

PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 9, 2004

A meeting of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee was held on Thursday, September 9, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Chair James R. Tollner presided.

Members of the Committee present:

Alderman-at-Large David Rootovich

Members Not in Attendance:

Alderman Kevin E. Gage, Vice Chair

Alderman-at-Large Steven A. Bolton

Alderman Richard D. LaRose

Also in Attendance:

Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane

Chairman Tollner

Alderman LaRose is upstairs attending a Planning Board meeting. I will take the role of Clerk myself.

Alderman Deane is here to make a quorum. Thank you Alderman Deane.

INTERVIEWS

Nashua Housing Authority

Kathleen Donaghue (New Appointment)

Term to Expire:

October 14, 2007

Chairman Tollner

Please come forward, state your name and address for the record. If you could take a second and just let the committee know why you have interest in serving on the Nashua Housing Authority.

Kathleen Donaghue, 3 Jennifer Drive, Nashua

Right now it is really important for me to get involved in the community. I want to set an example for my children. I think it is a great opportunity for me and for them to really understand the importance of being a part of it.

Chairman Tollner

Are you familiar with how often they meet?

Kathleen Donaghue

They meet once a month on Friday. Actually the next meeting is next Friday, which I will be attending to observe.

Chairman Tollner

You know what their responsibilities are?

Kathleen Donaghue

Yes.

Chairman Tollner

I see from your resume you work at Citizen's Bank. I know that Citizen's Bank is the bank for the Housing Authority. Have you had an opportunity to be involved with the Housing Authority on a financial basis?

Kathleen Donaghue

Not at all. They actually all of their accounts are housed out of Manchester at the government banking. It has nothing to do with me.

Chairman Tollner

If, however, down the road a year or two years from now you are presented with that you would feel comfortable recusing yourself from participating in any business dealings?

Kathleen Donaghue

Absolutely.

Chairman Tollner

Thank you.

Alderman Deane

Do they have a conflict of interest policy in place over there?

Chairman Tollner

I think it is probably the same as it is for us. It is not a separate one, but as a standing committee I am sure it is the same as what we get. I can check into that.

Alderman Deane

This is a new appointment. Who is leaving the Housing Authority?

Chairman Tollner

I don't want to say it is – I don't want to say it is Pastor because I think that was a while back.

Alderman Deane

She is still on.

Alderman Tollner

She was not re-appointed. If she is still on she can still serve until a replacement is voted upon. If she is still serving now that is who it is because I was told that she was not re-appointed. I could be wrong.

Alderman Rootovich

Was it Mr. Marcoux?

Chairman Tollner

I forget the woman's name who happens to – there is a representative that lives in one of the buildings that the Nashua Housing Authority runs. I will find out for you Alderman Deane before the next meeting. Are there any questions for committee members?

Alderman Rootovich

I just want to thank her. I appreciate your willingness to serve. Good luck with your endeavors.

Kathleen Donaghue

Thank you.

Chairman Tollner

Do you have any questions of us?

Kathleen Donaghue

I don't.

Chairman Tollner

What we will do is we will vote on your position tonight and a number of other people. Those recommendations will be sent to the full Board, and at the full Board we will be voting on you and after that approval you will be sworn in. You will get a notice. Given the fact that it is Thursday I don't think that you will be appearing on the agenda for this coming Tuesday's meeting, but probably the fourth Tuesday in September.

Kathleen Donaghue

Thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS – None

APPLICATION TO LICENSE HAWKER'S, PEDDLER'S, ITINERANT VENDOR'S LICENSE - None

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR

Board of Registrars

Kathryn K. Fogal (Re-Appointment)
December 31, 2006
38 Whitford Road
Nashua, NH 03062

Term to Expire:

MOTION BY ALDERMAN ROOTOVICH TO RECOMMEND THE CONFIRMATION OF KATHRYN K. FOGAL TO THE BOARD OF REGISTRARS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2006
MOTION CARRIED

Building Code/Board of Appeals

Daniel D. Bergeron (Re-Appointment)
27 Webster Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire:

March 31, 2005

Alvin B. Corzilius (Re-Appointment)
39 Stark Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire:

March 31, 2005

Gerard Roberge (Re-Appointment)
23 Almont Street
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire:

March 31, 2005

I am glad to see that the Mayor has brought forth Mrs. Lasky's name for re-appointment. I think she does a great job with the Nashua City Planning Board and I look forward to supporting her at the full Board level as well.

Chairman Tollner

I too am glad that the Mayor has changed his mind and appointed her. I think she does a good job on the Planning Board and has dedicated a lot of time to the city over the years.

