

City of Keene
New Hampshire

PLANNING, LICENSES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

7:00 PM

Council Chambers A

Members Present:

David C. Richards, Chair
Philip M. Jones, Vice-Chair
George S. Hansel
Bettina A. Chadbourne
Robert B. Sutherland

Staff Present:

Medard Kopczynski, City Manager
Patty Little, City Clerk
Kurt Blomquist, Director Public Works
Steve Russo, Police Captain
Mark Howard, Fire Chief
Tara Kessler, Planner
John Rogers, Acting Health Director
Beth Fox, HR Director
Rebecca Landry, IT Director
Ginger Hill, Parking Services Manager
Steve Stewart, Police Captain

Members Not Present:

Other Councilors Present

Jan Manwaring
Terry Clark

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

1) **MORE TIME REPORT:** Danielle Baudrand – Suggested Ban on Single use Plastic Bags

Danielle Baudrand, 19 Bridge Court was present. Chair Richards reported that SB-410 failed in the Senate; and therefore the Council cannot write a letter favoring this initiative. Chair Richards advised the communication from Ms. Baudrand would be accepted as informational.

Chair Richards asked for Committee comments.

Councilor Sutherland noted he was not present at the last meeting, but did read the arguments. With this in mind he commented perhaps the City could review its litter laws and associated fines.

Councilor Jones commented he had previously pointed out some of the challenges that would accompany this issue, and he was in favor of supporting Ms. Baudrand's initiative though he was hopeful for a State-wide ban. He noted Hawaii is the only State with a ban on plastic bags; in addition he noted Austin, Texas put a ban in place two years ago and they are now reversing the ban. Councilor Jones suggested perhaps the City could do

more to expand its recycling program; such as making the Recycling Center more convenient and user friendly and accepting more products. Councilor Jones suggested there are things the City can do to help her cause; he reiterated at this time they are unable to recommend the ban. Councilor Jones also recommended contacting the Cities for Climate Protection Committee as a starting point.

Councilor Chadbourne reported she and former Councilor Emily Hague had previously addressed this issue. She noted Councilor Hague and Bridgett Hansel had been working on a proposal to bring forward. Councilor Chadbourne recommended Ms. Baudrand contact Ms. Hansel for an update. Councilor Chadbourne also noted she agreed with some of Councilor Jones' comments. In the meantime Councilor Chadbourne pointed out at least some of the local grocery stores do recycle the plastic bags.

Councilor Clark addressed the City's recycling policy and noted they are able to recycle high density polyethylene; but the problem is they don't have the storage space to store the bags until there was a sufficient quantity to recycle. Currently the plastic bags go into the landfill. On a different note, Councilor Clark suggested what the Legislature did in defeating SB 401 was unbelievable. He pointed out Keene imposed a smoking ban and the State followed suit. Councilor Clark continued what Ms. Baudrand brought forward is the right thing to do. He pointed out all the products that are killing the world; suggesting the City take whatever small steps they can. Councilor Clark continued that he was disappointed the Committee is falling in line with industry standards. Councilor Clark said he thinks the City needs to write a letter telling the State this is the wrong thing to do. He also raised the issue of Home Rule and the State not giving local governments the authority to do the right thing. Councilor Clark suggested the City Council needs to at least give the State the message that they would like to have the authority to do the right thing on the local level.

Chair Richards asked for public comments.

Mya Baudrand, of 19 Bridge Court asked why can't they just ban plastic bags here. Chair Richards explained that currently State law tells local government what they can and can't do; and this is one of the things they are saying local government can't enact laws on.

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

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 that Ms. Baudrand's letter regarding the banning of single use plastic bags be accepted as informational.

2) **MEMORANDUM:** Planner – Red Devil’s Soccer Club – Request to Use City Property – Spring Street

Attorney J.R. Davis, of 28 Middle Street was present with the applicant. Attorney Davis advised his client can provide a copy of their liability insurance; this is in response to a question raised at the previous meeting. Chair Richards referred to the recommended motion and asked the City Manager if the Committee can assume all issues have been worked out.

