

A regular meeting of the Keene City Council was held on Thursday, June 16, 2022. The Honorable Mayor George S. Hansel called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Roll called: Bryan J. Lake, Michael J. Remy, Gladys Johnsen, Michael Giacomo, Randy L. Filiault, Robert C. Williams, Philip M. Jones, Andrew M. Madison, Kris E. Roberts, Bettina A. Chadbourne, Catherine I. Workman, Kate M. Bosley, and Thomas F. Powers were present. Mitchell H. Greenwald was absent. Having declared a quorum physically present, Councilor Ormerod—who had the Council’s permission to participate remotely due to a health issue—stated his location and whether anyone was present with him. Councilor Johnsen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### PROCLAMATION - JUNETEENTH

Mayor Hansel welcomed Chair of the Human Rights Committee, Sofia Cunha-Vasconcelos, and Director of Parks, Recreation, & Facilities, Andy Bohannon, to receive a proclamation declaring June 18–19 as Juneteenth in the City of Keene. The Mayor recognized the historic importance of the holiday and encouraged all citizens to join in the Juneteenth events to celebrate and witness the history. Ms. Cunha-Vasconcelos invited all citizens to join in the Juneteenth events planned for Saturday, June 18 at 11:00 AM for a three-hour event with wonderful speakers and musicians to learn more about this holiday and join as a community to recognize and celebrate it.

#### MINUTES FROM THE PRECEDING MEETING

A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt the meeting minutes of June 2, 2022 as printed was duly seconded by Councilor Bosley. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor.

#### PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE O-2022-04 – ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

The City Clerk read the public hearing notice and Mayor Hansel called the hearing to order at 7:07 PM. The Mayor said the hearing was the opportunity for the public to comment on the Zoning Ordinance Change, relating to amendments affecting the Commerce District. Mayor Hansel welcomed Senior Planner, Mari Brunner, for a brief presentation.

Ms. Brunner was present representing the Community Development Department, which was the petitioner for this application. The Ordinance proposed to amend several provisions of the Land Development Code—Chapter 100 of the City Code—to create the opportunity for housing development in the downtown and commercial areas of the City, which is consistent with the prevailing scale and built form of the surrounding area. This Ordinance first went to the City Council for a first reading on April 20 and was then referred to the Joint Planning Board—Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee for a public workshop on May 9, during which there were no comments from the public. However, there was discussion at the Board level about some of the provisions. Most discussion was about height and setback requirements. Ultimately, the Planning Board voted finding that the Ordinance was consistent with the Comprehensive

Master Plan, and the Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee voted to request that the Mayor set this public hearing.

Ms. Brunner continued, restating that the petitioner was the Community Development Department and Staff viewed this proposal as an extension of the Land Development Code project, which was a long, massive, multi-year effort. With respect to zoning, Ms. Brunner said the Land Development Code was mostly just a reorganization of information, with some zoning changes to the downtown. Staff had been reviewing the zoning districts outside of the downtown—areas that were mostly untouched in the Land Development Code—to identify opportunities for reducing barriers to housing development and ways to promote other community goals in the Master Plan. Currently, within the Commerce District, there are no residential uses allowed. Staff proposed to add multi-family dwellings as a permitted use in the district, with the limitation that dwelling units could not be located on the ground floor to ensure the intent of the district is preserved. The intent of the Commerce District is to provide for an area of intense commercial development. While Staff felt that this could be a good opportunity for mixed-use, live-work type developments, they wanted to ensure they were not inadvertently allowing for significant land development in the Commerce District strictly for housing. The goal is a mixed-use scenario. Currently in the Commerce District, the maximum building height is two stories or 35 feet, which can increase to three and a half stories or 50 feet by special exception from the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Ms. Brunner stated that Staff proposed to remove the special exception in order to increase the height to four stories or 56 feet, provided that additional building setback requirements are met. Setbacks ensure that buildings are a certain distance from the property line. The current setback requirement in the commerce district was 20 feet and if a developer wanted to go up to three stories, a 30-foot setback would be required; a 40-foot setback for four stories was proposed. The building height step back is where the building's façade above a certain point is recessed back from the front of the building in order to bring the massing of the building back away from the street. A developer could choose either the setback or step back option; both are not required.

