

**ADOPTED**

**City of Keene**  
**New Hampshire**

**PLANNING, LICENSES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

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**Wednesday, June 21, 2017**

**7:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**

**Members Present:**

David C. Richards, Chair  
Philip M. Jones, Vice-Chair  
George S. Hansel  
Bart K. Sapeta  
Robert B. Sutherland

**Staff Present:**

Medard Kopczynski, City Manager  
Tom Mullins, City Attorney  
Rhett Lamb, Planning Director  
Patricia Little, City Clerk  
Terri Hood, Assistant City Clerk  
Michele Chalice, Planner

**Members Not Present:**

**Other Councilors Present**

Terry Clark  
Randy Filiault  
Carl Jacobs

Chair Richards called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**1. Marlboro St. Re-Zoning Project - Ordinance O-2016-01-B**

Chair Richards explained there would be no public input on this item as the public hearing on both O-2016-01-A and O-2016-02-A have been held.

Rhett Lamb, Planning Director reported all steps along the process have been completed. He added the Committee is eligible to vote on Ordinance O-2016-01-A tonight. Mr. Lamb then deferred to Michele Chalice, Planner, to answer questions that arose at the public hearing or any additional questions the Committee may have.

Ms. Chalice distributed a handout titled "Supplemental Staff Report-Ordinance O-2016-01 & O-2016-02", dated November 14, 2016 and pointed to the section Revised Terms & Definitions. Noting Councilor Greenwald had raised questions at the public hearing, Ms. Chalice referred to

PLD Meeting Minutes  
June 21, 2017

the handout noting the first couple of pages refer to the existing definitions, and the last two pages show the resulting definitions. She continued the existing terms for “Dwelling Units” were scattered throughout the section of definitions; and now the “Dwelling Unit” definitions are combined in one area and are more consistent with the Building Code’s organization. The terms “attached” and “detached” have been dropped as they are not relevant to Keene’s housing stock. These terms refer to row houses, which are not common in Keene. Ms. Chalice reported 57 terms were identified as needing revision and discussed over the last several years.

Chair Richards recommended focusing on the amendments needed today to move this forward. Councilor Jones asked if the Mayor’s question on duplexes and the owner occupancy affidavit had been answered. Noting the question was raised at the public hearing, the City Attorney reported his assessment is the City does not have the authority to impose a requirement for owner occupancy in a duplex dwelling. Prior to the adoption of 674:72 it could be argued that there was no specific authority one way or the other, but since the adoption of the accessory dwelling unit statute, the only opportunity for owner occupancy is in reference to an accessory dwelling unit.

The City Attorney recommended deletion of this section at this time. Councilor Jones commented the public had hoped this would be in the ordinance; he added this might change things. The City Attorney agreed this changes things noting Councilor Jones’ question is does the Ordinance have to go back through the process because of the change. The City Attorney explained the City did not have the authority to have that provision in the Ordinance in the first place, so taking it out does not really change anything. Councilor Jones suggested sending the Ordinance back through the process to allow public input.

Chair Richards and Councilor Hansel agreed with the City Attorney and noted they were not in favor of sending the Ordinance back through the process as there would be no solution to addressing this concern. Noting he would have liked to see this provision included, Chair Richards said there are many other good protections in the Ordinance for the neighborhood. Chair Richards recommended moving forward.

Councilor Sapeta clarified the two issues as 1) the definition of duplexes, and 2) whether duplexes are allowed within the Zoning Districts. He suggested perhaps a change could be made to the definition of duplexes to provide a solution. Ms. Chalice verified Councilor Sapeta is correct on the first two issues. She added there is a third issue being discussed at the moment. Ms. Chalice explained duplexes were added to encourage home ownership; they are less expensive to buy and the owner can live in half and rent out the other half. She continued this is not impacted by the fact that the City does not, under the State Statute, have the ability to require that the duplex is owner occupied. Ms. Chalice also noted duplexes are now allowed within this residential preservation zone; which provides a financial benefit to residents.