The City Manager commented there are two issues before the Committee. The first issue is related to the ability to cross and re-cross City property, the secondary issue is related to parking, which will take a little more conversation. The first issue can be handled easily with a license and staff is hoping Council will give them the authority to move forward with the second issue. Noting the original letter wasn’t very clear; the City Manager explained the applicant’s desire to use the City parking lot as well as the crossing of the lot at no cost. Mr. Kopczynski reported the good news is the lot is used primarily by City employees during the day. It will be necessary that staff determine more specifics on the use of the parking lot to ensure that this intended use is not in conflict with the staff’s needs. Perhaps the biggest conflict is with the Fire Department that uses that lot for training purposes. Continuing his comments, the City Manager noted on the face of it this doesn’t seem impossible by any means; it will just take a little work and negotiating.

Chair Richards clarified the motion before the committee is giving the applicant the right to pass and repass. The City Manager replied in the affirmative.

Chair Richards asked for Committee questions/comments.

Councilor Jones referred to the prepared motion and the reference to “more time” as it related to the use of the parking lot. He suggested changing this to “subject to staff approval” so the applicant doesn’t have to come before the Committee again. The City Manager supported this suggestion. Councilor Hansel agreed with Councilor Jones’ suggestion; adding there’s no reason to hold the applicant up when he’s trying to start a business.

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

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

On a vote of 5-0, the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee recommends the City Council approve the request from the Red Devils Soccer Club Inc. to pass and repass City property at 41 Spring Street for a period from the date of issuance to December 1, 2016, subject to the signing of a revocable license and indemnification agreement and receipt of a certificate of liability insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000 with the City of Keene listed as an additional insured, and subject to any recommendations of City staff, and that City Council approve the request to use parking spaces in the City-owned lot at 41 Spring Street subject to the approval of staff.

3) COMMUNICATION: Susan Parke Sutherland/Farmer's Market of Keene - Request to Use City Property – Gilbo Avenue and Commercial Street Parking Lot

Chair Richards noted the applicant was not present. The City Manager advised others were here to address the discussions that have taken place with the applicant; Ginger Hill, Parking Services Manager and Steve Russo, Captain Keene Police Department.

Ms. Hill reported she has had email communications with the applicant. Last year because the Farmer's Market was displaced from the Commercial Street Parking Lot they used 22 spaces along Gilbo Avenue. This year they want to use the same 22 spaces on Gilbo Avenue and 20 spaces at the Commercial Street lot; in addition to placing picnic tables in the greenspace.

Chair Richards inquired whether this use would block the bike path; Captain Russo noted the bike path wouldn't be blocked and reported one of the requirements is there has to be continued access for the pedestrian pathway. Noting he had not seen any actual sketches Captain Russo explained they want to put the picnic tables in the greenspace that separates the bike path from the actual parking spaces. Continuing, Chair Richards asked if they were expanding the number of participating vendors. Ms. Hill noted in the past they have had 50 spaces; they downsized last year due to being displaced, and this year they are asking for 42 total spaces. Ms. Hill also pointed out the spaces won't include the handicap space next to the bus stop. In response to Chair Richards, Captain Russo verified the spaces on Gilbo Avenue were the same location as last year with the addition of the parking lot side.

Chair Richards asked for questions/comments from the Committee.

Councilor Sutherland mentioned the CIP project to redo the parking lot across the street, and asked when this work would be initiated. Kurt Blomquist reported the work is scheduled for FY17 and will probably happen in the spring of 2017. Councilor Sutherland also asked if the Fall Festival will conflict with this. The City Manager reported all licenses have codicils in them regarding Special Community Events, which suspends the license for these types of events. Chair Richards added the Fall Festival will be much smaller than the Pumpkin Festival.

Councilor Hansel asked if they were splitting the Farmer's Market so that it was on both sides of the road. Ms. Hill replied in the negative and explained the proposed site to be used. The City Manager also noted the area used last year was more amenable to the Farmer's Market than the previous space used. Additionally, the parking lot won't be blocked like it used to be; this has worked better for everyone.

Councilor Sutherland noted the electricity put in the Commercial lot and asked whether there would be any issues for things such as the charging stations. Ms. Hill reported the Farmer's Market would not cause any encumbrances.

Chair Richards asked for questions or comments from the public.

Councilor Jacobs noted the Farmer's Market was not charged rent last year due to the displacement; he asked if they would be charged rent this year. Chair Richards explained the prepared motion makes it clear the rent is \$200/month.

