

A regular meeting of the Keene City Council was held Thursday, February 20, 2020. The Honorable Mayor George S. Hansel called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Roll called: Michael J. Remy, Janis O. Manwaring, Michael Giacomo, Randy L. Filiault, Robert C. Williams, Philip M. Jones, Gladys Johnsen, Terry M. Clark, Raleigh C. Ormerod, Bettina A. Chadbourne, Catherine I. Workman, and Kate M. Bosley were present. Councilors Stephen L. Hooper, Mitchell H. Greenwald, and Thomas F. Powers were absent. Cub Scout Pack 302 led the Pledge of Allegiance. A motion by Councilor Bosley to accept the minutes from the February 6, 2020 regular meeting was duly seconded by Councilor Jones. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR

The Mayor announced the regular Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee meetings on February 27, 2020 will start at 5:30 PM. On March 7, 2020, a CIP tour will start at Department of Public Works at 8:30 AM and should last until 11:30 AM.

CONFIRMATIONS

A motion was made by Councilor Bosley and duly seconded by Councilor Filiault to confirm the following nominations: Councilor Mitchell Greenwald to serve as a regular member on the Airport Development and Marketing Committee with a term to expire December 31, 2021; Councilor Steve Hooper to serve as a regular member on the Ashuelot River Park Advisory Board with a term to expire on December 31, 2021; Councilor Robert Williams to serve as a regular member on the Conservation Commission with a term to expire on December 31, 2021; Kelly Ballard to serve as a regular member on the Heritage Commission with a term to expire on December 31, 2021; Peter Poenessa to serve as an alternate member on the Historic District Commission with a term to expire on December 31, 2022; Councilor Michael Giacomo to serve as a regular member on the Partner City Committee with a term to expire on December 31, 2021; Mari Brunner to serve as a regular member on the Partner City Committee with a term to expire on December 31, 2020; David Orgaz to serve as a regular member on the Planning Board with a term to expire on December 31, 2022; Gail Somers to serve as a regular member on the Planning Board with a term to expire on December 31, 2022; and Michael Burke to serve as a regular member on the Planning Board with a term to expire on December 31, 2021. On a roll call vote, with 12 Councilors present and voting in favor, the nomination was confirmed. Councilors Hooper, Greenwald, and Powers were absent.

NOMINATIONS

The following nominations were received from the Mayor: Meaghan Rafferty to serve as a regular member on the Energy and Climate Committee with a term to expire December 31, 2020; Paul Roth to serve as an alternate on the Energy and Climate Committee with a term to expire December 31, 2020; Christopher Brehme to serve as an alternate member on the Bicycle Pedestrian Path Advisory Committee with a term to expire on December 31, 2022; Emily Lavigne-Bernier to serve as a regular member on the Planning Board with a term to expire on December 31, 2022; and Tia Hockett to serve as an alternate member on the Historic District

Committee with a term to expire on December 31, 2021. The nominations were tabled until the next regular meeting.

COMMUNICATION – MADELINE ULRICH – REQUEST FOR FREE PARKING – ART WALK

A communication was received from Madeline Ulrich, Keene Art Walk, requesting free parking on May 30, 2020 and June 6, 2020 for the benefit of the patrons and participants of the art walk event who come downtown to view the displayed works of art. The communication was referred to the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee.

COMMUNICATION –COUNCILOR GREENWALD – OUTSIDE AGENCY FUNDING

A communication was received from Councilor Mitchell Greenwald, requesting a discussion on outside agency funding occur in advance of the operating budget process. The communication was referred to the City Manager for consideration as she prepares the operating budget.

MSFI REPORT – HARRIS CENTER FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION – TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES – JORDAN ROAD – JEFFERSON SALAMANDER AND FUTURE ADMINISTRATIVE REQUESTS

Municipal Service, Facilities and Instructure Committee report read recommending that the communication from the Harris Center for Conservation Education be accepted as informational and recommending that future requests for the closure of North Lincoln Street be handled administratively by the City Manager. The Chair separated the two recommendations. A motion by Councilor Manwaring to carry out the intent of the first recommendation was duly seconded by Councilor Giacomo. A motion by Councilor Manwaring to amend the committee report and refer the communication from the Harris Center for Conservation Education requesting the temporary closure of Jordan Road back to the Municipal Service, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee for further consideration was duly seconded by Councilor Chadbourne. The motion to amend the recommendation passed with a unanimous vote in favor. The amended committee report passed with a unanimous vote in favor. Regarding the second recommendation, voted unanimously to authorize future requests for the closure of North Lincoln Street to be handled administratively through the City Manager.

