

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 5, 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, Brad Riley and Koni Denham. Councilor James Kwiecinski was absent.

**Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Public Speak Time Summary:**

- “Julie” congratulated the councilors on being elected and newly sworn into office. She then spoke about the December 15<sup>th</sup> reappointment of Eric Poulin to the Parks & Recreation Commission. She thought his social media comments warranted concern and despite “freedom of speech” she felt it was conduct unbecoming of a committee member. She questioned putting job description above behavior. She also said being appointed to a board is a privilege not a right and reappointing him sends a message that “it’s ok to bully”. She thinks the decision will continue to divide the community.
- Shelby Lee also spoke about Mr. Poulin’s reappointment. She didn’t think it was a good idea for to dig through personal lives and that you shouldn’t get involved with regulating how people act outside of their positions.

**Correspondence, Announcements:**

- Councilor Zaret spoke about today being the one year anniversary from the attack on the U.S. Capital. He said the issues leading up to the attack are not gone from society and that is it “our duty to safeguard the values of democracy”.
- President Gomez announced committee assignments for the 2022-2023 term of office. Some of the committees have already met and re-organized; President Gomez made those announcements as well:

**Finance**

Daniel Rist, Chair  
Thomas Peake, Clerk  
Koni Denham

**Public Safety**

Owen Zaret, Chair  
Brad Riley, Clerk  
Salem Derby

**Appointments**

Lindsey Rothschild, Chair  
Brad Riley, Clerk  
Homar Gomez

**Ordinance**

Salem Derby  
Thomas Peake  
Lindsey Rothschild

**Rules/Govt. Relations**

Daniel Rist  
Koni Denham  
James “JP” Kwiecinski

**Property**

Owen Zaret  
Homar Gomez  
James “JP” Kwiecinski

The Property Committee will meet on Monday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>. No dates were announced for the Rules/Govt. Relations or Ordinance Committees.

President Gomez spoke about his intentions as president – one of the most important being that he will be fair and open with everyone.

**Resolution Pertaining to Discrimination & Intolerance:** President Gomez read this resolution, which has been adopted at the start of the term of office for several years. A motion was made by Councilor Derby and seconded by Councilor Zaret to adopt the resolution.

Councilor Denham said she would like to present several amendments to the resolution. Rather than debate the changes at this time, it was suggested it be referred to Rules for discussion. Councilors agreed and the motion and second were withdrawn.

On motion made by Councilor Rothschild and seconded by Councilor Zaret it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to refer the Resolution Pertaining to Discrimination & Intolerance to the Rules Committee.

**Mayor Communications:**

- Mayor LaChapelle congratulated all the councilors on their election and start of a new term.
- She asked everyone to “watch the COVID dashboard and be careful”.

**New Business:**

**Healthy Youth Coalition Donation Account:** On motion made by Councilor Derby and seconded by Councilor Rist it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** (by roll call) that pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53A approval is hereby given to establish an account for the purpose of receiving funds designated for the Easthampton Healthy Youth Coalition.

**City Ordinance Amendment – Classification & Pay Plan Exhibit 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 a request to amend the city ordinances Chapter 7, Classification & Pay Plan, Sec 7-18, Exhibit B.

On motion made by Councilor Rist and seconded by Councilor Zaret it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to schedule a public hearing for Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> council meeting on this amendment.

**Supplemental Appropriations:** On motion made by Councilor Rist and seconded by Councilor Derby it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to refer the following requests to the Finance Committee and to schedule public hearings for the Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> council meeting:

- \$42,500.00 from CPA funds to create designs, construction cost estimates and hold five community meetings for a new skate park at 32-50 Payson Avenue.
- \$144,327.29 from Cannabis Stabilization to supplement grant funding for Public Safety IT computer upgrades.

**Mayoral Appointments:** On motion made by Councilor Derby and seconded by Councilor Zaret it was unanimously voted to refer two new appointments and three reappointments to the Appointments Committee.

**Union Street TIP Project Order of Taking:** On motion made by Councilor Derby and seconded by Councilor Zaret it was unanimously voted to refer to the Property Committee the Order of Taking documents for the Union Street TIP Project.

On motion made by Councilor Rist and seconded by Councilor Zaret it was unanimously voted (by roll call) to schedule a public hearing on this subject for the January 19<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

On motion made by Councilor Derby and seconded by Councilor Peake it was unanimously voted (by roll call) that this meeting **ADJOURN**.

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara L. LaBombard".

Barbara L. LaBombard, Clerk to the City Council