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

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

On a vote of 5-0, the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee recommends that the Farmer's Market of Keene be granted permission to use 22 parking spaces along Gilbo Avenue as well as 20 spaces on the other side of the median strip in the Commercial Street Parking Lot on Tuesdays and Saturdays from May 1, 2016 to October 31, 2016. In addition, the petitioner is granted use of the median area for placement of picnic tables with the understanding that the pedestrian path may not be obstructed. Said permission is granted subject to the following conditions: compliance with the customary licensing requirements of the City Council; the receipt of a total rental fee of \$1,200.00 (payable on the first day of every month at \$200.00 per month); obtainment of a city food license from the Health Department; and compliance with any recommendations of City staff. Access to City electrical shall also be provided at a fee of \$60.00 for the season. It is further recommended that the Farmer's Market of Keene be allowed to erect sandwich board signs on City property prior to the start of sales, subject to review and approval by City staff with respect to the number and location. The signs must be removed immediately after the sales have concluded.

4) COMMUNICATION: Tim Zinn – Disruptive Behavior of Large Gatherings of Students

Tim Zinn, of 43 Grove Street- referenced his letter noting his personal background as a parent utilizing "tough love" practices. Mr. Zinn asked if the Committee members had watched the video (link shared in his letter) commenting it goes to the heart of what he is talking about. Mr. Zinn pointed out there have been good signs from Keene State College students this year; even though it wasn't very good in his neighborhood the first couple of months, things did get better. Mr. Zinn noted his concern that the City is still vulnerable to future riots. He feels the City has a role to play and a responsibility in a culture change with KSC. Mr. Zinn sees this proposal as the right tool for this specific job. Continuing his comments Mr. Zinn noted the positive efforts put forth by KSC and the City with regards to off-campus housing. Referring to the video Mr. Zinn said he had four questions.

1. Are parties of this size acceptable given past history?
2. Should any citizen of Keene be subject to neighbors and parties of this nature?
3. Is the City okay with this image of the College and our City being posted on social media for the entire world to see?
4. Is it safer for all concerned if these parties are not allowed to reach a critical mass with a potential for something tragic to happen goes up exponentially?

Mr. Zinn concluded noting he is a Pumpkin Festival supporter and would like to be a part of any future event planning and developing solutions. Chair Richards recommended hearing from some of the people who have worked on these things; he asked to hear from the Keene Police Department first.

Captain Steve Stewart thanked Mr. Zinn for his letter noting he certainly appreciates his frustration and concern. Captain Stewart also commented he is glad to see Mr. Zinn is optimistic about the culture change and has noticed some of the same things that the Department has witnessed. Captain Stewart noted the Police Department, the Fire Department and Code Enforcement have a long-standing relationship with KSC in dealing with quality of life and life safety issues. Captain Stewart shared efforts that have taken place between the various organizations noting the decrease in noise complaints and alcohol arrests in 2015 from the previous nine years. Concluding his comments, Captain Stewart said they believe they have the right tools, partnerships, and strategies in place to help improve quality of life and life safety issues within the City while still staying within the bounds of their Department's Mission Statement.

Chair Richards commented it seems like they are going in the right direction. He addressed the Snow and Ice Festival mentioned by Mr. Zinn and noted this is a Community Event that requires plenty of planning. He added the parties that Mr. Zinn is referring to are not preplanned and there is no way to know when these parties are coming.

Chair Richards asked if there were any questions for Captain Stewart.

Councilor Hansel asked if the recent changes to the Noise Ordinance was a contributing factor or were there any other things that could help in the enforcement of keeping parties in control. Captain Stewart suggested the jury is still out on the effectiveness of the Ordinance changes.

Councilor Jones asked if FinnaRage was still involved or still in existence. Captain Stewart replied they do still exist, but to his knowledge have not made another appearance in Keene.

Both Chair Richards and Mr. Zinn asked questions regarding what the Police Department at what point and how does the Police Department break up these large parties when they arrive on the scene. Captain Stewart commented by the time the party gets to this size the host is willing to issue a "get out" order. The Fire Code refers to a large party as 100 people at a place of assembly, but typically the complaint also refers to a noise ordinance or under aged drinking. The Department has all the tools already; it's just a question of whether they are able to use the tools in every instance.

Chair Richards recognized Robin Picard the Keene State College Liaison.

Ms. Picard, Coordinator of Student and Community Relations thanked everyone noting she feels the issues are always worth keeping on the table and discussing. Ms. Picard commented there are measures in place now and they are seeing positive results. She agreed the large parties are not about planning and how to stop them; but what they can do when

they're happening. Ms. Picard suggested exploring some issues with the landlords that would have landlords requiring certain measures that would hold them accountable for the large parties. She also suggested a Zoning Ordinance be introduced that would only allow for smaller gathering of 50 people not 100 in the immediate vicinity of the College. Ms. Picard noted she appreciates the neighborhood groups and the College/City Commission working with Code Enforcement.

