

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 19, 2022**  
**Meeting held remotely due to COVID 19 Pandemic Restrictions**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:** President Homar Gomez, Vice-President Salem Derby, Daniel Rist, Owen Zaret, Lindsey Rothschild, Thomas Peake, Koni Denham and Brad Riley. Councilor James Kwiecinski was absent.

**Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Approval of Minutes:** On motion made by Councilor Rist and seconded by Councilor Peake it was voted (by roll call) to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2021 and December 15, 2021 meetings. Councilors Denham and Riley abstained as they were not on the council at that time.

On motion made by Councilor Rist and seconded by Councilor Zaret it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to approve the minutes of the January 3 and 5, 2022 meetings.

**Public Speak Time Summary:**

- Deb Friedman spoke about her concerns over the new LED lights that have been installed on some streets. She thought they should be turned off until they can be dimmed.
- Maddie McDougall spoke about scholarships that are available for teen artists at Resilient Community Arts located in the Eastworks building. The scholarships would cover 4 sessions per month. She said they offer other programs as well.
- Wally Rapalus of South Hampshire Street spoke about marketing for the municipality and public procurement. He was advised to discuss his ideas with the Mayor's office or individual councilors.

**Communications:** None.

On motion made by Councilor Rist and seconded by Councilor Derby it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to open the public hearings.

<b>PUBLIC HEARINGS – STARTING AT 6:15 p.m.</b>
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1. **Pole Location – 20/30 Ballard Street (continued from the Dec. 1 & 15, 2021 meetings):**  
Councilor Zaret gave an overview of this pole location request, which was first introduced in early December. While the Property Committee had voted to recommend placement of the pole and transformer pads at that time, a neighbor's concerns had delayed action. Since then, Councilor Zaret said the utility company representative has spoken to the neighbor and her concerns over what was being dug up have been answered.

On motion made by Councilor Zaret and seconded by Councilor Peake it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) to approve the request by Eversource to install 1

solely owned pole on the west side of Ballard St. across from 25 Ballard St. and underground conduit and cable to two pad mount transformers. Pole 5/7 will be located approximately 729 ft. south of Lyman St. and 20 feet from the centerline of Ballard St. Pad 5/8P will be approximately 649 ft. south of Lyman St. and 20 feet from the centerline of Ballard St. Pad 5/9P will be approximately 449 ft. south of Lyman St. and 20 ft. from the centerline of Ballard St. The purpose of this pole and pads is to bring power to four new houses. Petitioner agrees to reserve space for one crossarm at a suitable point on the pole for fire and police telephone signal wires and for future municipal purposes to be used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

2. **Joint Pole Location – 45 Park Street:** Councilor Zaret this request for a jointly owned pole would to be upgrade services to buildings on the Williston campus. It would be a mid-span pole. The Property Committee had voted 3 to 0 to recommend its placement.

On motion made by Councilor Zaret and seconded by Councilor Rothschild it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) to approve the request by Eversource and Verizon New England, Inc. to install one jointly owned pole 130/14M to be located 5' west of the edge of pavement on Park St. and 50' southwest of existing pole 130/14 to upgrade service for 45 Park Street. Petitioners agree to reserve space for one crossarm at a suitable point on the pole for fire and police telephone signal wires and for future municipal purposes to be used by it exclusively for municipal purposes.

3. **Amend City Ordinances – Chpt. 7, Sec. 7-18 (Classification & Pay Plan Exhibit B):** Councilor Rist said that in order to implement a pay increase (COLA) for pay plan employees, Exhibit B must be updated in addition to approving an appropriation. The funding was approved in December, but the ordinance had been inadvertently omitted. The pay increase would be retroactive to January 1, 2022.

On motion made by Councilor Rist and seconded by Councilor Peake it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) to amend the City Ordinances, Chapter 7, Article II “Classification and Pay Plan”, Section 7-18 by substituting Exhibit B, Salary and Wage Scale, as on file in the Office of the City Clerk, dated July 1, 2019, with the attached Exhibit B, Salary and Wage Scale, dated January 1, 2022, and to establish the effective date of said substitution as January 1, 2022.