Chair Richards and Ms. Chalice clarified the recommendation from staff is to remove the affidavit requirement. Councilor Jones noted he was considering an amendment which would exclude the area around Elliot and Proctor Court from the affidavit requirement. Councilor Jones indicated he would not offer that amendment because of the proposed removal of the affidavit

PLD Meeting Minutes  
June 21, 2017

requirement from the Ordinance. Councilor Jones commented he feels the public was misinformed as they went through the process thinking it was going to be included. The first time the issue of not having owner occupancy in a duplex was raised was when the Mayor referred the Ordinance back to the Committee after the public hearing. Ms. Chalice continued there were discussions and concerns raised throughout the process about the ability to require owner occupancy. Mr. Lamb agreed the question of enforcement of owner occupancy was raised over time by staff.

Councilor Sutherland asked if they were to send the Ordinance back what is the expectation other than acknowledgement that this is not enforceable by law. He asked Councilor Jones what recourse he thinks the public would be looking for. Councilor Jones replied he thinks there would have been more public comments from the Southeast Neighborhood group if they knew there was no owner occupancy requirement.

Councilor Sapeta asked if there was a concern with duplexes that there would have been a concentration of students next to the College. Chair Richards explained the idea was to get the area back to a family neighborhood. Chair Richards said he shares Councilor Jones' concern because he also wanted the owner occupancy to be in the ordinance.

Councilor Jones commented this has been a very open and transparent process. Councilor Jones said because the Ordinance can always be changed in the future, he has changed his mind about sending it back through the process.

Councilor Sapeta asked how long it would take to go through the process if the Ordinance was sent back. Explanations of the process were provided by the Chair and City Attorney. Mr. Lamb added three months is the expected timeline for a simple ordinance change. Mr. Lamb explained the specific recommendations that staff is bringing forward for the Committee's consideration, which more accurately reflect the intent of the Joint Committee and corrects a Scribner's error in the drafting of the Ordinance.

There being no further comments from the Committee Chair Richards asked for a motion.

Councilor Jones made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Hansel.

On a vote of 5-0, the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee recommends that Ordinance O-2016-01-A be amended by deleting paragraph 2 from Sec. 102-770.2; by deleting from 102-771.1 the reference to "motor vehicle repair garage, paint shop" and the stated condition; and by inserting "repair garage; with the condition: all outside vehicles must be screened from view by a minimum six foot high, impervious fence or hedge;.

Councilor Jones made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Hansel.

On a vote of 5-0, the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee recommends the adoption of Ordinance O-2016-01-B.

## **2. Relating to Change of Zones - Marlboro Street Project Area and Parcels - Ordinance O-2016-02-A**

There being no comments from the public or the Committee, Chair Richards asked for a motion.

Councilor Jones made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Hansel.

On a vote of 5-0, the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee recommends the adoption of Ordinance O-2016-02-A.

The City Manager commented he remembers this started as a discussion regarding the redevelopment of the Marlboro Street corridor in 2002. He added it has taken a while and a lot of work to get here. Chair Richards and the City Manager applauded the Planning Department for their work.

## **3. In Support of the Paris Agreement - Resolution R-2017-24**

Councilor Filiault and Clark came forward to address the proposed Resolution. Councilor Filiault noted he met with Councilor Clark a few days ago to discuss the US withdrawing from the Paris Climate Accord. He continued Keene is very progressive when it comes to climate control and the environment. The City has always been ahead of the curve. Councilor Filiault noted he read a good portion of the Paris Climate Accord, but not every country's requirements. He concluded by saying the City of Keene could show the State and the country what leadership is all about through adoption of the Resolution.

Councilor Clark read the following statement into the record.