Councilor Hansel asked Ms. Picard if there was anything on-campus that could be adopted/enforced off-campus. Ms. Picard reported on-campus parties are registered with guidelines, rules, and monitoring. Fraternities and sororities have recently begun registering even off-campus parties. She continued they legally cannot do this for off-campus parties. Off-campus students do call the KSC Police Liaison to give him a heads-up if they're having a party, and they know they can call him if the party is getting out of control. The college is trying to get students to communicate with them ahead of time and do the right thing. If charges are levied against a student in the community they are also held accountable by the College. The College does reprimand students displaying dangerous behavior.

Discussion continued and Chair Richards asked Mr. Zinn when the video was recorded. Mr. Zinn replied last year.

Chair Richards recognized Chief Mark Howard, of the Keene Fire Department.

Chief Howard recognized the people involved noting there has been an extensive collaboration over the last three to four years. Chief Howard noted the Fire Department is driven by Enforcement Codes and Life Safety Codes and the key thing they look is the place of assembly which dictates the type of occupancy and the number of people. From a life safety code, the occupancy is either 50 or 100, which, while this is left for interpretation, in the past the occupancy has been determined as 100. Chief Howard cited different scenarios and the actions that would be taken including notifying the landlord.

There being no questions for Chief Howard, Chair Richards recognized John Rogers, Acting Health Officer.

Mr. Rogers noted communication between departments continues to evolve especially since the Pumpkin Festival. He reported the College/City Committee has met regularly this year. Mr. Rogers reported his department follows the Police Logs to follow-up on property condition issues and then communicates with the landlord so they can't say they didn't know. Mr. Rogers commented he is encouraged by what he's seeing and feels they are heading in the right direction.

Discussions continued with Councilor Sutherland commenting it seems these issues are not specific to Keene, and it sounds like everyone is moving in the right direction.

Additional discussions continued on issues such as the 911 system and who responds, the Fire Code language relative to large gatherings, weddings/family reunions compared to large

parties around the College area, and if an Ordinance can affect certain areas of the City similar to the Noise Ordinance.

The City Manager provided background information on additional things the City has done; noting the student housing industry is an unregulated industry. The taxpayers and the College have been addressing the problems created by this unregulated industry. The City Manager also noted the City's efforts to redirect where student housing is located, adding what also has to take place is a redevelopment effort and taking steps to put people back in the housing once rented to students.

After additional comments Councilor Hansel suggested Mr. Zinn contact the Mayor's office regarding any Committee vacancies as he has a valuable perspective to share.

Chair Richards commented it looks like all these entities are regrouping with new people and positive affects; he noted past difficulties rewriting Ordinances in addition to the Fire Chief's comments that they are looking at things right now. Chair Richards suggested the Committee allow staff to continue the discussions with a report back to the Committee regarding their progress.

The City Manager commented there are things that could be changed to tighten up the Ordinance and Fire Code; those things do not cut finely, they cut broadly. He noted there will be findings coming out of the Marlboro Street Study that will address future development. Regarding regulating parties, the City Manager will ask the Police and Fire Departments to discuss this with the City Attorney and bring something back to the Committee. Chair Richards agreed with the City Manager's suggestion, noting as this is already being worked on he feels this could be handled administratively with a report back in a reasonable timeline.

Chief Howard mentioned the North Hampton Large Gathering Ordinance which is above and beyond the Fire Code is currently being reviewed by staff. This would be another tool for the Police Department. Chief Howard agreed to come back and report on this in the near future. Chair Richards requested the City Clerk notify Mr. Zinn when this issue does come back and that Mr. Zinn's name be forwarded to the Mayor for service on appropriate Committee's when there is a vacancy.

Chair Richards agreed with Ms. Picard that future discussions should consider whether we can change the large gathering number from 100 people to 50 people. Ms. Picard suggested the College would find this change a positive thing.

Captain Stewart asked for verification on specifically what is being asked to be brought back. Chair Richards noted the Fire Chief will work with Captain Stewart to look at what rules are in place, who enforces the rules and could they be changed in a sensible way. In addition, the North Hampton large gathering ordinance should be reviewed.