In addition to those proposed changes to the Commerce District, Ms. Brunner said Staff also proposed a change that would affect both the Downton Growth and Downtown Core districts. A major component of these districts, which are the heart of downtown Keene, is the emphasis on pedestrian scale development and having an active streetscape and walkability. Currently, multi-family residential uses are allowed in both districts. However, in the Downtown Core, all dwelling units must be located above the ground floor if there are fewer than four units in one structure. Staff proposed to change that rule so that multi-family residential development in the downtown can occur only by right on the upper stories of buildings. The intent of this change is to ensure the City is promoting ground-level uses in the heart of downtown Keene that are appropriate for the area with a prominent level of pedestrian traffic. Ms. Brunner welcomed questions.

06/16/2022

Councilor Jones stated that he would not be at the Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee meeting on July 13 to comment, so he took this opportunity. He thought the proposed changes were very good. He recalled that when the Land Development Code was developed, it was with the caveat that more amendments would be made to improve the Code as it was implemented. He cited the housing crunch and recalled his comments on smart growth principles, which he said these changes fit. He said the fact that some bureaucratic red tape was being removed was a good thing.

Councilor Williams said he really liked this idea because more density of places for people to live is needed in Keene because there is not enough housing. He said that building more housing would bring down the prices. He was concerned about excluding the ground floor in the Commerce District, stating that such housing is important for handicapped access; it is less challenging than having to go to upper floors or having an elevator installed. Councilor Williams asked Staff to reconsider some kind of ground floor housing for disability access.

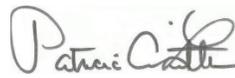
Mayor Hansel opened the hearing to public comment.

Dan Bartlett of 185 Winchester Street spoke in favor of this proposal, echoing the support already voiced. He had a client approach him with a proposal like this to have retail on the first floor and residential on the second floor in the Commerce District. However, because of the Code, that plan did not move forward. He is interested in this change and thinks it will result in more vibrancy in the Commerce District because of residential life. He hoped this would move forward favorably.

Peter Espieffs of 19 Middle Street lives in the Historic District. He commented that the City enacted the Historic District and should protect it from these sorts of changes that would change the character of the District. He urged the City to be careful about harming the District.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Mayor Hansel closed the public hearing at 7:19 PM, except for written comments, which would be accepted until 1:00 PM on Tuesday, July 12. Written comments must be signed and submitted to the City Clerk by that date and time to be included in the record. The Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee will be making a recommendation to the full Council at their July 13 regular meeting.

A true record, attest:

  
City Clerk

COMMUNICATION – ATTORNEY MICHAEL BENTLEY – AGATHA FIFIELD – REQUESTING THE CITY RESUME MAINTENANCE OF BLAINE STREET – PRIVATE WAY

A communication was received from Attorney Michael Bentley, who is representing his client Agatha Fifield, who resides at 22 Blaine Street. In October of 2020, Ms. Fifield was informed by the City that the Department of Public Works would no longer be snowplowing Blaine Street because it was not a public road. Attorney Bentley is stating in this letter that the City of Keene has maintained Blaine Street from Syd Street to a cul-de-sac just westerly of his client's property since 1945. This maintenance was discontinued in the fall of 2020. The maintenance included the plowing of snow in the winter and grading the gravel surface in warmer weather so that the road was passable throughout the year by motor vehicle. Attorney Bentley is requesting that the City resume its normal maintenance of Blaine Street because of the hardship on his client. Mayor Hansel referred the communication to the Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee.

