

10/04/2018

A regular meeting of the Keene City Council was held Thursday, October 4, 2018. The Honorable Mayor Kendall W. Lane called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Roll called: Carl B. Jacobs, Janis O. Manwaring, Thomas F. Powers, Terry M. Clark, Randy L. Filiault, Bartolmiej K. Sapeta, Margaret M. Rice, Robert B. Sutherland, George S. Hansel, Gary P. Lamoureux, Bettina A. Chadbourne, Philip M. Jones, David C. Richards, and Mitchell H. Greenwald were present. Councilor Stephen L. Hooper was absent. Councilor Powers led the Pledge of Allegiance. A motion by Councilor Greenwald to accept the minutes from the September 20, 2018, regular meeting was duly seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

The Mayor reminded City Councilors that they have been invited to attend the annual Fire Prevention Parade on Sunday, October 7, 2018. The viewing stand will be located on Railroad Square. In addition, Councilors are invited to attend the Annual Inspection Dinner at Central Station on October 11, 2018.

Mayor Lane continued that the October 18, 2018 City Council meeting is being canceled because he and several City Councilors will be in Einbeck, Germany with our Sister City Delegation. The Standing Committee meetings scheduled for October 10 and 11, 2018 are canceled as well. He added that looking forward into November and December, the Standing Committee meetings of November 21 and 22 will move to November 28 and 29, 2018 to accommodate the Thanksgiving Holiday. We will also be canceling the Standing Committee meetings on Dec. 26 and 27, 2018. Also related to the schedule of meetings, the Mayor stated that there will be a City Council Workshop on the right-to-know on January 3, 2019. This would have been our first meeting in 2019, however with the previous week's Standing Committees canceled; January 3rd has been repurposed as the date for the workshop. He noted the workshop will start at 6:00 PM, and New Hampshire Municipal Association staff attorneys will be presenting on the subject.

The Mayor went on to announce that the City has recently begun an initiative to enhance its efforts to recruit new members to fill several vacancies on City Boards and Commissions that will be opening up at the end of the year. This was prompted by a request from Councilors Rice and Sapeta to pursue diversity in those participating on City public bodies. To assist with this effort, staff has created a new volunteer submittal form that can be found on the City website, along with a listing of boards with upcoming vacancies. In addition, staff has created a promotional video that, along with the web form, will be shared on various social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Mayor Lane noted he wants to emphasize that this is a great way to engage and become involved in the community, and a commitment of one meeting per month can make a huge impact.

Finally, the Mayor stated that a recent online auction the City participated in to in an effort to buy back the key to the City of Keene that was given to Robin Williams was unsuccessful. The Mayor noted this key was given by former Mayor Bill Lynch in 1994 after the filming of Jumanji had concluded. The key was purchased for \$2,000.00, well over what was anticipated.

PROCLAMATION – TRICK OR TREAT

The Mayor presented a proclamation to Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director Andy Bohannon proclaiming October 31, 2018 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM as Trick or Treat Day in the City of Keene.

PROCLAMATION – FRIENDS OF THE KEENE PUBLIC LIBRARY FALL BOOK SALE

The Mayor presented a proclamation to Friends of the Keene Public Library member David Meader proclaiming October 19th to October 21st as Friends of Keene Public Library Week in the City of Keene and announcing that the Fall Book Sale will be held on Friday, October 19th from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Saturday, October 20th from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Sunday, October 21st from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

PROCLAMATION – FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

The Mayor presented a proclamation to Fire Chief Mark Howard proclaiming October 7th to October 13th, 2018 as Fire Prevention Week in the City of Keene.

PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT RESOLUTION – ELIZABETH SAYRE

The Mayor presented a Resolution to Elizabeth Sayre in honor of her recent retirement. The Resolution noted her many accomplishments during her tenure with the City and expressed gratitude for her years of service.

NOMINATION – ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE

The following nomination was received from the Mayor: Kenneth M. Dooley to serve as a regular member of the Energy and Climate Committee, with a term to expire December 31, 2018. The nomination was tabled until the next regular meeting.

MSFI REPORT – ROXBURY STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENT – SELECTION OF A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report read recommending that the rigid frame structure, as presented, be selected as the preferred alternative for the replacement of the Roxbury Street Bridge over Beaver Brook, and that the “accelerated bridge construction” be selected as the preferred construction method. The report further recommended that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the preferred structure type and construction method for the replacement of the Roxbury Bridge over Beaver Brook. A motion by Councilor Filiault to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

MSFI REPORT – CHESHIRE COALITION FOR TOBACCO FREE COMMUNITIES – RAISING THE LEGAL MINIMUM AGE FOR THE SALE AND POSSESSION OF ALL TOBACCO AND NICOTINE PRODUCTS

Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report read recommending to full

Council that staff draft an ordinance to change the age of sale and possession of all tobacco and nicotine products from 18 years-old to 21 years-old for review and consideration by the MSFI Committee. A motion by Councilor Manwaring to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded. After a period of lengthy discussion, the motion passed with 12 in favor and Councilors Rice and Sutherland opposed.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

The City Manager expressed that the Radically Rural Conference was held on last Thursday & Friday was a success. There were approximately 500 people from all over visiting the downtown area. The downtown became a walking conference center using various buildings for different sessions. In addition to the robust speakers and opportunity to network, the restaurants and hotels saw a visible boost in activity. The Mayor, Councilor Greenwald, Councilor Hansel, and Councilor Jacobs participated. The Main Street educational tract was her focus. The speakers told the importance of our downtown in our overall economic development strategy; innovative ways to support development in the downtown; the importance of art and culture; as well as the role of historic buildings in downtown vibrancy.