Dave Curran, of 16 Prescott Street noted this was discussed last night at the Southeast Keene Neighborhood Group's meeting. Mr. Curran asked how the Police handle dispersing 200-

300 people at a party. Captain Stewart replied the Department asks them to leave and watch them go. There is not any type of controlled release. Mr. Curran asked if when these discussions are taking place if thought could be given to controlled release. Mr. Curran also noted he wrote a letter to the Board of Trustees for Colleges suggesting such a letter would have more attention if it came from the Mayor and City Council. Mr. Curran noted he believes communicating directly with the Board of Trustees would be a good tool to use down the road.

Councilor Jones addressed Mr. Zinn's third question noting they have no control over what goes over the Internet. He also responded to a comment by Councilor Sutherland noting that years ago he and Mr. Kopczyński attended a meeting where they learned other college communities were following Keene's lead. Those communities with campuses in town were more problematic.

Captain Stewart pointed out other problematic issues that should be considered during the upcoming discussions, specifically the issue of backyards without fencing which allows the "meshing" of backyards on Winchester Court and Wilson Street.

Discussion ensued regarding whether this should come back to the Committee in two cycles. The City Manager made note of upcoming Budget hearings. Chair Richards suggested the motion just state April. In response to Councilor Jones, the City Manager indicated staff would be coming back with just the results of their research.

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

Councilor Sutherland made the following motion which was seconded by Chair Richards.

On a vote of 5-0, the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee recommends the communication regarding disorderly behavior be handled administratively with a report back on the research in April.

5) COMMUNICATION: Councilor Richards – Marlboro Street Rezoning and Eastside of the City's Revitalization

Chair Richards addressed his letter dated 03/01/2016 noting he is looking for a timeline and Council approval for the concept on the Marlboro Street rezoning and eastside revitalization.

Chair Richards continued this goes hand-in-hand with the discussion the Committee just had with respect to student housing and disorderly behavior. He continued his letter focuses on the east side of the City where the City hasn't invested a lot of money or effort in. For years there were factories, there was workforce housing from Beaver Street to Baker Street; these were thriving, walkable neighborhoods. Manufacturing left the area and rentals became the norm; neighborhoods deteriorated which resulted in devaluation of property values, and additional costs to the City.

Currently Keene State College is building private dorms thereby removing many students from these neighborhoods. Removing students and trying to bring families back to these neighborhoods is the right answer. The Marlboro Street rezoning will be coming before the Joint Committee in April which is one of the catalysts to get things moving. Marlboro Street has been added to the CIP, but no money has been allocated to fund it. Chair Richards addressed two other areas that were rezoned or where money was spent (Gilbo Avenue and the south side of Ward 3) pointing out what worked and what didn't. He asked what we need to do to get the east side back to what it needs to be, and reviewed the recommendations outlined in his letter.

- Choose reasonable target dates to complete renovation for Marlboro Street and any other streets needing improvement in the corridor.
- Request staff review the CIP for any funds that could be redirected to the streets in need on the eastside of the city
- Begin the process of obtaining grants for redesign and reconstruction of Marlboro Street. There are currently interesting grant options that staff is aware of and should be directed to pursue.
- As part of potential grant funding a "Victoria Street connector" should be of primary concern as the eastside of the City is essentially divided like no other part of the city, causing a loss of neighborhood and business connections.
- Have the Planning Department take the lead in the redesign of streets with the intention of following the City Masterplan recommendations for other than engineering considerations.

Concluding his comments Chair Richards noted he would like to see City Council approve this concept. He would like to see a timeline and a matrix that says they have deadlines, and they're going to report back on each one of the aspects. Chair Richards reiterated he would like to see a full Council vote at least on this theory.

Chair Richards asked for questions or comments from Committee members.

Councilor Sutherland commented they are fiscally constrained in the City; adding there is over 2 million square feet of empty commercial space in Keene. Continuing his comments he asked Chair Richards if he is looking for the City to sit down and set priorities for just this one area of town, where does this fit in our prioritization, and what is the action item you're looking for from the City Council. Chair Richards addressed the empty commercial space noting this as a downside of the economy; adding they need to go out and bring people here. He continued he's not saying we stand still or raise the CIP budget, he is saying we refocus these efforts.

Councilor Hansel commented he thinks this is a good idea; adding his thought process has been similar. He would like to see the City refocus the investments they're making to increase our tax base; the question is how to facilitate this. Councilor Hansel suggested this is a well-timed inquiry by the Chair, and noted his support of this initiative.