4. **Supplemental Appropriation – Water Meter Replacement:** Second reading by Councilor Rist on the request to appropriate funds for water meter replacement. Recommended 3 to 0 by the Finance Committee. This is a standard appropriation approved each year.

On motion made by Councilor Rist and seconded by Councilor Peake it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) to appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 from Enterprise Retained Earnings to FY '22 Water Meters (#060.4510.5537.2022) to replace approximately 250 water meters. Cost per meter varies based on size and type. A standard residential size meter with integrated radio reading capability is approximately \$200.00.

5. **Supplemental Appropriation – Miscellaneous repairs to the city’s waste water system:** Second reading by Councilor Rist on the request to appropriate funds towards the replacement of a number of components of the city’s waste water system. Recommended 3 to 0 by the Finance Committee.

DPW Superintendent Greg Nuttleman said the Waste Water Treatment Plant was built in the 1950’s and while there have been upgrades, much of the equipment is past its expected service life. Parts are therefore hard to come by, he said. He admitted that even these repairs are “bandaids” and that upgrading would be a multi-million dollar project. He said the city needs to start investing in its infrastructure.

On motion made by Councilor Rist and seconded by Councilor Denham it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) to appropriate the sum of \$112,000.00 from Enterprise Retained Earnings to FY ’22 WWTP Miscellaneous Repairs (#060.4461.5813.2022) to replace the following components of the city’s Waste Water System: grit chamber bucket elevators, Dezurik air actuated valves, Ashley Circle Lift Station redundant pump, cellular SCADA communications terminals and the WWTP Process Water Strainer.

6. **Supplemental Appropriation – Charles St. sewer improvements:** Second reading by Councilor Rist on the request to appropriate funds to cover sewer improvements on Charles Street that were not able to be done with CDBG grant funding. Recommended 3 to 0 Finance Committee.

On motion made by Councilor Rist and seconded by Councilor Denham it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) to appropriate the sum of \$42,655.00 from Enterprise Retained Earnings to FY ’22 Charles Street CDBG Sewer Improvements (#060.4411.5812.2022) to fund improvements to the sewer and drainage systems on Charles Street that could not be covered with CDBG grant funding. This work included the replacement of all sanitary sewer and storm water infrastructure.

7. **CPA Supplemental Appropriation – Skate Park Design:** Second reading by Councilor Rist on the request to appropriate CPA funds for designs, construction costs and meeting expenses for a new skate park at 32-50 Payson Avenue. Recommended 3 to 0 by the Finance Committee and 8 to 0 by the CPA Committee.

Councilor Rist said this funding would cover design of a new skate park. It would enable the city to seek future grants for the construction phase. The company hired to do the design will consider concerns over taking away parking and will also look at including a rail trail connector. While there have been some preliminary site plans done, they are all tentative at this time, Councilor Rist said.

City Planner Jeff Bagg said this project comes out of the Open Space and Recreation Plan and is being supported by a volunteer group who has already formed a 501c3 to support its future maintenance. He said it would diversify the recreational offerings of the city beyond the parks

and recreation properties. It is hoped by July a preferred design could be completed. Councilor Zaret said he had worked with the group and Councilor Riley said he thought they had a solid business proposal and he was excited about the project. Councilor Derby said the park was “a long time coming”.

On motion made by Councilor Rist and seconded by Councilor Peake it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) to appropriate the sum of \$42,500.00 from the CPA Undesignated Fund (#024.0024.3590) to Skate Park Design (#024.2980.5400.2601) to create conceptual designs, construction cost estimates and hold five community meetings at various stages of the process, for a new skate park at 32-50 Payson Avenue.

8. **Supplemental Appropriation – Community Compact IT Grant:** Second reading by Councilor Rist on the request to appropriate funds to supplement grant funding for deploying a Public Safety IT computer suite including data conversion/migration, licenses and support. Recommended 3 to 0 by the Finance Committee.

Councilor Rist said this program will not be predictive software, not “AI” and wouldn’t target anyone. It is about data and data analysis, he said. The Mayor’s Pledge encouraged engaging in robust data gathering and transparency and this new software system should do that, he said.