COMMUNICATION – ATTORNEY THOMAS HANNA – JRR PROPERTIES – DONATION OF LAND AT 0 ASHUELOT STREET – GREEN SPACE

A communication was received from Attorney Thomas Hanna, representing JRR Properties, which is the owner of a 3.5-acre parcel of land at 0 Ashuelot Street. This property was originally the overflow parking lot for the Colony Mill. The communication is offering 2.5 acres of the 3.5-acre parcel to the City as park space. Mayor Hansel referred the communication to the Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee.

COMMUNICATION – KEENE HOUSING KID'S COLLABORATIVE – FUNDING ALLOCATION IN PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

A communication was received from the Keene Housing Kids Collaborative Board of Directors, requesting that their organization be considered for a \$10,000 level funding allocation in the proposed operating budget. Mayor Hansel accepted the communication and filed it into the record.

COMMUNICATION – COUNCILOR ANDREW MADISON – PROPOSED ADJUSTMENT TO THE OPERATING BUDGET

A communication was received from Councilor Andrew Madison, proposing two amendments to the proposed operating budget: 1) increase the allocation for the Keene Housing Kids Collaborative from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to better support programming and resources for children residing in Keene Housing properties; and 2) increase the allocation for the Conservation Commission from \$1,500 to \$2,000 to provide funding for educational events including speaker series and guided hikes. Mayor Hansel accepted the communication and filed it into the record.

COMMUNICATION – COUNCILORS KATE BOSLEY AND ROBERT WILLIAMS –  
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE OPERATING BUDGET

A communication was received from Councilors Bosley and Williams, proposing two amendments to the proposed operating budget: 1) increase the allocation for the Keene Housing Kids Collaborative from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and 2) increase the allocation for the Good Samaritans from \$4,500 to \$5,000. The funding increase is to ensure that both of these organizations have the resources they need to be effective in their respective missions. Mayor Hansel accepted the communication and filed it into the record.

COMMUNICATION – FABIAN FRIEDLAND/KEENE ISLAND CONDO ASSOCIATION  
AND KEENE ISLAND HOLDINGS – REQUESTING AN AMENDMENT TO A LEASE OF  
CITY PROPERTY FOR PARKING – MAP 577-LOT 34 – ISLAND STREET

A communication was received from Fabian Friedland on behalf of the Keene Island Condo Association and Keene Island Holdings, requesting an amendment to a lease of City property north of 69 Island Street for parking. Mayor Hansel referred the communication to the Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee.

COMMUNICATION – COUNCILOR PHILIP JONES – UNSAFE SIGN PLACEMENT

A communication was received from Councilor Jones, requesting the City prohibit the placement of signs in any City right of way that is not safely accessible without permission of the City. Mayor Hansel referred the communication to the Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee.

PLD REPORT – PABLO FLEISCHMANN – KEENE MUSIC FESTIVAL – REQUEST FOR  
USE OF CITY PROPERTY – SEPTEMBER 3, 2022

A Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee report read, recommending that The Keene Music Festival be granted a street fair license to use downtown City rights-of-way for purposes of conducting merchant sidewalk sales, as well as use of downtown City property on Central Square, Railroad Square, and designated parking spaces on Main Street to conduct the Keene Music Festival on Saturday, September 3, 2022 from 9:00 AM to 10:30 PM. In addition, the applicant is permitted to close off a portion of Railroad Street, from Main Street to the westerly entrance of the Wells Street Parking Garage, and a portion of Church Street from Main Street to the entrance of the Selman Company parking lot. This permission is granted subject to the following conditions: the signing of a revocable license and indemnification agreement; that the petitioner provide a certificate of liability insurance with the City of Keene listed as additional insured in the amount of \$1,000,000; submittal of a signed letter of permission from City Tire for use of their property, and compliance with any recommendations of City staff. In addition, the petitioner is granted use of the requested parking spaces free of charge under the provisions of the Free Parking Policy. Petitioner agrees to absorb

the cost of any City services over and above any amount of City funding allocated in the FY 23 Community Events Budget. Said payment shall be made within 30 days of the date of invoicing. A motion by Councilor Bosley to carry out the intent of the Committee report was duly seconded by Councilor Giacomo. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

