

CITY OF LACONIA - CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 24, 2022 - 7:00 pm
City Hall - Armand A. Bolduc City Council Chamber

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hosmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Councilor Haynes led the salute to the flag

3. RECORDING SECRETARY

Katie Gargano, City Clerk

4. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Gargano called the roll of the City Council: Councilor Cheney, Councilor Soucy, Councilor Lipman, Councilor Haynes, Councilor Felch and Mayor Hosmer.

Mayor Hosmer stated that 5 members of the Council were present, and a quorum was established.

Absent: Councilor Hamel

5. STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Kirk Beattie, City Manager; Glenn Smith, Finance Director/ IT Coordinator

6. COUNCIL PROCLAMATION

7. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

7.A. Regular City Council meeting minutes of October 11, 2022

Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of October 11, 2022, were distributed to the City Council on October 19, 2022.

With no corrections or changes submitted to the Clerk, the minutes were accepted as distributed.

8. CONSENT & ACTION ITEMS

8.A. Temporary Traffic Order 2022-15 - Runaway Pumpkin 2022

The 2022 Runaway Pumpkin 5K Run, 5K/10K Run/Walk and Kids' Fun Run will take place on Saturday, October 29, 2022. This event is done in conjunction with the Pumpkin Festival, and proceeds from the event will benefit the WOW Trail. This a recurring event, and there are no changes from last year's TTO other than the date.

Councilor Felch made a motion to approve Temporary Traffic Order 2022-15 for the 2022 Runaway Pumpkin Event, as presented. Seconded by Councilor Haynes Discussion: None. The ***motion passed with all in favor.***

9. CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Patrick Wood of Ward 1 commented about the State School Property presentation. He has concerns that the commissioner stated at the presentation that he didn't want to be there that night and the information presented that night could not be relied upon. He stated that the State wants to sell the parcel with no contingencies, and that they have no plans of providing any funding or remediation of the hazardous materials on the site. He also stated that the State wants to shift the burden to the City of Laconia. He thinks Planning Director Trefethen did a great job presenting what the City can handle on this property. He thinks this is a beautiful piece of property that has been poorly maintained over the years and he wanted to make the Council aware.

Gretchen Gandini from the Taylor Home Community stated that the campus is back open again. This includes the Woodside building. She stated that all the events are back open again. They are hosting up to three concerts per week, their lecture series is back, and it is open to the public. They are allowing local nonprofits to host their events on the campus again. She also noted that on Thursday 10/27/22 at 11AM they are hosting an emergency responders' event with lunch being handed out and she invited the Mayor and Council.

10. INTERVIEWS

11. NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS & ELECTIONS

12. COMMUNICATIONS

13. PUBLIC HEARINGS

13.A. **Public Hearing - Resolution 2022-13 relative to accepting grant funding from the Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program and authorizing the City Manager to sign all NBRC investment documents that may bind the applicant**

Notice of this Public Hearing was made available in the October 14, 2022, edition of the Laconia Daily Sun, and posted at Laconia City Hall, Laconia Community Center, Laconia Public Library and the offices of the SAU on October 12, 2022.

Mayor Hosmer opened the Public Hearing at 7:13 PM

No one spoke during the public hearing

Mayor Hosmer closed the Public Hearing at 7:14 PM

Mayor Hosmer noted that action on this item may be taken up under Unfinished Business.

14. PRESENTATIONS

14.A. **Assessing presentation of the old to new values - Steve Hamilton**

Steve Hamilton presented the Valuation Update results of the city to the City Council. He stated that the main objective is to get as close to market value as possible, which is an extremely difficult task. To get the market value, the range is in between 90-110 %. He stated that manufactured housing and what used to be affordable condominium units has dramatically been impacted because of the shortage of housing units. According to the NH Housing Finance Authority, the State of NH is approximately 20,000 units short to keep up with the current demand for housing. He estimates the utility property will see a

little change, but he is waiting to hear from the State. He also stated that by the end of the week, there will be a lot of information about old and new assessment comparisons uploaded on the Assessing Department's webpage on the City's website. He also noted that the staff in the Assessing office is available by phone or in person and are happy help. He was asked how long until the tax rate is set, and he replied that the assessing and finance information is being worked on with DRA to calculate a rate.

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hosmer began with a comment on Pat Wood's comments about the state school property presentation. He wants to make sure that they hold whoever the buyer is accountable, and that they make sure that the city is included in an agreement.

