

CITY OF LACONIA - CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 14, 2021
7:00 P.M.

6/14/2021 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hosmer called the meeting to order at the above date and time.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Councilor Felch lead the Salute to the Flag.

3. RECORDING SECRETARY

Cheryl Hebert, City Clerk

4. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Hebert took a roll call vote with the following Councilors in attendance: Councilor Cheney, Councilor Soucy, Councilor Lipman, Councilor Haynes, Councilor Hamel, and Councilor Felch.

Mayor Hosmer noted that all six Councilors are present and a quorum has been established.

5. STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Scott Myers, City Manager

Glenn Smith, Finance Director

6. COUNCIL PROCLAMATION

7. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

7.A. Budget meeting minutes of May 24, 2021

Minutes of the meeting were distributed to the City Council on Tuesday, May 25, 2021. With no corrections or changes submitted to the Clerk, the minutes will be accepted as distributed.

7.B. Regular meeting minutes of May 24, 2021

Minutes of the meeting were distributed to the City Council on Tuesday May 25, 2021. With no corrections or changes submitted to the Clerk, the minutes will be accepted as distributed.

7.C. Budget meeting minutes of June 7, 2021

Minutes of the meeting were distributed to the City Council on Thursday, June 10, 2021. With no corrections or changes submitted to the Clerk, the minutes will be accepted as distributed.

8. CONSENT & ACTION ITEMS

9. CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Peter Brunette updated the Council in regards to the project that is currently happening in Lakeport around Park Street. He explained when they were doing the drilling, it shook all of the houses in that neighborhood. Mr. Brunette did express concern with the streets around there needed some large pot holes filled and when the project is completed he is hoping the streets will be repaved.

Councilor Cheney asked Mr. Brunette if arrangements have been made to stabilize the church bell.

Mr. Brunette is not aware of what discussions have been happening in that regards.

Councilor Soucy asked if load limits need to be put into place.

City Manager Myers explained that has already been addressed.

10. INTERVIEWS

10.A. **Joseph Driscoll, III - Seeking reappointment to a regular member position on the Water Commission for a three-year term expiring at the end of June, 2024**

Joseph Driscoll, III was interviewed.

10.B. **Russell Poirier - Seeking reappointment as a regular member of the Weirs TIF District Advisory Board to a three-year term expiring at the end of June, 2024**

Russell Poirier was interviewed.

10.C. **Peter Brunette - Seeking reappointment as a regular member of the Lakeport TIF District Advisory Board to a three-year term expiring at the end of June, 2024**

Peter Brunette was interviewed.

10.D. **Peter Brunette - Seeking reappointment as a regular member of the Planning Board to a three-year term expiring at the end of June, 2024**

Peter Brunette was interviewed.

10.E. **Scott McWilliam - Seeking appointment as an alternate member of the Planning Board to a three-year term expiring at the end of June, 2024**

Scott McWilliam was interviewed.

10.F. **Stacy Soucy - Seeking reappointment as an alternate member of the Planning Board to a three-year term expiring at the end of June, 2024**

Stacy Soucy was interviewed. She is actually seeking appointment as a regular member of the Planning Board rather than an alternate member.

11. NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS & ELECTIONS

12. COMMUNICATIONS

13. PUBLIC HEARINGS

13.A. **Public hearing for budget Resolutions 2021-08, 2021-09, 2021-10, 2021-11, 2021-12, and 2021-13**

Notice of this public hearing was made available in the May 28, 2021 edition of the Laconia Daily Sun and posted at Laconia City Hall, Laconia Public Library, Community Center, and the SAU..

Mayor Hosmer opened the public hearing at 7:30 pm.

Hearing no comment from the public, Mayor Hosmer closed the public hearing at 7:32 pm.

14. PRESENTATIONS

15. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Hosmer mentioned the 98th Annual Motorcycle Week Rally, which is the oldest rally in the world. The City is very optimistic with the pandemic numbers continuing to decrease. Mayor Hosmer visited the Weirs over the weekend and it was great to see all of the activity and smiles on business owners faces. Mayor Hosmer gave a shout out to Charlie St. Clair and Jennifer Anderson for all of their hard work throughout the year to put on such a great event. They also put on a vaccine clinic at the start of the Makris Ride for anyone that wanted to get vaccinated.

16. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilor Haynes stated that the sign at the start of Court Street looks great but he requests it be mowed so it can be better seen.

City Manager Myers said it is private property but he will see what can be done.

Councilor Haynes has received a number of complaints about vehicles turning right on a crosswalk signal at the intersection of Court and Main Street. He explained it tends to happen more so between 3 pm and 5:30 pm. City Manager Myers will address the concern with Chief Canfield.

Councilor Hamel expressed concern with the green space on Lafayette Street and would like to know if anything can be done to help improve the growing of the grass.

