

PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MARCH 6, 2023

A meeting of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee was held Monday, March 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

The roll call was taken with 3 members of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee present:

Chairwoman Shoshanna Kelly presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly, Chairwoman
Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderman Derek Thibeault

Members not in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons, Vice Chair
Alderman Thomas Lopez

Also in Attendance: Alderman Patricia Klee
Mayor Jim Donchess
Doria Brown, Energy Manager

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dante Castellano

Dante Castellano, 4 Bicentennial Drive. I just wanted to talk about the recommendations from the Nashua Energy and Environment Committee. I definitely support them. A lot of thought has gone into them. Definitely a lot of time spent on them and I hope to see those moving forward. Thank you.

Taylor Berry

Hi. My name's Taylor Berry. My address is 33 Wellman Ave. As a young person in Nashua, I definitely want the City to pursue more environmentally friendly actions so that we have a healthy, sustainable City to live in in the future and a better world.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you. Is there any additional public comment from the gallery? Okay great.

COMMUNICATIONS

MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND ACCEPT A COMMUNICATION AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PREPARED

From: Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development

Re: Correcting the Record of an Error in Appointment(s) for the Nashua Performing Arts Center Board of Trustees

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Thibeault

Amber Morgan's appointment and Philip Scotsas terms were flipped, so Philip Scotsas would have a term to expire February 14, 2026 and Amber Morgan would be February 14, 2024.

MOTION CARRIED

Chairwoman Kelly

We're going to start off with interviews. We've got quite a few this evening. I see that you are ready and prepared Mayor?

INTERVIEWSMine Falls Park Advisory Committee

Steven Kenney (new appointment)
9 Sagamore Road
Nashua, NH 03062

Term to Expire: January 10, 2026

Mayor Donchess

Yes, thank you Madam Chair. So first we have the Mine Falls Advisory. So could Steve Kenney please come up? So Madam Chair, members of the Committee this is Mr. Kenney who is very interested in serving on the Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee. We're very happy to have his interest and his willingness. He has a career in the business world. Worked in a number of jobs or several jobs throughout his career. Now he's with Massey Bioservices in Pepperell but he has shown a strong interest in Mine Falls Park and helping out there. He's been to a meeting of the Advisory Committee and he understands their role. Therefore, I am very happy to nominate him as a member of the Mine Falls Advisory Committee. I will turn things over to Steve just to tell you a little about himself and why he's interested in this particular Committee.

Chairwoman Kelly

Mr. Kenney?

Steven Kenney

Thank you Mr. Mayor. I am a lifelong resident of Nashua and if you lived here long enough you realize that a lot of people in Nashua can't say that anymore. So I take great pride in being born and growing up here. My family has grown up here. My brother's here and over that period, too many years to mention, I've used Mine Falls quite a bit. I bike in it, hiked in it, snowshoed in it, and it's a great resource, and I like the history behind it, and I'd like to make sure it sustains so that it can be used by generations to come.

Chairwoman Kelly

Great. Thank you so much for stepping forward. Are there any questions from the Committee or Aldermen? Thank you so much, we'll take up your appointment in just a few minutes.

Mayor Donchess

Alright now could everybody involved or who is being considered for the Performing Arts Center Board of Trustees just come up and sit in the seats up here?

Performing Arts Center Board of Trustees

Marylou Blaisdell (new appointment)
206 Main Street
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire: February 14, 2028

Ian Buckley (new appointment)
207 Main Street
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire: February 14, 2027

Judith Carlson (new appointment)
15 Manchester Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: February 14, 2026

Richard Lannan (new appointment)
7D Taggart Drive
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire: February 14, 2028

Jay Minkarah (new appointment)
13 Mt. Pleasant Street

Term to Expire: February 14, 2025

Nashua, NH 03064

Amber Morgan (new appointment)
20 Lock Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: February 14, 2024

Lindsay Rinaldi (new appointment)(not in attendance)
2 Lock Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: February 14, 2027

Philip Scontsas (new appointment)(not in attendance)
14 Ashland Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: February 14, 2026

Chairwoman Kelly

Mr. Mayor do you want to speak to your?

Mayor Donchess

Yes, thank you Madam Chair. So Lindsay Rinaldi and Philip Scontsas could not make it tonight, so I will introduce our other nominees. Marylou Blaisdell is I think well-known to everyone. She has been the owner and operator of DesignWares on Main Street for 15 years or so. She's been President or Chair of the Downtown Improvement Committee for quite some time but overall is a downtown activist. She has been supporting downtown, in particular the Performing Arts Center, downtown for a long time. The Performing Arts Center since its inception and has helped to steer this project from start to finish. So she will be, I think, a very strong addition to the Committee.

Ian Buckley is here. Ian is Vice President of Michael Timothy's Dining Group. They operate as you know two restaurants in downtown Surf and MT Local, a cornerstone a mainstay of downtown. He is Vice President of Operations for that company. He is very interested in the Performing Arts Center and I think will be a great addition to the Board of Directors.

Next we have Judy Carlson who Judy is here. Judy has been very involved in Nashua for a long time, particularly with the arts. She is on the Nashua Arts Commission. She's been on the Steering Committee of the Performing Arts Center. She raised the money for the Aponovich mural and done so many other things related to the murals in downtown. She's been on the Steering Committee for the Performing Arts Center as well after a long career in business and in the private sector. So she also will be a strong addition.

Rich Lannan, owner of Lannan Company, has put untold number of hours in the Performing Arts Center but generally has been involved in the downtown for a long time. He's on the Downtown Improvement Committee and has just been a very positive influence for Nashua's downtown for a long, long time.

Amber Morgan has recently bought Fortin and Gage, so now downtown business owner. Thank you. That was a good move for her. She was the Chair of the Citizen Advisory Group for Imagine Nashua Master Plan. She was very instrumental in the dog park issue and still is. Just generally involved in the community in many ways, has been an entrepreneur and started a number of businesses but now is devoting her time to Fortin and Gage on West Pearl Street. So I will ask each person to kind of just say a little bit about themselves and oh I forgot Jay.

Jay Minkarah has been involved in the City in many different ways. He is now the Director of the Nashua Regional Planning Commission but before that was Economic Development Director for the City, was the Economic Development Director in Manchester, did Economic Development for Springfield, MA, and he has a wealth of experience with our downtown and downtowns in general and therefore will be a valuable addition to the Board.

So why don't we go around in order of starting with Jay and just tell the Committee a little bit about yourself and your interest in the Board.

Chairwoman Kelly

Just one moment before we proceed. So this is a little bit different doing it this way. We thought it would be easier because a lot of the same questions will come up. So for our transcriptionist, please just say your name if you're asked a question before you answer the question so they know who's answering. Thank you so much. Go ahead Jay.

Jay Minkarah

Jay Minkarah, 13 Mt. Pleasant Street. I'm just really honored to be nominated for this position. As the Mayor has said, I've been involved with the City in many different ways for many years and in particular in the arts. I can actually remember back when I was working for the City. I think probably the first feasibility study that we did for an art center and there have been just so many iterations and to me it's just tremendously exciting to actually see the doors almost ready to open. So I'd really be pleased to have the opportunity to be involved to continue to further it.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you Jay, do you want to go Ian?

Ian Buckley

Ian Buckley, 207 Main Street. Although I am not from Nashua I was pretty much raised on Main Street. My family has been doing business on Main Street for the 27 years. I plan on doing business on Main Street for the next 50+ so obviously the Performing Arts Center is a huge benefit to not only Nashua as a whole, but to downtown. I would very much like to be involved in helping it flourish and anything I can put forth in terms of help or opinions I would love to. That's what I have.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thanks Ian.

Judy Carlson

Judy Carlson, 15 Manchester Street, Nashua. I've lived in Nashua since 1973 and raised my daughter here. Since about 2010 have been volunteering focused on furthering the arts here in Nashua. I spent some time on the Board of City Arts Nashua as Vice President there and that's where I got involved in Vivient Streams, mural, and restoring the Yankee Flyer Diner, and also the mural over at 14 Court Street, as was being involved with a lot of the City's artists, and have been part of this project since it was under Mayor Lozeau. So it's been a long time. The first interviews they did and the feasibility studies and all that through having served on the steering committee, I just think that this whole thing has been one of the most well-planned out and well throughout enterprises that the City has undertaken since I've lived here. A lot of research went into it. I'm part of Nashua Community Arts and helped form that organization which is the non-profit supporting the center. So I'm really looking forward to serving on this committee and using my background in finance as well because in my work life for many years, I managed large PR agencies and large advertising agencies with big budgets. I have a lot of experience in working with outside contractors and managing budgets in the \$10 to \$18 million range so I'm really looking forward to this.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you Judy. Rich?

