

A regular meeting of the Keene City Council was held Thursday, October 1, 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 that the members of the City Council would be participating remotely. The Mayor asked that during the roll call for attendance, each Councilor identify their online presence and whether 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, Gladys Johnsen, Terry M. Clark, Raleigh C. Ormerod, Bettina A. Chadbourne, Catherine I. Workman, Mitchell H. Greenwald, Kate M. Bosley, and Thomas F. Powers. A motion by Councilor Powers to accept the minutes from the September 17, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor acknowledged Councilor Ormerod, Councilor Bosley and Councilor Johnsen's birthdays. The Mayor announced the MSFI and PLD Committee meetings scheduled for Wednesday, November 11 are rescheduled to Tuesday, November 10 as a result of the Veterans Day holiday.

The Mayor recommended again that City Councilors continue participating in Council Standing Committee meetings remotely via Zoom if possible, although they have the option to be present at City Hall. He said that staying home demonstrates to the community the Council's recognition that the Covid-19 pandemic is not over. If Councilors choose to be present in the Council Chambers, the Mayor reminded them that there are insufficient partitions and so strict mask wearing is essential.

Traditionally, the City has announced dedicated hours for Halloween "Trick or Treating." Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this year, the Mayor's pending Proclamation would include new guidance to ensure the event is safe and that the community has access to CDC recommendations. The hours for Trick or Treating remain unchanged, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM on Saturday, October 31, 2020.

PROCLAMATION – FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Mayor Hansel read a proclamation designating October 4 – October 10, 2020 as Fire Prevention Week in Keene.

PROCLAMATION – ENERGY AWARENESS MONTH

Mayor Hansel read a proclamation designating October 2020 as Energy Awareness Month in Keene.

The Mayor welcomed Dr. Ann Shedd to speak. Dr. Shedd thanked City Staff for their efforts toward Keene's transition to 100% renewable energy. She encouraged anyone in Keene planning to use heating, cooling, or transportation over the next 30 years to attend the virtual workshop on

October 20th at 6:00 PM for an introduction to key strategies in Keene's Renewable Energy Plan. Other events include: Virtual Solar Home Tour presented by the Keene Clean Energy Team on October 20th; the Monadnock Sustainability Hub's virtual annual meeting on October 28th; Local Energy Solutions Conference presented virtually by Clean Energy NH on October 29-30th.

RESOLUTION R-2020-27: IN APPRECIATION OF LEONA LANGELLA UPON HER RETIREMENT

The Mayor read Resolution R-2020-27: In Appreciation of Leona Langella Upon Her Retirement. A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt the Resolution was duly seconded by Councilor Bosley. On roll call vote, with 15 Councilors present and voting in favor, the motion passed. Resolution R-2020-27 was declared adopted.

COMMUNICATION – NANCY PROCTOR – RESIGNATION – HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

A communication was received from Nancy Proctor resigning from the Historic District Commission. A motion by Councilor Powers to accept the resignation with regret and appreciation of service was duly seconded by Councilor Bosley. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

COMMUNICATION – HEATHER SERVANT – IN SUPPORT OF LOWER SPEED LIMITS ON EASTERN AVENUE

A communication was received from Heather Servant in Support of lowering speed limits on Eastern Avenue. The Mayor referred this communication to the Municipal Services, Facilities & Infrastructure Committee.

MSFI REPORT – ASHUELOT RIVER PARK – CLIMATE RESILIENT MASTER PLAN – PARKS, RECREATION, & FACILITIES DIRECTOR

A Municipal Services, Facilities & Infrastructure Committee report read recommending the acceptance of the Climate Resilient Master Plan as informational. The Mayor filed the report as informational.

MSFI REPORT – PROPOSAL FOR PERMANENT PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION – PARKS, RECREATION & FACILITIES DIRECTOR

A Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report read recommending that the public art installation be accepted as informational. The Mayor filed the report as informational.

PLD REPORT – REQUEST FOR USE OF CITY PROPERTY – PUMPKIN FESTIVAL – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

A Planning, Licenses and Development Committee report read recommending the report be accepted as informational. The Mayor filed the report as informational.

