

**CITY OF LACONIA - CITY COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 P.M.**

3/27/2023 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Councilor Lipman led the salute to the flag.

3. RECORDING SECRETARY

Katie Gargano, City Clerk

4. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Councilor Hamel

5. STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Kirk Beattie, City Manager; Glenn Smith, Finance Director

6. COUNCIL PROCLAMATION

7. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

7.A. Regular City Council meeting minutes of March 13, 2023

Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of March 13, 2023 were distributed to the City Council on March 20, 2023.

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

8. CONSENT & ACTION ITEMS

8.A. Request to approve Temporary Traffic Order 2023-05, Laconia Little League Parade

A request for a Temporary Traffic Order for the Laconia Little League Parade to be held on Saturday, April 22, 2023 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. has been received.

This is a recurring request with no changes.

Councilor Haynes made a motion to approve Temporary Traffic Order 2023-05, Laconia Little League Parade, to be held on April 22, 2023 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Seconded by Councilor Cheney

Discussion: None.

The motion passed with all in favor.

9. **CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Gretchen from the Taylor Home came to update the Council and thank them for coming to celebrate a resident's 100th birthday and to the City Manager's Secretary for continuing to put the events in the Laconia Links.

10. **INTERVIEWS**

11. **NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS & ELECTIONS**

12. **COMMUNICATIONS**

13. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

13.A. **Public Hearing - Potential purchase of the former Lakeshore Spur, a 3.63 +/- acre area of state owned discontinued rail corridor, part of the Concord-Lincoln Corridor in Laconia**

Notice of this Public Hearing was made available in the March 1, 2023 edition of the Laconia Daily Sun, and posted at Laconia City Hall, Laconia Community Center, Laconia Public Library and the offices of the SAU.

Action on this item may be taken up under Unfinished Business.

Mayor Hosmer opened the Public Hearing at 7:29 PM

Pat Wood spoke in favor, he thinks it's a great opportunity and a great asset to have. His concern is the bridge across Black Brook and he hopes that within negotiations with the state that there will be some agreement of cooperation in the efforts that are going to be needed to remove that bridge. The bridge is very close to where the water intake is and Mr. Wood does not want the bridge to interfere with the water system.

Robin Richardson who voiced an interest in purchasing section 5 or at least part of it.

Mayor Hosmer closed the Public Hearing at 7:31 PM

13.B. **Public Hearing - Resolution 2023-07 - Relative to re-adopting and setting the amounts established for the Optional and All Veterans' Property Tax Credit**

Notice of this Public Hearing was made available in the March 15 2023 edition of the Laconia Daily Sun, and posted at Laconia City Hall, Laconia Community Center, Laconia Public Library and the offices of the SAU.

Action on this item may be taken up under Unfinished Business.

Mayor Hosmer opened the Public Hearing at 7:33 PM

Brett Beliveau from Ward 5, stated that 735 of the over the 10,000 residences apply for the veteran's credits. He's grateful for the tax credit. He would like to know if the state allows a max of \$750 why it's not already being given to the qualifying residents.

Mayor Hosmer closed the Public Hearing at 7:36 PM

13.C. **Public Hearing - Resolution 2023-08 - Request to submit a grant application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant**

Notice of this Public Hearing was made available in the March 15 2023 edition of the Laconia Daily Sun, and posted at Laconia City Hall, Laconia Community Center, Laconia Public Library and the offices of the SAU.

Action on this item may be taken up under Unfinished Business.

Mayor Hosmer opened the Public Hearing at 7:32 PM

No one from the public spoke.

Mayor Hosmer closed the Public Hearing at 7:33 PM

13.D. **Public Hearing - Resolution 2023-09 - Relative to the acceptance of InvestNH Municipal Per Unit Award #MPU22-100 Grant in the amount of \$120,000**

Notice of this Public Hearing was made available in the March 15 2023 edition of the Laconia Daily Sun, and posted at Laconia City Hall, Laconia Community Center, Laconia Public Library and the offices of the SAU.

Action on this item may be taken up under Unfinished Business.