*"The decision to pull out of the Paris Climate Accord undermines a key pillar in the fight against climate change and is a move which is out of step with what is happening in Keene, the United States and the world.*

*We all understand that the Paris Agreement is a blueprint for job creation, stability and global prosperity and that accelerating the United States' clean energy transition is an opportunity – not a liability – to create jobs, spur innovation, promote trade and ensure American competitiveness.*

*By declaring that "we are still in," we are putting the best interests of our constituents and communities first while assuring the rest of the world that American leadership on climate change extends well beyond the federal government.*

*Keene was the first city in New Hampshire to adopt a climate action plan and we've incorporated it's elements in our comprehensive master plan. We will continue to take every opportunity to lower our carbon footprint.*

*In the U.S., it's local and state governments, along with businesses, that are primarily responsible for the dramatic decrease in greenhouse gas emissions in recent years. Actions by each group will multiply and accelerate in the years ahead, no matter what policies Washington may*

PLD Meeting Minutes  
June 21, 2017

*adopt. I ask my colleagues to join forces with the world and declare that we will continue to support climate action to meet the Paris Agreement.”*

Councilor Clark introduced Peter Hansel, Vice-Chair of the Cities for Climate Protection Committee.

Peter Hansel, of 61 Bradford Road noted the importance of sending this Resolution and said this is a good opportunity for Keene to continue as leaders. Addressing the Resolution, Mr. Hansel provided the following changes and pointed out a typographical error in the Ordinance with the GHG greenhouse gases abbreviation. In addition, Mr. Hansel recommended the whereas statement *“The State of New Hampshire has mandated statewide reduction of GMG emissions to 80% below the 1990 levels by 2050”* be replaced with the statement: *The State of New Hampshire’s Climate Action Plan says the State should “strive to achieve a long-term reduction in GHG emissions of 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050”, and*

Mr. Hansel recommended deleting the whereas statement: *“Responding to climate change provides communities an opportunity to access first mover advantage in the range of products, services and know how that transitioning to a climate-compatible future brings.* He also recommended the reference to *“Climate Mayor’s network in adopting and”* be removed because most people do not know what the Climate Mayor’s network is.

Chair Richards asked Councilor Hansel if this addressed his concerns; Councilor Hansel replied in the affirmative. Councilor Sutherland commented the City is ahead of the Climate Mayor’s Network already. Commenting on the City’s efforts thus far, Councilor Sutherland commented they can support the goals without being bound to anything in the Climate Mayor’s Network.

There being no further comments from the public or the Committee, Chair Richards asked for a motion. The City Attorney noted the need to move on the recommended amendments before recommending adoption.

Councilor Hansel made the following motion which was seconded by Councilor Jones.

On a vote of 5-0, the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee recommends the following amendments to Resolution R-2017-24: to delete the Whereas statement *“The State of New Hampshire has mandated statewide reduction of GMG emissions to 80% below the 1990 levels by 2050”* and replacing that statement with *“The State of New Hampshire’s Climate Action Plan says the State should strive to achieve a long-term reduction in GHG emissions of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050”* and to delete the Whereas statement: *Responding to climate change provides communities an opportunity to access first mover advantage in the range of products, services and know how that transitioning to a climate-compatible future brings”* and further to correct the typographical error by replacing GMG with GHG in the language of the Resolution and to delete the phrase *“in the Climate Mayor’s network in adopting and”* in the statement #2 which would now read *“Joins other US cities in supporting the goals of the Paris Agreement.”*

In response to an inquiry from Councilor Sepata, Mr. Lamb advised the City adopted a Climate Action Plan since 2004; he outlined the goals of that action plan. Mr. Lamb also reported the Cities

PLD Meeting Minutes  
June 21, 2017

for Climate Protection Committee will be coming out with an inventory of what has happened relative to those goals soon.

On a vote of 5 – 0, the amendments to the Resolution were unanimously approved.

After a unanimous vote to adopt the amendments, Chair Richards explained they now have Resolution R-2017-24-A and asked for public comment. Chair Richards asked those commenting to hold their time to 3-4 minutes and suggested they please not repeat what has already been said.

Jeff Daly, of 74 Walden Pond Drive, Nashua commended the City of Keene for pushing this program noting they will be joining nine other cities. Mr. Daley said he has read the Paris Accord and explained it is a guideline. He commented emissions are the key to surviving explaining the pipeline companies refuse to say what is in their deliverable product, and briefly discussed the 3,000 chemicals used in fracking. There are companies out there that have cameras that permit the escaping gases to be seen; he suggested contacting Flair/Fluke. Mr. Daley provided Mr. Lamb with a handout for distribution. He also noted the City could reach out to the Sierra Club or 350.org for help if needed.