IT Director Karin Camihort said the current servers in the Public Safety Complex have reached the end of their life and the IT grant and this supplemental funding would allow the city to “go for the Cadillac”, she said. The Central Square system is “top of the line”, she said. The data transfer should be easy because the company understands the database. They would provide the software, servers and training.

Councilor Rothschild asked who would make sure the community benefits; who will make sure it happens. Ms. Camihort said the system offers a public portal, it just needs to be implemented.

Councilor Denham asked whether the Public Safety Committee would have be able to provide input. Councilor Rist thought there could be reports provided. Councilor Zaret said this system will be more robust and will therefore be able to respond more quickly to public records searches. Councilor Peake reminded councilors the vote tonight was only on the appropriation but he expects there will be an ongoing conversation and that this isn’t the end of the discussion.

On motion made by Councilor Rist and seconded by Councilor Zaret it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) to appropriate the sum of \$144,327.29 from Cannabis Stabilization (Fund #087) to FY ’22 Community Compact IT Grant (#026.1451.4976.6170.2022) to supplement the cost of deploying a state of the art public safety suite including data conversion/migration, licenses, and support. Central Square Pro is the #1 public safety software. CSPro integrates data across the system, from 911 to CAD, to Mobile, to Records,

to Jail, to administrative tasks. Critical information flows easily, no need for switching. It is powerful, yet easy to use, one application, one system, one database, and one password. The analytics module provides powerful reporting tools, mapping-based analysis, AI and machine learning for proactive insights, charts and graphs for intelligent policing. With more automation and better use of data the public is better informed and the agency better equipped to accomplish its mission. Through its portal, our Dispatch, Police, Fire and EMS services will be more accessible, approachable and outwardly responsive.

9. **Union Street TIP project – easements and order of taking:** Councilor Zaret reported the Property Committee had voted 3 to 0 in favor of the easements and order of taking involved in the Union Street reconstruction project. Some of the easements along the street are temporary (for five years) and other are permanent. Some owners are donating the property, but for others, the city must offer the fair market value to the owners. Funding for the easements had been approved by the council in December.

City Planner Bagg said the initial study to reconstruct the street was done in 2015. In 2018, the city met with property owners and in 2020 the 25% design public hearing was held. In 2021, the 100% public hearing was held. The process must follow the steps set forth by the MA DOT, Mr. Bagg said. Donations of easements (temporary and permanent) were made by: Charles Edward Realty Trust, Chamber of Commerce, Easthampton Congregational Church, Easthampton Mahadev, LLC, Easthampton Savings Bank, RAB Holdings, LLC, Center for Human Development, Inc, Williston Northampton School and the City of Easthampton.

Mr. Bagg said hopefully the project can be put out to bid in March with construction beginning in the late spring or early summer.

President Gomez asked “why five year easements?” Mr. Bagg said it is a MA DOT requirement and is a safety measure to insure the job is complete before easements expire.

At this time, Councilor Zaret made the following four motions:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VOTE RELATIVE TO APPROPRIATION FOR EMINENT DOMAIN TAKING FOR EXPANSION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF UNION STREET, A PUBLIC WAY IN EASTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS</b></p>
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On motion made by Councilor Zaret and seconded by Councilor Rist it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) that the City Council for the City of Easthampton, Massachusetts:

1. Appropriate up to \$89,500.00 from the Union Street Corridor Capital Project Fund (054) to pay the cost of acquisition, by conveyance, exchange or eminent domain taking, the real property described in the “Order of Taking” for the purposes described in the Order of Taking for the Easthampton Union Street Corridor Project (“Order of Taking”); and
2. That this Vote shall take effect upon passage.

**VOTE RELATIVE TO THE CITY OF EASTHAMPTON'S DONATION OF LAND FOR THE  
EXPANSION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF UNION STREET, A PUBLIC WAY IN  
EASTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

On motion made by Councilor Zaret and seconded by Councilor Rist it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) that the City Council for the City of Easthampton, Massachusetts:

1. Donate certain easements over real property owned by the City shown on the Plan and detailed in Exhibit A to the Order of Taking for the purpose of reconstructing and expanding Union Street, a public way in the City; and
2. That this Vote shall take effect upon passage.

