

LACONIA CITY COUNCIL
LAND & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE MEETING
November 26, 2018

Chairman Bob Hamel called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

Recording Secretary: City Clerk Cheryl Hebert

Committee Members Present: Councilors Henry Lipman, Mark Haynes & Bob Hamel (Chair)

Staff present: City Manager Scott Myers

1. Discussion of the Downtown Parking Garage

Patrick Woods, Chair of the Downtown TIF – Mr. Woods noted for the record that Charlie St. Clair, Bre Henderson, and Kevin Dunleavy are also in attendance from the Downtown TIF Advisory Board. Mr. Woods would like to see the discussion of the parking issue in downtown continue. He noted the lack of parking availability and if there is anything, the Downtown TIF could do to help. He also mentioned that City Hall be moved to the old St. Joseph's Church building. Councilor Lipman asked if Mr. Woods had any further details in regards to the St. Joseph building. City Manager Myers stated he does have a meeting scheduled in regards to that building. P. Woods also said he knows of someone that is interested in buying the current city hall building that would not need a lot of parking space.

Further discussion was had in regards to the cost of past repairs to the parking garage and possible future costs, whether repairs or to rebuild would be feasible. There are limitations with the current condition of the parking garage, such as the lack of accessibility for emergency vehicles.

Councilor Hamel suggested getting cost estimates of removing just the upper deck of the parking garage.

Representative Charlie St. Clair expressed he noticed the big change with the parking problem happened when Genesis Behavioral Healthcare joined downtown. He has had people express to him about renting space in the downtown area for a business but they are concerned with the lack of parking.

City Manager Myers suggested changing the on street parking on Beacon Street East and Beacon Street West from parallel to angle parking and changing from two-lane traffic down to one lane of traffic. This will add more parking. The City Manager also made note that there is public parking available New Salem Street at the property Craig Beane owns where the Salvation Army is.

DPW Director Wes Anderson explained the process of the annual inspection of the parking garage.

Councilor Hamel would like an updated price from DuBois and King in regards to costs associated with repairing the parking garage as well as have staff look in to angle parking on both the East and West sides of Beacon Streets.

Councilor Haynes would like the City Manager to have further discussion with the Church in regards to the purchase of that property.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Hamel, Chair