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

HELD IN COMMITTEE

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DEANE TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE O-04-17

MOTION CARRIED

O-04-17

Endorsers: Alderman Marc W. Plamondon

Alderman Robert A. Dion

Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane

Alderman-at-Large David Rootovich

UPDATING THE ABANDONED VEHICLES ORDINANCE

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DEANE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

What this ordinance basically does is it updates the abandoned vehicle ordinance by increasing the fine to include a cost of towing to assist the city in collecting its reimbursement of the city's outlay of towing costs. That way we are not paying for the towing fee it is coming out of the collection reimbursement. It also deletes the last subsection, which says any person who abandons a motor vehicle on private property shall be liable to the owner of the property for the cost of removal, storage, and disposal of said vehicle. That tended to be a problem where people were leaving vehicles on private property and you call the police department and they wouldn't touch them. They would tag them, but you couldn't get them moved. They would have to wait I believe it was 24 hours or 48 hours for them to contact the owner of the vehicle and in the meantime it didn't matter where the vehicle was left. I had a problem – we were doing a job where we had a bulldozer on site and we were peeling up the roadway and we had \$300,000 worth of equipment sitting there because somebody had parked a car there and left it there. Come to find out they were up at Riviere College, but the police their hands are tied and they can't do anything about it. It would allow that to be done.

What it states from the analysis from Corporation Counsel is deleting the last subsection since it is usually the city not the owner of the private property who removes the abandoned vehicle from private property and has to pay the cost of removal and then seek reimbursement from the last owner of the vehicle. If proper notice is posted under RSA 262:40-A requires the city to cause the removal of a vehicle from private property if requested by the owner or person in lawful possession of the private property. It gives the homeowners the right to have the vehicle removed from their property if it is abandoned there.

Chairman Tollner

Is there any further discussion?

MOTION CARRIED

DISCUSSION

Alderman Deane

I would like to bring to the attention of the citizens in Nashua that on Thursday, September 16, 2004 at Nashua High School North Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. there will be a special public meeting of the Board of Assessors. The two items on the agenda will be a board presentation of the 2004 assessment valuation update and the second item is they are asking for public questions and/or comments. I think this is a very important meeting. There are areas of the assessments within the city that have not been done in 3-4 years. The citizens will see some substantial increases in their tax bills associated with the assessed value along with the millions of dollars that need to be raised to pay for the city budget. I think it would be imperative for any and all citizens who have concerns about their upcoming tax bill. Your next tax bill will reflect the new assessment.

I attended the Board of Assessors meeting this afternoon and quit frankly I was disappointed with some of the answers I was getting to some of the questions I was asking. I think a detailed explanation by this administration is owed to the citizenry of why and when things went so terribly wrong. The Board of Assessors plan on doing that along with the administration. I would hope the Mayor would attend as well along with Maureen Lemieux and Chief Assessor, Angelo Marino.

What I plan on doing in the next month or two is helping with the abatement process because I think a lot of citizens are going to be getting tax bills where they are going to see substantial increases, and they might not agree with the new assessment on the value of their property. They do have rights to move forward and contest these new assessed values. I want to make sure that everyone in the community understands the process and not to shy away from it because it is their right as a property owner to contest the assessed value of their property put forth by the city. Thank you.

Chairman Tollner

I would like to thank the Mayor. I think he is going to take the lead on this in scheduling this meeting. I think a couple of us, myself included, sent a memo to the Mayor last week. I sent a memo to the Mayor and requested from the Mayor and from President McCarthy that we schedule a

meeting for the public to at least initiate discussion on this process. I agree with you Alderman Deane this re-assessment of the city, and I remember what it was like 10 years ago – it was a considerable effort – of course a lot of concern for people. I do think it is going to have a significant impact on some homeowners' tax rate. I think that we should make sure that we do everything possible to respond to the requests, concerns, issues that might come up during this process from the citizens. You are absolutely right if anybody has any questions they should contact the Assessor's Office to get those questions answered. I do think that this meeting next week is the start of it. I would hope that the people that you mentioned – I know the Mayor will be attending, Maureen Lemieux will be attending – I hope Angelo comes to the meeting prepared to answer some questions both from the Board of Aldermen as well as the public. What I would like to see answered at the meeting is really let's backtrack and see what has transpired over the last 2-3 years because there is going to be a dramatic impact on the tax rate when we have not done a re-evaluation of these properties in over 4 years. We have been told that bit-by-bit that the shift is once again going to go from commercial and more of the burden will be shared by the residents. We need to do whatever we have to do to make sure that people fully understand the impacts and they have a legitimate length of time to digest the information that they are going to be given. I want to thank the Mayor again for scheduling it and taking the lead on this.

Alderman Rootovich

I would just hope if I am hearing some of the preliminary numbers that those taxes will go up anywhere between 25-30% on some of these tax bills – that the city will be patient come December in collecting those funds. It is kind of a shock for an individual to get a \$500-\$600 increase in their tax bill when they are not expecting it.

Chairman Tollner

I would agree with you.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN ROOTOVICH TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared closed at 7:18 p.m.

Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
Committee Clerk Pro Tem