

A regular meeting of the Keene City Council was held Thursday, September 3, 2020. The Honorable Mayor George S. Hansel called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Mayor Hansel read into the record the Emergency Order #12, issued by the Governor of the State of New Hampshire pursuant to Executive Order #2020-04. He continued the members of the City Council would be participating remotely. The Mayor asked that during the roll call for attendance, each Councilor identify their on-line presence and if there are others with them in the room. Roll called: Stephen L. Hooper, Michael J. Remy, Janis O. Manwaring, Michael Giacomo, Randy L. Filiault, Robert C. Williams, Philip M. Jones, Terry M. Clark, Raleigh C. Ormerod, Bettina A. Chadbourne, Catherine I. Workman, Mitchell H. Greenwald, Kate M. Bosley and Thomas F. Powers were present. Gladys Johnsen joined at 7:12 PM. A motion by Councilor Powers to accept the minutes from the August 6, 2020 regular meeting was duly seconded by Councilor Bosley. The motion passed on a roll call vote with 15 Councilors present and voting in favor. The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

NOMINATIONS

The following nominations were received from the Mayor: Rowland Russell to serve as a regular member on the Bicycle Pedestrian Path Advisory Committee with a term to expire December 31, 2022; Russ Flemming to serve as a regular member on the Historic District Commission with a term to expire December 31, 2020; and Charles H. Redfern to serve as a regular member on the Library Board of Trustees with a term to expire on June 30, 2023. The nominations were tabled until the next regular meeting.

PETITION – IN SUPPORT OF A SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE

A petition was received from Peter Moran, in support of a Social Host Ordinance. The petition was accepted as informational with the Mayor noting that the subject Ordinance had yet to be formally introduced.

MSFI REPORT – AMENDMENT TO PROPERTY OWNER AGREEMENT – ASHUELOT COURT SEWER AND WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report recommending that the November 6, 2019 Ashuelot Court property owners' approved payment plan for the financing of the replacement of existing sewer and water mains be amended to decrease the annual interest rate to 0.25%. A motion by Councilor Manwaring to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Giacomo. On a roll call vote, 1 Councilors were present and voting in favor.

PLD REPORT – LICENSES AND LEASES – THE COLONIAL THEATRE GROUP REQUEST

Planning, Licenses and Development Committee report recommending the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to negotiate and execute leases and licenses with the Colonial Theatre Group for:

- An American with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramp along the southern side of Commercial Street and Commercial Street Parking Lot;
- Relocation of existing utilities and parking lot lights;
- Installation and maintenance of underground electric and telecommunication infrastructure; and
- A canopy existing over the southern side of Commercial Street and Commercial Street Parking Lot for the placement of a dumpster on City property.

A motion by Councilor Bosley to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Greenwald. On a roll call vote, 15 Councilors were present and voting in favor.

FOP REPORT – ADOPT A BENCH

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept the donation of \$1,200.00 for a bench from John and Doris Laurent and that the bench be placed along the Cheshire Rail Trail. A motion by Councilors Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Hooper. On roll call vote, 15 Councilors were present and voting in favor.

FOP REPORT – ENGINEERING AGREEMENT WITH DUBOIS & KING FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION FOR THE FUEL FARM REPLACEMENT PROJECT – AIRPORT DIRECTOR

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to execute a Professional Engineering Services contract with Dubois & King for the design and construction administration of the airport fuel farm replacement project. A motion by Councilors Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Hooper. On roll call vote, 15 Councilors were present and voting in favor.

FOP REPORT – ACCEPTANCE OF FAA AIP GRANT FOR AIRPORT - AIRPORT TAXIWAY ‘A’ EXTENSION; ACCEPTANCE OF FAA AIP GRANT FOR AIRPORT – AIRPORT TAXIWAY ‘A’ RECONSTRUCTION; ACCEPTANCE OF FAA AIP GRANT FOR AIRPORT – FAA REIMBURSABLE AGREEMENT; TAXIWAY ‘A’ ENGINEERING CONTRACT – TAXIWAY ‘A’ EXTENSION AND RECONSTRUCTION – AIRPORT DIRECTOR

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept and execute a grant for up to the amount of \$2,938,393.24 from the Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program; and that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept and execute a grant for up to the amount of \$1,611,111 from the Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program; and that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept and execute a grant for up to the amount of \$33,300 from the Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program; and that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept execute a Professional Engineering Services contract with Dubois & King for the construction administration of the Taxiway ‘A’ design and construction

administration of the Taxiway 'A' Extension and Reconstruction project. A motion by Councilors Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Hooper. On roll call vote, 15 Councilors were present and voting in favor.

FOP REPORT – ROAD CONDITION SURVEY – CONSULTANT SELECTION – CITY ENGINEER

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to negotiate and execute a professional service contract with ARRB Group, Inc. for road condition survey services in an amount not to exceed \$40,000; and if an agreement cannot be reached, to negotiate and execute an agreement with the next highest scoring service provider. A motion by Councilors Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Hooper. On roll call vote, 15 Councilors were present and voting in favor.

