from City Councillors; and further, that the City Council look into an internship program with local high schools and universities for the Council office in order to assist in making this proposal successful in getting all the information and faxes to the people of this great City. (Matter ID #0278) (Referred – February 09, 2023.) (April 18, 2023 – tabled)

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Burgo, the Committee VOTED: To remove the item from the table.

Councillor Gomes was recognized and lamented over the lack of press coverage as it relates to the City Council. He suggested that the creation of a Facebook page and Twitter account would help the public to know what the Council is doing. He has been told that the Office does not have the capacity to monitor such a request. Understanding this, he is recommending ‘No Further Action’ on the matter at this time.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Burgo, the Committee VOTED: To recommend that the City Council take **“NO FURTHER ACTION”** on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with MIS Director, John Costa, along with City Council Clerk Dennis Farias for the purposes of discussing the creation of a New Bedford City Council Facebook page along with a Twitter page, the creation of these two website pages will give the City Council the opportunity to make sure that it reports out work and proposals along with actions and Committee reports in addition to the work throughout the community and ceremonies that the City Council participate in throughout the New Bedford, these website pages could also contain news, faxes, and commentary from City Councillors; and further, that the City Council look into an internship program with local high schools and universities for the Council office in order to assist in making this proposal successful in getting all the information and faxes to the people of this great City.

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WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Pereira, requesting that Commissioner of Inspectional Services appear before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to discuss the new permitting system and the building permit process. (Matter ID #0357) (Referred – February 23, 2023.)

Councillor Pereira was recognized and explained that since the Motion was filed, Danny Romanowicz, Inspectional Services Commissioner, has provided him with the answers he was looking for. As such, he is recommending ‘No Further Action’ on the matter at this time.

On motion by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Burgo, the Committee VOTED: To recommend that the City Council take **“NO FURTHER ACTION”** on the WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Pereira, requesting that Commissioner of Inspectional Services appear before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings to discuss the new permitting system and the building permit process.

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WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Carney, Gomes, Abreu, Oliver, Council President Morad and Councillors Giesta and Markey, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with Wendy Morrill from the South Coast Neighbors United organization and Stephanie Sloan, Director of the Health Department, to speak on the South Coast Renewables, LLC (formerly known as “Parallel Products of New England”) project being proposed for the City of New Bedford. (Matter ID #1191) (Referred – June 22, 2023.) (July 18, 2023 – tabled)

On motion by Councillor Giesta and seconded by Councillor Pereira, the Committee VOTED: To remove the item from the table.

The Chair recognized Wendy Morrill of South Coast Neighbors United, who provided the Committee with a status update as to where the proposed business stands. Ms. Morrill submitted a letter and communication packet recently sent to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

On motion by Councillor Giesta and seconded by Councillor Oliver, the Committee VOTED: To receive and place on file the letter and packet submitted by Ms. Morrill.

Ms. Morrill explained that a decision has not yet been rendered by the State, although she has been informed that one may be rendered by the end of June. Once that decision is made, it will be sent to the New Bedford Board of Health for consideration. She expressed concern that MassDEP will simply rubberstamp the permits requested by South Coast Renewables. She stated that the recent fire at Harvey Waste, which resulted in smoke emissions into the air and a rat infestation in the area, could also happen at the proposed New Bedford Business Park.

Tracy Wallace, also of South Coast Neighbors United, was recognized and stated that she hopes the project will be rejected. She urged the Council to reach out to the City’s Board of Health and remind them that they have the power to prevent this type of project in the City and that they are charged with protecting the citizens of New Bedford from health concerns, like the ones they believe this project poses.

On motion by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To table the matter at this time.

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WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Gomes and Oliver, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with MBTA South Coast Rail officials for the purpose of discussing the safety of the Purchase Street Train corridor; the installation of safety fencing from Minuteman Car Wash, south and the support wall south on Purchase Street, from Penniman Street to the train station; and further, requesting that the Purchase Street support wall have the same façade as the train station. (Matter ID #0116) (Referred – January 25, 2024.)

The Clerk informed the Committee that the Office had received a Communication from Jean Fox, SouthCoast Rail Project Manager for MassDOT, stating that she would not be present at the meeting tonight, as she was not the appropriate person to participate in this particular discussion. The Clerk also informed the Committee that the Office had not received a response related to attendance from Meredith Slesinger, Rail & Transit Administrator for MassDOT.

Councillor Gomes expressed concern that no one was in attendance to discuss the issue. He stated he was going to move for ‘No Further Action’ on the matter.

Councillor Oliver expressed the same concerns as Councillor Gomes, which included downed fencing, support wall facades and overall cleanliness. He too expressed disappointment that no one was present at this meeting and suggested the item be tabled until such time a representative is able to appear.

Councillor Abreu stated that the Committee should also reach out to the State Delegation with their concerns as well.

Councillor Burgo stated that Ms. Fox has been very receptive to any questions the Council has had in the past and that if she felt she was not the correct person to address the Council's concerns, perhaps she could have attended to hear the concerns and then pass them along to the correct person.

On motion by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To table the matter at this time.