Ann Shedd, of 59 Greenwood Avenue read the following statement into the record.

*“One of the tasks of the Cities for Climate Protection Committee, as defined by Sec 2-1089 of the City Code reads The CCP Committee shall serve as an advocate for the City’s interest at the state and national levels in climate change and energy policy.*

*On the basis of that charge to the CCP Committee, at its June 7 meeting the Committee voted to send 2 recommendations to Council. Both recommendations center on requests brought to the CCP for the City to publicly support the goals of the 2014 Paris Climate Accord, in the wake of the June 1 announcement that the US would withdraw its participation in that Accord. With US withdrawal, only 3 countries in the community of nations are non-participants: the US, Syria, and Nicaragua.*

*In a quest for a concise statement of support, one CCP member provided a statement from the “We’re Still In” consortium of mayors, governors, academic leaders, and business leaders. We also found a template statement in the form of a resolution, on the website of the non-profit group Climate Mayors – an organization that includes mayors of 270+ cities from major metropolitan centers to cities not much larger than Keene. The wording from that template was provided to Councilors Clark and Filiault at their request, with some specifics from the Keene CMP and CAAPs to fill in the blanks in the template.*

*These are the two items you have before you on this agenda. I would like to suggest a couple of potential amendments to the wording of the Resolution to clarify its relationship to Keene and NH Climate Action Plans.*

*What would be the impact of the City signing on to either of both statements? Clearly there would be symbolic significance to such public statements, but I would argue that they would also be timely refreshers of Keene’s commitment to climate action with significant relationship to Keene’s Planning and Development activities.*

PLD Meeting Minutes  
June 21, 2017

*Keene has had regional and national recognition for its adoption of Climate Action and Adaptation Plans. The plans do relate to current projects examining Keene's zoning, to municipal infrastructure and capital improvement projects such as dams and culvert upgrades, to code standards such as the energy code and existing building code. Our climate plans relate to Keene's ability to recruit the kinds of "green businesses" described in the CMP, and certainly to the upcoming endeavors of the tristate EcoVation Hub. The young, trained and educated workforce that we hope to attract and retain is very likely to pay attention to how committed Keene is to their future, as they compare options in neighboring states and communities. Keene's plans to minimize its greenhouse gas emissions which will help to reduce risks of extreme weather events such as our recent years of drought, or this week's heavy rain with road washouts and property damage in the region, or the recent extreme heat linked to the deaths of 2 seniors in the region.*

*As Keene's ability to implement its Climate Action and Adaptation Plans is in some measure contingent on State and Federal policy, it is important that we continue offering comment on specific policy proposals such as NH's recent legislation on net metering caps. It is also important that we join our voices with those of other municipalities, states, academic leaders, and business leaders to convey that climate protection and economic sustainability can and do go hand in hand. At the international level - would it not be encouraging for leaders and citizens in our sister city of Einbeck, Germany to know that we are in accord with them working to respond to the challenges of global climate change?*

*At this time, Keene does not have a specific new goal for GHG reduction by a certain target date. All goals are aspirational and non-binding – whether the US Independent Nationally Determined Contribution of the 2014 Paris Climate Accord, the goals set in the 2009 NH Climate Action Plan, or Keene's recently-completed 1995-2015 goals. We ask that, for now, Council recognize and support the goals of the Paris Accord. This does not necessarily mean that Keene is adopting those goals as its own. Having had some success reaching our 2015 goals, CCP may come back to you suggesting goals that are even more ambitious."*

Peter Majoy, of 143 South Lincoln Street also read a statement for the record.