Rich Lannan

Rich Lannan. My office is at 7 Taggart Drive in Nashua. I was not born and raised in Nashua. I was born right across the border in Tyngsboro but married a Nashua girl and I've been in real estate in Nashua and had an office in Nashua since 1978, so it shows you my age there. But got involved in downtown because I own mixed-use buildings in downtown and one of them is 26 years ago I think now the old Sears block. Many years ago was asked to be on a committee and that probably unfortunately started. I still blame Terry from the Nashua Telegraph and DonnaLee for doing that to me but it started off with the Service Advisory Committee that eventually turned into Downtown Improvement Committee that I'm on with Marylou and been on that since its inception. That turned into being on some studies for the Performing Arts Center, and then one committee lead to another, so then a Steering Committee when unfortunately Brian McCarthy passed I became the Chair of that Steering Committee and that's what really got me excited about the center.

I always said I'm not really into the arts until I start realizing really what the arts is and how many concerts I go to whether it's friends, family, my grandkids, and go to plays and stuff. I go to a lot of stuff. Not thinking that's the arts and it is. Positive Street Art made a big impact and they did the nostalgia mural on my building when the church tore down the building that abuts me. That's what kind of got things going and then one committee ended up with another committee and various boards. Nashua to the Arts is where as a couple of the members like Judy and Marylou are on as well. That's been a terrific experience. I met a lot of great people in both the Steering Committee, and seeing this whole project being

planned, and the Nashua to the Arts meeting a lot of great people that have put up anywhere from \$100, to a million dollars, and everything in between to donate. So we have like 500 donors that have donated their hard money into the property. It just shows you the backing that the people of Nashua have. So it's exciting. It's nerve racking. I'm there almost every day. I'm walking through and seats are being put in literally as we speak this morning. So it's exciting and we're three weeks and five days before opening. I'm counting down the hours. It's exciting. A little nerve racking but it's just gorgeous and it's just been a pleasure seeing it formed from its conception. I'd be honored to be on the Board.

Amber Morgan

Amber Morgan, 20 Lock Street. I have spent countless hours as many as him inside, well next to the building. From Fortin and Gage, we've been able to really view the outside and a view of the building similar to Surf as well and it's been incredible to see the transformation. All of the incredible employees that are coming and going every single day and working tirelessly. You can see at the end of the day when they're walking up the stairs to go to their car, it takes them probably a much longer time than it does the other way.

So a little bit about myself. Born in Nashua, schooled in Nashua, left for about 10 years and came back, and since then, I've immersed myself in downtown through various started with just an event or two attending and then slowly you get pulled into volunteering and then here you are 10 years later sitting before you talking about joining three committees. So I absolutely love this City with all of my heart and we had a great time when we did the Master Plan. It was incredible to see how we can serve all members of the City in all age ranges, backgrounds, and this is going to serve them as well. The Performing Arts Center is going to really be kind of the end cap in what that Master Plan was striving to show. May this be the first checkmark that comes from that and I'd be honored to serve on this committee. Thank you.

Marylou Blaisdell

Marylou Blaisdell. I live at 32 Webster Street and I own DesignWares directly across the street from the Performing Arts Center. I think in the last few years Judy, Rich, and I have been tied at the hip. We probably spend more time with each other than we do with our families. Starting from in the Downtown Improvement Committee when the idea was put before us to fund a study to see if the City could actually sustain a Performing Arts Center. From that study, we moved on to the Steering Committee fundraising. Rich has put in more time than any of us in this from taking the lead on this which we're very thankful for. It's something that you walk through it and you're just captivated by what it is, and what it can do, and what it will be. It's very exciting. I am honored to be a part of it. It's been a lot of hard work but worth every minute of it. I join everybody else in stating I'd be proud to be a trustee for the Performing Arts Center. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay so that's everyone. Alderman Thibeault, do you have a question?

Alderman Thibeault

Sure. Thank you Madam Chair. It's not really a question I just want to thank everybody for coming tonight and being part of this committee. This Performing Arts Center is a long time coming and it certainly had its bumps. There's been people that have attacked it and they still attack it today if you go down the wrong hole on Facebook. You will find people still making some form of comment on it whether they don't like the way it looks, or they don't like the acts that are coming, but it's a small, small portion of the population of Nashua. We have 90,000 people and so but you guys the ones that are coming to this for the first time or the ones that have been working on it the whole time, I thank you for all the stuff you had to be put through because it certainly you know we have you guys.

You guys volunteer for this. You don't get paid for it and to come in here and to be able to put this in action and make something that is going to be great for the City despite come of the roadblocks you guys have had to face is incredible. I just want to thank you guys and I really look forward to it. It's going to make a lot of people happy. It's going to be great for the downtown. It's going to bring even more vitality than it has today with people roaming around and visiting all the other places that are on Main Street whether it's a shop, or restaurant, and it's good for the City. Thank you so much for being part of this and for being part of the future of this as well as you jump onto this board. Thank you so much.

Chairwoman Kelly

Other questions or comments? Alderman Gouveia?

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you Madam Chair. A lot of the same of what my colleague Alderman Thibeault said. Thank you for volunteering these any board of committee throughout the City of Nashua. Anytime you want to volunteer to help make the City fundamentally better is good in my eyes and thank you all for the time and the hard work you have all put into the project. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. I'm never short on words. My mother said I was born talking. I want to thank all of you too and I've worked with many of you in different committees. Amber I've been in committees with you, Marylou, Rich, Judy as well. Jay I've worked with you.

I just want a couple things. First off, four of the eight volunteers here are Ward 3 members. I say that we have the most volunteers. One of them Miss Rinaldi who's not here, her business is in Ward 3. Just saying. I think Ward 3 has the bug of volunteering and you all volunteer for more than one thing. When I listened to why someone wants to be on a committee or should be on a committee, I always look for that connection. Alderman Lopez who isn't here always ask have you ever gone to that meeting before. Where there's never been one but each of you has a connection whether it be downtown, whether it was part of the Steering Committee. Amber you said three committees. You're on four. Marylou the same thing with you. You're on so many so many committees, and Rich, and Judy, and so on. You're all on these committees and you continue to volunteer which shows me how much you care for this City and so on. I want to say this publicly to you Rich. When Brian passed, you stepped up. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

All set Alderman Klee? I also want to thank you all for coming forward to be on this Committee. It's been, I couldn't believe it when you said three weeks. That kind of blew my mind because I was sitting there the night he got voted down the first time and I was here until midnight with many of you. I think almost all of you and I was pretty frustrated. So really excited to see it going up. Someone who's been in downtown for almost 10 years with my business and I know many of you individually know how much work you put into this. It's going to be an incredible asset for our City and you guys will be incredible trustees for something that we have worked so hard to plan out and will be successful for the City and for our entire community. So I'm looking forward to it and can't believe its 3 weeks. Thank you for your willingness and we will take up your nominations very shortly. I think we need Amber to stay.

Citizen's Advisory Commission

Amber Morgan (new appointment)
20 Lock Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: February 21, 2026

Mayor Donchess

So Amber Morgan is - I've also nominated her for the Citizen Advisory Commission. This is a very difficult volunteer position because it involves spending a lot of time reviewing applications from non-profits for a very limited amount of City money. Jason Telerski is the Chair of that organization or that committee/commission. As she has shown as Chair of the committee overseeing Imagine Nashua the Master Plan, Miss Morgan is willing to put in all the time, and effort, and energy required to do a really good job which she did on that Master Plan. She's expressed an interest in being in this role and given her long history and her very successful history with the City, I'm sure she will again do a very good job.

Chairwoman Kelly

Amber do you want to add? I know you just gave your bio but.

