



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2026

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS IAN ABREU, CHAIR; LEO CHOQUETTE; BRIAN GOMES; RYAN PEREIRA; JAMES ROY

ABSENT: NO ONE

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Councillor Abreu called the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs meeting to order, took attendance, and explained that the meeting was being recorded and live-streamed.

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WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Choquette, requesting that Jamie Ponte, Commissioner for the Department of Public Infrastructure, and James Costa, Wastewater Superintendent, appear before the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs to discuss the events contributing to the shellfish bed closures in Fairhaven, and affecting other adjacent communities, due to the overflow of sewage leaking into our coastal waters. (Matter ID #0428) (Referred – March 26, 2024.)

On motion by Councillor Choquette and seconded by Councillor Pereira, the Committee VOTED: To recommend that the City Council take **“NO FURTHER ACTION”** on the matter at this time.

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WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Choquette, requesting that Wendy Morrill and Tracy Wallace of South Coast Neighbors United appear before the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs to present community-based waste solutions for Greater New Bedford. (Matter ID #0429) (Referred – March 26, 2024.)

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

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On motion by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To follow the Chair’s recommendation and take **“NO FURTHER ACTION”** on the following matters:

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Gomes, Dunn, Giesta, Lima, Abreu, Coelho, Carney, Markey and Lopes, 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.) (Matter ID #0214) (Referred – February 13, 2020.) (April 21, 2021 – tabled)

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. (Matter ID #0687) (Referred – June 11, 2020.) (April 21, 2021 – tabled) (September 27, 2022 – tabled)

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Morad, requesting, that the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs meet with City Solicitor Mikaela McDermott and Director of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship Michele Paul, to obtain a full briefing regarding the City's ongoing legal position and financial exposure resulting from the Mass DEP and EPA contamination site at Bliss Corner. (Matter ID #0228) (Referred – January 27, 2022.) (September 27, 2022 – tabled 30 days) (November 09, 2022 – tabled 9 months)

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence Jr.
Clerk of Committees