**FOP REPORT – WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT LABORATORY RENOVATION – ENGINEERING CHANGE ORDER 3 – WWTP OPERATIONS MANAGER**

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to execute Change Order 3 with Underwood Engineers to perform engineering services for the Laboratory Renovation Project for an amount not to exceed \$4,000 for contract 04-21-22. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the Committee report was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

**FOP REPORT – ACCEPT AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS & CONTRACT SERVICES TO PERFORM SLUDGE DRYER FEASIBILITY STUDY – WWTP OPERATIONS MANAGER**

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept and execute an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) in the amount up to \$100,000 for the Sludge Dryer Feasibility Study. Further, the Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee recommended that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to negotiate and execute a professional services contract with Brown & Caldwell to perform a Sludge Dryer Feasibility Study for an amount not to exceed \$99,400.00. If a contract cannot be negotiated, the City Manager is authorized to negotiate with the next ranked firm. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the Committee two recommendations was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

**FOP REPORT – SOLE SOURCE APPROVAL FOR SLUDGE PUMP REPLACEMENT PROJECT – WWTP OPERATIONS MANAGER**

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to sole source Seepex for the sludge pump replacement project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the Committee report was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

FOP REPORT – UTILITY REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT WITH LIBERTY UTILITIES  
– CITY ENGINEER

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to negotiate and execute a project reimbursement agreement with Liberty Utilities related to the Winchester Street Reconstruction Project. Further, the Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee recommended that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to negotiate and execute a design Change Order with McFarland Johnson in an amount not to exceed \$25,000, subject to the execution of a Project Reimbursement Agreement. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of both Committee recommendations was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

FOP REPORT – CONSTRUCTION CHANGE ORDER – 2022 SEWER MAIN LINING  
CONTRACT – CITY ENGINEER

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to negotiate and execute a construction Change Order with Insituform Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$57,393.00 with funding provided by Project Cost Center 08066. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the Committee report was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

FOP REPORT – CLEAN WATER AND DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND –  
AUTHORITY TO BORROW AND ACCEPT GRANTS – CITY ENGINEER

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to apply for, accept and execute loan agreements with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds for the following projects: Main Street Flood Management at \$951,100; Drainage Lining Program at \$920,800; Main Street Sewer Rehabilitation at \$710,500; Sewer Manhole Lining at \$1,083,600; and the Sewer Repair and Lining project at \$1,081,395. Further, the Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee recommended that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept and execute any and all American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grants offered by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for City Capital Improvement Program projects. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of both Committee recommendations was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

## CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

The City Manager reported that this week, the City hosted the SBDC as a part of their resiliency academy (three sessions) hosted by them and the UNH Cooperative Extension. This year, the academy included in-person tours of three NH communities—Littleton, Somersworth, and Keene—to highlight and celebrate what each community has done to be more resilient and vibrant. The City Manager thanked Director of Economic Development/Special Projects, Med Kopczynski, the Director of Parks, Recreation, & Facilities, Andy Bohannon, Alec Doyle of The Colonial, Sarah Powell of Hannah Grimes, and Peter Poanessa of the Walldogs project for their help hosting this large group from municipalities all over NH. It was a two-hour tour, during which several community projects were highlighted. It was a nice opportunity to highlight good work happening in the City.

Next, the City Manager reported that it would be necessary to suspend online credit card property tax payments temporarily while transitioning to the new Tyler Technologies software program for property taxes. Preliminary tax bills were mailed on June 10 as the first step in the new system and there had been some issues to work through. The next step is to migrate online payments into the Tyler Technologies credit card processing service, which is why service would be suspended. People could still pay with their credit cards in person at City Hall. This will not impact any other online bill payments; the rest of this system would be transitioned over time. The portal is expected to work again on June 24. Updates would be posted on the City website.

The City Manager also reported on an email she received regarding Congressionally directed funding requests to projects that the City submitted to Senator Shaheen's office that are advancing to the next step. Of the proposals submitted, two are moving forward: the Heritage Trail project at \$1.9 million and a multi-use parking facility on Gilbo Avenue at \$1.2 million. She hoped these two projects would be successful.