**VOTE RELATIVE TO EMINENT DOMAIN TAKING FOR EXPANSION AND RECONSTRUCTION  
OF UNION STREET, A PUBLIC WAY IN  
EASTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

On motion made by Councilor Zaret and seconded by Councilor Rist it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) that the City Council for the City of Easthampton, Massachusetts:

1. Approve and adopt the following Order of Taking:

"ORDER OF TAKING  
Expansion and Reconstruction of Union Street  
A Public Way in Easthampton, Massachusetts

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Hampshire, ss.  
City of Easthampton

**WHEREAS**, the City of Easthampton, Massachusetts ("City") is a public body and corporate, organized and existing pursuant to the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, with offices at 50 Payson Avenue, Easthampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 40, Section 14; Chapter 79, Section 1 *et. seq.*; and Chapter 82, Section 24 of the Massachusetts General Laws and other applicable statutes, and of any and every power and authority to it, granted or implied, and the Charter for the City of Easthampton, the City has the power to purchase, lease, take by eminent domain or otherwise acquire real property or any interest therein; and

**WHEREAS**, accordingly, the City desires to expand and reconstruct all or portions of Union Street as shown on a plan of land entitled "Plan Of Easements To Be Taken By The City of Easthampton, Massachusetts Hampshire County Showing Location Of Easements For The Union Street Improvement Project" dated December 17, 2021 recorded in the Registry of Deeds for Hampshire County, Massachusetts ("Plan") at Plan Book 251, Page 47 which Plan is expressly incorporated herein by reference; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has determined that, consistent with the valid public purposes described above, it wishes to acquire an interest in certain real property shown on the Plan as further identified in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein; and

**WHEREAS**, appraisals of the Property to be taken have been completed in compliance with M.G.L. c. 79 and all other relevant and applicable laws; and

**WHEREAS**, approval to acquire said land and an appropriation of the necessary funds has been made by the City Council of the City.

**NOW THEREFORE**, it is Ordered that acting through and under the above cited authority, and pursuant to the powers set forth in those Acts, Charter and Statute, and all other authority thereunto enabling, and pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 14; Chapter 79, Section 1 *et. seq.*; and Chapter 82, Section 24 of the Massachusetts General Laws and the Charter for the City of Easthampton and other applicable statutes, and of any and every power and authority to it, granted or implied, the City of Easthampton hereby takes for the above stated purposes the interest in certain real property shown on the Plan and as described in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference (“Taking”).

All land is owned, or supposed to be owned, by the individual or entity specifically identified in Exhibit A, under the heading “Owner” attached hereto and incorporated herein. If the name of the Owner is not correctly stated, the name of the supposed Owner, being given as of this Order of Taking, it is understood that in such instance the land referred to is owned by an owner or owners unknown.

All land is taken either in fee simple, or by way of permanent or temporary easement, as specifically identified in Exhibit A, under the heading “Interest Taken” attached hereto and incorporated herein.

No betterments are to be assessed under this Taking.

The City of Easthampton also takes all trees, structures and improvements on each of the forgoing properties shown on the Plan and Exhibit A, except as otherwise provided therein.

EXCEPTING FROM the rights taken from the real property identified on the Plan and Exhibit A are all easements for wires, pipes, conduits, poles and other appurtenances for the conveyance of water, sewerage, gas, oil, steam, electricity and telephone communications and other utilities now lawfully in or upon the land.

We have determined that damages are sustained by the entity whose property is Taken by this Order as more fully set forth above, and accordingly we award damages pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws c. 79, § 6 to said individual or entity.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that a representative of the City of Easthampton shall record this Order of Taking and a Clerk's Certificate documenting the due execution of the taking vote of the City Council in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, in Northampton, Massachusetts, within thirty (30) days from its final passage, and shall notify the Treasurer and Collector of Taxes in the City of Easthampton of this Taking in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 79, and

shall cause notice of the Taking to be given to all persons entitled thereto and do all things necessary for the validity of this Order.”