*"For me and many other citizens who live in this wonderful city, Keene, the Council vote last week regarding Liberty Utilities was hard to understand given all the information and historical data regarding pipelines and fossil fuels that have damaged our environment and ruined a multitude of landscapes across America.*

*And now, the Council will discuss, hear input from folks, and move closer to a vote on whether or not the City of Keene should support the Paris Climate Agreement by joining the U.S. Climate Alliance since the current President withdrew America from it. While the Paris Climate Agreement is in need of creating stronger standards that will positively endorse a quick withdrawal from the environmental destructiveness of fossil fuels, the decision of the City Council to endorse and encourage the fossil fuel goals of Liberty Utilities does not reflect the intentions of the Paris Agreement. Thus, if the City Council votes in favor of joining the U.S. Climate Alliance, it would be hypocritical, to say the least, given the Council's vote favoring the goals of Liberty Utilities.*

PLD Meeting Minutes  
June 21, 2017

*Please review the information that follows and then asks the question, should the City Council return to the Liberty Utilities decision and begin a process of re-thinking its vote and making a motion to reverse that decision.*

*ONE: As echoaction.org has stated, "Liberty Utilities has been exploiting opportunities to transition New Hampshire to 'natural' fracked gas by going after one region at a time, eventually connecting the dots, creating a false demand and the need for an unnecessary pipeline."*

*TWO: A Union Leader article for May 19, 2015 titled "Kinder Morgan deal with Liberty pipeline space comes under fire at PUC" received the following comment from a man named William Thomas: "Of course Liberty Utilities has signed up for the gas that would be pumped through the NED pipeline. Liberty is a wholly owned subsidiary of Algonquin Power & Utilities. Algonquin is not just a partner of Kinder-Morgan. Kinder-Morgan owns Algonquin .....So liberty claims to need more gas. Well, how about that? Along comes Kinder-Morgan with a plan to give them what they want. Surprise!"*

*THREE: In Texas, from 2003-2014, Kinder-Morgan had 36 horrific accidents causing fatalities, hospitalization, fires, explosions, and spills.*

*FOUR: Across the United States from 2003-2014 Kinder-Morgan and its subsidiaries had at least 180 spills, evacuations, explosions, fires, and fatalities in 24 states.*

*FIVE: Fraud, Scams, and Threats are part of the bigger picture of Kinder-Morgan. The FBI concluded that between 1997 and 2001 Kinder- Morgan scammed some customers including the TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority). In 2007, the US Attorney's office concluded a \$25 million civil settlement with Kinder-Morgan connected to its fraudulent re-selling of customer stockpiles of coal. In the same year, the EPA fined Kinder-Morgan \$613,000 for violation of the Clean Air Act because of contaminated fuel it created and sold. In 2010, Kinder-Morgan was fined \$1 million for more Clean Air Act violations for lying about controlling air pollution. In 2012, Kinder Morgan was under EPA investigation for violating the Renewable Fuels Standard.*

*SIX: Note the current President is connected at the hip with fossil fuel companies and is in the process of doing away with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).*

*SEVEN: Pipeline Accidents in the USA from 2000-2017:  
The total of all these pipeline accidents for these 18 years is 440!!!!*

*EIGHT: If anyone is interested in finding a legal expert on this matter, contact the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF). Go to [info@celdf.org](mailto:info@celdf.org) or call (717) 498-0054. It helped Pittsburgh, Pa. become the first city to ban fracking and has successfully helped many other communities."*

Marjorie Shepardson, of 94 Pleasant Street, Marlborough noted she is also a State Representative and commented she is here to support tonight's discussion regarding the Paris Agreement. Ms.



PLD Meeting Minutes  
June 21, 2017

Shepardson encouraged the Committee to support this Resolution. She noted this is a parallel move to a petition being presented to Governor Sununu asking him to sign onto the US Climate Alliance. Ms. Shepardson applauded Keene for being a leader in climate protection and renewable energy.

Dee Robbins, of 11 Hancock Street noted her support for this Resolution. Noting she recently read the Climate Action Plan, the Climate Adaptation Plan, and sections of the Master Plan Ms. Robbins suggested a yes vote for this Resolution adds clout and resolution to the goals of those plans. She wonders how a no vote would show commitment to those goals/plans. Ms. Robbins shared four of the goals from the plans associated with reducing global temperature. Councilor Jones thanked Ms. Robbins for the information she provided and for staying on topic.