Mayor Hosmer opened the Public Hearing at 7:36 PM

Tom Cochran, executive director from the Laconia NH Finance Authority presented a letter to the Laconia City Council, he's looking for 30-40k to offset costs of the Blueberry Place Development. The project is moving along well from a timeline basis. It is on track to be completed by September 2023.

Councilor Soucy asked how in the estimate of what everything was going to cost, how did a fire sprinkler system get missed?

It wasn't missed, but the initial requirements for the fire sprinkler system were based on what the currently existed at the development. Now the requirements have changed so the cost has increased because of the property being redesigned.

Every step of the way Tom is very grateful to all the required city departments who have been a great partner along he way.

Mayor Hosmer closed the Public Hearing at 7:47 PM

14. **PRESENTATIONS**

14.A. **Presentation of FY 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report**

Scott McIntire of Melanson presented the June 30, 2022 comprehensive audit report. It was stated that everything went very well and as a result of that the auditors did not need to any significant audit entries. There were no disagreements between the auditor and the City when it comes to how to apply the general accounting principles. Lastly, there are some significant estimates in the City's financial statements. The auditors found the estimates to be normal and customary. The report given to the council also goes over account balances. Both short and long term.

Councilor Lipman asked about the pension discount rate and the pension liabilities.

Mr. McIntire explained that the liability of just over 47 million dollars. That is measured with a discount rate which is another way of saying the expected future returns on investment which is at 6.75%. One of the main reasons why it went down from the prior year is because the system beat that benchmark. But he is unable to estimate what the liability could be going forward.

The short term account balances refer to the general fund balance sheet. Which is the chief operating fund of the City. The total fund balance is about 9,691,000.00. This is up almost 100,000 from the previous year. Unassigned fund balance is about 3.2 million dollars which went down about 1 million over the prior year. The assigned fund balance of about 800K which is unchanged over the prior year. Committed has a balance of about 5.5 million dollars and that is up a little over a million dollars over the past year. This balance represents the capital reserve funds.

At this point of the recorded video on YouTube the video kept skipping resulting in missing pieces of what was spoken about the management letter and questions from the council for Mr. McIntire.

15. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

None.

16. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilor Cheney is looking for a report on the historic district overlay, he knows its been discussed several times and he'd like to see it not be delayed any longer. Councilor Haynes let them know that they haven't met since December, but they do have a meeting on Tuesday March 28th.

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)**

They had a meeting prior to this evenings Council meeting. They had two items on their agenda regarding the short-term rentals and the naming of public buildings.

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 privilege's 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**

Councilor Haynes updated the council on Lakes Region Public Access channel has adopted a budget for the following year. Their expenses are exceeding their revenues and at some point, in time he thinks they will have to look at the programming or increasing their fees to the cities and towns. Their annual meeting is going to be in May.

Councilor Cheney made mention of a press release from the Police Department on their new Spider tech software. He passed around a hand out to the Councilors of the media release from Chief Canfield. Councilor Cheney explained that this system would automatically respond to the person who make a call to the PD to give updates on if the officer gets delayed in addition to other important functions.

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

Patrick Wood, Ward 3 wanted to say thank you to all of the City Councilor's. There is so many items on the agenda this evening that they are working on, and he applauded everyone for their efforts. He also wanted to give a shout out to Chief Canfield and the Police Department's response about the recent graffiti that was done on some buildings at the State School.

20. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

20.A. **Project Updates Report**

LACONIA ROAD PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR 2022

Current: The contract for the road program was awarded. Busby Construction was the lowest responsible bidder. The asphalt plants in the Lakes Region are scheduled to open in late April. The Weirs Blvd water main replacement project started on March 22nd. The contractor is presently installing the temporary water main. The goal is to have the water main installed the week of May 22d.

Previous: The due date for the bids for the CY2023 Road Program was changed to February 22nd due to questions from prospective bidders. The contract will be awarded the week of February 27th. Roads scheduled for this construction season are: Summer St, Paugus St, Elm St (Hickory Stick to Rt 106), Daisy Gardner Rd (Meredith Center to Leighton), and Eastman Rd (Meredith Center to End). The preconstruction meeting on the Public Works managed Weirs Blvd water main replacement project is scheduled for March 3rd. The replacement project will occur this spring.