2. Award eminent domain damages for the properties affected by the Order of Taking in the amounts detailed in Exhibit A to the Order of Taking.
3. Accept the donation of certain real property rights by the record owners of properties affected by the Order of Taking as described in Exhibit A to the Order of Taking.
4. Authorize the Mayor of the City as necessary, to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments relative to taking of the real property described in the Order of Taking, as may be necessary, on behalf of the City to effectuate said eminent domain taking(s); and alternatively the Clerk of the City Council is authorized to execute any and all instruments relative to the taking of the Property, as may be necessary, on behalf of the City to effectuate said eminent domain taking.
5. Authorize the Mayor of this City, or her representative, to record the Order of Taking and a Clerk's Certificate documenting the due execution of the Taking of this Vote of the City Council in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, in Northampton, Massachusetts, within thirty (30) days from its final passage, and thereafter notify the Treasurer and Collector of Taxes in the City of Easthampton of this Taking in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 79, and shall cause notice of the Taking to be given to all persons entitled thereto and do all things necessary for the validity of this Order.
6. That this Vote shall take effect upon passage.

<b>RESOLUTION REGARDING THE EXPANSION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF UNION STREET – A PUBLIC WAY IN EASTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS</b>
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On motion made by Councilor Zaret and seconded by Councilor Rist it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) to approve the Resolution to Acquire by Eminent Domain Taking Certain Real Property Identified on a Plan of Land Entitled: "Plan of Easements To Be Taken By the City of Easthampton, Easthampton, Massachusetts, Hampshire County Showing Location Of Easements For The Union Street Improvement Project", as follows:

**Expansion and Reconstruction of Union Street**  
**A Public Way in Easthampton, Massachusetts.**

**A RESOLUTION TO ACQUIRE BY EMINENT DOMAIN TAKING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED ON A  
PLAN OF LAND ENTITLED**

“Plan of Easements To Be Taken By The City of Easthampton  
Easthampton, Massachusetts Hampshire County  
Showing Location Of Easements For The Union Street Improvement Project”

**Whereas:** The City of Easthampton, Massachusetts (“City”) desires to expand and reconstruct all or portions of Union Street as shown on a plan of land entitled “Plan Of Easements To Be Taken By The City of

Easthampton, Massachusetts Hampshire County Showing Location Of Easements For The Union Street Improvement Project” dated December 17, 2021 to be recorded in the Registry of Deeds for Hampshire County, Massachusetts (“Plan”), which Plan is expressly incorporated herein by reference; (collectively “Property”).

**Whereas:** It is necessary for the City to acquire by eminent domain taking certain parcels of land as shown on the Plan and as further detailed in Exhibit A to the Order of Taking (collectively “Order”) such Order to be recorded in the Registry of Deeds for Hampshire County, Massachusetts; and

**Whereas:** Chapter 40, Section 14; Chapter 79, Section 1 *et. seq.*; and Chapter 82, Section 24 of the Massachusetts General Laws and other applicable statutes, and of any and every power and authority to it, granted or implied and the Charter for the City allow the City to acquire real property by eminent domain for municipal purposes; and

**Whereas:** The City Council has determined it is in the best interests of the City to obtain the Property shown on the Plan and detailed in the Order for the purpose of reconstructing and expanding Union Street, a public way in the City; and

**Whereas:** The City Council has determined it is in the best interests of the City to donate certain easements over real property owned by the City shown on the Plan and detailed in the Order for the purpose of reconstructing and expanding Union Street, a public way in the City; and

**Whereas:** The Mayor of the City be authorized to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments relative to the acquisition of the Property, as may be necessary, on behalf of the City to affect said taking; and

**Whereas:** The Clerk of the City Council be authorized to execute all instruments relative to the taking of the Property, as may be necessary, on behalf of the City to affect said taking; and

