

Minutes were approved by the City Council on April 24, 2023.

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

4/10/2023 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hosmer called the meeting to order at 7:12 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 following City Councilor's: 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 27, 2023

Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of March 27, 2023 were distributed to the City Council on April 5, 2023.

On April 10, 2023, the Clerk received one correction. Bringing attention to the motion of agenda item number 8 was duplicated under agenda item number 9. The citizen comments for matters not on the agenda, which is agenda item number 9, were missing. The minutes have been corrected and reflect on the City website.

With one correction submitted to the clerk, the minutes were accepted as amended.

8. CONSENT & ACTION ITEMS

9. CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

David Stamps is the chairman of the human relations committee passed out a paper to the council about a banner/flag display at City Hall. Councilor Cheney did say that he does have concern over what some

flags/banners might not provide the right message.

Manager Kirk Beattie has been working with legal counsel to find out proper protocol. First the council has to decide how much involvement they want to have in the approval process before they can take the next steps. Manager Beattie does state that in other communities the decision does fall back on the governing body.

Mayor Hosmer mentioned to Manager Beattie that he would like to see a policy reduced to writing and voted on by the council before June 1st so that there is a policy in front of the council to vote on hanging a pride flag again this year during June.

Councilor Soucy asked David Stamps what his perspective is on what the human relations committee is trying to represent with this policy and could there be a negative affect if they put up a banner/flag that some might find controversial.

David Stamps said the broad picture in his mind is that the human relations committee reflects Laconia. Laconia is the only place in the State with an official human relations committee. It is better to address these questions straight on. The more that they do, the more the public is educated on these issues. Its their goal to focus on the positive. They are trying to provide inclusivity not to tell people how to think or act.

Kerry Chandler also a member of the human relations committee. She said she felt incredibly proud of Laconia with the pride flag being hung last year. She finds the flag provides a symbol of hope.

Patrick Wood also a member of the Human Relations Committee and his response is that he would rather be seen for what they stand for rather than what we run from.

Trish Wetherbee also a member of the human relations committee. She believes that the push back comes from not providing acknowledgment.

Matt Souza also a member of the human relations committee. Provided some history about where it come from originally was a letter to the editor in the Laconia daily sun.

10. **INTERVIEWS**

11. **NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS & ELECTIONS**

12. **COMMUNICATIONS**

13. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

13.A. **Public Hearing - 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**

Notice of this Public Hearing was made available in the March 29, 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 7:39 PM

Mark Templeton wanted to know how the trash will be handled during the winter period. He's concerned about the holidays, the lack of human interaction, and removing the barrels he's purchased.

Mayor Hosmer closed the Public Hearing at 7:46 PM

14. **PRESENTATIONS**

15. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

None.

16. **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilor Cheney asked for an update on the Elm Street school driveway plan. An update on pets that are not allowed in the City. The status of Eastman Shore Rd in desperate need of repair, it is not a public road and he'd like to see if there is something that can be done to help fix the roads. He'd like to have the public works director report to him at the next meeting. He'd like to have the Manager to look into the community power cooperative to look into that and what our options would be. He would like the council to instruct the city manager to seek legal advice on what is being done with the diocese. Another concern he has is inspections and asked the fire chief what the status is of hiring an deputy chief.

Councilor Soucy will call a meeting of the government and ordinances subcommittee to discuss demolition permits and pets.

Councilor Haynes was reading the AAA Explorer magazine and there was an advertisement in the magazine for the upcoming coffee festival on May 20th. There are several events going on in the City on May 20th and its great opportunities for the City. He also acknowledged the recent ad in the Laconia daily sun about the fire department being fully staffed.

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.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**

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

No citizens requested to comment.

20. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

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

Manager Beattie presented the report to the Council, highlights include: building construction numbers, welfare assistance (32 families, 27 actual Laconia residents), property tax collection is slightly higher, motor vehicle revenue is right on target. Impact fees were discussed a little bit at the last meeting. The city manager let the council know that he reached out to department heads to see if they had plans on what to offset the budget with. Boat registrations are down, code stats, and snowstorm costs.

Councilor Haynes brought up an email he sent him about the need for a cross walk on court street and the court house parking. Manager Beattie said they have not looked but now that the snow has melted they are relooking into it. He also mentioned a Sewer leak in the Lakemont co-op, Manager Beattie said that it is still being worked on and it is a city system.

21. **NEW BUSINESS**

21.A. **Temporary Traffic Order 2023-06 - Lake City Steeplechase 5K**

The Laconia Historical & Museum Society is requesting approval of a Temporary Traffic Order in connection with the "Lake City Steeplechase 5K". This event is scheduled for Saturday, May 20 to bring awareness to challenges facing the two churches that begin and end the 5K (the United Baptist Church in Lakeport and St. Joseph Church).

The majority of the 5K takes place on the WOW Trail and City sidewalks; however, participants will be crossing some City streets. Event organizers will provide volunteers to man these crossings to ensure the safety of the runners and walkers. Other than the WOW Trail, participants will be using City sidewalks.

The only street that will be closed is Park Street from 6 am to 10 am to prevent traffic while participants gather in the vicinity of the United Baptist Church for the starting line of the race. Event organizers will speak with residents on Park Street prior to the event to inform them of the street closing for that timeframe.

The 5K will conclude at the finish line located in the City's parking lot behind St. Joseph Church, with refreshments provided by the St. Joseph Church Preservation Society.

Please note that this event is scheduled during the same weekend as the New England Coffee Festival.