City Manager Myers explained that he has driven down that road when there was concern with people parking on the sub-lawns and there has since been stakes put in. With the lack of rain, it is very hard to keep up with watering of sub-lawns in that area.

Councilor Hamel expressed the concern with electrical bikes being ridden on sidewalks, especially in the downtown area. City Manager Myers will address that with Chief Canfield.

Councilor Hamel thanked Mayor Hosmer for his wonderful speech on Memorial Day pertaining to a local young man, Jonathan Farmer who passed away in Syria.

Councilor Hamel noted that on June 24th the Council has been invited for the grand opening of the Winni Rail Cars. Ben Clark, the owner stated he would allow the Councilors to try it out. Councilor Hamel expressed this is a great attraction to be added to Laconia.

17. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

17.A. **FINANCE (Lipman (Chair), Hamel, Cheney)**

17.A.i. **WOW Trail Funding**

17.A.ii. **Downtown TIF Financing**

17.B. **PUBLIC SAFETY (Cheney (Chair), Soucy, Lipman)**

17.C. **GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ORDINANCES (Soucy (Chair), Felch, Cheney)**

17.C.i. **Review of Chapter 167, Noise and Chapter 161 Licensing as it pertains to outdoor sound equipment and loudspeakers**

17.C.ii. **Ordinance Amending Chapter 221, Vehicles and Traffic/Parking on Sublawns**

17.C.iii. **Procedural review of grant applications**

17.C.iv. **Regulation of Short Term Residential Rental Businesses**

17.C.v. **Proposed Historic Overlay District**

17.C.vi. **Scenic Road Motorcycle Noise Petition**

17.D. **LANDS & BUILDINGS (Hamel (Chair), Haynes, Felch)**

17.D.i. **Downtown parking garage**

17.D.ii. **Repair & maintenance of City buildings**

17.D.iii. **Perley Pond Maintenance**

17.D.iv. **Plan for the DPW Compound**

17.D.v. **Continuation of the discussion regarding parking in the Lakeport area**

17.E. **PUBLIC WORKS (Haynes (Chair), Felch, Soucy)**

17.E.i. **Retaining Wall Policy**

17.E.ii. **Discussion for converting from a manual to an automated solid waste curbside collection service**

Councilor Haynes informed the Council that DPW Director Anderson has the numbers for the automated solid waste curbside collection service and he will be requesting a Public Works Subcommittee meeting within the next couple of weeks.

18. **LIAISON REPORTS**

19. **CITIZENS REQUESTS TO COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Tara Shore spoke to the Council in regards to the Historic Overlay District agenda item. She explained it is the goal of the Historic District Commission to see growth within the City, not to stop it. Mrs. Shore reached out to some business owners to see how they would feel if they were part of the Historic Overlay District. The Historic District Commission wants to assist owners in finding ways of certain funding for improvements. Mrs. Shore also spoke with Dean Trefethen earlier today about what the processes are for owners to do changes or improvements to their properties. The time frame for this is usually up to 45 days. Mrs. Shore explained if something needed to go before the Historic District Commission, it would not prolong the process.

Councilor Lipman thinks it is important to educate everyone in regards to the Historic Overlay District and what it means. He would like to know what is being done to educate people?

Mrs. Shore stated a video/slide show is being worked on and hopefully it will be put on social media and be shared with as many organizations as possible. A post card is also being worked on introducing who the Historic District Commission is and what it does. Mrs. Shore also thinks one-on-one conversations need to happen as well.

Councilor Lipman would like to know if the education should be done before or after the Council acts.

Mrs. Shore thinks this is a parallel act.

Councilor Soucy asked if the Commission plans on reaching out to all of the business owners. Mrs. Shore stated it has always been the goal of the Commission to reach out and educate as many people as they can.

Councilor Soucy also mentioned that not all of the properties within the downtown area are what he would consider historical. Would those properties still be included?

Mrs. Shore explained it is a district, not specific properties.

Councilor Soucy asked how this would effect the old Holy Trinity School building?

City Manager Myers understands with that once the proposed expanded district was posted, it did not necessarily make the proposed parcels subject to that district. When the Planning Board passed it for the Council to hold a public hearing and take action, it includes all of these parcels pending further action from the Council. Tonight is just the first reading and to schedule a public hearing. The next meeting is when any action can be taken on it.

Director Trefethen agrees with what the City Manager stated. Director Trefethen explained they have been working with the prospective property owner and they will be working concurrently with the Historic District.

City Manager Myers confirmed that the timing of the Historic District Commission meeting is not holding up any of the process.

Councilor Hamel asked if the old Holy Trinity building would be grandfathered as it was left out of the District purposely the first time.