Mayor Hosmer also wanted to discuss the presentation that was seen at the last council meeting about the parking garage. The estimate for a full renovation is \$8 million dollars. According to the report, if all businesses are filled at 100% capacity in 2027, we would only be short by 37 spaces without a renovation to the parking garage. He'd like to see a discussion moved to the next council meeting on 11/14/22 to see if the Council would like to put out a request for expression of interest in the parking garage. Or see if the City Council would like to sell the second and third floors.

Mayor Hosmer noted that the Pumpkin festival is set for this Saturday 10/29/22, he heard that there are no vendor spaces available, which is a good sign.

16. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Cheney stated on 11/21/22 there will be a Public Safety Committee meeting at 6:30 PM. This meeting will be about the Elm Street School driveway. He has asked the DPW Director, and Police Chief be present and will be inviting people from the school. He'd also like to see the listings on Committee Reports and Future Agenda Items on the City Council agenda get cleaned up. He finds it confusing and thinks it is confusing to others. Councilor Cheney also asked Manager Beattie to set up 91-A training for City Department Heads, Boards, Commissions and Committees.

Mayor Hosmer told Councilor Cheney that he that it was a great idea to clean up the agenda's and he was going to task that to the Government Operations and Ordinances Committee.

Councilor Haynes asked about the Police Department staffing and if they are at full staff? Councilor Cheney said they are down one officer at the moment.

Councilor Soucy stated he'd like to see actual numbers for removing the second and third floors of the parking garage.

Councilor Lipman stated he thinks that the development of the State School property was not included in the idea of how many parking spaces are needed in the downtown area. This discussion will continue November 28, 2022.

17. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Items will be discussed as needed. Not all items will be brought before the full Council at this evening's meeting.

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.C.vii. **Use of public property by for-profit entities**
 - 17.C.viii. **Short Term Rentals**
 - 17.C.ix. **Naming privileges to public areas**
- 17.D. **LAND & BUILDINGS (Hamel (Chair), Haynes, Felch)**
 - 17.D.i. **Downtown parking garage**
 - 17.D.ii. **Repair & maintenance of City buildings**
 - 17.D.iii. **Plan for the DPW Compound**
- 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**
- 17.F. **APPOINTMENTS (Councilors Soucy (Chair), Cheney and Haynes)**

18. LIAISON REPORTS

19. CITIZENS REQUESTS TO COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

No one wished to speak.

20. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Beattie stated that many Election workers have been found. If people are still interested in helping, the City Clerk's office will keep your name on a list for future elections. Please contact the City Clerk's office with the contact information.

20.A. Project Updates Report

Manager Beattie presented the project updates to the City Council.

Councilor Soucy asked Director Anderson about the Winnepesaukee River Basin charges and the City having the largest share of the fees.

20.B. Monthly Economic Development Report

Manager Beattie presented the Monthly Economic Development Report highlighting the unemployment rates, and the current inflation rates. The rate has double compared to last year.

21. NEW BUSINESS

21.A. Request to operate a duck paddle boat business from the Boardwalk in Weirs Beach

The City Manager's office was contacted in July 2022 by Charles Carey regarding his proposal to operate a family friendly paddle boat attraction from the Weirs docks. After this initial contact, Mr. Carey, Councilor Cheney and former City Manager Myers met at the docks to further discuss the proposal. Please refer to the attached information describing the proposal, photos of the types of paddle boats that would be used, and a map showing the location of the designated areas for both the smaller children's boats and the larger boats. A small EZ-Up type canopy/tent would be set up on the Boardwalk to sell tickets and would be taken down each evening. Shipping time for the pedal boats can range anywhere from 12 to 20 weeks; if approved, Mr. Carey would plan to begin operation of the business in the summer of 2023. Per Section 229-3.C. of the City's Code (attached), the City Council may lease public dock space to a commercial enterprise. Prior to entering into such a lease, at least one Public Hearing is required.

Mayor Hosmer asked why the Weirs Action Committee is not in support of this? Councilor Cheney said that he was the one who brought this up at their meeting. He said that safety concerns were mentioned.

Mayor Hosmer stated he would like to bring this to a public hearing.