**Whereas:** To meet said purchase, exchange or taking of the Property, it is necessary to appropriate funds in the amount of up to \$89,590.00 from the Union Street Corridor Capital Project Fund (054), or to accept the donation of certain easements or other property rights as detailed in Exhibit A to the Order with the approval of the City Council.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. An amount not to exceed \$89,590.00 is hereby appropriated from the Union Street Corridor Capital Project Fund (054) to acquire the real property detailed on said Plan and Order, such Plan and Order are incorporated herein by reference and are to be recorded in the Registry of Deeds for Hampshire County, Massachusetts; and
2. The City hereby donates the Easements and other property rights for the real property owned by the City shown on the Plan and as “Donation” on Exhibit A to the Order by eminent domain taking for the purposes stated therein; and
3. The City hereby accepts the donation of the Easements or other property rights shown as “Donation” on Exhibit A to the Order by eminent domain taking; and
4. The Mayor of the City is authorized, as necessary, to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments relative to taking of the Property, as may be necessary, on behalf of the City to effectuate said eminent domain taking; and
5. Alternatively, the Clerk of the City Council is authorized to execute any and all instruments relative to the

taking of the Property, as may be necessary, on behalf of the City to effectuate said eminent domain taking;  
and

6. The City Council adopts the Order incorporated herein by reference; and
7. That this Resolution shall take effect upon passage.

On motion made by Councilor Rist and seconded by Councilor Zaret it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to close the public hearings.

**Mayor Communications** – None.

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

**FINANCE:** Councilor Rist said the Finance Committee will meet next on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Councilor Zaret said the Public Safety Committee will meet next on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 p.m. He reminded councilors of the public hearing set for Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> on the request to restrict parking on Welmelco Way.

On motion made by Councilor Zaret and seconded by Councilor Derby it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to extend the following two agenda items by 90 days:

- Request to review safety of the sidewalk on South St. at the Main Street intersection
- Ordinance Review Committee’s final report

**APPOINTMENTS:** Councilor Rothschild said the Appointments Committee had met twice to discuss two groups of Mayoral appointments. They had approved the first two new appointments by a vote of 3 to 0 (both candidates were present at the meeting).

On motion made by Councilor Rothschild and seconded by Councilor Zaret it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) to confirm the following Mayoral appointments:

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Board/Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Term Expires</u></b>
Crystal Cote-Stosz	Council on Aging	12/31/2023
Timothy Garceau	Zoning Board of Appeals (Assoc. Member)	12/31/2023

On motion made by Councilor Rothschild and seconded by Councilor Denham it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) to confirm the following Mayoral re-appointments:

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Board/Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Term Expires</u></b>
Elodie Chicoine	Agricultural Commission	12/31/2024
James Ramsey	Board of Registrars of Voters	12/31/2024
Charles Duffy	Veterans Council	12/31/2024

On motion made by Councilor Rothschild and seconded by Councilor Riley it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) to confirm the following Mayoral re-appointment:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Board/Committee</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Bryce LaPlante	Commission on Disability	12/31/2024

On motion made by Councilor Rothschild and seconded by Councilor Riley it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) to withdraw the appointment of Robert Nichols to the Commission on Disability.

On motion made by Councilor Rothschild and seconded by Councilor Riley it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) to confirm the following Mayoral new appointments (all recommended 3 to 0 by the Appointments Committee). Councilor Zaret offered his support of Rachel Phillips' appointment to the Aquifer Protection Committee.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Board/Committee</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Rachel Phillips	Aquifer Protection Committee	12/31/2024
Marty Klein	Commission on Disability	12/31/2024
Ebenezer Afarikumah	Community Relations Committee	12/31/2024
John Pepi	Energy Advisory Committee	12/31/2022

On motion made by Councilor Rothschild and seconded by Councilor Zaret it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) to confirm the following Mayoral re-appointments (all recommended 3 to 0 by the Appointments Committee):

<b>Name</b>	<b>Board/Committee</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Russell Braen	Agricultural Commission	12/31/2024
Michael Czerwiec	Aquifer Protection Committee	12/31/2024
Thomas Brown	Council on Aging	12/31/2024
Jon Norman	Community Relations Committee	12/31/2024
Theodore Perch	Easthampton City Arts	12/31/2024
Tracey Eller	Easthampton City Arts	12/31/2024
Michael Czerwiec	Historical Commission	12/31/2024
Bette Sanderson	Manhan Rail Trail Committee	12/31/2024
John Atwater	Zoning Board of Appeals	12/31/2024

The Appointments Committee will meet next on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m.