Jeff Scott, of 45 Crowningshield Road, Chesterfield cited the date in 1979 that President Carter placed 32 solar panels on the White House that President Reagan removed. He asked the Committee to think about where we might be today if we had followed President Carter's lesson. Mr. Scott encouraged the Committee to go forward like President Carter did.

Larry Welkowitz, of 37 Church Street read a text message from Nora Travis, a climate scientist at Keene State College noting her reasons for supporting the Resolution. Mr. Welkowitz shared Ms. Travis's accomplishments and the fact she has brought in over one million dollars for research to Keene. Ms. Travis recognized Keene as a pioneer in research for climate control and recommended this collaboration continue.

Andy Mackey, of 23 Ellis Court noted his support for the Resolution. He commented any progress the City makes will be erased by letting natural gas come into the City. Mr. Mackey recommends Keene take the lead to minimize the expansion of natural gas and the pipeline, in the county.

Kathy Conover, of 33 Shadowland Road, Alstead thanked those Councilors and the Cities for Climate Protection Committee for sponsoring this Resolution. Ms. Conover discussed Keene's goals over the past 20 years relative to climate change. She noted Keene's recognition for leading in climate preparedness. Ms. Conover made reference to the Climate Action Plan noting the disappointment when the City approved Liberty's gas facility last week. She suggested a permanent facility request along with the pipeline would probably be forthcoming. Ms. Conover asked how that decision complies with Keene's own documents promising a reduction in greenhouse gases. Ms. Conover cited progress with solar projects in other cities and asked Keene to join in. Ms. Conover recommended the Committee unanimously approve this Resolution.

Bradford Hutchinson, of 305 Marlboro Street noted his strong opposition to the Resolution. Mr. Hutchinson urged the Committee to not approve the Resolution as written. He asked what Climate Action Plan the City is being asked to commit to as he is unable to determine that from the information provided. Chair Richards explained corrections were just voted on. Mr. Hutchinson suggested there are too many unanswered questions at this time to move forward.

PLD Meeting Minutes  
June 21, 2017

Stephanie Sharp, of 117 Route 119 East, Fitzwilliam noted her support for the Resolution and thanked Mr. Hutchinson for presenting an opposing position. Ms. Sharp said she wants to encourage people to put politics aside and have thoughtful discussions about climate. Ms. Sharp noted her involvement with Eco Action New Hampshire and 350.org. She shared her understanding that the Mayor has stated a pipeline will come to Keene. She acknowledged the Mayor does not have this authority and the strength of the pipeline companies. Ms. Sharp asked the Committee to look at Eco Actions webpage under pipeline education that shows the connection between Liberty Utilities and Kinder-Morgan. Other than gas Ms. Sharp suggested there are other considerations that are equally economically beneficial.

Elizabeth Lino, of 66 Phillips Road, Surry said she moved here from Oklahoma. Ms. Lino reported Oklahoma is now the most seismically active state, and the water contains arsenic from fracking. Ms. Lino suggested Keene get prepared as more people are coming up this way to escape the increasing temperatures in the south. Ms. Lino shared the reasons her family chose to move to New Hampshire. Ms. Lino suggested the City should jump over gas and move into renewable energy to heat homes. Ms. Lino noted her support for this Resolution.

Haley Mackay, of Westmoreland said she did not understand how seven Councilors were not there to vote for Liberty Gas and it still got passed. Chair Richards explained if you could not be at the site-visit you could not vote at the Council meeting. Ms. Mackay asked if the decision could be reversed and looked at again. The City Attorney confirmed Chair Richards comments regarding voting and attending the site-visit. The City Attorney added this is per state statute; he added Ms. Mackay's question is one for the Council to answer.

Susan Hay, of 33 Pond Avenue continued the discussion regarding the Council's decision on Liberty Gas. The City Attorney advised the discussion regarding Liberty Gas is not the agenda item. That topic was not duly noticed and Liberty Gas is not here to respond. Chair Richards outlined the procedure for placing items on the agenda. Councilor Jones pointed out this Committee did not deal with that issue; it was on the MSFI Committee agenda.

