



City of Malden

Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Meeting Minutes - Final Personnel/Appointments Committee

Councillor Winslow, Chair
Councillor Colon Hayes, Vice Chair
Councillor Crowe
Councillor Linehan
Councillor Spadafora

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

5:30 PM

City Hall, Room #105
215 Pleasant Street

Roll Call

Present: 5 - Councillor Stephen Winslow, Councillor Karen Colon Hayes, Peg Crowe, Amanda Linehan and Craig Spadafora

Also Present:
Alicia McNeil-City Solicitor

Councillor Winslow called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

Minutes to be Approved

[147-24](#) Minutes of March 12, 2024 to be approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Colon Hayes, seconded by Councillor Linehan, that the Committee Minutes of March 12, 2024 be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Business

[77-24](#) Mayoral Appointment: Andrew Scarano, 21 Magnolia Street, Malden, as member of the Public Works Commission, to fill the unexpired term of Bill Coleman, said term to expire March 1, 2026 and to commence upon confirmation by the City Council.

Attachments: [Andrew Scarano Appointment Letter](#)
[Public Works Comm-Pers Appts 31924](#)

Clerk read Paper #77-24. Councillor Winslow asked Andrew to introduce himself and explain why he would like to serve on the Public Works Commission.

Andrew is a lifelong resident of Malden. He worked for the City in Code Enforcement and the MRA. He retired in 2016 and retired after 38 years with the City. He saw the opening and thought it would be an opportunity to give back to the City. He loves the City and would like to be a part of it.

Councillor Linehan asked what in particular about this board interests you

Andrew said Public Works because when he worked at the MRA he was involved with the housing but also was involved with some of the contractor with important things in the yard like water leaks, lead pipes which they would give out grants to fix them. He also

worked in Peabody as a spec writer and ended up back in the City of Malden. He said he is a jack of all trades and knows how to talk with people when it comes to social issues.

Councillor Colon Hayes thanks Andrew for applying and said she doesn't know much about this particular board and asked if he was given an overview in his interview with the Board and asked him how he would handle his role listening to complaints from constituents.

Andrew explained that the board deals with water, sewer and he believes he will be listening to people coming in with complaints relating to water and curb cuts, things on their property effected by the City and coming up with a solution to their problem. He worked with water pipe replacements with the MRA and would ask people first if it was lead pipes and offer assistance with replacing them through the MRA.

Councillor Spadafora said he hit the nail on the head when you said people aren't going to be coming in to thank me for being on the Board but with abatement and water questions. What is your communication style?

Andrew said first you want to listen to them, try to understand where they are coming from and try to decipher the best solution to take care of it. You have to let them leave there thinking they have accomplished something and offer an answer to their problems and hopefully solve them.

Councillor Crowe said she agrees when you talk about your background. Her understanding is it is alot about abatements and curb cuts and given your background you have more of a breath of knowledge of other opportunities in the City helping somebody you might solve a problem and help fix them structurally also.

Alicia McNeil asked what is his experience with going to court or in front of a court? With this particular committee we don't go to court per se but we do go to administrative hearings and generally don't via zoom.

Andrew said he has been to court a few times when he was working with the MRA and the code enforcement. You do the best you can you work it out and the judge makes the final decision.

Alicia explained what normally happens on her end if somebody does not get an abatement on their water bill they have the right to appeal it to the ADT board and most of the times we need you to be present to testify as to what has happened and one of the things she encourages is to make sure the record is clear with whoever the clerk of the committee is.

Councillor Winslow read the make up of the Public Works Commission as it is in the City Charter into the record. (see attached) It is a pretty broad mandate. One of the things that comes before the City Council every year are the water rates what is your background with project budgets and spreadsheets?

Andrew said he did all the chart work and cases dealing with the Finances as the Director of the site office at the MRA before he retired. They were handling a lot of Federal money at that time and applying for grants when he was there.

Councillor Winslow said one of the things he was working with Yem Lipp, City Engineer was we had this Federal ARPA money as well as money from Congresswoman Katherine

Clark to get the leadpipe program to be more aggressive to take out lead pipes coupled with the program Councillor Spadafora set up of any time a house is sold the lead pipes have to go. We have 2500 lead pipe services we know of and 1800 we don't know of and have about 4000 we will have to replace or investigate in the next ten years. Hopefully we have some more money coming down the pike for lead pipes. This is one of the major initiatives the City will be doing it is a lot of progress in terms of lead but we will be under the obligation to actually remove all public and private lead service which one of the Public Works Commission will help oversee.

A motion was made by Councillor Colon Hayes, seconded by Councillor Crowe, that the Appointment be recommended favorably to the City Council. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Other Business

Adjournment

Motion was made by Councillor Linehan, seconded by Councillor Crowe, that this meeting be adjourned at 5:57 PM. The motion carried unanimously.