Amber Morgan

I'll add specifically to this committee. So in light of the question that Alderman Lopez usually asks, yes I have attended their meetings and I've read through all of the incredible amount of information in heart and soul that are non-profits within the City pour into these applications knowing the limited amount that is available. I learned some new non-profits. Ones I didn't necessarily realize were even based here in Nashua and the amount of services that they do offer and its mind

blowing. It's enlightening and it would be an honor to serve on that committee as well.

As far as time conflict, not that anybody asked but just in case, the Board of Trustees will meet quarterly and the Citizen's Advisory Committee meets weekly for basically just the first quarter of the year. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you. Other questions from the Committee? No questions? Okay, great. We'll take up one of your four in just a few minutes. Mayor do you want to speak to Mr. Darby?

Environment and Energy Committee

William Darby (new appointment)
13 Jensen Street
Nashua, NH 03062

Term to Expire: February 21, 2026

Mayor Donchess

Will Darby is going to come up. So Mr. Darby lives in Ward 8 and was recently elected as a State Rep. from Ward 8. He, of course, has a career in business but is very interested in advancing the City's energy goals which are to reduce the use of carbon fuels and reduce the City's carbon footprint. We already heard from Mr. Castellano and Miss Berry who are citizen members of the committee and expressing their commitment to the same effort. Mr. Darby is environmentally very interested. He's shown that over a whole number of years. He's shown an interest in this committee and I thought this was interesting. He has six daughters, pretty good. All raised here in Nashua and he's a software engineer but I'm sure he will work very hard. You could see that when he was seeking to become a State Representative and I'm sure he'll do a great job on this committee. So I ask Mr. Darby to tell you a little bit more about himself and of his interest in the Energy and Environment Committee.

William Darby

Thank you Mr. Mayor. Yes so we do have 6 daughters my wife and I. They're all grown. Only two were raised in Nashua. The others outside of Nashua. Yes, so my name is Will Darby. I've live at 13 Jensen Street. I've been in Nashua. I've been living in Nashua for 20 years this year. I am a software manager at Arista Networks which is right down on Exit 1 as well. My background is I have Bachelor's Degrees in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, and Masters in Computer Science. Like Mayor Donchess said, I'm first term State Rep. and I'm on the Resource, Recreation and Development Committee. Only because I didn't have the time working full time to be on the Energy Committee which is most aligned with energy and environment and were a lot of my interests lie.

I've had a lifelong interest in the environment, in protecting the environment in particular. Most of my hobbies have to do with outdoors. They involve things like my wife personally experienced the impacts of climate change fishing, hiking, bow hunting for example and I'm worried about the environment. So I want to put my free time into have impact to protect our environment and to protect our City.

I'm also hoping that with my role in Concord that I'll be able to bring the needs and also the concerns of Nashua with respect to energy and environment up to the State House and represent those. I have attended the last two Energy and Environment meetings and I've been impressed with the energy, the range of topics discussed, and really what appears to be the success of the committees towards their goals. So thanks a lot for the consideration.

Chairwoman Kelly

I'll start off by saying thank you for stepping forward. I know you have attended our meetings and it's my favorite of the month for sure. I think that you also serving at the State House is nice to be able to have that sort of back and forth in terms of what's going on there. Often times the committee would like to be doing some advocacy work and it's hard to keep up with all the Bills up there at the State House. I think it will be a real asset to the committee to have someone who knows very intuitively and there is often what's going on up there but thank you for stepping forward. We have been working very hard on the goals and I'm looking forward to having you on the committee. Alderman Thibeault?

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you Madam Chair. I, too, want to thank you for stepping up and for being one of my State Reps. I appreciate the work you do up there and I think you'd be a perfect fit for this. I mean just to be transparent, you came to me and asked

me if it would be a good fit for you and I said yeah and went to the Mayor and got you in front of him and his team. So I think what you're doing is great. I'm all for - despite working for Eversource, I'm 100% on trying to get better energy and trying to make it cleaner and doing whatever we can to save money at the same time at the City and State level. So thank you so much. I appreciate it Will.

Chairwoman Kelly

Any other comments or questions? Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. Thank you Representative Darby. I appreciate it and I agree with you. I was a State Rep. up until this time I decided not to run but it is helpful to have a voice up there that is here as well. You can bring that conversation to both ends. You can explain to your colleagues up there why it is important whether it be for Nashua, or the State, and vice versa on this end. So I truly appreciate and I know it's a lot of work up there. Some people don't realize it but you earn your \$100 a year. Thank you so much for stepping up.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. We'll take up your nomination soon.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you very much. Now we have one more interview Madam Chair.

Chairwoman Kelly

We're going out of order and go to Tabled in Committee.

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR

Board of Assessors

Abdallah "Jay" Minkarah (new appointment)
13 Mount Pleasant Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Indefinite Term at the pleasure of the Mayor

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE THE APPOINT OF ABDALLAH "JAY" MINKARAH TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS
MOTION CARRIED**

Chairwoman Kelly

Go ahead.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you, Madam Chair. So I am nominating Jay Minkarah for the Board of Assessors. This is a very important Board for the City - a three member Board. Currently, we have two members and so we need a third. We have Paul Bergeron, the former City Clerk, and we have a gentleman by the name of Bob Earley who's not a resident of Swart Terrace, a different Bob Earley who's in the property management business. Mr. Minkarah you've heard about his long involvement with the City and with Economic Development but he is also a graduate of law school. He went to NH Law School and he has a degree in Community Planning. He is willing to serve in a difficult role I would say. One that we've had a hard time filling, so I really appreciate his willingness to step forward for this.

In addition to everything we've talked about, this doesn't have a direct bearing on the Board of Assessors but he's been very involved in passenger rail for a long time. Back to the Board of Assessors, his legal expertise will be a great addition to the Board because they currently do not have that at the moment, although they get advice from the Legal Department, but Mr. Minkarah will be able to play a significant role there. He's very level headed, very good judgement, and

dispassionate, and will be able to fairly judge any issues that come before them such as request for abatements. With his analytic ability, we'll be able to sort out the facts for and against anybody who is seeking an abatement and render a fair judgement on the issues before the Board. So I will turn it over to Mr. Minkarah with the request that you give him a strong recommendation for the Board of Assessors.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you. Mr. Minkarah?

Jay Minkarah

Thank you Mr. Mayor. I'm not sure I can add too much to that but just to say that I have at this point been a resident of the City for most of my life. I do think my background in planning and economic development as well as my legal background gives me a very strong understanding of land use, land development, and the economics of land use and land development. So I appreciate or believe I appreciate the importance of having a sound assessment for the City and believe I could help contribute to that and to the extent that the Board of Assessors also in essence and appeal board people seeking abatements. I do believe that I would be able to view people. I realize that we paint things broadly and with a broad brush but of course they're different circumstances that do compel people to come forward and say my assessment isn't correct, my assessment is inaccurate. I think I have the ability, the capacity, and the willingness to hear people respectfully and try to make a fair and sound decision. So I would be honored to serve and happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you. I think this is an incredible person to put on the Board of Assessors. The background that you just described, I don't know if you could have a better resume for being on the Board of Assessors. I was encouraged by your comments as well. It's definitely not one of the easier Boards but being able to listen and just being very down the middle in terms of how you make your judgements will be really helpful. So thank you for stepping forward. Thank you for finding someone Mr. Mayor who really fits this in such a great way.

Alderman Thibeault did you want to speak?

Alderman Thibeault

No.

Chairwoman Kelly

Anybody else? Just me. Okay.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE MINE FALLS PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE: STEVEN KENNEY WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE JANUARY 10, 2026
MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING RE- APPOINTMENT TO THE ANIMAL AND DOG PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE: AMBER MORGAN WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 10, 2025
MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES: JAY MINKARAH WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE FEBRUARY 14, 2025; JUDITH CARLSON WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE FEBRUARY 14, 2026; AMBER MORGAN WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE FEBRUARY 14, 2024; IAN BUCKLEY WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE FEBRUARY 14, 2027; AND MARYLOU BLAISDELL AND RICHARD LANNAN BOTH WITH TERMS TO EXPIRE FEBRUARY 14, 2028

MOTION CARRIED

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMISSION: AMBER MORGAN WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE FEBRUARY 21, 2026
MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE: WILLIAM DARBY WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE FEBRUARY 21, 2026
MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS: ABDALLAH "JAY" MINKARAH WITH AN INDEFINITE TERM AT THE PLEASURE OF THE MAYOR
MOTION CARRIED**

Alderman Klee

Madam Chairwoman, the Downtown Improvement Mr. Hayes reappointment. Did I miss hear that?

