

**CITY OF LACONIA - CITY COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING**  
**June 8, 2020**  
**6:15 P.M.**

6/8/2020 - Minutes

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro Tem Haynes called the meeting to order at the above date and time.

As Mayor of the Laconia City Council, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus Crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive ORder 2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, this is to confirm that we are:

a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means;

We are utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. All Council members have the ability to communicate during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public has access to watch the live YouTube video at [www.youtube.com/laconianh](http://www.youtube.com/laconianh), listen to this meeting through dialing the following phone #1-646-558-8656 or participate by the Zoom app: Webinar ID: 842 0491 2676 password 134284.

b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting;

We previously gave notice to the public of how to access the meeting using Zoom, and instructions are provided on the City of Laconia's website at: [www.laconianh.gov](http://www.laconianh.gov).

c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:

If anybody has a problem, please call 524-3877 ext. 249 or email at: [cityclerk@laconianh.gov](mailto:cityclerk@laconianh.gov)

d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled at that time.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

Lets start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their presences, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

**2. RECORDING SECRETARY**

Cheryl Hebert, City Clerk

**3. ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Hebert took a roll call vote:

Councilor Cheney YES, (physically present)

Councilor Bownes, (having technical difficulties)

Councilor Lipman YES, Is anyone in the room with you? NO

Councilor Haynes YES (physically present)

Councilor Hamel YES, Is anyone in the room with you? NO

Councilor Felch YES, Is anyone in the room with you? NO

Mayor Hosmer noted that five (5) Councilors were present and a quorum has been established.

#### 4. PRESENTATIONS

##### 4.A. Department Budget Presentation

Director of Public Works, Solid Waste, & Sanitary Sewer Wes Anderson reviewed a PowerPoint Presentation. A copy of that presentation was submitted into the record.

Director Anderson reviewed some of the Solid Waste program changes in Fiscal Year 2020. The Town of Gilford opened their own Transfer Station on January 1, 2020. Director Anderson also explained the paradigm shift of quality recycling versus quantity of recycling.

Some options to manage solid waste disposal costs were discussed. A minor change is to limit the quantity of household rubbish by enforcing the City Ordinance. Some potential major changes would be an automated collection system, a modified pay as you throw system, limit curbside collection to single/duplex/triplex residences, license to one contractor or have an open licence. An automated collection system option was explained. It would take one year for planning and preparation. Another option would be to either eliminate curbside bulky item pick up or to change the process to be similar to the metal pick up, which is by appointment only. The City could also look into having some parts of the City going semi-automatic.

Director Anderson explained the budget numbers of the General Fund for Solid Waste. There was an increase of \$153,076. Some of the increases are due to CPI-U increase, fuel costs and the values of recyclable, which changes monthly. For the current contract of recycling the processing fee is \$106 per ton. In October of 2020 the \$106 per ton fee increases to \$141 per ton. Director Anderson discussed some options to manage the solid waste disposal costs.

There was an increase of \$105,944 to the overall General Fund. The increase is due to salaries and the Internal Service Fund repairs and replacements. On the operational side of the things, personnel has remained the same and the department is still sharing equipment with Belmont. Discussion was had regarding the continuation of accepting roads "as-is," snow hauling, and beginning a work order system.

Director Anderson spoke of the Capital Improvement Program. The department continues to do compaction and soil testing. There is a construction inspector on site. The department is still working on establishing a five-year coordination plan so residents are kept in the know on what will be happening throughout the City.

Comcast is near completion. There has been ADA improvements at the traffic signals. Main/Court, Main/Church and Union/Elm intersections are already completed. The Union/Messer intersection will be completed this year and in the future Main/Oak, Beacon Street East/Church intersections will

begin.

Director Anderson reviewed the Parking Garage expenditures for fiscal year 2020 and presented the expected expenditures for fiscal year 2021.

Councilor Bownes is now present and is alone at 6:42 pm.

