

A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. in the aldermanic chamber.

President Lori Wilshire presided; City Clerk Dan Healey recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Dan Healey; Alderman John Sullivan led in the Pledge to the Flag.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance.

The roll call was taken with 15 members of the Board of Aldermen present: Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Timmons, Alderman Moran, Alderman Thibodeau, Alderman Gouveia, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Clemons, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Jette, Alderman Thibeault, Alderman Klee, Alderman Dowd, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Wilshire.

Mayor James W. Donchess, Corporation Counsel Steve Bolton were also in attendance.

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Donchess

I want to welcome everyone to the 112th Board of Aldermen, the 112th city government. We just had our inauguration. It seems the snow doesn't want us to get together because we got the inauguration cancelled on Sunday and now it's snowing outside again. I want to congratulate you Madam President on your re-election and Alderman-at-Large O'Brien for his as President and Vice-President of the Board of Aldermen. I look forward to working with all of you - working together as we have for years in the past. I think we've done a good job of treating each other with respect and kindness even when there is a disagreement, which often there is not.

On the agenda, I did want to mention one thing - the communication from Doria Brown, Energy Manager, which sets forth the new Community Power electric rate which is 8.1 cents per kilowatt for the basic rate. For those who want a higher than 24% proportion of green energy, the prices go up from there. But, again, we are undercutting Eversource and I really think Community Power which is an organization of Nashua and several other communities buying power for our residents, our customers has actually made Eversource more competitive in terms of trying to get the electric rates as low as possible. Anyway, I want to thank Doria and the NH Community Power Coalition for working on this. We have also developed a significant reserve fund that ultimately will come to Nashua several million dollars and we have saved Nashua customers over \$3 million so far.

But with that Madam President, I just want to reiterate that I look forward to working with you and the other members of the Board again. I know we are trying to and we will build for our great community a healthy and prosperous future for Nashuans for generations to come. So it's just an honor to be with you all. Thank you very much.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR - None

PRESENTATION

- Nashua Community Power Spring 2024 Rate Changes and Sustainability Plan

President Wilshire

Tonight I'm going to recognize Deb Chisholm the Sustainability Manager.

Deb Chisholm, Sustainability Manager

Good evening. Deb Chisholm, Sustainability Department Manager. I'm just here to give a quick introduction to the others who are doing all the work for the Sustainability Department. As Mayor Donchess has just revealed, the new power rates for Community Power Coalition have been revealed. Doria is going to give you a little bit of an update on that and I've also got Levent here, newest member of Sustainability Department. He is going to give you a quick summary on where we're at with the Sustainability Plan which is something that came about several months ago with the recommendations from the Environment and Energy Committee, one of which was to develop a sustainability plan. So we are right now up to our eyeballs in pulling that together and Levent is going to give you a little update on that.

So I'm going to introduce to you Doria Brown who is the city's Energy Manager. She's here via Zoom - of course being the safe one and not having to drive in and drive home later. I'll leave it here and if you have questions about any of this, feel free to ask as we're going through this and also feel free to reach out anytime. Donna has our contact information if you have any other questions. Thank you.

Doria Brown, Energy Manager

Good evening. I just wanted to do a quick overview on the Community Power rates. I know Mayor Donchess just went over them but I do want to get a little bit more detailed.

So we were able to get a default rate of 8.1 cents per kilowatt hour which will start on the first period in February and will be up in the first meter read of July. If you want to opt up to different rates, you can opt up for 33% renewable energy content at 8.4 cents, 50% at 9.4 cents, and 100% at 12.4 cents. Then we also are offering variable rates for large users. I'm not going to go over every single rate in the spreadsheet but I just wanted to share them with the Board of Aldermen. There's a little bit more fluctuation here with the Granite Basic our default rate at 12.4 cents in February but it trends down in March to 8.3 cents, April 6.5, May 6.2, and June 6.5, July 7.9. As you can see, we continue to be able to offer rates below the utility in both our variable rates and in our basic residential rate.