The City Manager announced the Plan NH conference will be held in Keene this year. It is occurring on October 18th and 19th at the Courtyard. The conference focus is on the importance of local businesses and local economies in supporting healthy vibrant communities.

The City Manager informed the Council that she participated in a 3 hour charrette like session facilitated by the States consultant, Fourth Economy on September 28, 2018. The session focus was on the rural economy. It took a closer look at the State's rural economy as it relates to small business, connectivity and access, community assets and infrastructure. These build sessions are part of the State's effort to take input and build strategy and actions into the State's 10 year economic development plan, which is expected to be rolled out in January.

The City Manager expressed October 5, 2018 is Energy Efficiency Day. In keeping with the spirit of the day, she announced that in City Hall the lobby lighting has been converted to LED's. She continued that the City Hall lobby is still a work in progress. Lighting upgrades was the first of the planned changes. There were new attractive signage added on all four levels and are in the process of setting up a digital display television, for scrolling notices and announcements. Next will to have the area painted in a warmer taupe color and to add some plants and other greenery. The Council's mailboxes will be moved to the other side of the room so a small waiting area can be set up. In the future, the plan is to add an additional payment drop box to the exterior front door.

The City Manager announced that Rebecca Landry, Assistant City Manager/IT Director, attended a meeting regarding school funding issues. The State has a constitutional duty to pay for the cost of an adequate education for grades K-12. The State Legislature has enacted comprehensive standards for an adequate education, but the amount of aid the State provides to meet these standards is woefully insufficient. While the average annual per pupil cost is over \$15,000 per year the State's main adequacy grant provides only \$3,636 per year. More than 70% of the costs are shifted to the local tax payer and the exact amount differs wildly from

community to community depending on each community's ability to pay. In addition, the State is gradually eliminating stabilization funding at 4% per year for the next 22 years. The property tax rate would need to increase \$0.08 per thousand for the next 22 years just to keep level funding for education. Legislative efforts to increase the State's amount of funding for our school system are something that she will continue to monitor and advocate for.

The City Manager stated the City is close to signing the final agreements with Revision for the Marlboro Street solar project. Work is anticipated to begin next week with some delivery of equipment and installation of racking. Currently a final inspection of the project is anticipated in early December and operation shortly after. This project will install approximately 2,100 solar panels to create a 600 KW solar array providing power to the City's Public Works and Police Departments' facilities.

The City Manager announced a healthy discussion with over 50 attendees gathered at the Recreation Center on October 3, 2018. Participants were able to review the schematic design of space and flow from architects BH & A for the future consideration of a collaboration between the Keene Senior Center and the City of Keene. The design showcased a total of additional 5500 square foot for the Senior Center, and an expansion of 5700 square foot to the gymnasium space and outlined additional shared space in the existing building. The design team will return for a further discussion on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 6:00 PM at the Recreation Center and will be reporting back to the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee on October 24, 2018.

The City Manager communicated that the Public Works Department is participating in the national *Imagine a Day Without Water* campaign on October 10, 2018. There will be an Open House at the Keene Drinking Treatment Plant on Wednesday, October 10th from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM. This is the chance to see where Keene gets its water and how it is made safe for drinking.

MEMORANDUM – UTILITIES MAINTENANCE MANAGER AND ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR – WEST STREET WELL REPAIRS

A memorandum was received from the Utilities Maintenance Manager and the Assistant Public Works Director relating to West Street well repairs. A motion by Councilor Greenwald to suspend Section 26 of the Rules of Order to act upon the memorandum was duly seconded. On a roll call vote, with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor, the Rules of Order were suspended. Councilor Greenwald noted this was necessary because of upcoming meeting cancellations that would have delayed these needed repairs.

A motion by Councilor Greenwald that the City Manager be authorized to reallocate unspent project balances to replace the pump and motor at the West Street Well with \$22,000 to be reallocated from the Disinfection By Products II project (05079) and \$5,000 be reallocated from the Water Supply Protection project (05011) was duly seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

10/04/2018

MEMORANDUM – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR – MONADNOCK
CONSERVANCY – CONSERVATION EASEMENT FEES FOR 105 DANIELS HILL ROAD
PROPERTY

A memorandum was received from the Director of Community Development relative to the use of Land Use Change Tax funds by the Monadnock Conservancy for the Domina Property Conservation easement project. The memorandum was referred to the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:03 PM, there being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting.

A true record, attest: 

City Clerk