

CITY OF LACONIA - CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 9, 2020

7:00 P.M.

The public has access to listen to and participate in this meeting by using the following link:
Zoom Meeting and entering password: 941215

Listen only: Call 1-301-715-8592 and Webinar ID: 874 5707 2629

To view this meeting: YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/laconianh> or through Lakes Region Public Access,
Channel 24

For problems, please call 603-524-3877 ext 225 or email cityclerk@laconianh.gov

11/9/2020 - 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 the roll call vote with the following Councilors in attendance: Councilor Cheney, Councilor Soucy, Councilor Lipman, Councilor Haynes, and Councilor Felch.

Not present: Bob Hamel

Mayor Hosmer noted for the record that five (5) Councilors were in attendance and a quorum was 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. Regular meeting minutes of October 26, 2020

Minutes of the meeting were distributed to the City Council on Thursday, October 29, 2020. With no changes or corrections submitted to the clerk, the minutes will be accepted as distributed.

8. CONSENT & ACTION ITEMS

9. CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Representative Charlie St. Clair - spoke of the election about how the Clerk and her staff did a wonderful job on a such a busy day and how seamless it went.

Gregg Hough - He introduced himself as a newly elected State Representative.

10. **INTERVIEWS**

11. **NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS & ELECTIONS**

12. **COMMUNICATIONS**

13. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

13.A. **Public hearing for Ordinance 2020-119-10, Building Construction and Ordinance 2020-135-1, Electrical Standards**

Notice of this public hearing was made available in the October 28, 2020 edition of the Laconia Daily Sun, and posted at Laconia City Hall, Laconia Public Library, Community Center, and SAU

Mayor Hosmer opened the public hearing at 7:03 pm.

Hearing no comments from the public, Mayor Hosmer closed the public hearing at 7:04 pm.

14. **PRESENTATIONS**

15. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Hosmer spoke about the General Election and how impressed he was with how well all six wards were run in Laconia. With the pandemic, all the law changes due to COVID, absentee ballot requests, PPE, and historic voter impact, the Clerk, election officials, and Clerk's staff did a tremendous job.

Mayor Hosmer also congratulated all of the newly elected candidates. He stated it takes a lot of courage to put your name out there and to run for office. The Mayor acknowledged the following winners: Gregg Hough, Richard Littlefield, Mike Bordes, and Dawn Johnson, all who are newly elected State Representatives. Also representing Laconia and Belmont, winner Travis O'Hara. Harold French, Senate. Bill Wright, Sherrif, Nicholas Grenon and Dawn Johnson, School Board, Peter Spanos, County Commissioner, and Frank Mello, Police Commission.

Mayor Hosmer mentioned that the road work that has been happening within the City and spoke of the effects road work may have on businesses. The Mayor spent some time with a local business today and reviewed the business' profit/loss statement and how much businesses are affected by construction. Mayor Hosmer would like to talk about what the City can do to limit losses to businesses during construction when unforeseen things happen, such as loss of internet, power, or water.

Mayor Hosmer also mentioned the Homelessness Task Force had its first meeting last week. The information that was in the Laconia Daily Sun was pretty accurate as to how the meeting went and who were present in the meeting. About 40 people virtually attended the meeting. The next step is to break out into individual groups to work on specialized areas such as housing and healthcare. A few Mayors from around the State also submitted a letter to Governor Sununu to ask for the State's help in responding to the homelessness issues around the State.

Mayor Hosmer also would like to see the Council go back to virtual meetings beginning with the next scheduled meeting. The State's COVID-19 numbers are going up daily and Governor Sununu is expecting a tremendous surge by the end of November. But with the high number of community transmission, Mayor Hosmer would like to see future Council meetings go back to virtual out of precaution.

16. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilor Lipman mentioned that the Finance Committee met earlier tonight and approved the bond for the Water work to be done in the Lakeport area. It will be with Northway Bank at a rate of 2.55%.

The committee also finished up with reviewing the City's Internal Control Policy and the final document will be brought to the Council.

16.A.i. **WOW Trail Funding**

16.A.ii. **Downtown TIF Financing**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16.D.i. **Downtown parking garage**

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

16.D.iii. **Perley Pond Maintenance**

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

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

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

16.E.i. **Retaining Wall Policy**

17. **LIAISON REPORTS**

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

Jim Rogato - Mr. Rogato spoke of how well the Clerk's Office ran the election last Tuesday and he was amazed on how many people were registering to vote. Mr. Rogato also spoke of the contract for the Colonial Theatre and how fair it looks to both the City and Spectacle Management.

19. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

19.A. **Financial and Operational Trends Report**

City Manager Myers reviewed the report.

20. **NEW BUSINESS**

20.A. **Request to declare City-owned property at 30 Church St., Laconia, NH as surplus**

Mayor Hosmer explained the reason for this item.

Councilor Haynes moved to schedule a Public Hearing on November 23, 2020 during the regular City Council meeting regarding the declaration of City-owned property located at 30 Church St., Laconia, NH, Tax/Map/Parcel 432-44-1.1, as surplus, seconded by Councilor Soucy; the ***motion passed with all in favor.***

20.B. **Request to declare City-owned property at 50 Church St., Laconia, NH as surplus**

Mayor Hosmer explained the reason for this item.