Chairwoman Kelly

They both said new appointments.

Alderman Klee

No on the thing it says reappointment. The agenda says reappointment. That could be wrong.

Alderman Gouveia

I'm seeing reappointment as well.

Alderman Klee

No, no. Philip is an alternate to a member so I don't know if that's a reappointment or a new appointment. Mr. Hayes is a reappointment.

Chairwoman Kelly

Director Cummings?

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director/Administrative Services Director

Yes, thank you Madam Chairwoman. Just to add some clarity to the question at hand, both Philip Scontsas and Edward Hayes are actually re-appointments. They currently serve on the Downtown Improvement Committee. Mr. Scontsas is fulfilling the same capacity, I believe he's being renominated for which is an alternate and then Edward Hayes has been a voting member on the Committee which he currently is right now.

Chairwoman Kelly

So what I'm seeing - thank you for that clarification. What this says is that Philip is being moved from an alternate to a full member. Let's just hold this until we can get some clarity on those two.

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director/Administrative Services Director

I apologize. Yes it must be that he's moving from the alternate position to a full member and Edward Hayes is currently a full member. Both are reappointments.

Chairwoman Kelly

You're sure about that?

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director/Administrative Services Director

Yes. I see Philip Scontos once a month - first Friday of the month.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. So we'll leave those because he's not here and it's a new appointment but we are going to read Edward Hayes as a re-appointment. Okay.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING RE-APPOINTMENT TO THE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE: EDWARD A. HAYES, SR., WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2025

MOTION CARRIED

Chairwoman Kelly

Congratulations to everyone who was confirmed this evening. You'll be confirmed in person at a Board of Aldermen meeting in the future. Thank you for stepping forward.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-23-093

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

ADOPTING ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Chairwoman Kelly

The motion is to recommend final passage of R-23-093. I know that Miss Brown is here to speak on this as our Energy Manager. Do you have a presentation that you put in?

Doria Brown, Energy Manager

I don't have a presentation but I would like to speak.

Chairwoman Kelly

So I am the liaison to the Energy and Environment Committee. I don't want all my other committees to feel like they're not awesome too but I really love this committee. We've been working really tirelessly probably for a solid year on taking the goals that were put forward five or six years ago and making them a little bit more action oriented and having some KPI's behind them. So really just making sure that we're saying yes we're all moving towards making some better decisions for the City that will allow us to save money over the long-term but also make sure that future generations like Miss Berry we're talking about will have this incredible park system, and all the rivers, all those things that we all love will still be around. So we've been working really hard to just give up some really specific goals and I'm going to let Doria talk about it but we've been meeting once a month for a year to come up with these.

Doria Brown, Energy Manager

So hello. I'm here today to talk about the recommendations of the Environment and Energy Committee to the Board of Aldermen which is a little bit surreal because I've been on the Environment and Energy Committee for six years now and going on my seventh year. First, I started off as a representative from a business called Worthen Industries and now I sit as a staff member because I loved working the City so much. I couldn't think of a better career. This resolution is very close to my heart because I helped develop the first recommendation to the Board of Aldermen which was to be 100%

renewal energy by 2050, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2025, and to do a plethora of other projects including get renewable energy like solar energy for our City, to increase bike ability by implementing a bike share program, to hire an Energy Manager, and to get alternative transportation for our buses, and we have done almost all of those things. We have hybrid electric buses. We have a thriving relationship with Bird Scooters and we have implemented a bike share program, though it didn't work out as robustly as we hoped but we definitely tried it out. We have hired an Energy Manager which ended up being me and we're very close to our 20% reduction by 2025. I hope to have calculations for that in the spring. So that's really exciting. We've added the buses. We've almost completed every goal but being 100% renewable energy by 2050 and we're working on that goal right now through our Community Power Program, which will bring more renewable energy to our community and further us toward that goal.

So now today, we have more recommendations from the Board of Aldermen which I hope will strengthen the community and I want to go over them today. So in the Resolution, the first recommendation is to develop a sustainability plan to create a road map for the City of Nashua's sustainability goals by 2024. So currently we have a budget earmarked to create a sustainability plan so there is no financial input or extra financial input into generating this plan but it will help us figure out exactly how to obtain some of the goals that we have, including the 100% renewable energy goal. Also further, some of these recommendations that are in this packet and create new ways that we can improve on sustainability side for the City of Nashua.

The second thing on the list is to improve building efficiency. So as the Energy Manager, there is a lot that I can do to help improve our energy efficiency of our buildings but the only way I can do that is to have information through energy efficiency auditing. So the recommendation here is to select three buildings annually for energy auditing and these buildings would be the buildings that have the most to improve energy wise and use a lot of electricity, natural gas, and oil. In doing these audits, we would be able to figure out what the goals are for that building, to help drive down costs there, and also improve sustainability.

The second part of that is for new building or major renovation projects with a Joint Special Committee attached. They should consult with the Sustainability Department before the project is finalized. So there have been a lot of new projects in Nashua, including the DPW new build, the new middle school project, and in those projects they're very great and they're going to bring a lot of improvement to the City of Nashua. There could be improvements in those builds with more of a sustainability mindset. There are opportunities to electrify those buildings, to bring in more renewable energy options but unfortunately we weren't able to meet that because there was not enough discussion at the beginning of the project, and then the project got finalized, and there was not enough time to implement some of these newer, more innovative sustainability solutions to these builds. So this part of the Resolution would allow for more input from the sustainability side of things throughout the entire building process for new build and any sort of project that has a special committee with the Board of Aldermen in the beginning.

So the next part of this Resolution is to strengthen alternative transportation in the City. It is to improve City walkability and bikeability by creating sidewalk corridors and bike lanes on all main streets. So bikeability and walkability is a big part of a community. I have consulted with the City of Austin, TX, and they have a robust walkability and bikeability program. One thing that they did was add a resolution to say that whenever they make improvements to a street or something like that, they would add bike lanes and make sure that there are sidewalks to improve the walkability of their City. That's how they were able to make their City more walkable, and bikeable, and then decrease the carbon impact that they have as a community.

The next goal is to increase renewable energy generation. This is a continuation of the goal that we already had from the last recommendation. This piece is to evaluate public land space for more renewable energy, in particular solar. So there isn't a lot of public land that isn't developed in Nashua but this is just a recommendation to make sure that we consider renewable energy as we look at our public land. It's a low-impact way to improve a piece of land and also bring more renewable energy generation that is local to the community. I want to site an example. When you buy renewable energy from let's say a third-party supplier, you see something on your bill that says maybe even when the Community Power Program launches, you might see something on it like an option to opt up to 100% renewable energy and that is great. It's giving money back to renewable energy generators and helps promote that in the country. When you select that option, you might be investing in somewhere that's a little bit farther away like a wind farm in Texas, or maybe somewhere in Massachusetts, or Connecticut. When we implement renewable energy projects here in Nashua, that directly benefits people in Nashua and really offsets emissions in a significant and meaningful way. So looking into developing land that is here to have renewable energy is an incredibly big deal.

The next piece of the Resolution and the final piece is to reduce municipal vehicle emissions. So here we say have the CERF, the Capital Equipment Replacement Fund, on passenger vehicle purchases be fully electric or when not possible have a fuel efficiency of at least 40 miles per gallon if possible. So this particular piece of the resolution is standard for places like Austin, TX, and Sacramento, CA. It is the next step, I think, in reducing our vehicle emissions and reducing our

vehicle costs. An electrical vehicle has significantly less cost when it comes to maintenance. You really only need to change the brakes, and the tires, and do software updates on these things. By the time that the vehicle ages out of our fleet, the battery should still be operational on a passenger vehicle. So there are no extra added costs in battery replacement that the City needs to be concerned about. In purchasing these vehicles, we would be able to get ourselves closer to that 20% reduction by 2025 goal. I can tell you that some of the replacements that we have already made in our hybrid electric buses and using CNG buses have already taken us pretty darn close to that goal if not there already.