FOP REPORT – WAIVER OF PURCHASING REQUIREMENTS – WILDLIFE FIREFIGHTING VEHICLES – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to authorize a waiver of the purchasing requirements [Ordinance No. O-2009-10, Section 2-1336] and designate Gunseth's 4X4 located in Surry, NH, as a "sole-source" provider for all work to be performed on the FY21 and FY23 Capital Improvement Projects of refurbishing our 2002 and 2003 wildland firefighting vehicles. A motion by Councilors Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Hooper. The motion passed on a roll call vote with 13 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilors Jones and Greenwald voted in opposition.

FOP REPORT – ACCEPTANCE OF FY 20 BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to do all things necessary to co-apply with the County of Cheshire, and to accept, the U.S. Department of Justice FY20 JAG grant in the amount allocated to the city of \$5,007. A motion by Councilors Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Hooper. On roll call vote, 15 Councilors were present and voting in favor.

FOP REPORT – UPDATE – CALLING FOR THE KPD TO BE OUTFITTED WITH BODY CAMERAS

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager work with the Police Chief to implement a testing and evaluation program for Body Worn Cameras and In Car Video systems. A motion by Councilors Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Hooper. On roll call vote, 15 Councilors were present and voting in favor.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

The City Manager announced that the Governor has extended the safer at home status for the State until October 1st as well as updated universal and restaurant guidelines. The City Manager continued as part of a new state wide, hospital based program, Cheshire Medical center is a COVID-19 community testing site, as of Monday, August 120, 2020. Community members seeking a test can request an appointment by calling Cheshire Medical Center's COVID-19 community testing information line. Tests will not be administered without scheduling an appointment in advance. Cheshire Medical will bill the individual's insurance or assist individuals without insurance to apply for NH COVID-19 testing benefit.

The City Manager indicated that Keene State College meets daily to review statistics related to COVID-19. Statistics for both Keene State College students and staff as well as the hospital testing numbers and the City is also participating in daily meetings. In addition, the City is continuing to have regular meetings with the hospital and have invited Superintendent Rob Malay to join in participation. It is important to keep the lines of communications open to adjust to changes.

The City Manager indicated that the Public Works director gave an update on the current drought conditions. The City is currently experiencing moderate drought conditions. In response, among other things the Public Works Department will shutting down the sprinkler system downtown and looking for the Parks and Recreation Department to reduce frequency of watering playing fields. The City Manager informed the Council that unfortunately, the Woodward Dam project is still three weeks behind schedule.

The City Manager continued that the City has applied for the Help America Vote (HAVA) grant in the amount of \$61,427.49 (\$51,189.57 Federal share and \$10,237.91 City match). Reimbursements will be calculated using a statewide standard cost rate based on the actual increase in absentee ballots mailed and cast in 2020 as compared to 2016. The City Manager announced that the Keene Fire Department was awarded \$44,161. This is additional cares act funds and will be used to purchase six (6) months of personnel protective equipment (PPE) and other equipment.

The City Manager announced a change in Keene Public Library hours will adjusting their hours the day after labor day and the hours will be Monday through Friday 10: 00 am to 12:00 pm and 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Curbside pickups are very irregular now and will be handled by appointment. The City Manager also announced that the annual Fire Prevention week activities have been canceled this year due to COVID-19.

The City Manager received a grant for taxiway runway in the amount of \$4.5 million dollars. The City Manager continued that four police officers: Nicholas Pannell, Joel Chidester, Matt Bomberg and Kevin Baca were honored at the 2020 NH Heroes award for their life saving efforts as first responders were called to a residence on Grove Street for a report of smoke in the building. The Police officers entered the building to look for residents and located a man in a rear room on the second floor. They helped the man outside a s well as extinguished the fire, saving the man's life.

MORE TIME

More time was granted by the Mayor for the following item in Committee: Petition – Deteriorating Conditions on Thompson Road.

FOP REPORT AND RESOLUTION: R-2020-29: RELATING TO FUNDING FOR THE FLOWBIRD PAY STATION COLOR TOUCH SCREENS

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending the adoption of Resolution R-2020-29: Relating to Funding for the Flowbird Pay Station Color Touch Screens. Resolution R-2020-29 was read for the second time. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Hooper. On roll call vote, with 15 Councilors present and voting in favor the motion passed. The Resolution R-2020-29 declared adopted.

FOP REPORT AND RESOLUTION: R-2020-33: RELATING TO REFUNDING OF BONDS

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending the adoption of Resolution R-2020-33: Relating to Refunding of Bonds. Resolution R-2020-33 was read for the second time. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Hooper. On roll call vote, with 15 Councilors present and voting in favor the motion passed. The Resolution R-2020-33 declared adopted.

ADJOURNMENT FOR LEGAL ADVICE

At 8:23 PM the Mayor announce an adjournment for legal advice.

A true record, attest:



City Clerk