City Manager Myers explained no because it is within the Historic District Commission to propose amendments to the Ordinance and that is what they are doing. The applicant will work through the proper channels as the building is part of the proposed Historic Overlay District. The Council does have the authority to approve at the next Council meeting the Ordinance as presented, amend it, or deny it in its entirety.

Councilor Hamel is concerned with encompassing the entire downtown area as part of the Historic District. He feels that it may put a hardship on people that may want to purchase some of these properties.

Mayor Hosmer is wondering if the public hearing should be pushed out until July to allow for a little more time.

Mrs. Shore asked what is it with the Ordinance specifically that the Council finds is a direct hardship for someone?

Bree Neal, Owner of Polished and Proper Barbershop - She explained she is not against the Historic Overlay District expansion but she finds the proposed Ordinance is very vague and thinks it needs to be more clear. She thinks the Ordinance is entirely subjective based on who is sitting on the Commission.

Charlie St. Clair spoke in regards to the old Holy Trinity School and the proposed Historic Overlay District. Mr. St Clair is in full support of expanding the Historic Overlay District to the entire downtown.

Steve Loughlin, 49 Audrey Lane - Mr. Loughlin would like to publicly state he supports all of law enforcement men and women and especially the Laconia Police Department and he request that the Council fully support the proposed Laconia Police Department budget.

20. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

20.A. Financial and Operational Trends Report

City Manager Myers spoke of the Laconia Motorcycle Week rally and thanked all of the City officials for everything they have been doing and will continue to do.

City Manager Myers appointed Kristen Guest to Laconia Housing Authority for a term expiring in October 2023.

City Manager Myers also stated that the final department presentations were done earlier this evening along with the public hearing. Next Monday, June 21, 2021, there will be a special meeting at 7:00 pm for just general budget discussion. If the Council would like to bring back any of the department heads to ask further questions they could do so that evening. It is the hope that by the end of that meeting there will be a general consensus within the Council for any changes. The budget does not need to be adopted, by charter, until the last meeting in July.

City Manager Myers stated that there has been guidance received in regards to the American Rescue Plan Act and how that affects the City.

City Manager Myers reviewed the report.

21. NEW BUSINESS

21.A. Amend City Code Chapter 235, Zoning to update the Historic Overlay District

Mayor Hosmer suggested maybe prolonging the public hearing until the end of July which would allow for constituent outreach and stakeholder input.

Councilor Hamel is concerned with putting this off.

City Manager Myers does not think this will slow up the progress for the former Holy Trinity property.

City Manager Myers also stated that anything on pages 77 and 78 in this agenda should not have been added, therefore the proposed Ordinance wording ends on page 76 of this agenda and that is what the Council would be voting on to send to public hearing.

City Manager Myers will email the link of the Ordinance to the Council tomorrow.

Councilor Lipman suggests scheduling the public hearing as soon as possible and then work to address any issues that come up in the public hearing.

Councilor Cheney would like more specificity in what property owners can and can not do.

City Manager Myers stated the current Historic District consists of the train station, the library, the Hagan property, and the church.

Councilor Cheney moved to waive a reading of this Ordinance in its entirety and to read by title only, seconded by Councilor Haynes; the ***motion passed with all in favor.***

Councilor Cheney moved a first reading of Ordinance 2021-235-21.2, expanding the adopted area of the Historic Overlay District, seconded by Councilor Haynes; the ***motion passed with all in favor.***

Councilor Soucy moved to schedule a public hearing on June 28, 2021 during the regular City Council meeting to gather public input prior to adoption, seconded by Councilor Haynes;

Councilor Lipman asked for a friendly amendment to scratch the word adoption and change it to a vote. Councilor Soucy and Councilor Haynes agree to the friendly amendment.

Mayor Hosmer called the question as amended;

the ***motion passed with all in favor.***

21.B. **First reading of Resolution 2021-07, relative to the Fiscal Year 2021-year end carry forwards**

Councilor Cheney moved to waive a reading of this Resolution in its entirety and to read by title only, seconded by Councilor Haynes; the ***motion passed with all in favor.***

Councilor Felch moved a first reading of Resolution 2021-07, relative to the Fiscal Year 2021 year end carry forwards, seconded by Councilor Haynes;

Councilor Hamel asked about the Iron Man item and he thought the Council only voted to allow for \$14,000 not the full \$20,000.

City Manager Myers will review the motion and get back to Council with a firm answer but he does believe the Council agreed to the in-kind services up to \$20,000.

Councilor Lipman asked if this Resolution was the final carry forward numbers?

City Manager Myers confirmed this is the final version.

Mayor Hosmer called the question;

the ***motion passed with all in favor.***

Councilor Felch moved to schedule a public hearing on June 28, 2021 during the regular Council meeting to gather public input prior to potential adoption, seconded by Councilor Haynes; the ***motion passed with all in favor.***

21.C. **First reading of Resolution 2021-14, relative to authorizing transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Internal Service Fund**

City Manager Myers briefed the Council on this item.