So the last part of that piece, number five reduce municipal vehicle emissions, is all City operated buildings should have at least one charging station by 2030. This is just another piece of that goal. We're going to be adding electric vehicles to the fleet. We should have a place for those vehicles to charge. One place that we've run into issues is with the Police Department. They're getting their first electric vehicle which is really exciting but now the question is how are we going to charge it. So if we add charging stations to our municipal buildings, we'll be able to power the vehicles that we would plan to get in the first half of that goal. That is my spiel, thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you Miss Brown. Great encapsulation of everything that we worked on. I'm going to open it up to questions but I just want to make one more comment before. You touched on this quite a bit but the recommendations in this legislation are really there to make sure we can get ahead of some of these conversations. So when we're replacing something for CERF and it's a 20 year commitment to this piece of equipment that is coming in if we can get ahead of it and start to think about what an electric vehicle would look like, what that municipal will be, that will really help us to continue to drive down our emissions as a City. So whether it was that, or talking about walkability when you replace a street, making sure there are sidewalks, getting in when we can to make these improvements instead of trying to go back and do them later when it will be much more costly. We know that any of these type of changes already are going to save money but if do them when we build the building, it's going to be a lot easier than having to go back, and audit, and fix it later.

So ultimately, our goal was to try to get as much talked about and considered at the front not to burden any department with some mandate that's going to make it really costly for them but to think about it on a long term scale in terms what the overall cost of it is going to be and how we can better plan for our goals. Alderman Thibeault?

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you Madam Chairwoman. So I have a question and just a couple of comments. So I think maybe starting to go forward when departments come to us with vehicle plans to purchase a vehicle that maybe get they're wanting to buy, and what maybe the electric would be at cost, and then not just okay this one's \$30,000, and this one is \$40,000 but what the cost savings of the electric vehicle over time of what both vehicles would be, right? So trying to prove that in the long term, it's cheaper but right now we have to put up the extra whatever capital to pay for that. Right now, vehicles are going up. Something that would have been \$300,000 a year or two ago is now like \$500,000 - \$600,000. It's not like the City is getting that much more money to be able to buy these things. So I think that's one thing that could be something that the Aldermen could vote on when they come that way we have options as opposed to now they just come to us with here is the fire truck, or whatever, here is the pickup truck, or whatever we need.

Sidewalks is a great thing. I think a lot of us Aldermen no matter what side of the aisle we are on here have been pushing the sidewalk thing because we have lots of places that don't have sidewalks and we have lots of places with broken, beat up sidewalks including Main Street. For walkability is to have sidewalks where people can walk, including kids going to school which I know there are some Wards that have problems with sidewalks for kids walking to school. So I think that's a huge, huge expense. Now again, you're saying do it in stages. I think as a road comes up or whatever I think is fine but that's going to take a long time because there's a lot of sidewalks that need either fixing or just putting in sidewalks.

Doria Brown, Energy Manager

That is why there is no date to that goal.

Alderman Thibeault

I talked to DPW on that once and they talked about maybe doing a similar thing like they do with paving because we don't have anything for sidewalks, which I can't believe a City like us doesn't have any infrastructure that says we can do sidewalks unless they fix them or patch them here and there, especially on Main Street. You've got trees coming out of them and sidewalks like this.

I think one thing, too, is I think and maybe you guys do this and I just don't see it but maybe that's part of it, right - promotion of good energy or good energy policy within the City of the 90,000 people, right. How do you push it to - I was in health care insurance all my life. That was my thing and then last year going to a utility, I knew nothing about the stuff that I know. Just over the last year, unplug this. This is an old thing that's causing a lot of electricity issues. When you keep things plugged in, it still draws electricity. So there's a lot of different things that I learned that I don't think people know out there. They didn't know about suppliers until Eversource when up like double, right? Again, not everybody knows that we were at a Ward meeting - I think it was Alderman Klee's Ward last week where a woman was like yelling about Eversource doubling and she never changed her supplier because people don't know about these things.

So I think good energy policy about different things people can do, and more people need to know about solar because I think some people would be interested but they don't hear about it, and they don't look into it. So I'd like to see that. My question is does the Energy Department - and this is going to be a dumb question and probably say you should know this already but do we have a budget? What's the budget for the Energy Department or is just general under Director Cummings' budget?

Doria Brown, Energy Manager

So we do not have an Energy Department. We have a Sustainability Department. Our Sustainability Manager is back there. I don't know by heart what our budget is but we do have a budget.

Alderman Thibeault

Would that encapsulate the whole Sustainability Department not just Energy per se?

Doria Brown, Energy Manager

That's a Sustainability Department - I'm going to refer to Deb Chisholm.

Deb Chisholm, Sustainability Manager

When we're talking about costs for specific projects, the Sustainability Department does not have a budget for that. We currently have a budget that is essentially for salaries, benefits, and some miscellaneous costs, some contractor costs but nothing related to any of the items that are on the list and any type of implementation of that.

Alderman Thibeault

Follow up. Thank you. So I'm thinking a lot of this is trying to save money. So I get that but some will require money to save money in the long run. Getting that through those things - I'm for all just about everything that you mentioned in some form or another. As long as we're not forcing departments that you have to get an electric vehicle, then I'm on board with it. It's just trying to find ways to pay for it to prove to people that in the long run it will save money and it's going to be better for the environment. Those are the things that I want to make sure that when we're pushing the stuff we're clear on. Anytime when it comes to money, there will be people pushing back. If I said today we're going to fix all the sidewalks. Here is my legislation to fix all the sidewalks - \$20 billion to fix them all or build them all. People are going to laugh me out of this room, right. Even though everybody agrees it's needed.

I'm just curious about the money thing because I know that's going to be one thing that's going to be concerning. Even with the vehicles when DPW, and Fire, and Police come to us with vehicles right now the money is more. Yes ten years from now you're saving in cost. People aren't going to look at what we're saving. They're going to look at what we're paying right now and we don't have that money right now so that's the problem. In theory, I'm for all the stuff that you have in here as policy. I just wanted to say that. If you have any comments?

Doria Brown, Energy Manager

I do. So we've looked into this extensively. So I noticed that you were talking about vehicle replacements and you mentioned like \$300,000 to \$500,000. So in this particular piece, we mentioned the CERF and we say passenger vehicles. So there shouldn't be a vehicle that would cost \$500,000 that would be a part of this.

I also want to mention that we put in a 40 miles per gallon efficiency there to make sure there would be vehicles that do require fossil fuel that would be eligible for this. We also said "when possible". For example if there is going to be a pickup truck that is a significant difference in price and we can't prove a significant savings in capital expenditure when it comes to maintenance for that vehicle, we would get the most efficient pickup truck possible and move on. That part of

the resolution would require people to think in a more environmentally-minded way. Can I get an electric vehicle? Is there an opportunity here? Oh wow, I realize this is going to save me X amount of dollars a year in repair savings or something like that. A major part of this resolution that would require some funding would be energy efficiency audits but there is a lot of opportunity to get dollars from our utility programs to do these energy efficiency audits.

I also want to mention that you talked about telling people about sustainability and how they can reduce energy in their homes. So a big program that should be launching at the end of April beginning of May is Community Power. With that program comes Nashua Community Power with access to people's addresses and information. We'll be able to send out mailers to tell them about utility rate options, and options to be opting up into a more renewable energy standard, and you'll be able to send out mailers throughout the year about ways that they can save energy and different tips as well. Then you'd be able to access email addresses if somebody enters an email address and you can send information out that way. So that's something I'm really excited about from that program.

The Sustainability Department does not have an energy budget but all these goals fit into other department's budgets. So let's say you are going to be doing a rebuild. Now you have to think in a sustainability-minded way to bring in the Sustainability Department to talk about your project from beginning to end, and so on, and so forth. So none of these really require an upfront dollar investment. They require people to think in a more sustainability-minded way as we progress as a City.

Alderman Thibeault

Great and thank you for that. I mean I think that's what I was looking for. I want people to know those things because it's important so when something does come in front of us, this will come to the BOA. It's important to know those things. I think that's great. I appreciate the work you guys have done on this and thank you so much for those answers.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Gouveia?