Director Anderson reviewed the Sanitary Sewer Fund. The Winnepesaukee River Basin Program is roughly 63% of the annual sewer budget. The Rate system was established in the 1980's. A consultant is currently reviewing revenue impacts from 2019 and 2020 rate increases. The results of this should be available in about two months.

Director Anderson discussed the changes that would have to happen due to the new proposed dates of Motorcycle Week as it will be during the peak tourist season.

The Fiscal Year 2021 projects are:

1. Union Ave (Elm Street to Stark Street) continuation
2. Union Ave (Messer to Elm) - overlay
3. Lafayette - reconstruction
4. Girard Street - overlay
5. Main Street (downtown) - finalizing
6. Franklin (Elm to Washington) - reclaim and overlay and drainage
7. Shore Drive - (near the pump station) - overlay

While the above projects are happening, everything will be brought up to current ADA standards at the same time.

Mayor Hosmer congratulated Director Anderson and his staff in regards to the work that has been done throughout the City thus far in the early construction season. Mayor Hosmer is optimistic going forward with the communication with our residents and business owners.

Councilor Bownes would like to know what kind of impact the new rates have had. Director Anderson is working on those numbers right now and should have some numbers within the next couple of months.

Councilor Hamel echoed the Mayor's sentiments in regards to how nice the roads are looking throughout the City. Councilor Hamel also questioned if recycling is still worth doing. Director Anderson explained that we may not want to stop recycling now due to costs and then have to restart the process in the next few years.

Councilor Hamel asked how the contamination has been with the recycling?

Director Anderson explained that as of right now, there has not been any containers returned due to contamination.

Councilor Hamel questioned the street light line item and would like to know if a portion of the savings has been being set aside for replacement lights in the future.

City Manager Myers explained a five-year bond was taken out. The lights had a warranty of ten years, so the first five years was used as paying the bond off. There has been about \$100,000 per year savings. \$60,000 has been paying on the bond and \$40,000 towards cash flow. Once the bond is paid off money will then be put aside for replacements in the future.

Director Anderson explained there were about 1,300 lights put in throughout the City and the last few years, the average replacement has been about four to five that fail. Those get covered under the warranty. The part that fails only costs about \$25.00.

Councilor Hamel is happy that quality inspections are now being done. Councilor Hamel would like to know when the downtown (Main Street) will be brought up to "snuff." Director Anderson explained that once all of the outside work is completed at the Colonial, that area will be done.

City Manager Myers explained the work that is being done on Messer Street on the trench. There is a certain dollar amount that can be received in lieu of that work being done. That money can be used to do some comprehensive work on Main Street as opposed to having a full patch being done else there. Options are being discussed.

Councilor Lipman (page 137 of the budget book) - Depreciation line is excluded from Director Anderson's report of \$410,000. City Manager Myers explained that is a typographical error and that will be looked into and verify that information.

Councilor Lipman asked if there is any equipment that isn't being used but still being kept on the books. City Manager Myers explained that equipment that is not being used is being surplus.

Councilor Lipman asked about any carry-forwards in regards to Motorcycle Week.

City Manager Myers stated as for Motorcycle Week that has its own Special Revenue Account so that would not have any changes. If the date of August does go forward, there will be two Motorcycle Week events in one fiscal year so monies will need to be moved to adjust for that. The City Manager also explained that department heads just received an email asking for their carry forwards, therefore those numbers should be in within the next week.

Councilor Lipman would like to understand what the risk would be if recycling were to stop now and start again at a later date for budgeting purposes.

City Manager Myers will put together an analysis together and bring it to the Council.

Councilor Cheney is interested in the automated savings with a 25% savings.

Director Anderson will get some numbers but they will be based off of some assumptions.

Mayor Hosmer thanks Director Anderson for his presentation.

**5. Any other business that may come before the Council**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Council and hearing no objection, Mayor Hosmer adjourned the meeting at 7:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Cheryl Hebert, City Clerk

MINUTES OF THIS MEETING WERE APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON JUNE 22, 2020