**ORDINANCE:** On motion made by Councilor Derby and seconded by Councilor Zaret it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to extend the following agenda items by 90 days:

- Ordinance Review Committee's final report
- Vacant Storefront Ordinance
- Zoning Amendment – 40R overlay/affordable housing in smart growth/planned residential developments

Councilor Derby said the property owner who had submitted a rezoning request for 7 Groveland Street has asked his request to be withdrawn. Accordingly, on motion made by Councilor Derby and seconded by Councilor Peake it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to remove the request to re-zone 7 Groveland Street from the agenda without prejudice.

On motion made by Councilor Derby and seconded by Councilor Zaret it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to schedule a public hearing for the Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting on the request to amend the city ordinances to add “Juneteenth” to the list of city holidays (Chapter 2, Sec. 2-8).

On motion made by Councilor Derby and seconded by Councilor Denham it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to extend the Juneteenth agenda item by 14 days.

Councilor Derby said the committee’s joint public hearing with the Planning Board on the 40R overlay housing amendments will continue on Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

The Ordinance Committee will meet next on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

**PROPERTY:** No report.

**RULES & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS:** Councilor Rist reported the Rules Committee has reorganized: he was elected as chair and Councilor Denham will serve as clerk.

On motion made by Councilor Rist and seconded by Councilor Denham it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to extend the addition of a new Council Rule 20 (Remote Participation) by 90 days.

Councilor Rist said the committee had reviewed amendments suggested by Councilor Denham to the Resolution Pertaining to Discrimination and Intolerance. She proposed adding “races” to the second paragraph. In addition, she proposed editing language in the fourth paragraph and adding “are creating spaces of inclusion by challenging any and all forms of”, “class”, and “sex”. It will add “action” piece to the resolution, she said. All changes were recommended by a vote of 3 to 0.

On motion made by Councilor Denham and seconded by Councilor Rist it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) to approve the following City Council Resolution:

<b>Easthampton City Council Resolution Pertaining to Discrimination &amp; Intolerance</b>
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**Whereas**, one of the fundamental core values of the City of Easthampton is to treat all persons with respect and dignity; and

**Whereas**, the City of Easthampton values all of its citizens and recognizes that the many races and ethnicities of its citizens have contributed to the strength of character of Easthampton; and

**Whereas,** the City of Easthampton recognizes the strength in the diversity and inclusiveness of its citizenry; and

**Now, therefore, be it hereby resolved,** that the City of Easthampton and its representatives shall not condone or tolerate any form of discrimination and will create spaces of inclusion by challenging any and all forms of discrimination on the basis of race, color, class, religious creed, age, familial status, national origin, immigration status, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity or expression, disabilities, or veteran status.

**Ad Hoc Committees:**

Senior Tax Work-Off Committee: No report.

**New Business:**

- a. On motion made by Councilor Derby and seconded by Councilor Rist it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to refer three new Mayoral appointments to the Appointments Committee.
- b. On motion made by Councilor Derby and seconded by Councilor Rist it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to refer to the Finance Committee the review of salaries of elected officials and boards and committees, in accordance with the city charter.
- c. On motion made by Councilor Derby and seconded by Councilor Zaret it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to refer to the Public Safety Committee the 2021 Fire Department Annual Report.
- d. On motion made by Councilor Derby and seconded by Councilor Rist it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to refer to the Property Committee the MassDevelopment Memorandum of Agreement – Elementary School Re-Use.

Upon request of the Council Clerk, the following committee assignments were announced:

<b><u>Property:</u></b>	<b><u>Ordinance:</u></b>
Chair – Councilor Kwiecinski	Chair – Councilor Derby
Clerk – Councilor Zaret	Clerk – Councilor Rothschild

On motion made by Councilor Rothschild and seconded by Councilor Zaret it was unanimously voted (by roll call) that this meeting **ADJOURN. TIME: 7:55 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Barbara L. LaBombard, Clerk to the City Council