I do want to point out that the Eversource rate is very low this time around as well which is super exciting. It's at 8.2 cents a kilowatt hour and the reason it is so low this time around is because I believe Eversource had overcharged, I think, in the last billing cycle and they are redistributing that overcharge into this billing cycle. So I don't know what they're rates are going to be next time around for the August 24 to February 25 timeframe but I'm interested to see what those look like and what we're able to come up with for Nashua Community Power along with CPCNH. I'm going to hand it over to Levent now if there aren't any questions.

Levent Akinci, Sustainability Planner

Good evening, everyone. So I'm Levent Akinci and I'm a Sustainability Planner in Community Development's Sustainability Department. So today I'm here to inform all of you a little bit about the Livable Nashua Plan which is a plan that the Sustainability Department had partnered with the Office of Emergency Management to produce. So in presenting this plan to you tonight, I'll give you a little bit of an overview of its purpose, what it will encompass, the timeline for completing the plan, as well as couple little next steps.

So firstly I just wanted to read out what you're seeing on the slide right there. The Livable Nashua Plan is the city's roadmap to a livable, resilient, and sustainable future for everyone, to meet the long-term goals of the city's Imagine Nashua Master Plan. Livable Nashua defines the short-term actions that the city will take to meet the challenges of climate change head on and create a thriving community.

So in essence, this is our Sustainability Plan. By creating this plan, we're fulfilling the resolution goal to create such a plan by 2024 which was adopted by the Board of Aldermen last year. But as stated here, this plan is going to lay out the concrete, trackable actions that the city will take in the short term to achieve the sustainability related goals in the Imagine Nashua Master Plan. So in doing so, this plan will help us both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change that we are already experiencing here. We did see some pretty significant flooding and of course poor air quality events last year.

Now something we need to be clear about is that the Livable Nashua Plan is going to be a municipal scale implementation plan which means we are focusing on actions that the city has direct control over and thus this plan is going to have the greatest impact on the way that the city operates as we move forward. However, there are many actions that the city can take that could have implications for the wider community as well which is why we have really prioritized community engagement as part of the plan's development process. So we really want to be sure that the community is onboard with this and that the plan is reflective of our entire community desires.

The other key point is the short-term aspect of this plan. So we want to make sure that the actions established in this plan are achievable in the short term and for this plan that really means achievable within about 5 years ideally but in some cases depending on the specific actions, we could be looking out maybe as far as 10 years in some cases. It will all depend on what those final actions end up being. Then to put that into slightly better context in comparison with the Imagine Nashua Master Plan so one of the sustainability related goals from Imagine Nashua is to achieve city-wide carbon neutral electricity by 2050. So for this plan, the Livable Nashua Plan, we would take that and look at actions that we can take now and perhaps into the next 5 to 10 years to get us closer to achieving that goal. So for example, actions could include something like prioritizing solar installations and battery storage on city-owned parking lots and garages where feasible of course, increasing the Community Power Program's reserve fund to invest in local renewable energy projects, or updating Land Use Codes to permit rooftop solar energy systems by right in certain zoning districts. So none of these examples are going to directly achieve the goal that I mentioned from Imagine Nashua but they are stepping stones that get us closer in the short-term and set us up for achieving that 2050 goal on time.

Moreover with a short-term outlook for this plan, the idea will be to update the plan probably every 5 years or so as we accomplish the established actions which will insure that we continue the momentum towards the sustainability goals that were established in the Imagine Nashua Master Plan.

Now for this plan we'll be organizing the actions into 5 focus areas which are listed here on the slide. They are clean energy and efficient buildings, resilient and healthy communities, smart waste and water management, sustainable transportation and land use, and thriving natural resources. These were all identified as focus areas after completing a baseline assessment as well to kind of see where the city stands currently in terms of sustainability.

In terms of timeline, you'll see here that we started the process back in July last year with data collection and the baseline assessment that I mentioned. While we have set a tentative completed plan release for April of this year. Also looking at this timeline, you'll see that we are currently at the tail end of the action planning stage. So we've really been spending the last several months consulting with representatives from all departments and the city to develop the actions for the plan. We've taken those actions to the Environment and Energy Committee, as well as the Conservation Committee for review, and we've also been gathering input from the public.