Councilor Felch made a motion to hold a public hearing on 11/14/22. Seconded by Councilor Soucy. The *motion passed with all in favor.*

21.B. Resolution 2022-14 - Approval of bonding for the purpose of purchasing solid waste and recycling containers

At its meeting of August 8, 2022, the City Council approved a proposal to implement automated curbside collection of solid waste and recycling materials as of April 1, 2023. Implementation of this proposal requires the purchase of containers for residences and commercial addresses. At its meeting of September 26, 2022, the City Council approved a cart allocation plan designating the number and size of containers for single family residences, multi-unit residences and commercial businesses. The Department of Public Works estimates that purchase of the necessary carts, accounting for carts already owned by Laconia residents and available Recycling Partnership grants, is \$850,000. An allocation of \$700,000 for this purpose was included in the FY23 budget. A public hearing for the budget was held on June 13, 2022, and approval was granted on June 27, 2022 and on July 11, 2022. The purpose of this Resolution is to adjust the total allocation from \$700,000 to \$850,000 to accommodate for inflationary increases.

Fiscal Impact: Exact fiscal impact is conditional on interest rates at the date of issuance. Current estimates are that interest rates at the time the bond is issued will be approximately 4.5%. Using this rate, the interest cost over the life of the bond is estimated to be \$210,000 over the 10-year term of the bond and \$38,500 in FY23.

Councilor Cheney made a motion to waive a reading of this Resolution in it's entirety and to read by title only. Seconded by Councilor Haynes. Discussion: None. The ***motion passed with all in favor.***

Councilor Felch made a motion to approve a first reading of Resolution 2022-14, a Resolution relative to authorizing the City Manager to take any actions necessary to issue bonds for the purpose of purchasing solid waste and recycling containers. Seconded by Councilor Soucy Discussion: None. The ***motion passed with all in favor.***

Councilor Felch made a motion to schedule a public hearing for Resolution 2022-14 during the regular meeting of the Laconia City Council on November 14, 2022. Seconded by Councilor Cheney. Discussion: None. The ***motion passed with all in favor.***

21.C. Temporary Traffic Order 2022-14 - Max 1K to benefit the Gagnon family

Approval of Temporary Traffic Order 2022-14 for the "Max 1K" to benefit the Gagnon family is being requested. The event is scheduled for November 12, 2022, in downtown Laconia beginning at 10:00 am. Proceeds of the event will be going directly to the Gagnon Family whose 10-year old son, Max, was recently diagnosed for the second time with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

(Please note that the TTO had not been finalized at the time this City Council agenda was completed; it was provided to the Council prior to this meeting.)

Councilor Cheney made a motion to approve Temporary Traffic Order 2022-14 as presented contingent upon approved by the Special Events Committee and the waiver of all associated fees. Seconded by Councilor Haynes Discussion: None. The ***motion passed with all in favor.***

22. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

22.A. Second Reading - Resolution 2022-13 relative to accepting grant funding from the Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Grant Program and authorizing the City Manager to sign all NBRC investment documents that bind the applicant

On April 11, 2022, the City Council moved to support submitting a Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) State Economic and Infrastructure Development (SEID) Letter of Interest for a 1,000-ft multi-use trail on Elm Street. This project was ultimately selected to receive a \$225,000 grant through the NBRC SEID grant program. The Northern Borders Regional Commission requires a Resolution by the applicant's legal authority authorizing the City Manager to sign all NBRC investment documents that bind the City as the grant applicant.

Fiscal Impact: The SEID grant provides 50% funding (\$225,000) and requires a 50% match (\$225,000). Out of the \$225,000 match, \$100,000 has been secured through Belknap County. Funding sources for the remainder of the match (in the amount of \$125,000) are being pursued.

Councilor Soucy made a motion to waive a reading of this Resolution in its entirety and to read by title only. Seconded by Councilor Felch. Discussion: None. The ***motion passed with all in favor.***

Councilor Felch made a motion for a second reading of Resolution 2022-13, a Resolution authorizing acceptance of grant funding and authorizing the City Manager to sign all NBRC investment documents that bind the City to the terms and conditions of the grant. Seconded by Councilor Soucy. Discussion: None. The ***motion passed with all in favor.***

Councilor Cheney made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-13 as presented to authorize acceptance of grant funding and authorize the City Manager to sign all NBRC investment documents. Seconded by Councilor Soucy. Discussion: The Council would like the City Manager to keep council informed of where the funding is coming from. The ***motion passed with all in favor.***

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

Mayor Hosmer adjourned the meeting at 8:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Gargano, City Clerk