Tara Shore from the Laconia Historical & Museum Society was present at this meeting to provide additional information and to answer any questions the Council may have.

Councilor Haynes made a motion to approve Temporary Traffic Order 2023-06 for the Lake City Steeplechase 5K as presented, and to waive City fees associated with the event. Seconded by Councilor Felch. **Discussion:** Councilor Haynes mentioned there will be an opportunity to view the United Baptist church He encourages all to go view it.

The motion passed with all in favor

21.B. Temporary Traffic Order 2023-04 - New England Coffee Festival

This year's New England Coffee Festival is scheduled for May 19 – May 20, 2023 with several events throughout the downtown area. Organizers of this event are requesting approval of the attached Temporary Traffic Order and a waiver of Special Event and Licensing fees associated with the event.

This event was approved by the Special Events Review Committee at their March 1, 2023 meeting. A Notice of Action from that meeting is attached, as well as their Special Events application.

As shown on the Temporary Traffic Order, the organizers are requesting to close Canal Street during the event, and to hold a "Welcome Mixer" on Friday evening (May 19). Samples of specialty coffee beer will be given out at this event; IDs will be checked, wristbands will be issued and checked, and no one will be allowed to leave Canal Street with alcohol.

A representative from the event will be present at this meeting to provide additional information and to answer any questions the Council may have.

Councilor Soucy made a motion to approve Temporary Traffic Order 2023-04 for the New England Coffee Festival as presented, to allow alcohol consumption on City property in the designated area only, and to waive Special Event and Licensing fees associated with the event. Seconded by Councilor Cheney **Discussion:** None.

The motion passed with all in favor

21.C. Resolution 2023-11 - Request to submit a grant application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a Laconia Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

If awarded, this request is to accept the amount of \$11,999.00 through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. These funds will be used to cover the costs associated with updating the City of Laconia's 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan. It is recommended that a municipality updates its Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years.

The City's share of this grant is 10%, or \$1,333.30

Councilor Cheney made a motion to waive a reading of Resolution 2023-11 in its entirety and to read by title only. Seconded by Councilor Soucy. **Discussion:** None

The motion passed with all in favor

Councilor Soucy made a motion a first reading of Resolution 2023-11, relative to authorizing application and acceptance of a grant application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a Laconia Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Seconded by Councilor Haynes
Discussion: None.

The motion passed with all in favor

Councilor Soucy made a motion to schedule a public hearing on April 24, 2023 during the regular City Council meeting to gather public input prior to any action being taken. Seconded by Councilor Lipman **Discussion:** None.

The motion passed with all in favor

22. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

22.A. **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.

At the March 27, 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 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 gave the Council an update. This ordinance has been worked on since August

2020. They are looking for approval of the drawn up ordinance. All proposed items have all been discussed at some point. All the cans have been ordered and now the ordinance just needs to be voted on.

Councilor Soucy asked about the limit of cans for apartment buildings. Manager Beattie confirmed the max of 4 barrels per apartment building.

Councilor Cheney asked about the remote recycling. There used to be 4 remote recycling sites. Director Anderson said now that everyone is getting a new recycling bin it eliminates the need for these locations. The cardboard drop off is not going away and you can still bring recycle materials to the transfer station at no cost.

Director Anderson also addressed that said residents will either have to shovel out their sublawns or put their trashcans in their driveway during inclement weather.

Councilor Lipman raised concerns about what the City's plan to making sure landlords and business owners are informed that they are going to be losing services to recycling curbside if they have a dumpster. He doesn't want residents to come running to the council later. Director Anderson said he cannot guarantee that won't happen. They have done their best getting the information put into the Laconia links and talking to people downtown and in the newspaper. A letter has not been sent.

Mayor Hosmer said there is a large piece missing in communication. Not everyone reads the newspaper or links so part of the community is not being reached. He'd like to see a social media blast or radio ad. Something needs to be done.

DPW doesn't have the staff to maintain a social media page per Director Anderson.

Councilor Lipman doesn't find that answer acceptable.

Councilor Soucy suggested that they could always reach out to a marketing firm and contract out to get the information out quickly. Second, they should take that pamphlet and send it to every tax payer. Director Anderson said every address that has authorized curbside service did get one mailed out to them.

Manager Beattie said that his office can look into having a more robust social media for this.

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 Felch **Discussion:** None.

The motion passed with all in favor

Councilor Felch made a motion to move a second 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:** Councilor Lipman asked the City Manager what his plan will be, Councilor Lipman said some suggestions to go to the landlord association, the downtown restaurants to see other group associations to get the word spread. Councilor Felch agrees with Councilor Lipman, he mentioned that the Police, Fire and Parks Departments all have social media that should be utilized. Councilor Soucy doesn't want to hear about not enough money. Mayor Hosmer suggests multiple avenues like radio broadcasting and full-page ads on the back of the Laconia Daily Sun. Councilor Lipman, Councilor Felch would like to see Casella have a second person on the trucks to critique. Mayor Hosmer asked Manager Beattie to come to the April 24th meeting with an update on what is being done and what they can do through May to help residents and go above and beyond for them.

The motion passed with all in favor.

Councilor Cheney made a motion to approve 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.

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

Councilor Cheney asked the Fire Chief about his deputy position. Since Fire Chief Jubert took over they have not had a fire prevention deputy chief. The position has been posted a couple of times. Unexpectedly someone in house has shown interest and they are very qualified and talented so they are going to move forward with that one individual. Starting next week the position will be filled.

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

26. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hosmer adjourned the meeting at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Gargano, City Clerk