

CITY OF LACONIA

In the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 205, STREETS, SQUARES AND PARKS, NAMING OF, ADDING A NEW SECTION 205-2 – NAMING RIGHTS AND PROCEDURES FOR CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

The City of Laconia ordains:

That the Ordinances of the City of Laconia, as amended, be and are further amended in Chapter, 205, Streets, Squares and Parks, Naming Of, to add a new section, Naming Rights and Procedures for City-Owned Property, as follows:

**§ 205-2. Naming rights and procedures for City-owned property.**

The Laconia City Council shall be the sole designating authority for naming of all City-owned property. The decision whether or not to name a specific City-owned building, park, trail, street, parking lot, or other facility or property shall be by a majority vote of the City Council following a duly noticed public hearing.

Properties that are in the Historic District should receive a **non-binding** opinion of the Historic District Commission prior to City Council vote.

Buildings under control by the SAU should receive a **non-binding** opinion of the Laconia School Board prior to City Council vote.

Properties under control of the Parks and Recreation Department should receive an opinion of the Laconia Parks and Recreation Commission prior to City Council vote.

Procedure:

- A. Requests to name City-owned property should be made in writing by the Mayor, City Council, City Manager, School Superintendent, any Board and Commission, committee or citizen.
- B. Upon receipt of the request, the Land and Buildings subcommittee, at their next meeting, **but in no case more than 60 days**, will consider the request. The Land and Buildings subcommittee will vote whether to **recommend** the request to the full City Council.
- C. If the full City Council votes to proceed with the consideration, a public hearing will be scheduled. Following the public hearing, the full City Council will vote to accept or deny the naming request. Approval will be a simple majority of the voting Councilors.

Criteria:

Nothing in this criteria list shall preclude the City Council from accepting or denying a name request on a case-by-case basis.

The following criteria for naming City-owned property shall be considered by the City Council in approving a request to name City-owned property, other than streets. Persons under consideration should have made historic significance or significant contributions to the City.

A. Historic Significance:

- (i) Associated with an event or series of related events in the City's history.
- (ii) Associated with one (1) or more individuals who have played a significant role in the City's historic development or government.
- (iii) Reflective of a distinctive artistic, scientific or literary achievement.

B. Significant Contributions:

- (i) An individual or organization that has made a significant direct contribution of property or of money for the construction and/or development of a City facility.
- (ii) An individual's significant public service, whether as a private citizen or public servant; however, generally City-owned property will not be named after a deceased person until at least one (1) year after the date of death, except where, in the sole discretion of the City Council, the individual's contribution merits immediate recognition.

Already-named City-owned property may be renamed by the City Council in extraordinary circumstances, **subject to the above requirements of City Ordinance 2023-205-2**. As an alternative to renaming a specific City-owned property, the City Council may, in its sole discretion, authorize commemorative plaques, signs, bricks, sidewalk markings or other objects to memorialize a location, event, person or organization of significance to the City.

This Ordinance amendment shall take effect upon its passage.

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Andrew J. Hosmer, Mayor

Passed and approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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Katie Gargano, City Clerk