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The following matters were taken up together, without objection:

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Baptiste, requesting, on behalf of Consigli Construction, that the following street(s) be CLOSED: WILLIAM STREET, from Bethel Street to North Water Street (encompass full width of street; eastbound travel lane, three (3) metered parking spots and north sidewalk into construction site), ON MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025 AT 7:00 A.M. TO THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2026 AT 5:00 P.M., for the purpose of the demolition of a building, and the reconstruction and repair of sidewalks and street. **PLEASE NOTE: SOUTH SIDEWALK WILL REMAIN OPEN TO PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC THROUGHOUT CLOSURE PERIOD.** (Matter ID #0924) (Referred – May 22, 2025.)

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Baptiste, requesting, on behalf of Consigli Construction, that the following street(s) be OBSTRUCTED: a portion of NORTH WATER STREET, the southbound lane and west sidewalk, from William Street to 1/3 of the way to Elm Street, ON MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025 AT 7:00 A.M. TO THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2026 AT 5:00 P.M., for the purpose of the demolition of a building, and the reconstruction and repair of sidewalks and street. (Matter ID #0925) (Referred – May 22, 2025.)

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Baptiste, requesting, on behalf of Consigli Construction, that the following street(s) be OBSTRUCTED: a portion of BETHEL STREET, the northbound parking spots and east sidewalk, from William Street to about 1/3 of the way to Elm Street, ON MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025 AT 7:00 A.M. TO THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2026 AT 5:00 P.M., for the purpose of the demolition of a building, and the reconstruction and repair of sidewalks and street. (Matter ID #0926) (Referred – May 22, 2025.)

On motion by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Baptiste, the Committee VOTED: To receive and place on file an informational packet provided by the petitioner titled "Road Closure Request".

The Chair recognized Matthew Kaye of CSL Consulting and Matt Rymanowski, Project Superintendent for Consigli Construction. They are seeking approval for the closure of William Street from Bethel Street to North Water Street, including 1/3 of the way to Elm Street, to demolish an existing building and erect a new two-story building, which will be an annex of the Whaling Museum. The request for these closures will be from June 30, 2025 through December 31, 2026.

Councillor Lopes asked what the building timeline was, including a contingency timeline and equipment timeline. He was told they do have those timelines in place and provided the body with copies for reference. The contractors acknowledged that it is a busy and tight area, and stated that all in all, it would be a little over a year.

Councillor Pereira asked how traffic would be addressed on the North Water Street side of the project. He was told that they would be putting a Jersey barrier with fencing and a privacy screen down the middle of the street, which would allow for a single lane of traffic.

Councillor Giesta asked what time of day the construction would take place. She was told it would be Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm.

Councillor Baptiste asked if the contractors attended the abutter meetings with the Whaling Museum and asked what the abutters responses were to this project. He was told the biggest concerns were noise and residents in the area not being able to access their properties. These concerns lead to the request being modified to include the roads remaining open as well as foot-traffic access.

Councillor Baptiste asked Shawn Syde, City Engineer for the Department of Public Infrastructure, if the best plan was in place for this construction project. Mr. Syde answered that the City has met with all parties involved and they believe the best plan is in place. The City recognizes the need to have access to this area, which is very much a part of the tourism industry.

On motion by Councillor Baptiste and seconded by Councillor Burgo, the Committee VOTED: To recommend that the City Council GRANT the STREET CLOSING: WILLIAM STREET, from Bethel Street to North Water Street (encompass full width of street; eastbound travel lane, three (3) metered parking spots and north sidewalk into construction site), ON MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025 AT 7:00 A.M. TO THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2026 AT 5:00 P.M., for the purpose of the demolition of a building, and the reconstruction and repair of sidewalks and street. **PLEASE NOTE: SOUTH SIDEWALK WILL REMAIN OPEN TO PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC THROUGHOUT CLOSURE PERIOD.**

On motion by Councillor Baptiste and seconded by Councillor Burgo, the Committee VOTED: To recommend that the City Council GRANT the STREET OBSTRUCTION: A portion of NORTH WATER STREET, the southbound lane and west sidewalk, from William Street to 1/3 of the way to Elm Street, ON MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025 AT 7:00 A.M. TO THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2026 AT 5:00 P.M., for the purpose of the demolition of a building, and the reconstruction and repair of sidewalks and street.

On motion by Councillor Baptiste and seconded by Councillor Burgo, the Committee VOTED: To recommend that the City Council GRANT the STREET OBSTRUCTION: A portion of BETHEL STREET, the northbound parking spots and east sidewalk, from William Street to about 1/3 of the way to Elm Street, ON MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025 AT 7:00 A.M. TO THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2026 AT 5:00 P.M., for the purpose of the demolition of a building, and the reconstruction and repair of sidewalks and street.

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WRITTEN MOTION, Council President Burgo, requesting that the MassDOT team, Gareth Saunders, Liaison Government & Public Affairs, Valerie Kilduff, Project Manager, Design-Build Major Projects, City Planner Jennifer Carloni and DPI Commissioner Jamie Ponte, update the Committee on Appointments & Briefings on the Route I-195 to Route 18 Interchange Rehabilitation Project. (Referred – June 12, 2025.)