The City Manager concluded reporting that the NH City Manager's group of 40 was touring Keene on June 15–17. She thanked the following for their help: Mayor Hansel for a welcome introduction, the Library, Beth Fox, Med Kopczynski, Mari Brunner, Andy Bohannon, and Kürt Blomquist.

## CITY OFFICER REPORT – WARRANT FOR UNLICENSED DOGS – CITY CLERK

A memorandum read from the City Clerk, recommending that the City Council issue a warrant for unlicensed dogs pursuant to NHRSA 466:14, and the Keene Police Department be directed to issue a civil forfeiture to those dog owners who have failed to license their dog by April 30, 2022. Mayor Hansel referred the memorandum to the Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee.

The City Clerk said that the standard warrant was for 442 dog owners with 565 dogs that have not renewed their dog licenses. However, this year the warrant would also include those dog

owners who have not responded to required periodic notices about their dogs receiving rabies shots—this information is forwarded from vet offices—and have chosen to not register their dogs. Thus, there would be an additional 276 owners and 321 dogs on the warrant. The City Clerk said there were a substantial number of unlicensed dogs this year, but the Clerk's office would go through the process and hope that by end of it all, the numbers would only be a few dozen.

ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING – ZONE CHANGE – 19 WHITCOMB'S MILL ROAD – RURAL TO LOW DENSITY-1 – ORDINANCE O-2022-02

A Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee report read, recommending the adoption of Ordinance O-2022-02. Mayor Hansel filed the report. A motion by Councilor Bosley to adopt Ordinance O-2022-02 was duly seconded by Councilor Giacomo. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING – RELATING TO CLASS ALLOCATIONS & SALARY SCHEDULES – ORDINANCE O-2022-05

On June 2, 2022, this item was tabled until the next regular meeting. Mayor Hansel tabled the item again until the Council had acted upon the Operating Budget.

ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING – RELATING TO PERSONNEL SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES – ORDINANCE O-2022-06

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, recommending the adoption of Ordinance O-2022-06. Mayor Hansel filed the report. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the Committee report was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING – RELATING TO LICENSES AND PERMITS – PARKLETS ORDINANCE O-2022-07-A

A Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee report read, recommending the adoption of Ordinance O-2022-07-A. Mayor Hansel filed the report. A motion by Councilor Bosley to adopt Ordinance O-2022-07-A with an effective date of July 1, 2022 was duly seconded by Councilor Giacomo. Discussion ensued.

Councilor Jones thanked Councilor Bosley for Chairing the PLD meeting well and keeping it focused. Councilor Jones said there were some good discussions. He wanted to clarify that this is only for establishments with liquor licenses, per the State. Councilor Jones understood there was some reluctance because it is a big change, but he urged everyone to keep in mind that this is

seasonal, revocable, and amendable. He said it was worth trying to see if it could work in Keene. Mayor Hansel echoed the Councilor's sentiment about Chair Bosley, stating that Staff and the PLD Committee worked well to find a good solution that will hopefully help the vibrancy of businesses in downtown Keene.

Councilor Giacomo wanted to emphasize that this Ordinance was allowing the idea to move forward, but there would still be review of any parklet application by the Public Works Department before anything could be constructed. This Ordinance takes into account things like fire escapes, any design considerations, and building materials. He recalled that some buffer zones are required on either end of the parklets. While not all details are outlined in the Ordinance, things like restrictions on blocking fire hydrants and drainage are included. By not including further specifics, things can still be fixed and restricted per Staff guidance during the application process. These were the details he wanted to provide for those who had not read the Ordinance. Relative to the motion on the floor to adopt Ordinance O-2022-07-A with a July 1 effective date, the motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

#### RESOLUTION – RELATING TO THE 2022/2023 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET – RESOLUTION R-2022-09-A

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, recommending the adoption of Resolution R-2022-09, as amended to include an additional \$5,000 to the Senior Citizens Center to reflect a level funded allocation of \$15,000 and to include an allocation of \$10,000 to the Monadnock Diversity Equity Inclusion and Belonging Coalition, with the disbursement of funds contingent upon further approval by the City Council of the Coalition's plans for operation once finalized. Mayor Hansel filed the report. A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt Resolution R-2022-09-A was duly seconded by Councilor Remy.