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you Madam Chair. I like the legislation. I think it's good to be looking ahead but obviously here in the horseshoe where the dollars and cents - as my grandma would put it, you have gazintas and gozadas. You can't have more gazintas than you have gozadas. I think these are great to have these type of recommendations but at the same time for me, it comes down to the dollars and cents on each individual project. I'm absolutely willing to have the conversation. I think it's a conversation we all need to all start having as we look forward and technology keeps progressing for sure. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

And that was going to be my comment as well is that having the conversation is really the impetus here in terms of we've set some really broad goals and now it's how do we start making those part of every time we go to buy a vehicle. Let's have these conversations. Definitely not going to run out and do everything in this tomorrow but I think as things come forward that we can make an iterant of changes that's going to be the way that we can get to our goals. Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you, again, Madam Chairwoman. I have a few comments and I'm going to kind of start from the back of the bus here sort to speak. I'm Vice Chair of Finance and Alderman Gouveia is also on Finance. What we've been seeing lately is people coming in with vehicles that are costing 10% more than we had originally budgeted for. Anything that's on the CERF every year we always put a +5%. These are coming in even over that. So the taxpayers are now being hit with this extra cost. My mother used to always say pennywise and pound foolish so that you know don't try to save money here and then end up having to spend there. I here what you're saying but to have to put the money out to the gazintas and gozantas type of conversation is we're going to have to speak to the taxpayers and say this is going to cost. So I absolutely think it's something we have to do. I never like any kind of mandate and I'm not saying this is necessarily a mandate. You put in the nice squishy word "when not possible" because you don't define when not possible is. Could not possible be if the electric vehicle is 10% more than the non-electric vehicle? Do we want to say something to the effect of when you come to Finance, or Public Works, or whatever committee you have to bring both prices and show what is the breakeven point of this particular thing? I sit there with my husband when we're talking about whether or not to put solar on. In order to put solar on, I've got to put a new roof on. So at what point do we break even that that solar is going to because in the long run, it's going to save us a lot of money but we have to put that money up first. That's kind of what we're facing in Finance. When we talked about the NPD getting electric vehicle it was for the ACO - Animal Control Officer. When they brought that to us, that vehicle had been on the CERF for like \$30,000 and when they came in, the

non-electric vehicle was going to cost like \$62,000, and the electric was going to cost \$64,000. That's a no-brainer. We're going to go with the \$64,000. The big question that did come up was how are you going to charge it? We'll come to that bridge later on. I didn't feel comfortable. I voted for it but I have to tell you there was a knot in my stomach saying okay this is a bill that is going to come due later. I could see the taxpayers going no one answered that question.

So these are things I don't want just to hear we're going to cross that bridge when it comes. This is a beautiful plan so please understand. I have no problem with the audit cost because I agree with you, I think we can work with other companies to try to help reduce that cost. So I thought that is a non-issue but I do have this issue when it comes to the vehicles. Sitting on Finance, there has not been one vehicle that has come in on budget. I shouldn't say that. There were a couple that actually came below budget, thank goodness but that was some odd circumstances is that someone nixed their deal and we were lucky enough to be able to grab it. So everything that's on the CERF, they're suddenly pushing their price up and that's not even looking at electric. So if there is not much of a cost difference, I have no problem saying let's go for that. If we're looking at it as there's going to be a significant cost even if in the end of the life cycle we actually make out, we're talking to people right now that have been hit with higher taxes, that are being hit with higher energy costs, higher food costs, and we're going to say them we're going to increase the budget just a tiny bit more so that your grandchildren will be okay. I know that just sounded horrible coming out. I don't mean them being okay as far as being able to breathe air and everything, I'm just talking about this. We do have to look at today as well as looking for tomorrow. I just want you to keep that in mind as we discuss this.

This one thing makes me want to not to vote for this. I'm not on this Committee so I don't have a vote but when it comes to the Board of Aldermen, I'd like to see that kind of changed a little bit. I agree with everything you say. I think in the long run, we're going to save money. The taxpayers will save money in the long run. You know I had a very strong-minded constituent who felt we should immediately do everything electric. I used to say to him I agree with you. Are you going to write the check for it? He'd say I know, I know but you look forward and he wasn't wrong but at the same time, I just feel uncomfortable doing that to the people.

The bike lanes - putting in bike lanes and sidewalks. We do have kind of a fund for that. Every time there's a new build - so I will use the Bartlett Street build. They're supposed to put in sidewalks and if they don't, they do an in lieu of. So we do have money that is slowly being built to do sidewalks. So when we do put in streets, there is that money that could be there and it's supposed to be used for fixing sidewalks, putting sidewalks they need to be. So we need to keep that in mind too when we're talking about it.

And bike lanes - the one thing that I've learned about bike lanes from the project that we're trying to do on Whitney and Lock is that for every bike lane that goes one direction, you have to have one that comes back. There has to be a return. So if it's a one-way street you have to find another street where they can come back. So when we put bike lanes on a two-way street, that's two bike lanes. Nashua is an older infrastructure such as Main Street and so on. Maybe if we got that thing out of the middle there we could definitely put in a nice wide perfect bike lane and so on. I don't foresee that going away. We spent a lot of money putting it in. Again if this is not a mandate, I know it's a resolution and up until we get to that item #5, I feel like it's not a mandate. It's kind of a let's try to get this done by these dates but when I see item #5, I feel like it's an end date. That one kind of makes me feel a little bit squishy.

As far as the not enough discussion when we're doing the build, I'm also on the Joint Special School Building Committee. We did talk about energy efficiency. I'm going to tell you and I'm sure they did when they were talking about the DPW, one of the things was it kept adding to the cost of this. So we did have those discussions. Maybe not as in-depth. It might have been nice to have someone like you who really lives this, and is excited about, or perhaps the Chairwoman here to have you guys there to give us this. I can tell you at least, and I believe he's on Public Works also, we did have when we were first discussing it Alderman Jette. He talked about harvesting heat from the ground. We did bring this in, and we did look at costs for some of these types of things, and it just brought the project that much over. Truthfully, none of us wanted to go to the taxpayer and say can we get a couple more hundred thousand dollars out of you? So the discussions did happen. They may not have happened as in-depth but we did discuss every building and that's when the discussion of putting solar panels on all the schools when we were redoing the roofs or redoing the building. So there was discussion in a back door way. It doesn't necessarily mean that we did that. So just for the record I wanted to clarify that we did talk about some of those things.

Then when it comes to item #4 - evaluate public land. I get a little anxious when I hear about public land. As long as it's not green space such as Mine Falls, Greeley Park, any of the other beautiful parks that we have. If it were an old piece of maybe City land that isn't being used for something and I know even Alderman Gouveia was talking about a piece of public land turning it into community gardens kind of thing. So while I would love to see more of these, we have it by the Pennichuck High School. Pennichuck has put in those solar panels. That's great. That's wonderful and I'd like to see more. I'd like to see solar on as many of the municipal buildings as possible. I just get a little anxious when we have so little green space in Nashua. I hear public space - it communicates to green space. I don't want to lose that for our people either. So I think when we talk about public space, I'd prefer to talk about public buildings than public ground space. So

you know putting solar panels on the public buildings versus putting them on the ground. Just my comments and thank you for hearing me out.

Chairwoman Kelly

I'm going to respond but I'll give you the option if you want?

Doria Brown, Energy Manager

So I've taken quite a bit of notes here and I think your input is very helpful and definitely something that can be considered and maybe honed into these goals to make them a little bit more cognizant of budgets and more cognizant of green space. So I just want to say thank you. I think that's great input.

Alderman Klee

Thank you for everything you do. I can't say enough kind things about you. Honestly.

Chairwoman Kelly

So I'm going to respond. So in terms of putting green space where we wouldn't do that. I feel like that's the (inaudible) of what the energy environment committee is talking about. We're talking about something that we're not going to put in the middle of Greeley Park but making sure we're evaluating because we are already looking at the building roofs and where we can put them. So are there any additional more about discussion point that let's get rid of parks for solar.

In terms of sidewalks, we do have a fund where you can pay to pave the sidewalks but it's not nearly enough to put in the sidewalks that they had to put in. Something that I've been trying to beat the drum on to fix because if we allow them to not put it in, what do we end up with? We end up with a lot less money to continue that infrastructure issue. So I think that's something we should continue to talk about around this horseshoe.