On motion by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Oliver, the Committee VOTED: To receive and place on file the presentation submitted by MassDOT titled “New Bedford I-195 / Route 18 Interchange Rehabilitation Project”.

Jennifer Carloni, Planning Director, was recognized and proceeded to introduce the MassDOT Project Team who would be presenting to the Committee this evening including, Valerie Kilduff, Project Manager; Gareth Saunders, Government & Public Affairs Liaison; Dan Mastrangelo, District 5; and Taylor O’Neill, Public Involvement.

An overview of the project background, project scope, construction timeline & impacts, and community engagement was provided. It was noted that in the Fall/Winter of 2023, MassDOT began community outreach on the project; in the Summer/Winter of 2024, MassDOT began the design build procurement; in the Spring of 2025, the design-builder contract was awarded; and the design was finalized in the Winter/Spring of 2025. This brings the project to the Summer of 2025, in which they will hold a public informational meeting and provide the community with the information that has been presented to the Committee at this meeting.

Ms. Kilduff gave an overview of the existing conditions contributing to the need to upgrade the I-195 / Route 18 Interchange including obsolete bridges, poor interchange functions and non-existent acceleration and deceleration lanes. She stated that although the bridge is safe, with repairs being done as recently as January of 2025, it does need to be replaced, as it has outlived its expectancy. The goal of the project is to replace obsolete structures, improve safety at the interchange and construct a noise barrier for the benefit of the community.

The Construction will be done in five phases:

Phase 1: Summer 2025 to Fall 2025

- Demolish existing median on I-195 bridges.
- Pave the I-195 median and construct westbound crossovers.
- Shift I-195 westbound traffic to temporary configuration on existing I-195 viaduct.

Phase 2: Fall 2025 to Fall 2027

- Demolish existing I-195 westbound viaduct superstructure, retaining wall and westbound ramps.
- Construct I-195 westbound and ramp viaduct structure, retaining walls, I-195 eastbound footings and columns.
- Construct Route 18 northbound ramps and stormwater basins.

Phase 3: Fall 2027

- Shift I-195 westbound traffic to completed westbound viaduct.
- Mill and pave the I-195 median for eastbound crossover.
- Shift I-195 eastbound traffic to completed westbound viaduct.

Phase 4: Winter 2027 to Summer 2029

- Demolish existing I-195 eastbound viaduct and eastbound ramp.
- Construct I-195 eastbound viaduct and eastbound ramp.
- Construct stormwater basins, parking lot and skate park.

Phase 5: Summer 2029 to Spring 2030

- Shift I-195 eastbound and westbound traffic to final alignments on proposed structures.
- Construct I-195 eastbound and westbound medians.
- Final paving, signing, pavement marking and landscape.

Ms. Kilduff went over temporary traffic considerations, construction mitigation, and the community engagement process, which begins with this presentation before elected officials. The next steps include public information meetings, a dedicated website, email and phone hotline, regular project update emails and special advisories to subscribers. She also provided the Committee with ways to connect for project updates using email or by visiting the project website.

Councillor Oliver asked if the sound wall design would be discussed with the abutters that would be affected. He was told yes, and that the discussion would also include the design and color. The Councillor asked if they had met with the School Department and Hayden-McFadden personnel. He was told that both have been a part of the project discussion. One of the main concerns was parking at the school and as a result of that discussion, half of the parking lot will remain open for the length of the project and the road will remain open to accommodate busses. Signage will also be major part of keeping the public informed.

Councillor Pereira asked about the Route 18 South, 195-eastbound closure during Phase 1. He was told that 195 westbound to 18 southbound would be closed. You would need to pass the exit to get onto 140 southbound to get back on I-195 eastbound to access 18 southbound.

Councillor Baptiste questioned the detour plan, stating that this would more than likely create an influx of traffic on City streets. He asked if the detour study took place during the busiest traffic times. He was told the project team compiled all the necessary data, including peak traffic times, in developing the detour plan.

Councillor Lopes opined that if traffic on I-195 westbound misses their intended exit, it will more than likely increase traffic at the 140 / Route 6 intersection.

Councillor Carney asked if the construction would be done at night. She was told that for the most part no, so as not to disturb the abutters in the area. Most if not all of the work would take place during the day, with the exception of perhaps construction material drop-offs, which could happen overnight to have product ready for use during the day.

Councillor Burgo thanked MassDOT for presenting at this meeting and asked when the public information meeting would be held. He was told June 26, 2025 at 6:00 pm, online.

On motion by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend that the City Council take **“NO FURTHER ACTION”** on the WRITTEN MOTION, Council President Burgo, requesting that the MassDOT team, Gareth Saunders, Liaison Government & Public Affairs, Valerie Kilduff, Project Manager, Design-Build Major Projects, City Planner Jennifer Carloni and DPI Commissioner Jamie Ponte, update the Committee on Appointments & Briefings on the Route I-195 to Route 18 Interchange Rehabilitation Project.

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Councillor Pereira made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councillor Burgo.

This meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence Jr.
Clerk of Committees