Mayor Hansel recognized any of the Councilors who submitted notice of their intent to offer an amendment to the budget.

A motion by Councilor Madison to add \$500 to the Conservation Commission budget (cost center 61000-62179) was duly seconded by Councilor Filiault. Councilor Madison stated that this money would be used for further public outreach and educational events, which the Conservation Commission has increased, like a speaker series, guided hikes, and pulling invasive species. These funds would allow for paying guest speakers an honorarium. Currently, most of the Commission's \$1,500 budget goes to paying dues to the NH Association of Conservation Commissions and to the Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee monitoring for e-coli. Councilor Madison believed this proposed increase was reasonable and respectful to the taxpayers. He believed the funds would bring significant value back to the citizens of Keene. Councilor Williams echoed Councilor Madison about the great outreach the Conservation Commission does, with volunteers supporting their work. These funds would help promote that support.

The motion to add \$500 to the Conservation Commission budget (cost center 61000-62179) carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Greenwald was absent the vote.

A motion by Councilor Bosley to increase the allocation to the Keene Housing Kids Collaborative by \$5,000 (cost center 00002-62187), and to increase the allocation to the Good Samaritans (cost center 00002-62189) by \$500 was duly seconded by Councilor Filiault.

Councilor Bosley noted that she has worked in social work for a long time. She first addressed the Keene Housing Kids Collaborative, stating that kids are where we can really affect change in our community. She has personally seen generational homelessness and this program offers an opportunity to create an environment that could change a child's future. She said the Collaborative is only limited by its resources, which are fundraising and grant applications. They plan to provide transportation for those children for which it is an obstacle. Councilor Bosley cited the importance of involvement and activities for children's self-esteem and sense of community, so she urged support for this amendment to give these kids opportunities they would not have otherwise that could open doors for them.

Next, Councilor Bosley spoke about the amendment to the Good Samaritans budget, stating that they requested to be level-funded but they were allocated \$500 less. She continued that suicide is one of the biggest mental health crises and while new resources are in the works, they are not available now, and Keene has a proven group of people who build community awareness and support. She thought this was a time to stand behind this organization.

Councilor Williams said he was impressed with both organizations, citing that the Kids Collaborative has a very innovative model that has not been seen in many other places. He said the City should give them room to grow and help some of the most vulnerable children in the community. He continued that programs like the Good Samaritans bring great attention to the cause, like their cross country bike ride. He said that Covid-19 has been a difficult time for many people, with increased stress in schools. He said this is the time to be funding suicide awareness because it touches a lot of people's lives.

Councilor Jones recalled past discussions on the original purpose of funding outside agencies and said that many of these did not meet the purpose. He said this was discussed again during the fiscal policies workshop, when he mentioned again that there were no guidelines. Thus, he said the City Council was again paying for a charity that is a favorite of certain City Councilors instead of having guidelines.

A motion by Councilor Jones to split the question on the table was duly seconded by Councilor Workman. The motion carried on a roll call vote of 10–4. Councilors Williams, Madison, Chadbourne, and Bosley opposed. Councilor Greenwald was absent. Thus, the question was split and the Commission continued on the topic of the Keene Housing Kids Collaborative.

