

**Hybrid* Committee on Neighborhood & City Services
and COTW**

Event Date:

Wednesday, August 17, 2022 - 5:00pm

Address

*City Hall
City Council Chambers
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950*

Here is a link to the recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/RIw3zfQDz3KclgwHJCOWV67ihlw-MEPCfLTZ3z...>

Councillors Attending		Others Attending	Address
Edward C. Cameron, Jr	x	<i>Andrew Levine</i>	<i>Chief of Staff</i>
Jennie L. Donahue	x	<i>Jamie Tuccolo</i>	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Afroz Khan	x	<i>Michael Hennessey</i>	<i>Parks Manager</i>
Byron J. Lane		<i>Benjamin Iacono</i>	<i>4 Hallisey Drive</i>
James J. McCauley	x	<i>Andrew Simpson</i>	<i>1.5 Greenleaf St</i>
Heather L. Shand	x	<i>Robert Morrill</i>	<i>Stuart Florida</i>
Constance Preston	x	<i>Jean Costello</i>	<i>522 Merrimac St</i>
Bruce L. Vogel	x	<i>Doreen Olsen</i>	<i>5 Savory St</i>
Christine E. Wallace	x	<i>Leslie Eckholdt</i>	<i>37 Warren Street</i>
Sharif I. Zeid	x	<i>Owen Smith</i>	<i>175 Storey Ave</i>
Mark R. Wright	x	<i>Stacey MacMillan Kenneth Irwin</i>	<i>16 Highland Ave 296 High Street</i>

Agenda: ORDR00380_08_08_2022 Parks Department Reorganization	Action Taken: <i>Motion to remain in Committee</i>
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<i>Presentation</i>	<i>See comments</i>
<i>Councillors Questions</i>	<i>See comments</i>
<i>Public Comment</i>	<i>See comments</i>

CITY OF NEWBURYPORT



IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDERED:

August 8, 2022

WHEREAS, Article 5, Administrative Organization, Section 5-1, Organization of City Agencies, of the Newburyport Home Rule Charter authorizes the Mayor to reorganize, consolidate or abolish any City agency, in whole or in part, or to establish such new City agencies as is deemed necessary; and

WHEREAS the Mayor intends to establish an operating division with respect to the operation of the City’s parks for the efficient conduct of the business of the City and further improve the services provided by the City’s administration; and

WHEREAS the Mayor has included herewith a message to the Council explaining the benefits expected to result from this proposed change and the sections of existing ordinances that will need to be amended.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it ordered that the Newburyport Parks Department will be reorganized as described in the attached plan, and its primary responsibilities will be placed under the auspices of the Department of Public Services. Further, additional responsibilities of the Parks Department will be brought into the Mayor’s Office, Newburyport Youth Services, and the Parks Commission. Any needed amendments to the City’s Code of Ordinances will be brought to the City Council for consideration to effectuate this Order and Attached Plan with respect to reorganization of the Parks Department. This administrative order will come into effect in 60 days, unless disapproved by a vote of the Council.

Councillor Heather L. Shand

Comments:

**Andrew Levine-Introduction-Newburyport Parks Reorganization
Presentation
Goals/Process
Proposed Structure
Parks Maintenance Staff
Proposed Organization Chart
Benefits Operational Efficiencies**

**Jamie Tuccolo- Administrative Staff & Operations
Stating- the Parks Department under the DPS to better serve Residents**

**Michael Hennessey – Proposed Process for Parks Maintenance
Work reports-less paperwork**

**Jamie Tuccolo- Streamlining service areas -DPS will work with Parks
Department**

**Michael Hennessey- Bartlet Mall & Vicinity Mowing
Brown School Playground & Parking Lot Equipment Sharing
Specialized Equipment /Sharing Storage DPS Facility- Will be cost Saving**

Jamie Tuccolo-save with repair cost.

Andrew Levine-Benefits-Cost Savings on Equipment Rental

Michael Hennessey-Contractor Crossover Savings

Jamie- DPS special licensed employees to assist with projects

Michael-Joppa Park walkway

**Andrew Levine-Parks Commission -Code of ordinance changes
Public Hearing August 23, 2022**

COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

Councillor McCauley-Ordinance Changes?