ACADEMY STREET BRIDGE

Current: The project is now being funded with federal dollars. The consultant has begun the effort to obtain the necessary temporary construction easements per federal regulations. This has delayed the start of the construction project to the summer of 2024.

CENTENARY AVENUE BRIDGE

Current: NH DOT has approved the selection of the consultant to design the project.

ELM STREET TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROJECT

Current: The project agreement with NH DOT will be submitted for Council approval in April 2023.

WINNIPESAUKEE RIVER BASIN PROJECT

Current: The Governor's proposed 10% pay raise for state employees will impact the WRBP's budget. The City's share of the estimated cost increase for FY 2024 is \$93,000. The Advisory Board's consultant completed the draft improvements to the rate model. The Advisory Board will be reviewing the model at its April 20th meeting.

Previous: The Governor as part of his budget submission proposed a 10% pay raise for state employees. The WRBP Administrator is working with DES' Finance Office to determine the impact on its budget and whether it will have to raise rates above what they predicted in Sept 2022. The WRBP Advisory Board's consultant is in the final stages of completing the improvements to the rate model that will be used in the future to determine member communities share of the Program's operation and maintenance costs. The Board is working on a proposal to submit to NHDES on the notice the municipalities require before any significant rate increase is implemented.

SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

Current: This year's sewer replacement project on Belvidere, North and Sheridan is scheduled to begin in early May.

Previous: City Council approved the Sanitary Sewer Fund (SSF) rate increase for the next 10 years. The projected revenue should be enough to cover all O&M costs to meet DES and EPA standards/permits. The SSF has 3 staff; a Collections System Coordinator (manager) and two Operators. As of now, we have 2 positions open (Coordinator and Operator). The DPW Asst. Dir. will be filling in significantly for the Coordinator.

WEIRS BEACH RESTORATION

Current: The City Manager and the Parks Department are working together to move forward on this project. The Director of Recreation & Facilities is reaching out to the Army Corps of Engineers to verify whether or not they will be dredging the Weirs Channel and if so, when. Once that information is obtained, we will have a better timeline for this project. We currently have roughly \$340,000 for the project set aside. This was money earmarked for this project many years ago, but with inflation it is probably not near to the current costs.

Director Lovisek explained that putting a jetty would not stop the waves and water movement from moving the sand. This would require still bringing the sand back over to the dockside of the beach area. The plan would be to move the sand over to where it is rockier with DES approval.

Councilor Cheney wanted to confirm that with any option available to restore the sand that it will not permanently fix the problem and Director Lovisek said that was correct. This is not a natural beach, it is a manmade beach. It suffers from water erosion.

Previous: No update.

20.B. **Monthly Economic Development Report**

Laconia's Unemployment Rate for Jan 2023 3.4%

CPIU Annualized Year to Date: 6.2%

21. **NEW BUSINESS**

21.A. **Request for a building permit on a private road for Lot 23.1, Heritage Road**

The Code Department has received a Building Permit application for a vacant lot on Heritage Road; the lot is known as 23.1. Since this is a private road, the City Council must authorize the issuance of the permit. The property owner must also file and record with the Registry a Waiver of Liability that states the property owner recognizes this is a private road and the City offers no services at that location.

The Code Director and the Public Works Director have discussed the permit application and do not object to issuing the permit provided three conditions are met. First, the waiver needs to be recorded. Second, the road in front of the property needs to be improved to meet the conditions of the current portions of Heritage Road. Third, a drainage plan for the lot needs to be approved by the Department of Public Works.

Director Trefethen spoke about the history of Heritage Rd. It was approved by the planning board in the early 60s and is currently classified as a private road with 5 or 6 houses on it now. There are 2 or 3 lots at the end where the city does not provide any services to.