I think that the wording around the CERF replacements is pretty squishy as it is but ultimately it all ends up with us and you're right. It's our goal as Aldermen and Alderwomen like our job is make sure that we're being thoughtful for the taxpayers. A lot of these improvements are going to end up making it a better investment but we need to talk about those things. So none of these things are mandates. If you don't go get an electric car at \$60,000, or \$30,000, you're not in compliance with this. That's not what we're trying to say. I think it is making sure that the conversation happens and when you're sitting in that seat Alderman Klee, Alderman Gouveia at Finance and they say hey here's what it is, and here's what the maintenance on this car will be over the next 20 years versus if you get an electric car. We just need to start talking about it. I think you're right about the infrastructure but we've been very intentional about making sure that we're not just saying let's get electric cars, that we're also looking at how we're adding that infrastructure slowly, and starting to get the City in a place where the fact that Miss Brown is here as our Energy Manager, we're really starting to (inaudible). So I want to make sure that everyone feels that there's very intentional in terms of making slow steps towards progress. We're not telling - I won't go to my constituents and say we're going to get the \$100,000 car instead of the \$30,000 car and here is why. But if I can say here's why we're thinking maybe \$10,000 more right now is going to be a better investment for the City over the long run, I'm willing to have that conversation. I think that's why we're here to have those like common sense - there's nothing here that we want to go over and above and make these crazy changes to how we run the City. We still need to be fiscally responsible but thinking about it from a long term and how do we start to slowly make those changes. Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you. While I always have anxiety about any of the in lieu ofs, the sidewalk in lieu of like for instance I used Barlett Street to put in a small piece of sidewalk that would be required would have literally been a sidewalk to nowhere and there's no more build that's going to happen in that area. So I do like in that particular case. Now if it were on a busy street like East Hollis or something like that, and truth be told I don't know whether there's a sidewalk there but using that one there. That might be a sidewalk to nowhere but if there was a potential for growth within that area, I would still like to see it. The Planning Board does make those decisions. So that money does go to that so I think we need to keep it.

But getting back to item #5. While I did say that when not possible, it's not defined and it's squishy. To some extend my fear is when we do a resolution, it's not for just this body that's sitting here today. It's for the body that's going to be coming in possibly to replace us or future. Everybody interprets things. I can tell you from being up in the State House when you say words like "shall" or "may", there's a big difference here. When not possible, what is the definition of not possible? I guess I would - and I don't know enough about the difference between an electric cost and a gas type vehicle.

If right now there's only a 10% difference, a 10% difference on a \$30,000 isn't a lot of money. A 10% difference on a \$75,000 car, we start getting more and more. So I guess I would love it to say that when you bring forward a request whether it to be Public Works, or Finance, or whatever that they literally have to bring both to us and that we determine based on the budget - and the budget may be when not possible. Does that make sense? I still want to see us try to get this goal of as much electric as possible but I would like to be able to evaluate each of these purchases on an as it comes up type of basis.

As I said, Alderman Gouveia is also on Finance and we've been seeing so much of this increase. We're going to get to the point where we are going to have to say no to a vehicle because we keep pushing up more and more. An again as I said, they're re-evaluating the entire CERF list right now. They've always done the 5% pad. It's not enough because we have a 9%, to 10%, to 8% inflation rate. So now they have to go through every item there. Should we have a second for what if's? I do realize you said passenger vehicle and we're not talking about the big dumpers or anything of that nature. I guess I would prefer to say that make it a mandate that they have to bring us both prices and that each one is evaluated. I would like to see that. I have no problem with that being a mandate. I just have a problem saying that it will be fully electric or when not possible. I take not possible meaning that it doesn't exist. That that particular doesn't exist. I want to think about it as dollars and cents. We are the stewards of the taxpayers. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Thibeault?

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you Madam Chairwoman. I think the language is good. I can see where people might think that but when I think of when not possible, I think if it can't be done. It could be there's not one possible. Maybe they don't have a vehicle that's electric for that particular thing or maybe it can't be done because the price is too high for us.

I think to Alderwoman Kelly's point about some of this is starting these discussions on this stuff. I think I heard about it at one of the Finance meetings where someone asked whoever was trying to purchase something, or maybe it was the police, or whatever did you go for an electric vehicle on this and what is the difference? Whatever it was, it was too much but I think that's the questions we need to have every time now. Did you look into an electric vehicle? You didn't? Then go away and come back with both, right? That's the discussions we need to have. If it's too much, we vote on it. The Finance would vote on it, and it would come to us to vote on it, and if it's too much, we don't go for it. We go for the one that makes more fiscal sense. But if it's just a few dollars more, we go for it. But we have to ask those questions every time now and I think that is where we start these discussions with these departments. I think DPW and some of these other ones - Police, Fire, whatever, they have to start looking into those things and have to bring both to us.

Now do you mandate it? I don't know. I'm not for mandates either for most things. Look at my record, I didn't vote for the mask mandate but generally, I wouldn't do that, right? So I wouldn't want to force someone into that but I think they should come with both prices if they want to get it through us. We're going to have to see what it costs for the electric. Again if it's too much, I'm not voting for it. I'm not on Finance but if it came to the BOA. I'm not voting for it if it's too much money.

So that's how I look at that language of if it can't be done. If it's not available or too much, we just don't do it. If it doesn't fit the City, we don't do it. To everybody's point, we want to start talking about how we do this better. If we have one, or two, or three more vehicles out there that are electric that we didn't have last year, it's a win. If we continue to grow the City in a better place for energy, and sustainability, and whatever, we've done our job of trying to get better without breaking the bank so that the City is not crashing, right? That's how I look at it.

Chairwoman Kelly

I would also say that the discussion here is part of the point of this legislation, right? As stewards of our constituents and the money that comes into the City, we should be asking these questions. So making these recommendations a lot more in-depth and specific was so that when we are all sitting around at Finance Committee, Infrastructure Committee, or Housing Trust Fund Committee, or putting in a new boiler, whatever it is, that we're starting to bring these up because we're aware of the options that could be out there and we can use Miss Brown as a resource to say hey I know that this is happening at the school. Do you know if there's any energy alternatives we should be considering? Could you talk to something? So I think the discussion is also really part of the plan here. Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you, again. As I said, I don't really care much for mandates and the reason why I did say for a mandate to make them bring both prices to us is because if we say did you look into the electric and they say no, we're going to send them back and that delay is what costs money. I will give you a perfect example. We had an item that Public Works had

approved in August. It didn't hit Finance until November. I think there was about a 12% or 14% increase. Right now, no one is guaranteeing prices. So when we put out a purchase order and we get that, so we don't want to send anybody back. We don't want any delay in purchases. I think it's really important that if you want to suggest it, that's fine but when it comes to Finance - and most things unless it's over \$1 million or multi-year contract, does not come to the Board of Aldermen. It sits with Finance. It's a very unique Committee. I don't want to see delay and to eliminate delay because of this happening, we are now asking that Public Works and Finance look at things simultaneously. That we don't wait to get their - if the Finance Committee meets first, we always say that we're voting maybe yes for it dependent on Public Works' decision. If they say no, then it's dead in the water. We're not waiting to get their decision before we start to do that. We're trying to streamline things to reduce the costs of now. So that's why I say I would like to see you put language in that they have to bring both prices to you or at least that they've looked into it. I think they would look to you. I don't think it's much more work to ask them to do that because we're already looking at prices. They're kind of doing that particular thing. That's why I do think it's important.

I do think just like I said when not possible can be squishy. That's why some people like to say "may" that means you don't have to do it, or "shall" meaning that you will do it. "When not possible" - I could define that as it's not available. In other words, no one makes that kind of type of thing or it could mean when not possible because it's 20% more. I'm being very subjective, and I'm making that decision, and then we're going to have this argument here. I would like it to be defined that when not possible meaning it doesn't exist or that it's X amount percent over the other item. I know I feel like I'm being a wet blanket on all of this. You guys did so much work so I do feel very bad about it but being on Finance, I'm seeing this first-hand.

Chairwoman Kelly

Any other? Alderman Gouveia?