Councilor Felch moved to schedule a Public Hearing on November 23, 2020 during the regular City Council meeting regarding the declaration of City-owned property located at 50 Church St., Laconia, NH, Tax/Map/Parcel 425-44-1.2, as surplus, seconded by Councilor Soucy; ***the motion passed with all in favor.***

21. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

21.A. Colonial Theatre Management Company Contract

City Manager Myers explained the management agreement between the City of Laconia and Spectacle Management for the Colonial Theatre. City Manager Myers explained there was no perfect science to this agreement and this is a balanced approach for all involved. Spectacle Management has been a great partner to work with. The City Manager is very comfortable with what is being presented this evening.

Mayor Hosmer explained that Spectacle Management was one of the companies that responded to the City's Request of Interest that was put out earlier this year.

Councilor Lipman agrees with everything that has been spoken of so far tonight in regards to the Colonial Theatre Management Contract. Councilor Hamel asked Councilor Lipman to bring some items of concern forward tonight. The first being was there any consideration regarding the advisory board that is spoken of in the agreement, that if Laconia residents would be looked at first.

City Manager Myers explained the Council will create the advisory board and then that board will be making the finite decisions. The creation of the board will be coming to the Council after this agreement is finalized and signed.

Councilor Lipman stated the other item that Councilor Hamel raised is on page 6, item ii. "There will be no more than fifteen (15) day of Municipal use per year and no more than five (5) Thursdays or Sundays and (5) Friday and Saturdays with no two Friday or Saturdays falling in the same month." The concern is with the Library's investment in the project that they will be limited on when they can use the Theatre. Councilor Lipman understands about balance, but if additional days become available will the City reserve the right to be first choice?

City Manager Myers explained that on page 7 of the agreement there is a section for Laconia Based Non-Profit Organization use of the Theatre. There is opportunity to expand uses of the Theatre, it is a part of a give and take. Spectacle does understand the needs of the City but the City can not consume all of the ideal dates all of the time. City Manager Myers does feel that everyone will be accommodated as much as possible. He also stated that not every event needs to use the Colonial Theatre. For instance if the event is only expecting 20-30 attendees, there are other places that would be better suited for that event.

Councilor Lipman asked if the Library is considered non-profit because it is Municipal. City Manager Myers confirmed it is considered non-profit.

City Manager Myers also stated there is one item on page 4 that will need to be removed which is the word elevator, as that is privately owned. So if the Council approves this tonight, the word elevator will be sticken.

Councilor Soucy asked for an explanation in regards to the City's return.

City Manager Myers explained how the Colonial Theatre is an asset to the City and the hopes that it stimulate the downtown economy. He also sent out a link to the Council of a Webinar that talks about Tax and Land Values and how it explains a growth in a downtown area it increases the value to that area. This will help the City get its return on its investment.

Councilor Lipman expressed that if the City did not make this investment that the value in the downtown area would just keep diminishing.

Councilor Soucy is in favor of this.

City Manager Myers also stated that the properties attached the Theatre, (store fronts and condo's) are fully taxable.

Councilor Lipman moved to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract between the City and Spectacle

Management for the operation and management of The Colonial Theatre, seconded by Councilor Haynes;

Councilor Lipman would like to make sure the Clerk captures the discussion prior to the vote.

Mayor Hosmer called the question;

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

21.B. **Second reading and approval of Ordinance 2020-119-10, Building Construction and Ordinance 2020-135-1, Electrical Standards**

Councilor Cheney moved to waive a reading of these Ordinances in their entirety and to read by titles only, seconded by Councilor Haynes; ***the motion passed with all in favor.***

Councilor Cheney moved a second reading of Ordinance 2020-119-10, Building Construction and Ordinance 2020-135-1, Electrical Standards, seconded by Councilor Haynes; ***the motion passed with all in favor.***

Councilor Cheney moved to approve Ordinance 2020-119-10, Building Construction and Ordinance 2020-135-1, Electrical Standards, seconded by Councilor Soucy;

Councilor Lipman questioned the applicability of the standard, what is the effective date and how will it apply to a project that is already happening?

City Manager Myers doesn't have a definite answer for that but the intent is not to change anything midstream to somebody.

Councilor Lipman does understand that there isn't an economic impact to the City but the changes may have impacts for the homeowners or contractors. Councilor Lipman would like time frames set in place to address these two issues before moving forward with a motion to approve.

Councilor Lipman moved to table this item until November 23, 2020, seconded by Councilor Haynes; the ***motion passed with all in favor.***

22. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilor Haynes would like to thank Laconia Parks and Recreation and Celebrate Laconia for the remarkable Halloween event that was put on.

City Manager Myers explained that the event was held on Halloween night to encourage a safe place for kids to trick or treat. There were 17 families/businesses that set up tables that were socially distanced, one-way traffic, everyone was registered that attended, a costume contest, a DJ, and a light show, and 700 people showed up. Amy, from Parks is already trying to plan another event for next year. City Manager Myers echoes Councilor Haynes sentiments and thinks the event was great.

Councilor Soucy would encourage this event to happen every year.

Councilor Felch mentioned going on to Light Up Laconia's website to see all of the upcoming events they are hosting.

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 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Cheryl Hebert, City Clerk

DRAFT