Jeff Scott, of Chesterfield addressed the Committee for the second time reporting on solar installations taking place in Chesterfield town buildings.

There being no additional public comments Chair Richards closed the public discussion.

Chair Richards noted his understanding that last year green energy production overtook fossil fuels. Chair Richards noted his support for this Resolution and pointed out solar panels are popping up everywhere. He said Keene will continue to lead and thanked Councilors Clark and Filiault for bringing this forward.

Councilor Sapeta noted his support for this Resolution. He acknowledged the City Attorney's advice not to discuss the Liberty Gas decision noting he feels there is a connection there with today's discussion. Councilor Sapeta challenged the Councilors that voted in favor of Liberty Gas to reconsider and reopen that discussion.

PLD Meeting Minutes  
June 21, 2017

Councilor Hansel commented on the number of people present for this issue noting he wished we had this much energy and excitement for a lot of other issues the Committee deals with. Councilor Hansel thanked everyone for coming out this evening to voice their concerns.

Councilor Hansel made the following motion which was seconded by Councilor Sapeta.

On a vote of 5-0, the Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee recommends the adoption of Resolution R-2017-24-A.

#### **4. CCP Committee Request for Support of the Paris Climate Agreement**

Michele Chalice, Planner stated she is here as the voice for the CCP Committee' request for their support of the Paris Climate Agreement. She reported two motions were made at their June 7, 2017 meeting. One recommendation dealt with support of the Resolution R-2017-24, which the Committee just acted upon. The second recommendation from the CCP Committee dealt with the Mayor signing onto the "We are Still In" initiative on behalf of the City of Keene. Ms. Chalice added this is the initiative referred to in Dr. Shedd's remarks and it is the document that many nations and businesses have signed onto.

Ms. Shedd commented this is an open letter addressed to the international community which is the main difference from the Resolution just passed. It was brought forth by Peter Hansel.

Councilor Hansel commented it seems the letter mainly addresses Mayors, Governors, and businesses etcetera. He noted his confusion and inquired whether the Mayor could not sign the initiative if he wanted to. Ms. Chalice replied the Mayor cannot sign without City Council's approval. The City Attorney clarified the Mayor does have independent authority to sign a letter on behalf of City Council and suggested this is a question for the Mayor. The City Attorney also noted in the past the Mayor has asked for Council approval. Councilor Hansel noted he is unsure if it calling for the Mayor to sign on behalf of the City Council as it is calling for Governors and Mayors, etcetera. Councilor Jones commented if you read the letter it says it has to come from the entity; not the CEO or an individual. The Mayor would sign but the Council would be the entity. The City Attorney concurred.

Ms. Shedd outlined the request process which Chair Richards confirmed. Chair Richards also commented he is willing to act on this as he has never seen the Mayor or any prior Mayor sign a letter without first getting Council support.

Chair Richards asked for public comments.

Jeff Daley, spoke for the second time commenting what was read is taken from the European version. He explained that European Mayors have greater authority than American Mayors on behalf of the town, city, or county.

Peter Hansel, of 61 Bradford Road suggested overseas has no bearing on the letter; it has been signed by many in response to President Trump's proclamation. Mr. Hansel reiterated Ms. Shedd's earlier comments on the broader scope of this letter compared to the Resolution.

PLD Meeting Minutes  
June 21, 2017

Councilor Jones commented the rules state the letter cannot be edited. He suggested the Mayor may put this on City letterhead and sign it. The City Attorney noted this has not been the Mayor's practice in the past.

Councilor Sutherland clarified this is a statement saying we are already committed in the things we are already doing from a different organization than the Resolution we just passed. Chair Richards reiterated the difference between this document and the Resolution just passed.

There being no further comments from the public or the Committee, Chair Richards asked for a motion.

Councilor Sapeta made the following motion which was seconded by Councilor Hansel.

On a vote of 5-0, the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee recommends the Mayor be authorized to sign onto the "We Are Still In" initiative on behalf of the City of Keene.

**5. Adjournment** - There being no further business before the Committee, Chair Richards adjourned the meeting at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Mary Lou Sheats Hall  
June 23, 2017