REPLY= Andrew Levine- follow Charter requirements.

Councillor Preston-How will the City continue with Morrill Foundation?

**REPLY= Andrew Levine- Will meet with Morrill Foundation and
Parks Commission, honoring Mission.**

Councillor Vogel-Why a Park Reorganization Plan?

REPLY= Andrew Levine- Improve operation resources around the Department

Councillor Vogel- Are there concerns from Constituents or Residents?

REPLY= Andrew Levine- How are our structure compared with others. There were questions about maintenance and communication.

Councillor Vogel- Where is Open Space considered?

REPLY= Andrew Levine- Outcome = Fully staffed Parks Department.

Councillor Vogel- Work order system Parks department?

REPLY= Michael Hennessey-not adequate office space.

Councillor Zeid – Spoke in favor of plan.

Needs management structure.

The roll of the Council is to support Tax payers.

Coordination with DPS and Parks Department.

Is consistent with other Communities.

Will help with getting things done in a timely manner with Parks Division within DPS.

Parks Commission Roll-Public Policy board

Councillor Donahue -How are the DPS and Parks Dept. handling the shift in the reorganization?

REPLY= Michael Hennessey- Still separate, nothing operational has changed. Looking forward to this opportunity. Positive experience with staff.

Councillor Vogel- Has Municipal Recreation Dept. experience.

Understanding of DPS and Parks working together. Can see benefits.

Difficulty with lack of detail in the Plan. Lack of specifics.

REPLY= Andrew Levine- Proposal and recommendations will cost the City a lot less money.

Councillor Cameron- Stated Reorganization has challenges and a sensitive topic, with structural changes. In favor of the Parks dept. working under DPS umbrella. Still needs Management position. Positive intentions.

Councillor Wallace- Operation maintenance Management Dept make sense. Still need someone overseeing programming. More volunteer's involvement. Park Commission. Goal to make everything better.

Concerned about soft aspects of plan.

Councillor McCauley- Acknowledged communication process from Administrations COMM00405_4_11_2022 NBPT Strategic Plan and COMM00422_7_11_2022 Community Paradigm Operational Improvement Report. Need more conversations. Cost savings with operational efficiency, fully funded Parks Division. Vision Highest quality of service.

Councillor Khan- Maintenance component missing. Need better understanding Parks Commission. Support action but process seems rushed. How recommendations came into organization plan.

Councillor Preston- Worked with Parks and DPS, Sees efficiencies of Plan. Concerned with softer side of plan with Parks Commission and Volunteers.

Councillor Shand-Reorganization Plan lack of details. Efficiency plan in place. Parks Commission

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Benjamin Iacono 4 Hallisey Drive - Loss of adult recreations What savings will be used for.

Andrew Simpson 1.5 Greenleaf St- Streamlining efficiency. Why Parks singled out. \$300,000 included in City resources.

Robert Morrill Stuart Florida - Oversees Foundation. Worked with past Parks Director, pleased with her accomplishments Parks need attention.

Jean Costello 522 Merrimac St – Needs more details to understand organizational plan.

Doreen Olsen 5 Savory Street – Grant writing who will be responsible. Parks Commission

Leslie Eckholdt 37 Warren Street – Parks dept planned need more details. Lack of specifics.

Owen Smith 175 Storey Ave – Support concept operation of DPS with addition of parks.

Stacey MacMillan 16 Highland Ave – Operation efficiency

Kenneth Irwin 296 High Street- Parks important to community. We have a different style and we shouldn't compare to other communities.

Doreen Olsen 5 Savory Street – Volunteers Communication maintaining parks. Study Comparison

Councillor Donahue -Municipal Grant Writer- Nancy London-incredibly skilled, with no concerns.

Councillor Wallace motion to keep ORDR00380_08_08_2022 Parks Department Reorganization in committee.

Motion to adj. CP,JD So voted