Councilor Felch made a motion to approve the issuance of a building permit for lot 23.1 on Heritage Road providing three conditions are adhered to: One, the Waiver of Liability must be executed and filed at the Registry. Two, the section of road in front of lot 23.1 Heritage Road must be improved to the same level as the current sections of road **must be approved by the Department of Public Works**. Three, a drainage plan **and the construction** must be approved by the Department of Public Works. Seconded by Councilor Cheney **Discussion: Councilor Lipman asked about the current conditions being written in a more detail than what is in the motion. Director Trefethen explained that before any building is done, the city will have to approve the condition of the road once repairs are made. Mr. Sample who is the owner of lot 23.1 came to speak to the Council about his lot and the heritage road does go up to the end of his property on the GSI mapping. There are no other homes that can be built at the end of that road.**

The motion passed as amended with all in favor.

21.B. **Resolution 2023-10 - Accept an award in the amount of \$107,888 from the Homeland Security Grant Program for Police surveillance towers and related equipment**

In 2021 Laconia Police Department applied to the New Hampshire Department of Safety for grant funding for the purchase of monitoring platforms with surveillance towers and related equipment. The

application was prospectively awarded in June 2022 and final approval was granted in December 2022. The requested equipment will increase intelligence gathering and surveilling capabilities at large scale events, enhancing community safety during an active threat.

Acceptance of this award will allow the Police Department to move forward with this procurement.

This award was included on the Anticipated Grant list filed with the FY23 annual budget. Consequently, a public hearing for the acceptance of this grant was held on June 13, 2022 as part of the hearing for Resolution 2022-08.

The entire cost of this equipment is covered by the 2022 Homeland Security Grant, there is no local match requirement.

Councilor Cheney made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-10 relative to the acceptance of an award in the amount of \$107,888 from the Homeland Security Grant Program for Police surveillance towers and related equipment as presented, and to authorize the City Manager to sign all documents related to this grant. Seconded by Councilor Soucy **Discussion: Councilor Lipman asked the clerk to show a picture to the public. The picture is of a mobile tower with extendable arms.**

The motion passed with all in favor.

21.C. **Request to transfer \$100,000 to the Non-Capital Reserve Account for the purpose of funding the Academy Street Bridge Replacement Project**

In FY22 Council approved the expenditure of \$100,000 for the Academy Street Bridge Project. Due to the timing of the project, funds were not expended in FY22. In June 2022 Council rolled these funds into an FY23 contingency account with the intent of moving the funds into the non-capital reserve until such time as the project is ready to begin.

Councilor Lipman asked where the money resides currently? Finance Director Smith stated that it is in a contingency account called 499 rollover account. This authorizes the council to file the paperwork to move that money to the non-capital reserve. This commits the money to that one project.

Councilor Soucy made a motion to authorize the transfer of \$100,000 to the Non-Capital Reserve Account for the purpose of funding the Academy Street Bridge Replacement Project. Seconded by Councilor Lipman **Discussion: Councilor Haynes asked if this has been postponed? Manager Beattie said yes, to 2024.**

The motion passed with all in favor.

21.D. **Ordinance 2023-194-2, 194-5 - Proposed changes to the City's Solid Waste Ordinances in support of the conversion to automated solid waste collection**

The City Council's decision to convert to automated solid waste collection requires changes to the City's Solid Waste Ordinance. The Public Works Subcommittee reviewed the proposed changes to the City's Solid Waste Ordinance at their March 13, 2023 meeting and recommended that the City Council approve the changes to the Ordinance.

The changes include the following:

- Eliminates the requirements for households and commercial properties to provide their own cans and the size requirements for those cans.
- Adds the requirement that solid waste containers provided as part of the conversion to automated

collection belong to the City and remain with the property whenever the property is sold or a tenant relocates.

- Adds the requirement that properties with dumpsters will not receive City curbside solid waste collection services.

- Eliminates the remote recycling program.

- Changes the maximum quantity of containers based on the standard container sizes the City is providing to property owners.

- Eliminates the excess trash sticker program that allowed a single-family resident to put out an extra solid waste container for a fee.

Public Works recommends that the City Council approve the proposed changes to the Solid Waste Ordinance that is attached to the agenda.

Manager Beattie explained this is everything that has been agreed upon over the past year has now been put into an ordinance.

Councilor Lipman asked to table this item, noting that he thought

Councilor Cheney made a motion to waive a reading of Ordinance 2023-194.2, 194.5 in its entirety and to read by title only. Seconded by Councilor Haynes **Discussion:** None.

