CITY OF NORTH ADAMS
City Clerk's Office
March 8, 2012

I hereby notify you that at twelve o'clock noon today the following items of business have been filed with this office and will be acted upon at the meeting in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, Tuesday evening March 13, 2012 at seven-thirty o'clock according to Section 8, Rules and Orders of the City Council.
Marilyn Gomeau
City Clerk

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
March 13, 2012

Roll Call
Moment of silent prayer
The Pledge
Hearing of Visitors

Approval of the minutes of regular meeting held on February 29th.

11,168 Mayor's communication #32 recommending consideration of adopting a BYOB Policy or City Ordinance, which was postponed at the meeting of February 28th.

11,124-1 Communication submitted by Councilor Blackmer regarding reconsideration of re-zoning of property located at 420 Curran Highway, which was postponed at the meeting of February 28th.

11,193 Mayor's communication #51 regarding diagonal parking in the downtown area, which was referred to the Public Safety Committee and postpone to the meeting of March 13th.

11,221 Mayor's communication #8 recommending rescinding several unissued borrowing orders that were passed by City Council.

11,221 An Order rescinding several Borrowing Orders that were passed by City Council in the aggregate amount of $3,089,638.

11,222 Mayor's communication #9 recommending the re-appointment of Joanne DeRose to the Planning Board for a five year term to expire February 1, 2017.

11,223 Report of the Public Safety Committee submitted by Councilor Blackmer, Chairman.

CORRESPONDENCE
COUNCILLOR'S CONCERNS
OPEN FORUM

City of North Adams

North Adams City Council

Public Safety Committee

March 13, 2012

North Adams City Council

Public Safety Committee Report

The Committee met on January 26, 2012 to review the position of Commission of Public Safety.

Members present: Councilors Blackmer and Kirsch

Others present: Councilors Marden & Bullett, Mayor Alcombright, Commissioner Morocco

The Mayor presented job descriptions of the management of the public safety department and the potential costs of either the Commissioner or Chiefs model.

The Commissioner stated that the ICS guidelines suggest a ratio of 5:1 officers to supervisors on shift.

Councilor Kirsch asked about officer safety particularly as it relates to second shift. Councilor Bullett asked what are shift staffing levels based on, is it population numbers.

The Commission replied that is based on calls and workload.

Councilor Kirsch suggested the need for a 2nd shift detective. The Commissioner responded that the bulk of the investigative work is done during the day because that is when witnesses and suspects are available.

We planned to have at least 2 more meetings to discuss this and to look at the information given to us in the meantime.

Meeting held February 9, 2012 to review the position of Commission of Public Safety.

Members present: Councilors Blackmer, Bona & Kirsch

Others Present: Councilors Bullett, Marden and Harpin, Mayor Alcombright, and Commissioner Morocco

The Mayor stated that he supports the current model.

Councilor Kirsch handed out a copy of the staffing and shifts and arrest numbers provided by the union president.

The Mayor stated that the model has been working and allows for one direct reports and one person who has oversight over all bodies who are involved in public safety including the health & building departments.

Councilor Kirsh replied that she felt that the staffing was random and at a crisis.

The Commissioner responded that when he was the union head he complained that there wasn't enough staff and that historically always want more officers.

Councilor Bona said he spoke to people who said they don't see the need for a Commissioner, but he want to base it on cost and only change if the cost was the same or less. Both Councilor Bona and the Mayor stated they didn't want to get bogged down in the job descriptions.

Councilor Blackmer stated that her preference was to have more officers on the ground and front line supervisors and less upper management and that the structure of the whole department was relevant if we are saying that this model saves money.

Councilor Kirsch stated that it was time to make a decision.

The Mayor asked that we make a decision at our next meeting to be able to keep a timeline to re-write the ordinances if that were necessary and be able to post the job so that the new hire(s) would be able to give notice and work with the current Commissioner for at least a month for a smooth transition.

Meeting held February 16, 2012 to review the position of Commission of Public Safety.

Members present: Councilors Blackmer, Bona & Kirsch

Others present: Councilors Bloom and Bullett, Mayor Alcombright and Commissioner Morocco

Mayor provided an updated analysis

Councilor Bona asked about the state of the Department.

Councilor Kirsch asked to make a decision tonight.

Councilor Bloom asked about the Civil Service.

The Commissioner explained that the Council can petition the State for a Home Rule Petition to go from Civil Service Chiefs to Contract Chiefs.

The felt that someone was needed to oversee all the aspects of public safety that it involved challenges in staffing and equipment and that the current model was working and less expensive.

He also said that there would be a need for upper management positions to take on the things that the Commissioner was now doing.

Councilor Kirsch said that we should stay with what we have, it is saving money.

Mayor said he is hoping to hire the best candidate possible.

Councilor Blackmer said that everyone in the City was taking on additional duties and responsibilities, as are most in the private sector.

Everyone agreed that they can't say enough about the guys in the departments and what they are doing.

Councilor Bona asked if we were still in a timeline to post the position and have someone on board by June 1, 2012.

Mayor & Commissioner responded that yes, but it would also depend on the candidate chosen.

Councilor Bona made a motion to recommend to the full council that we keep the current model of a Commissioner of Public Safety.

All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M Blackmer

Chair, Public Safety Committee

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Blackmer
Chair, Public Safety Committee

CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor
Richard J. Alcombright

July 12, 2011
#32

The North Adams City Council
Re: Request from Big Shirl's Restaurant

Dear Honorable Members:

The owners of Big Shirl's Kitchen have requested that the City adopt a BYOB policy or ordinance. This practice is becoming more popular around the state and would allow an establishment to have beer and wine on the premise that would be brought in by the customer....with certain levels of control.