Councilor Ormerod said he did some research on the Keene Housing Kids Collaborative. He wanted to explain to his fellow Councilors that the Collaborative creates unique community programs for youth that are more accessible. They conduct significant outreach regarding case management and navigating the educational and medical systems, for example. They help parents get the aid they need, provide awareness, and perform this type of case management for stressed out parents who are going through hard times. He said some parents are on the other side of the tech-divide, without access to online grant and other applications for assistance. The Kids Collaborative provides funds for children to attend community funding and they help people with these application processes. Councilor Ormerod recalled comments about they are bringing \$100,000 cash into the community for these programs. He also pointed out that there are integrative and re-integrative programs for parents to make connections to others like them in the community and get needed counseling. He said this program also helps to prevent juvenile delinquency and reduces recidivism, which he said the City usually celebrates opportunities for because they lessen the need for IAPs and other programs in schools, making it a much better experience for kids. He said certain behavioral and other programs can be preempted by programs like this. He said this is also a savings to taxpayers because approximately 30% of the School budget is related to special needs services that the whole community is paying for in some way. Councilor Ormerod saw this as in-line with the City goals of serving the youth and saving long-term costs.

Councilor Workman recalled that she has been a social worker for 20 years, supporting the most vulnerable in the community. As a child, she was one of those most vulnerable, so she respects the Kids Collaborative's work. However, she struggled with the fact that the Collaborative only serves those kids with subsidized housing vouchers in Keene and they also service people outside of Keene. Councilor Workman was concerned that they were not serving all low-income kids in the community with these Keene taxpayers' dollars that should be serving the whole community.

Councilor Roberts agreed with Councilor Workman, stating that he had seen the benefit as a member of the School Board, but said that is for children lucky enough to be in subsidized housing. However, he said that if you walk around town in the morning, you will see women who have been couch surfing with kids to be somewhere safe, who could benefit from this program even more. He said it is a messed-up system where kids get extra access to services because they had they are housing secure. He said there are an extremely high number of homeless children in the Keene School District and one group of kids should not be punished when they really need the services. He said he would vote in favor of this amendment this year but going forward said the City needs to take care of all kids, no matter their housing. He could not advocate keeping a group of people invisible. Councilor Roberts said as many should be saved as possible.

Councilor Bosley responded to some comments she heard. She said she discussed some of these concerns outright with the Board President of the Collaborative. She recalled that the

Collaborative developed from the Keene Housing Authority. She said the Collaborative Board has worked tirelessly to increase its budget and raise money, allowing them to work with children in Southwestern Community Services last year in their affordable housing units. The Councilor spoke with her husband—Housing Stabilization Director for Southwestern Community Services—and then asked the Collaborative Board President whether she would reach out to her husband about helping kids in transitional programs and homeless shelters; her response was yes. Councilor Bosley thinks the Collaborative’s ambition is only limited by the funds they can raise, which cannot all come from the City. Still, she said this is a group doing a good job and trying to grow their mission to reach more kids. She agreed that she wanted to see every child whose parents are on a limited budget to have access to this program but not all the support could come from the City government, the community needed to support them. Still, she thought standing behind them this year would go a long way to showing their value to the community.

Councilor Filiault said he would support this amendment because it would not make much of an impact on the tax rate, calling it miniscule compared to the overall budget, but important. He recalled in years past when the budget adoption would take until midnight and it always came down to non-profit agencies, which is why Mayor Lane appointed him to a Committee looking at outside agencies. That Committee established criteria, most of which are still used now by City Staff to determine funding. He could cite why each agency that requested money this year was important and worthy, which is why the criteria were established, to avoid this deliberation over charities at the budget decision. He said this is not because the Council does not care, but that it cares too much. Councilor Filiault said he was not trying to sound cold, but said there is a reason the City Manager and Staff make this budget with all of the Council goals and the Master Plan in mind. He would vote in favor of these amendments but suggested looking back at the criteria to see if they need tweaking.

The City Manager offered some clarifications. She said there is a Committee involving two City Councilors that review these non-profit applications, which are all scored based on the preset criteria. Second, she clarified that the Keene Parks & Recreation Department has a lot of programs for kids and there are scholarships for any resident of the City to participate, regardless of housing development; this does not cover all of the programs that the Kids Collaborative provides but the City’s option has been in place for some time.