Finance Director Smith explained this is strictly a paper accounting transaction.

Councilor Cheney moved to waive a reading of this Resolution in its entirety and to read by title only, seconded by Councilor Haynes; the ***motion passed with all in favor.***

Councilor Felch moved a first reading of Resolution 2021-14, relative to authorizing transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Internal Service Fund in the amount of \$950,000 with funding to be provided from the General Fund Balance, seconded by Councilor Soucy; the ***motion passed with all in favor.***

Councilor Soucy moved to schedule a public hearing on June 28, 2021, during the regular Council meeting to gather public input prior to adoption, seconded by Councilor Haynes; the ***motion passed with all in favor.***

21.D. **Temporary Traffic Order 2021-07, Laconia Fourth of July Parade**

Councilor Felch moved to approve Temporary Traffic Order 2021-07, Fourth of July Parade, to be held on July 4th, 2021 from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm, seconded by Councilor Hamel; ***the motion passed with all in favor.***

21.E. **Request to designate portions of Tower Street a no parking area**

Councilor Lipman suggested referring this to the Council Subcommittee Public works.

Councilor Cheney would like to see this pass as is but if anything further needs to be discussed it could go to the Public Works Committee.

Councilor Felch moved to approve the termination of the existing no parking restriction on the southerly side of Tower Street and designate the southerly side, from the intersection of Lakeside Avenue to a point 175 feet west of the intersection of Lakeside Ave and Tower Street a no parking area, seconded by Councilor Cheney;

Councilor Haynes asked if this is temporary or not?

Councilor Cheney said this is not temporary. If changes need to be made, it could be brought to the Public Works Committee at a later date.

Councilor Lipman suggests adopting this with a referral to the Public Works Committee for further discussion.

DPW Director Anderson stated the it currently states no parking from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Friday.

Mayor Hosmer called question:

the *motion passed with all in favor.*

21.F. **Request to set the polling hours for the September and November Municipal Elections**

Councilor Hamel moved to approve the polling hours for the Municipal Primary and General Elections being held on September 14, 2021 and November 2, 2021 respectively from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, seconded by Councilor Felch;

Councilor Haynes and Councilor Felch both agree that the hours for the Municipal Election are solid hours.

Mayor Hosmer called the question;

the *motion passed with all in favor.*

21.G. **Request to sign the 2021 Unlicensed Dog Warrant**

Councilor Lipman moved to issue the warrant as presented for the 2021 Unlicensed Dogs, seconded by Councilor Haynes; the *motion passed with all in favor.*

21.H. **Stacy Soucy - Council reappointment as a Planning Board Advisory Member to the Conservation Commission to a three-year term expiring at the end of June, 2024**

Councilor Lipman moved to reappoint Stacy Soucy to act as a Planning Board Advisory Member to the Conservation Commission to a term expiring at the end of June, 2024, seconded by Councilor Haynes; the *motion passed with five in favor and one abstain. (Councilor Soucy abstained)*

21.I. **Reappointment of Rob Mora, Assistant Planning Director, as a Commissioner on**

the Lakes Region Planning Commission to a term expiring at the end of June, 2025

Councilor Hamel moved to appoint Rob Mora, Assistant Planning Director, as a Commissioner on the Lakes Region Planning Commission to a term expiring at the end of June, 2025, seconded by Councilor Felch; the ***motion passed with all in favor.***

21.J. Sub-lease agreement between Laconia Hangars LLC and Mike Goulian Aviation LLC

Councilor Felch moved to authorize Andrew Hosmer, Mayor of the City of Laconia to sign the Sub-Lease Agreement between Laconia Hangar LLC and Mike Goulian Aviation LLC, seconded by Councilor Hamel; the ***motion passed with all in favor.***

21.K. Request to approve a tentative agreement between the City of Laconia and the Laconia Police Officer's Association

Councilor Lipman moved that the City Council reject the proposed tentative agreement based on cost, seconded by Councilor Hamel; the ***motion passed with all in favor.***

22. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

23. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

23.A. Master Plan

23.B. Milfoil Treatment funding requests

23.C. Sewer & Water Master Plan

23.D. Single Stream Recycling/Concord Co-op/Solid Waste disposal cost reductions

23.E. Strategic Planning/Goal Setting

23.F. WOW Trail

23.G. Weirs Beach Restoration Project

23.H. Fair St/Court St traffic problems and accidents

24. Any other business that may come before the Council

25. NON-PUBLIC SESSION (According to RSA 91-A:3, II)

26. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council and hearing no objection, Mayor Hosmer adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Hebert, City Clerk