The idea was forwarded first the City Solicitor and I have attached his opinion. While permitted, he indicated that the "City may choose to regulate to restrict the practice". The License Commission, upon receipt of the opinion decided that it was not in their purview to act and I have included their meeting minutes. I have been further asked by the owners to bring this to Council. I would ask that this be referred both to my office and the appropriate council committee as determined by the President for further discussion.

I do have policy and ordinance from several other places as well as a printout of communities in the Commonwealth that have taken action for and against and will provide to the appropriate committee chair.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Alcombright
Mayor

10 Main Street • North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3000

Office of the City Council
City of North Adams

10 Main Street Room 109
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3015

January 18, 2012

Dear Fellow Councilors,

The owners of 420 Curran Highway have approached me regarding the re-zoning of their property. In looking at the opinion of the City Solicitor, I think now is the appropriate time to address this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Blackmer
Vice President

CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor
Richard J. Alcombright

September 28, 2011
#51

The North Adams City Council
Re: Diagonal Parking

Dear Honorable Members:

I have included in your packet a Technical Memorandum and Parking Layout from Tighe & Bond regarding diagonal parking in the downtown area. As you know, this concept has been discussed for many years among merchants and most recently through the StreetScape project.

The idea is intended to do two things: First, it will add approximately 10 spaces to the north side of the Main Street from the Mohawk Theater to a point just east of the former Petrino's. Second, diagonal parking, will utilize the most inward lane of the three lanes which will help to slow traffic. As with everything, there are pro's and con's to this proposal which I will discuss at the meeting.

My recommendation is that with winter coming, it would be best to delay this undertaking until May 1, 2012 which will allow ample time for the Public Safety Committee to review, the DPW time to think through any issues with snow removal and give the administration ample time to implement. I will say that the proposal before you has been reviewed and approved by the Traffic Commission, DPW Commissioner Lescarbeau and Public Safety Commissioner Morocco and myself.

I would respectfully request that this be referred to the Public Safety Committee for further comment.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Alcombright
Mayor

10 Main Street • North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3000

CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor
Richard J. Alcombright

March 13, 2012
#08

The Honorable City Council
Re: Indebtedness

Honorable Members:

In reviewing our Statement of Indebtedness from the Department of Revenue, it has been noted that we have 11 borrowing Orders that were authorized and used many years ago. What is of concern is that with the 11, there are "unissued" balances attached to those specific issues.

The accompanying Order gives detail as to the $3,089,638 that is unissued under the borrowings. One might compare this to having open-ended credit available on your personal credit history that you will never use. While it is not truly problematic, it appears that the City has the ability to create more debt and this "housekeeping" measure will serve to clean that up.

As these borrowings will not be used for any future purpose, I am recommending that Council approve the Order to rescind as presented.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Alcombright
Mayor

RJA:ll

10 Main Street • North Adams, Massachusetts 01247
(413) 662-3000

City of North Adams

In City Council

March 13, 2012

Ordered:

That eleven (11) Orders adopted by City Council be and are hereby rescinded, in the aggregate amount of Three Million Eighty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars ($3,089,638) as follows:

Purpose	Date of Vote	Article Number	Amount Authorized	Issued	Unissued 3/13/2012
Library	07/11/89	9795	$ 40,000	$ -	$ 40,000
Streets & Sidewalks	12/09/97	10357-3	$ 100,000	$ 95,000	$ 5,000
Drury High School Renovation	12/10/02	10520-2	$ 2,000,000	$ 615,000	$ 1,385,000
Roads & Sidewalk Reconstruction	06/08/04	10759	$ 750,000	$ 475,000	$ 275,000
Elementary School	06/12/90	9873	$ 12,192,625	$ 12,192,000	$ 625
Streets & Sidewalks	05/08/04	9264	$ 2,500,000	$ 2,439,700	$ 60,300
I&I Evaluation	05/14/96	10279-1	$ 500,000	$ 495,789	$ 4,211
I&I Water Abatement Trust	06/25/02	10673	$ 600,000	$ 565,498	$ 34,502
Library	06/14/05	10691-1A	$ 850,000	$ 700,000	$ 150,000
Airport Easements	03/14/06	10842	$ 820,000	$ -	$ 820,000
Streets & Sidewalk Reconstruction	06/27/06	10854	$ 1,200,000	$ 885,000	$ 315,000
					$ 3,089,638

CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor
Richard J. Alcombright

March 13, 2012
#09

The Honorable City Council
Re: Re-Appointment to North Adams Planning Board

Honorable Members:

I am pleased to recommend Joanne DeRose for re-appointment to the Planning Board. Joanne will be appointed for a five year term to expire on February 1, 2017.

Joanne has been an outstanding member and has proved herself to be worthy of re-appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Alcombright
Mayor

RJA:ll

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City of North Adams

North Adams City Council

Public Safety Committee

March 13, 2012

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He also said that there would be a need for upper management positions to take on the things that the Commissioner was now doing.

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Mayor said he is hoping to hire the best candidate possible.

Councilor Blackmer said that everyone in the City was taking on additional duties and responsibilities, as are most in the private sector.

Everyone agreed that they can't say enough about the guys in the departments and what they are doing.

Councilor Bona asked if we were still in a timeline to post the position and have someone on board by June 1, 2012.

Mayor & Commissioner responded that yes, but it would also depend on the candidate chosen.

Councilor Bona made a motion to recommend to the full council that we keep the current model of a Commissioner of Public Safety.

All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M Blackmer

Chair, Public Safety Committee