Councilor Giacomo echoed some of Councilor Filiault’s points about arguing the merit of all these special services. He said the one criterion that comes up consistently is that a service also serves other towns than Keene in the region. He said that if they are reaching out to Keene for funds, they should be seeking those funds from every town they serve, and that information is not always forthcoming. He said the Kids Collaborative is a great organization, but they also serve other towns. While the Councilor would not vote in opposition, he wanted to ensure this matter is addressed in the future.

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Councilor Madison echoed some of Councilor Giacomo's points on agencies not approaching every town they serve for funds. He did some research to see how much other towns were allocating to outside agencies and in some towns like Chesterfield, the agencies get more than Keene provides, while towns like Dublin fund zero outside agencies. He said it was disappointing to see some neighbors not supporting charities in their towns, and equally disappointing to not see nonprofits putting in the effort to approach all those towns they serve. Councilor Madison also supported this increase in his communication to the Council, despite hearing the concern in the room, and would vote favorably on this amendment.

Councilor Ormerod suggested that it was time to review the criteria for funding outside agencies because it is a different world than it was five years ago. He liked the work of aligning those criteria with the City goals. Still, he said the Kids Collaborative had expanded their reach and coverage during the last year and he did not understand the proposal to reduce their funding. He supported the amendment.

The motion to increase the allocation to the Keene Housing Kids Collaborative by \$5,000 (cost center 00002-62187) carried on a roll call vote of 13–1. Councilors Jones opposed. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

The motion to increase the allocation to the Good Samaritans (cost center 00002-62189) by \$500 carried unanimously on a roll call vote of 14–0. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

Mayor Hansel heard remaining comments on the amended Resolution. Councilor Johnsen applauded the Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee for working hard on a challenging budget. Mayor Hansel echoed that sentiment.

Councilor Jones requested the updated numbers after these two votes. The Finance Director, Merri Howe noted that with the changes made at the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee, and the amendments this evening, the budget increased by \$21,000, and the City's portion of the tax rate has gone from \$12.30 to \$12.38.

The City Clerk read Resolution R-2022-09-B in its entirety.

Councilor Filiault reminded the Council that the State of NH owes the City \$11 million in Rooms and Meals Tax, which would have significantly reduced the tax rate this year.

On a roll call vote of 14–0, Resolution R-2022-09-B was unanimously adopted. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

**ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING – RELATING TO CLASS ALLOCATIONS & SALARY SCHEDULES – ORDINANCE O-2022-05**

06/16/2022

Earlier in the meeting, this item was tabled until after the vote on the operating budget. A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, recommending the adoption of Ordinance O-2022-05. A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt Ordinance O-2022-05 was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

RESOLUTIONS – RELATING TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING ROOFS; RELATING TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR ROAD REHABILITATION; RELATING TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE SALT SHED REPLACEMENT; RELATING TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE WELLS STREET PARKING STRUCTURE MAINTENANCE; AND RELATING TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE 3MG WATER TANK REPAIR – RESOLUTIONS R-2022-10, R-2022-11, R-2022-12, R-2022-14, R-2022-15

One June 2, 2022, this item was tabled until the next regular meeting.

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, recommending the adoption of Resolution R-2022-10, Resolution R-2022-11, Resolution R-2022-12, Resolution R-2022-14 and Resolution R-2022-15. Mayor Hansel filed the report.

A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt Resolutions R-2022-10 was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt Resolutions R-2022-11 was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt Resolutions R-2022-12 was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt Resolutions R-2022-14 was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt Resolutions R-2022-15 was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

RESOLUTION – RELATING TO STATE REVOLVING FUND LOANS – RESOLUTION R-2022-22-A

06/16/2022

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, recommending the rescission of Resolution R-2009-08 and the adoption of Resolution R-2022-22-A relating to Delegation of Authorities to State Revolving Fund Loans. A motion by Councilor Powers to rescind Resolution R-2009-08 was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Greenwald was absent. A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt Resolution R-2022-22-A was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Greenwald was absent.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Hansel adjourned the meeting at 8:44 PM.

A true record, attest:



City Clerk