In defense of the Gilbo Avenue Overlay, Councilor Jones suggested once a parking plan is established they will see Gilbo Avenue come to fruition. He also agrees with what Chair Richards has said. He also suggested expanding the TIF District and New Market Credits as ways to help.

Chair Richards asked for questions or comments from the public.

Dave Curran, of 16 Prescott Street commended Chair Richards for his proposal. He agreed the City needs to make the investment; and take the huge leap of faith.

Councilor Carl Jacobs noted this type of thinking benefits the whole City.

Tim Zinn, of 43 Grove Street agreed more changes are coming in the rental market with the College building dorms; he added more investment makes sense.

Councilor Sutherland thanked Chair Richards for clarifying his letter; he also noted the concerns for greenspace and flooding in that neighborhood.

The City Manager recommended including Code Enforcement and the Police Department when these discussions relating to flooding and parking are discussed.

Chair Richards agreed the flooding issue has to be part of the discussions around that part of the town. He reiterated all he is looking for tonight is an approval of the theory, he wants this to come back to the Committee, and then start building the case.

Kurt Blomquist, Public Works Director noted that throughout the committee's discussion he has been trying to formulate the products Council will want to see coming out of those meetings.

Councilor Hansel referred to the various information he would seeking from staff and asked if there are other utilities that are not currently where they need to be for us to do this. Chair Richards suggested they could include this to say where the existing infrastructure is.

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

Councilor Jones made the following motion which was seconded by Chair Richards.

On a vote of 5-0, the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee recommends the City Council direct staff to begin looking at neighborhood wide solutions for development and redevelopment in Ward 1 and Ward 2.

In response to the City Manager Chair Richards noted he would like to see this on a future Committee agenda for the Committee to talk about the infrastructure, drainage, and what's the best way to attack it. Continuing, Chair Richards suggested this would set the matrix for the timeline.

6) MEMORANDUM: City Clerk – Significant Items of Legislation

The City Clerk gave the opening comments noting this is a process started in 1994 under Mayor Bill Lynch. A City Council policy adopted in 2009 requires staff to bring before the Committees significant items of legislation annually. She explained the criteria utilized for designating significant items of legislation to bring before the Committees.

HB 1180- An Act relative to the authority of towns to issue bonds for the expansion of Internet Service was explained by Rebecca Landry, IT Director. At her conclusion Ms. Landry noted the full House is expected to vote on March 9 with a majority committee recommendation of Inexpedient to Legislate and a minority committee recommendation of Ought to Pass. Staff recommends supporting HB 1180.

In response to Councilor Hansel the City Clerk reported this Bill is due for action today. Councilor Hansel also asked if there is a time limit on us writing the letter. Ms. Landry reported she did provide an email to Legislative Committee and the City Council. The City Clerk advised if the Bill is still alive tomorrow the letter will be initiated. If the Bill is voted down a letter from the City Council would not be prepared.

Ms. Landry provided an explanation of bonding for a broadband infrastructure project in response to Councilor Sutherland; she also noted this would provide a tool for the City's tool chest.

Councilor Jones asked if the Rural Development Funds were still available to other communities; this was asked in regards to previous efforts to bring broadband to Keene that failed. Ms. Landry explained this is often available as a low-interest loan but not to the extent needed to bring a full fiber network to the residential home doorstep.

Councilor Hansel asked if there were any issues in tabling this instead of sending it to Council until we know whether or not the Bill passes. Even though the outcome is unknown the City Clerk recommended going forward with the recommendation to support.

HB 1417- An Act relative to records of convening of public bodies. The City Clerk reported this being recommended on behalf of the City Attorney. She noted this deals with meeting minutes and provided an explanation for the Committee. The full House is expected to vote on March 9 with a majority recommendation of Inexpedient of Legislate and a minority recommendation for Ought to Pass with an amendment. The amendment removes an inadvertent reference to "persons in attendance." The staff recommendation was to oppose the legislation.

Councilor Sutherland asked for an explanation of the intent of this Bill. The City Clerk replied transparency; they wanted a record of the discussions even when the body is not in a public meeting as defined under RSA 91-A.

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

Councilor Hansel made the following motion which was seconded by Chair Richards.

On a vote of 3-2, the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee recommends the City Council supports the staff's position on these legislative Bills. The motion carried with Councilor's Hansel and Sutherland voting in opposition.

There being no further business Chair Richards adjourned the meeting at 9:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Lou Sheats Hall
March 12, 2016