



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
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Report of the Committee on Personnel and City Organization Meeting Date: January 17, 2023

The Committee convened on Wednesday, January 17, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Office. Present were Caroline Bays, chair and John Gannon, vice chair. Nicole Gardner, secretary was absent. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct Board of Assessor and Licensing Committee interviews.

Councilor Bays called the committee to order at 6:07 pm.

Councilor Bays noted that Councilor Gardner had a conflicting meeting in her district and was unable to attend.

Earl Smith - Mr. Smith, as the city assessor, has been a crucial part of the Board of Assessors. The committee asked Mr. Smith how new growth has affected the city's assessment. Mr. Smith felt that new growth would be slower than it has been recently although he noted that legalizing ADU's by right would add value to our current housing stock. He does a revaluation every five years and he will be doing that soon. He also said he looks forward to the hiring of a new assistant assessor which will be very helpful.

John Labadini - Mr. Labadini has been on the Licensing board for 3 years. Mr. Gannon said his experience in restaurants must be helpful. Mr. Labadini agreed but added that his experience living next to residents has also been extremely helpful. He noted that he has also been able to propose common sense solutions to issues that face the Board, but noted that there are people on the board who have a lot of experience and knowledge and he has learned a lot from them.

Sandra Hoffman - Ms. Hoffman, a Watertown teacher, has been on the licensing board since her retirement from Town Council in 2004. She feels that the licensing board is very important to the city since it has influence in developing new growth. She felt most of the time it is very simple and straightforward, although the board had a lot of work when the council increased the number of licenses allowed in the city and occasionally there were incidents at a few locations that required the board to impose sanctions. Her long years of service to the city were appreciated by the councilors.

Action Item: Councilor Gannon made a motion, seconded by Councilor Bays, to recommend that the City Council confirm Earl Smith for reappointment to the Board of Assessors for a term to expire May 15, 2026. The vote was 2-0 by a roll call vote.

Action Item: Councilor Gannon made a motion, seconded by Councilor Bays, to

recommend that the City Council confirm John Labadini for reappointment to the Licensing Board for a term to expire February 15, 2026. The vote was 2-0 by a roll call vote.

Action Item: Councilor Gannon made a motion, seconded by Councilor Bays, to recommend that the City Council confirm Sandra Hoffman for reappointment to the Licensing Board for a term to expire February 15, 2027. The vote was 2-0 by a roll call vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm by unanimous vote.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Caroline Bays,
Chair

John. G. Gannon,
Vice Chair

Nicole Gardner,
Secretary