So in terms of the public input, we've been sending out surveys, we set up a booth at the Holiday Stroll, we conducted focus groups at both Nashua High Schools, and also with organizations such as Centro Latino, as well as many other activities as well. Now we're kind of in the process of evaluating all of that input trying to see how we can best establish or best adapt the goals that we've creating to meet all of the desires of everyone who has provided input thus far.

As far as next steps, we will be presenting this plan to the Board again as soon as it is completed and ready, likely by April. We're looking for continued support from all of you as we work to complete it and as we work to implement the established actions in the future too. In the meanwhile if you haven't done so already and would like to provide some input for the actions going into this plan, there is one more opportunity to do so during the Environment and Energy Committee meeting on January 18th where the actions under the clean energy and efficient buildings focus area will be discussed. If anyone has any questions right now, I'm happy to take them otherwise thank you for your time this evening.

President Wilshire

Thank you so much.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. I just wanted to comment and I also want to thank the newly formed Sustainability Plan for their work on this. You've done a ton of due diligence to really bring this forward and make sure it's vetted and I know that the approach that we've been taking with the committee is also looking at how we can really localize our approach to climate change what can we control and I think that's really effective as are our first step here.

I also just wanted to brag a little bit about the work that we're doing in the city. We have our first Energy Manager. We have an incredible with (inaudible) that we've suggested and we're leading the way in Community Power so I'm grateful for the work that we're doing. I know that the Board will get to get in and hear a lot more about what we're doing with the sustainability plan but come to our meeting on the 18th and tell us more if you'd like.

President Wilshire

Anyone else? Thank you very much. Appreciate your time tonight.

RECOGNITION PERIOD - None

READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS - None

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING ONLY PROCEDURAL ACTIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS

From: Julian Long, Urban Programs Manager
Re: Community Development Block Grant CARES Act Round 1 Funding Reallocation

From: Doria Brown, Energy Manager
Re: Nashua Community Power Spring 2024 Rate Changes

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the communications and placed them on file.

PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT RELATIVE TO ITEMS EXPECTED TO BE ACTED UPON THIS EVENING - None

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING FINAL APPROVAL

From: Mayor Jim Donchess
Re: Multi-Year Contract Award – Sada Systems, Inc.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO APPROVE A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT TO UPGRADE OUR BACK-UP CLOUD-BASED INFORMATION SHARING AND STORAGE SYSTEMS FOR GOOGLE WORKSPACE SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE WITH SADA SYSTEMS, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,100 TOTAL (\$2,700 PER YEAR). FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 156 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT; FUND: 55620 SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES
MOTION CARRIED**

From: Mayor Jim Donchess
Re: Multi-Year Contract Award – ClearGov

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN GOUVEIA TO APPROVE A THREE-YEAR BUDGET SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTION WITH CLEARGOV IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,760 (\$29,760 FIRST YEAR COST INCLUDING A ONE-TIME ONBOARDING FEE OF \$5,400; \$24,360 SUBJECT TO 3% INCREASES FOR YEARS TWO AND THREE). FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 120 TECHNOLOGY MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT; FUND: 55620 SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES
MOTION CARRIED**

From: Len Fournier, Superintendent Woodlawn/Pinewood Cemeteries
Re: Joint Convention to nominate Marc W. Plamondon as Trustee

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the communication, placed it on file, and schedule a Joint Convention with the Woodlawn/Pinewood Cemeteries for Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

PETITIONS

Petition for Street Discontinuance – Mar Lane

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the Petition for Street Discontinuance, referred it to the Committee on Infrastructure, Nashua City Planning Board, and schedule a public hearing for Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Animal & Dog Park Advisory

Kathy Abel (re-appointment) Term to Expire: October 31, 2026
41 Manchester Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Downtown Improvement Committee

Fouad Mahfuz (new appointment) Term to Expire: November 2, 2026
227 Main Street
Nashua, NH 03060

Historic District Commission

Lisa Law (new appointment) Term to Expire: January 31, 2027
78 Concord Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee

Thomas Sellon (new appointment)
5 Wakefield Drive
Nashua, NH 03062

Term to Expire: December 31, 2027

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the Appointments by the Mayor as read and referred them to the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE - None

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-24-001

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman Tim Sennott
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$26,800 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY "2022 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM - ACTIVE THREAT TRAINING"

Given its first reading; Assigned to the HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, by President Wilshire

R-24-002

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$547,326.33 OF FY2024 UNANTICIPATED REVENUE INTO FUND #1001 "CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS", DEPARTMENT 160 "PUBLIC WORKS – ADMINISTRATION & ENGINEERING"

Given its first reading; Assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE and SCHEDULE A SPECIAL BOARD OF ALDERMEN PUBLIC HEARING ON MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024 AT 7:00 P.M., by President Wilshire

R-24-003

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

AMENDING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2021-2025 TO REALLOCATE ROUND ONE CDBG-CV FUNDING UNDER THE 2020 CARE ACT

Given its first reading; Assigned to the HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, by President Wilshire

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Alderman Moran

Thank you, Madam President. I just want to thank DPW for over the weekend. The snowstorm was very terrible and as you could see outside not so great right now but I'm told it's going to turn to rain. I'll use this as an opportune moment to remind the Mayor to add extra people in the Streets Department to snow and plow for the next fiscal budget and to tell my fiscal conservative Aldermen looking at Alderman from Ward 5 and Alderman from Ward 2 to not stand in the way of giving the DPW more shovels. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

Yeah on the note of the weather and the blizzards we've been facing and everything, not everybody has a place to go. We know there's a lot of unsheltered people in Nashua tonight. We estimate around 20 different campsites around the city. On January 26th, the Continuum of Care will be doing it's point in time count. They'll be coordinating all the different non-profit organizations, all the different first responders, and they'll be organizing outreach groups to go and try to at least take a general census of who's out there, what their status is, and hopefully be able to identify solutions for them.

The emergency overflow capacity at the Soup Kitchen has been regularly reported as "at capacity" and that was the extra overflow we talked about in December, I guess. That was going to solve the situation and there's a lot of people who there still isn't space for and still need support. Something to keep in mind as we look at our budgetary priorities and our economic development and community development priorities over the next two years is are we making sure that we're taking care of the people living in Nashua today as opposed to planning for the people that we want to attract for different reasons tomorrow. Thank you.

Also sorry I almost forgot, Monday Martin Luther King Day. I was looking for where they would be observing it or celebrating it. Soel Sistas will be having a brunch if anybody would like to participate. Tickets are available on Eventbrite or you can check it out at their location at 30 Temple Street.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you, Madam President. I just want to briefly mention that by the time we next meet altogether here, we will have held the Presidential Primary in the State of New Hampshire. I'd like to remind everybody to get out and vote. Voting does matter irrespective of what we may here on the national news level and to be patient with your moderators, your clerks, your selectmen, your ballot inspectors. They're facing a long day by default. The polls are open for 14 hours and they'll be in for a long night that night. Thank you.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I, too, want to comment on DPW and all they have done. I drove around Ward 3 today. Almost as many streets as I possibly can because there were some complaints and some issues. I want to remind the people that in Ward 3, DPW does all the plowing but it's not all the Streets Department that does Ward 3. Some of it is Park and Rec. because we have some very narrow streets in through there and so on. They do their very best. I can tell you that probably 98% of the streets were done perfectly. There were a couple here and there that there were some issues and DPW was out there today. All Parks and Rec. are out there today cleaning. For some of those streets that didn't get quite done to the resident's expectations, this storm is going to create a little bit of havoc with a lot of slush and so on. So I just ask people to be patient. DPW is doing their best. For those in Ward 3, you can always reach out to me and I'll do everything I can. I have no more power than probably they do but I do have a loud voice so please be patient is the most thing.

When the roads are this bad, stay off the streets. I could tell that some of the streets while the emergency parking ban was lifted at noontime, they were still cleaning the streets at noontime so if you put your car out there, those streets weren't getting clean as much as we would hope they would be. So think a little common sense. Even if the ban is over with at noontime, don't get your cars out on the streets. Help DPW as much as you possibly can. Thank you for your time.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. I just want to shout out to the Inauguration Committee. Not only did they plan an Inauguration but then they

had to pivot because of the snow and do a second one. I was actually really happy to be in the Performing Arts Center. It was a really nice opportunity to be in that space. I just wanted to say congrats to all my newly sworn in colleagues.