MSFI REPORT – POWERPOINT PRESENTATION FROM FIRE STATION 2 STUDY COMMITTEE

Municipal Service, Facilities and Instructure Committee report read recommending that the City Council concur that station two is in the right location and that the City move forward with phase two of this project, a Facility Analysis. A motion by Councilor Manwaring to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Giacomo. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

FOP REPORT – ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS – TRUSTEES OF THE KEENE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Council accept donations of \$117,489.26 as listed in the Cambridge Trust from May 2, 2019 – January 23, 2020 donor list to be deposited into the Library Renovation Temporarily Restricted City Trust as part of the Next Chapter Campaign Drive. A motion by Councilor Remy to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Filiault. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

FOP REPORT – OLD GILSUM ROAD LAND ACQUISITION –BOES PROPERTY – CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending the Conservation Commission's report be accepted as informational. The report was filed into the record as informational.

FOP REPORT – GOOSE POND – BOES PROPERTY – PARKS, RECREATION AND FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to negotiate and execute the acquisition of property owned by Gary Boes, located on tax map #213-005-000-000 consisting of approximately 6.2 acres in the Greater Goose Pond Forest utilizing the funds from the Land use Change Tax Fund 90203. A motion by Councilor Remy to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Filiault. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

FOP REPORT – LEASE OF PROPERTY ADJACENT TO BIKE PATH – 160 EMERALD STREET – CITY MANAGER

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to execute a lease with Toby Tousley for the parking area adjacent to 160 Emerald Street. A motion by Councilor Remy to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Filiault. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

FOP REPORT – CHESHIRE COUNTY COURT HOUSE – CITY MANAGER

The Mayor announced he had a conflict of interest with this item and was recusing himself from any participation and voting. A motion by Councilor Bosley pursuant to Section 6 of the Rules of Order, to elect Councilor Manwaring to serve as the temporary chair in the absence of the Mayor was duly seconded by Councilor Chadbourne. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor. Mayor Hansel joined the audience and Councilor Manwaring assumed the Chair.

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to negotiate and execute all agreements and other documents required to unwind the New Market Tax Credit financing of the Courthouse

Project; to facilitate the purchase of the Courthouse by Cheshire County; and to execute a joint payment agreement among Cheshire County, the Monadnock Economic Development Corporation, and the City for the payment of the remaining principal and interest due on the City's General Obligation Courthouse Bonds, Series B, dated May 2, 2013, continuing until the date of maturity of the Bonds expected to be June 30, 2033. A motion by Councilor Remy to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Filiault. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor. The Mayor resumed his position as chair.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

The City Manager began her comments regarding the updates from the Downtown Coordinator, Beth Woods. As a follow up to the Snow and Ice Festival, Ms. Woods will be sending out a survey to the downtown businesses. This feedback will help improve the 2021 Ice and Snow Festival. In addition, the first newsletter to the downtown businesses was created and includes information and a survey from the Parking Office, as well as, an update on the Community Development Department regarding the work of the Energy and Climate Committee. This newsletter will be a valuable tool to enhance communication with the downtown businesses and community. The newsletter was distributed on the Council's desks. The MEDC logo and the City of Keene logo at the top of the newsletter in recognition of the partnership.

The City Manager went on to share exciting news on Andy Bohannon, Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director was accepted into the Leadership Learning Exchange for Equity through the Endowments for Health at no expense to the City. Mr. Bohannon is interested in finding ways to enhance his work with the Human Rights Committee and broaden our recreational program offerings to ensure we are as inclusive as possible. This program will occur in March.

MORE TIME

More time was granted by the Chair for the following item in Committee: Encouraging the City to Become a "Bee City".

RESOLUTION R-2020-03: RELATING TO THE CELEBRATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

Resolution R-2020-03: Relating to the Celebration of Indigenous People's Day was read by title only. Resolution R-2020-03 was referred to the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee.

ADJOURNMENT FOR LEGAL ADVICE

At 7:40 PM, there being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting for legal advice.

A true record, attest:


City Clerk