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you, Madam Chair. I would have to agree with my colleague from Ward 3. I don't think that the lapse in language on the fifth point would be a reason I wouldn't vote for it but some clarity there I think would be good because, you know, putting it that we have seen to see both options, I think might be for the betterment of everybody because you are line by line right next to each other seeing the differences. Now as you are the author of the legislation, would you be open to talking about something like that or I don't see anything that makes this need to go into effect immediately. Would be open to maybe we hold off on this legislation and talk about the language in #5? I'll leave that up to you. This doesn't kill the legislation for me but it is something I wouldn't mind seeing.

Chairwoman Kelly

I think that it's a good point. I think your timing perspective is a good point. What I'm concerned about is if it's additional staff time to go look for it. It doesn't seem like it would be but I would love to make sure before we're like yes and now you have to look into every electric vehicle out there before you come to Finance. I think your timing perspective makes a lot of sense. I also think a decision around maintenance if you could see the cost, and then the 10-year maintenance, and then the cost, and then the 10-year maintenance cost. That could give you a - I don't know if there's a life cycle cost to a vehicle but it might be. It's not my purview but that might be interesting to look at as well so you're kind of comparing apples to apples. Miss Brown to you want to weigh in?

Doria Brown, Energy Manager

I believe that the Climate Mayors have an electric vehicle comparison tool where you can compare electric vehicles to hybrids, and to gas, and diesel vehicles. I can look further into that and share that with you. I think that there is potential to edit this to be a little bit clearer.

Chairwoman Kelly

I guess what I would love to see us do is forward it with a recommendation and then Doria and I could bring an amendment when we put it in front of the full Board. Because we're not that far apart and I'd rather ask Legal to try to do it in Committee. If the Committee is okay with that, I'm happy to work with Doria and Legal to have it for when it goes to full Board.

Alderman Gouveia

I'm fine with that. I was going to move to table but with that plan, I would be perfectly fine with making that a full Board

amendment.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. Awesome. So then I will work with you to make that adjustment. Is there any other discussion on this? Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you. Just so we know as part of the life cycle, quite often some of the vehicles that we have are used for trade in which actually reduces the cost of them and some aren't. Some we just say we're not going to trade it in. We're keeping it for parts or we're keeping it as a back-up because they don't have enough as it is. So if something breaks down, they're not stuck without anything. They have this back-up. So those are some of the things to keep in mind. Sometimes it's parts. Sometimes it's that. Again, I'm not on this Committee. You all get to voice that. I like work done in the Committee and we've often talked about that. I personally don't feel comfortable with it going to the Board without that kind of prelude of an amendment because then what it does it starts that discussion all over again. I mean I don't see why we have to go to Legal. I think you could possibly make an amendment here on the fly. We've done it before. If it has to get cleaned up later on by Legal, that's one thing but I would like it to go forward. I agree with you. We are not far apart. I just want to make sure that we put that through that they have to come through here.

I feel this is a mandate. There's no doubt in my mind. I feel that you have written here even though there's a squishy word "when not possible", I take that at not possible meaning that it doesn't exist. Not the cash amount with it. So I want the wiggle room in Finance to be able to say no this is too much money. Maybe creative people will say "when not possible" means that it's not possible because it doesn't exist in the budget. We can define the words anyway we want but just my opinion. I'm not on this Committee. I will talk about it when it gets to the Board as well so thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Thibeault?

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. So I'm not really for amending it here. I'd rather it be taken back and amended if necessary. I mean I would have been fine with it the way it is. It's fine if we change some of the wording to be a little more specific. I don't think we should put in percents. If it's 10%, we don't do it, or we do it, or whatever. I think we have to be careful then because times change, things change. Down the road, we don't know what it's going to be. I think it needs to be open to a certain extent to be able to make those decisions in the Finance Committee if it's truly at the time that particular vehicle we can do it, we can't do it. There's lots of other things that could happen. Depends on what the vehicle is, depends on the situation, how much it's needed. So I think having it open to a certain extent is better but if we're going to amend it, I'd rather see it with the full Board. We're missing a couple of Aldermen from this Committee that would have some great insight too and maybe we can hear that at the full Board. I wasn't in favor of tabling it because I think it's important, and a lot of work has been done on it, and I think we should go forward with it. I'd rather it go to the BOA. I know I always say don't deliberate it in the BOA, hash it out in Committee, but there's really only three of us on the Committee today.

Even like Alderman Jette who's done a lot of work with energy, I'd like to hear his opinion on this as well because I know he's been someone who's been very outspoken about the energy stuff. I think his comments would be great as well even though he's not on this Committee. I'd like to bring it to the BOA personally.

Doria Brown, Energy Manager

I want to point out that Alderman Jette is the alternate to this Committee and he attends meetings very frequently and has no problem with this.

Alderman Thibeault

Exactly. Exactly why.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. The motion is to recommend final passage. Is there additional discussion?

MOTION CARRIEDChairwoman Kelly

Doria I'll follow up with you. Thank you for being here. Thank you to everyone for the lively discussion on this.

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None**O-22-028**

Endorsers: Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

REQUIRING NONPUBLIC SESSIONS TO BE ENTIRELY IN-PERSON

- Tabled at 12/5/22 meeting

O-22-031

Endorsers: Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly

INCREASING THE VETERANS' OPTIONAL AND ALL VETERANS' TAX CREDITS

- Tabled at 11/1/2022 meeting – review at first Personnel meeting in April 2023

PUBLIC COMMENT - NoneGENERAL DISCUSSION - NoneREMARKS BY THE ALDERMENChairwoman Kelly

Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you so much. I played hooky from the Joint Special just to be here today for a number of reasons. One was because over 50% of your Performing Arts Center as well as the ones that you were nominating today were either Ward 3 or business in Ward 3.

To this bill that we just kind of discussed and so on is very important and I want to make sure that we get it right. I think it's important for it to go through. I'll stop there.

On a happier note, Ward 3 is going to have their Ward 3 block party again. We had originally scheduled it for the - last year it was in the fall. This year it's going to be on August 13th. It was originally scheduled for August 12th at the - we were hoping to have it at the Loft 34 parking lot at the Greeley House but there's going to be work done on the sidewalks and so on there so we decided to move it to Greeley Park. So the Ward 3 as we're calling it this year, not Riverfest, Block Party will be held on the 13th of August. The time will be announced and so on but we're really hoping to have it there and we actually have bathrooms this time without having to rent a port-a-potty because we have Greeley Park and we have a stage so thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Are non-residents of Ward 3 able to attend?

Alderman Klee

Greeley Park is open to Nashuans and outside. It would be kind of hard to keep everybody out and we want to welcome everybody. Just like Ward 4 has their block party and I go every year.

Chairwoman Kelly

In jest but thank you for putting that together Alderman Klee. Alderman Thibeault?

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. I just wanted to mention that the Mayor has one of his last - he has two more left for Town Hall Meetings on Wednesday. This one's in Ward 9. I say it because Ward 8 abuts it so there could be some Ward 8 members could go to it because there is certainly going to be discussion about things that impact Ward 8 I'm sure. Disc Golf will come up. So feel free if you didn't make mine a couple weeks ago in Ward 8, please come to this one in Ward 9. For any Ward 9 people out there, absolutely go. It's worth going. There's only a couple left. There's that and Ward 2 coming up hopefully soon. It needs to be rescheduled though so thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN GOUVEIA TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 8:42 p.m.

Alderman Derek Thibeault
Committee Clerk



THE CITY OF NASHUA

The Office of Economic Development

"The Gate City"

TO: Alderwoman Kelly
FROM: Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development
CC:
DATE: March 6, 2023
RE: Correcting the Record of an Error in Appointment(s) for the Nashua Performing Arts Center Board of Trustees

I am writing to you relative to an accidental typo I am hoping can be corrected.

When the appointments for the Nashua Performing Arts Center Board of Trustees were submitted for consideration accidentally Amber Morgan's appointment and Phillip Scontsas terms were flipped. The nomination should read "Phillip Scontsas with a term to expire February 14, 2026" (as opposed to February 14, 2024, which is how it currently reads now and is an inadvertent error) and "Amber Morgan with a term to expire February 14, 2024" (as opposed to February 14, 2026, which is how it currently reads now and is an in advertent error).

If the committee could correct this typo, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank You.