The motion passed with all in favor.

Councilor Cheney made a motion to move a first reading of Ordinance 2023-194.2, 194.5 relative to proposed changes to the City's Solid Waste Ordinances in support of the conversion to automated solid waste collection as presented. Seconded by Councilor Soucy **Discussion:** None

The motion passed with all in favor.

Councilor Felch made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing for April 10, 2023 during the regular City Council meeting to gather public input prior to any action being taken. Seconded by Councilor Haynes **Discussion: None.**

The motion passed with all in favor.

21.E. **Ordinance 2022-189 - Proposed changes to Code of Ordinances, Chapter 189, Sewers**

In 2022 Public Works proposed a change to the City's Sewer Ordinance so that the Ordinance and the system itself would meet the City's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Permit and align with the Winnepesaukee River Basin Program (WRBP) sewer use rules and NH Department of Environmental Services' suggested model Sewer Ordinance. The sewer collection system in the City, both public and private, must meet EPA's permit requirements, WRBP rules and NH DES requirements.

On March 28, 2022, the City Council held a public hearing on the proposed changes to the City's Sewer Ordinance. The public hearing was continued to a date to be determined by the Council.

Part of the Council's guidance after the public meeting was for Public Works to develop a proposal for the Sanitary Sewer Fund to pay for and coordinate the cleaning and inspection of the private sewers. The owners of private sewer systems would be responsible for meeting the remaining EPA requirements.

The City Council, as part of the sewer rate increase approved on February 13, 2023, funded the cleaning and inspection program for private sewers beginning in FY2025. The inspection program, however, is only one of the tasks that must be performed by collection system owners. The following are the EPA permit requirements for public and private sewer system owners:

- Adequate maintenance staff to carry out operations and maintenance
- Preventative maintenance program to prevent overflows and bypasses. Shall include an inspection program designed to identify all potential and actual unauthorized discharges and pumps stations shall have an alternate power source in the event of a power failure.
- Shall control inflow and infiltration
- Collection system mapping
- Operation & maintenance plan
- Reporting sewer spills/overflows
- Annual reporting

The proposed changes to the Ordinance will establish the following responsibilities.

In addition to incorporating the requirements of the WRBP's sewer rules (Env- Wq 1200), the changes add definitions, update design standards and the City's sewer connection permit requirements. The updates also include:

- Clarification on the 15% sewer surcharge for connections outside City limits to conform with existing intermunicipal agreements.
- A provision requiring the developer of a proposed sewer extension to analyze the capability of the existing system to accept a development's proposed flows.

Due to the extent of the changes, Public Works is proposing to change the Ordinance in its entirety.

At its March 13, 2023 meeting the Public Works Subcommittee recommended the City Council schedule the continuation of the public hearing at the City Council's July 24, 2023 meeting.

Manager Beattie gave a brief synopsis about everything listed above.

Councilor Felch made a motion that the City Council schedule a continuation of the public hearing on the proposed Sewer Ordinance for July 24, 2023. Seconded by Councilor Haynes. **Discussion: Councilor Lipman asked Manager Beattie asked about the drafting of the ordinance. Underwood was the consultant who assisted the public works department in drafting this ordinance change to bring it up to the current standard. Councilor Lipman asked if we could hold a question and answer session so people could get some dialog about these changes. So that people are more informed.**

The motion passed with all in favor.

21.F. Request to schedule a meeting of the Laconia Airport Appointive Agency

A request was received from Laconia Airport Manager Marv Everson to schedule a meeting of the Laconia Airport Appointive Agency for the purpose of conducting interviews and appointing members to the Laconia Airport Authority.

Councilor Soucy made a motion to schedule a Laconia Airport Appointive Agency meeting for April 10, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Armand A. Bolduc Council Chamber in Laconia City Hall. Seconded by Councilor Haynes. **Discussion: None**

The motion passed with all in favor.

22. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

22.A. Potential purchase of the State-owned discontinued rail corridor

The Surplus Property Appraisal Report is attached for the former Lakeshore Spur, a 3.63 +/- acre area of State owned discontinued rail corridor, part of the Concord-Lincoln Corridor in Laconia. The City has the right of first refusal from the State of NH on this property.

This matter was discussed at the February 27, 2023 City Council meeting. At that meeting a motion was approved to send an expression of interest letter to the State; that letter was sent to Commissioner William Cass at NH DOT on February 28, 2023.

The Finance Subcommittee met to review and discuss this potential purchase on March 16, 2023.

Councilor Lipman mentioned that there are 5 sections of this property. The most important is the segment to protect the inlet of the City's Drinking Water. The remaining segments, there are some open items that need to be addressed with legal and the state. There also are sections he does not feel that this is ready for Council consideration. There is no proposed motion here yet.

22.B. Resolution 2023-07 - Relative to re-adopting and setting the amounts established for the Optional and All Veterans' Property Tax Credits

House Bill 1667 (Chapter 121, laws of 2022) amended RSA 72:28 and RSA 72:28-b, expanding the Optional and All Veterans' Property Tax Credit to eligible active-duty veterans not yet discharged.

Due to the passage of HB 1667, it is now necessary for the City to re-adopt the optional provision of RSA 72:28, Standard Optional Veterans' Tax Credit, in the amount of \$500, effective April 1, 2023 and to re-adopt the All Veterans' Credit of RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans' Tax Credit, in the amount of \$500. If not re-adopted, the veterans' credits would revert back to the \$50 standard credit.

At the March 13, 2023 City Council meeting a motion was approved to schedule a Public Hearing on this matter; that Public Hearing was held earlier in this evening's agenda.

Discussion: Councilor Cheney indicated he'd like to see an amendment made to this motion to increase the fee to \$600.00 for the Veteran's Credit. The Veteran's credit has been set at \$500 for a number of years. Mayor Hosmer asked if he was suggesting that someone else make that motion and if he was going to be voting on any of these motions? Councilor Cheney said yes to seeking someone else to make the motion and no he will be abstained for all votes this evening on this agenda item.

Councilor Soucy made the motion to increase the veteran's credit to \$600.00 Seconded by Councilor Felch **Discussion: Councilor Lipman said he thought they had discussed at the last meeting of adjusting the veteran's credit annually based off the CPI/ tax cap percentage allows? Councilor Felch agrees, he thinks they did have that conversation at the last meeting, but he doesn't disagree with increasing it to \$600.00 now. Mayor Hosmer indicated that would**

be a minimal amount to adjust the credit and it was not be as large of an increase as what is currently on the table. Councilor Lipman said he agrees with Councilor Felch to increase the veteran's credit to \$600.00 and then adjust it by \$50.00 each year thereafter until we reach the maximum amount of \$750.00.

Councilor Soucy amended his motion to reflect both types of veteran credits presented to \$600.00 and then adjust it by \$50.00 each year thereafter until we reach the maximum amount of \$750.00. The Amended motion was seconded by Councilor Felch. **Further Discussion: Councilor Soucy thought the City could set the credit amount to as high as they wanted, and Manager Beattie clarified no, this amount is set by state RSA. Councilor Felch asked how often does the Council need to approve the veteran credits? Manager Beattie said the veteran credits can be reviewed whenever the Council feels it is necessary. The only reason why they have to reapprove this now is because the RSA changed.**

The motion passed with four councilors in favor. Abstained: Councilor Cheney

Councilor Soucy made a motion to waive a reading of Resolution 2023-07 in its entirety and to read by title only. Seconded by Councilor Haynes. **Discussion: None.**

The motion passed with four councilors in favor. Abstained: Councilor Cheney

Councilor Soucy made a motion to move a second reading of Resolution 2023-07 relative to re-adopting and setting the amounts established for the Optional Veterans' and All Veterans' Property Tax Credits as presented. Seconded by Councilor Lipman. **Discussion: None.**

The motion passed with four councilors in favor. Abstained: Councilor Cheney

Councilor Lipman made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-07 relative to re-adopting and setting the amounts established for the Optional Veterans' and All Veterans' Property Tax Credits as presented. Seconded by Councilor Haynes. **Discussion: None.**

The motion passed with four councilors in favor. Abstained: Councilor Cheney

22.C. **Resolution 2023-08 - Request to submit a grant application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant**

If awarded, this request is to accept \$116,057.00 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant to fund a one-year full-time Fire Prevention/Community Risk Reduction position. This position will focus on multi-family rental inspections, mechanical inspections, and public education. The position will also help the Fire Department meet the increasing fire prevention demands due to the continued growth in Laconia, including the State School Property development.