Alderman Wilshire

I would like to apologize for my stage fright at the Inauguration. Honestly, I felt terrible about that but we made it. We got through it.

I also want to mention that we have a new Deputy Police Chief who is Brian Kenney. Great guy. He's been you know top notch all the way. I think he'll serve the city well as the new Deputy Chief so kudos to him.

Committee announcements:

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Madam Chair. I hate to say it, it's not that we're starting off on the wrong foot with the Committee on Infrastructure but getting double bookings with the primary, other different things, trying to get items together. So one of the dates that was available was February 14th. I am not going to deny my wife the right to a nice little valentine. I'm sure others would appreciate that. So it looks like the 29th. So pencil in the 29th and bring your boots, hike them up because we're going to get right into it okay and thank you.

Alderwoman Timmons

Thank you, Madam President. The Board of Health's first meeting is tomorrow at 12:30 in Room 208. Everybody is welcome to attend. Our new members are welcome to attend. You'll learn a lot at the Health meetings because it's not just the Health Department, it's the whole shebang. So I welcome you to come to just one of the meetings.

Alderman Moran

Thank you, Madam President. As of right now, PEDC for January 16th doesn't have anything on the agenda so I'll be cancelling that meeting. We'll hold our next meeting next month. If there's nothing on, I'm sure we can scrounge up a few Directors and have them do some presentations on some stuff. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

Human Affairs Committee has a meeting next week. I cannot find the date but check the website if you're interested in attending public and Aldermen please attend as well.

Alderman Kelly

I just want to remind everybody that the Energy & Environment Committee will be going over the sustainability_plan on Thursday, January 18th, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 208.

Alderman Sullivan

Sorry, I missed this one. BIDA meets tomorrow morning 9:00 a.m. over in Room 208. That's tomorrow morning at 9:00 o'clock.

Alderman Wilshire

I want to mention that our next meeting will be moved to the 24th due to the Primary. So it was initially scheduled for the 23rd but because that's the Presidential Primary, we will hold it on the 24th.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN THAT THE JANUARY 9, 2024 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE
ADJOURNED
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Attest: Dan Healey, City Clerk



Livable Nashua

Working Together for a Resilient Future

**January 9th, 2024
Board of Aldermen**



Livable Nashua

Working Together for a Resilient Future



The *Livable Nashua Plan* is the City's roadmap to a livable, resilient, and sustainable future for everyone. To meet the long-term goals of the City's *Imagine Nashua Master Plan*, *Livable Nashua* defines the short-term actions that the City will take to meet the challenges of climate change head-on and create a thriving community.

Livable
Nashua

Key Aspects

- Municipal scale plan:
 - Focus on Actions the City has direct control over.
 - Greatest impact on the way the City operates.
 - Some actions could have implications for the wider community, therefore community engagement prioritized.
- Short-term:
 - Actions achievable within 5 years, ideally.
 - Actions will be stepping stones to achieving more long-term goals established in *Imagine Nashua*.
 - Plan to be updated as actions are completed to ensure continued forward momentum.



Focus Areas



WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE LIVABLE NASHUA PLAN?

Goals, strategies, and actions in the *Livable Nashua Plan* will relate to five areas of everyday life in Nashua:



Clean Energy
& Efficient
Buildings



Resilient &
Healthy
Community



Smart Waste
& Water
Management



Sustainable
Transportation
& Land Use



Thriving Natural
Resources

Livable
Nashua

Planning Process Timeline

Using the data and stakeholder feedback collected, the City will develop goals, strategies, and actions to help us reach our community goals. We will launch the *Livable Nashua Plan* in 2024.



Next Steps

- Completed plan presented to Board of Alderman (likely by April)
- Plan action input opportunity: Environment and Energy Committee meeting (Thursday, January 18th, 2024)