At the March 13, 2023 City Council meeting a motion was approved to schedule a Public Hearing on this matter; that Public Hearing was held earlier in this evening's agenda.

The City's share of this grant is 5%, or \$5,802.85.

This grant acceptance is recommended by the Laconia Fire Chief due to the existing 286 multi-family rental properties and the projected growth and development of Laconia.

Councilor Cheney made a motion to waive a reading of Resolution 2023-08 in its entirety and to read by title only. Seconded by Councilor Haynes. **Discussion: None.**

The motion passed with all in favor.

Councilor Cheney made a motion to move a second reading of Resolution 2023-08, relative to authorizing application and acceptance of a grant application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant in the amount of \$116,057.00. Seconded by Councilor Felch. **Discussion:** None

The motion passed with all in favor.

Councilor Haynes to approve Resolution 2023-08, relative to authorizing application and acceptance of a grant application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant in the amount of \$116,057.00, and to authorize the City Manager to sign all documents related to this grant. Seconded by Councilor Cheney. **Discussion:** None

The motion passed with all in favor.

22.D. **Resolution 2023-09 - Relative to acceptance of InvestNH Municipal Per Unit Award #MPU22-100 Grant in the amount of \$120,000**

The City has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$120,000 from the NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs "InvestNH Municipal Per Unit Program". The grant funds are for the Perley Pond, 57 Blueberry Lane application. At the March 13, 2023 City Council meeting a motion was approved to schedule a Public Hearing on this matter; that Public Hearing was held earlier in this evening's agenda.

There are no matching funds required from the City in relation to this grant.

Councilor Felch made a motion to waive a reading of Resolution 2023-09 in its entirety and to read by title only. Seconded by Councilor Haynes. **Discussion:** None

The motion passed with all in favor.

Councilor Cheney made a motion to move a second reading of Resolution 2023-09 relative to accepting a grant in the amount of \$120,000 from the NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs "InvestNH Municipal Per Unit Program" for the Perley Pond, 57 Blueberry Lane application. Seconded by Councilor Soucy. **Discussion:** Councilor Lipman requested to amend the motion to allocate 30,000 to the Perley Pond, 57 Blueberry Lane that was outlined by the Laconia Housing Finance Authority. Councilor Cheney amended his motion to reflect \$30,000.00 of the grant award to go to the Laconia Housing Finance Authority, the amended motion was seconded by Councilor Felch. **There was no further discussion.**

The motion passed with all in favor.

Councilor Cheney made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-09 relative to accepting a grant in the amount of \$120,000 from the NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs "InvestNH Municipal Per Unit Program" for the Perley Pond, 57 Blueberry Lane application, and to authorize the City Manager to sign all documents related to this grant. Seconded by Councilor Felch. **Discussion:** None.

The motion passed with all in favor.

22.E. **Update on the Parking Garage Expression of Interest**

At the January 9, 2023 meeting the City Council approved a motion to approve an amended Expression of Interest for the downtown parking garage, and further authorized the City Manager to move forward with the publication of that document. As of March 15, 2023 the deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest has passed, and no interested parties have responded.

Mayor Hosmer said that people didn't seem too enticed to take over floors 2 &3 and not own floor 1.

22.F. Discussion of Downtown Urban Planning/Parking Study

The City contracted with Walker Consultants to study Laconia's existing parking supply and demand and to look ahead to potential future scenarios. The final report has been completed and was provided to the Council previously. A copy of the report is attached to the agenda.

Mayor Hosmer sent this item to the Public Works Subcommittee meeting to discuss this item on Monday April 10 prior to the next Council meeting.

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 9:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Gargano, City Clerk