**PLD REPORT – UPDATE ON BROADBAND FOR UNSERVED KEENE
NEIGHBORHOODS – ACM/IT DIRECTOR**

A Planning, Licenses and Development Committee report read recommending the report be accepted as informational. The Mayor filed the report as informational.

FOP REPORTS – ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS – FIRE DEPARTMENT

A Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept a donation of \$250.00. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Hooper. The motion to accept the donation of \$250.00 passed on a roll call vote with 15 Councilors present and voting in favor.

A Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept a donation of \$200.00. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Hooper. The motion to accept the donation of \$200.00 passed on a roll call vote with 15 Councilors present and voting in favor.

FOP REPORT – MUTUAL AID AMBULANCE AGREEMENT – FIRE DEPARTMENT

A Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to execute the Mutual Aid Ambulance Agreement with R.J. DiLuzio Ambulance Service, LLC. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Hooper. The motion to authorize the Manager to execute the Mutual Aid Ambulance agreement with RJ DiLuzio Ambulance Service, LLC passed on a roll call vote with 15 Councilors present and voting in favor.

**FOP REPORT – ATTORNEY ADAM KOSSAYDA – LEASE REQUEST – HANGAR LOT
15A**

A Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to negotiate and execute a lease for hangar lot 15 A. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Hooper. The motion to authorize the Manager to negotiate and execute a lease for hangar lot 15 A passed on a roll call vote with 15 Councilors present and voting in favor.

FOP REPORT – UPDATE ON KINGSBURY PROPERTY – CITY MANAGER

A Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending the update on the Kingsbury Property be accepted as informational. The Mayor filed the report as informational.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

The City Manager provided updates on more changes at City Hall. Last meeting, she discussed the City Clerk's office modifications that were completed recently and the move of Human Services to 2nd Floor Committee Room across from Council Chambers that is now currently in progress. Next, the City Manager said the Purchasing office would return to the 3rd floor and

swap their office space with the HR Department. The Purchasing office is currently at the end of the 2nd floor, beyond the locked door currently restricting public access. The Purchasing office has two employees and falls under the Finance Department's umbrella. Purchasing works with contractors whereas HR serves primarily internal customers (City Staff) and therefore, the City Manager said locating HR in the 2nd floor space makes more sense. This will also better prepare for the future should there be need to restrict public access again. Covid-19 created the need to evaluate the location of all services in City Hall, however moving the Purchasing office back to the 3rd floor is part of a greater effort to create some additional depth in the Purchasing office. It allows us to more easily create cross training opportunities. The move should be complete by the end of December. The City Manager said that final building changes currently planned, as previously mentioned, involve installing Plexiglass at access points (similar to the set-up in the Clerk's office) on both the 3rd and 4th floors, which would allow opening those floors.

The City Manager next said it was time for everyone to consider donating to the Keene Police Department's annual Beards for Bucks – Razorless for a Reason fundraising event for the month of October. Officers will be growing beards in an attempt to raise money for the Granite State Children's Alliance. Located here in Keene, the Cheshire County Child Advocacy Center focuses on interviewing and assisting children that are victims of crimes. She urged all to consider donating online at www.justgiving.com/team/kpd or if you see a fuzzy version of your favorite KPD officer, inquire with them on how to donate.

Next, the City Manager was excited to report that Spectrum is moving forward with the installation of services to the Keene residents of Hurricane Road, Chesterfield Road, Langley Road, and Daniels Hill Road. Spectrum had applied for about \$190,000 of NH GOFERR Broadband Expansion grant funds. They were not awarded the funds, though they believe there is still a chance they will receive them. However, they are going to proceed with the project at no cost to the City or the residents, regardless of any grant funding. The last four neighborhoods in the City of Keene will have access to broadband service; there are 75 homes on these streets. The City Manager said this is excellent news. While there were not yet specifics, the City Manager said the work was planned for summer 2021. IT Director/ACM, Rebecca Landry, has been working with and advocating for services for these neighborhoods for years. The City Manager recognized the IT Director's dogged determination to keep the needs of these four neighborhoods in the forefront and the relationship she has built with all providers serving Keene. The City Manager also thanked Charter/Spectrum for agreeing to make these upgrades with no guarantee of grant funds. It means a great deal to our residents living in these neighborhoods.

Finally, the City Manager shared more good news related to health insurance costs. Inter-local Government, the City's former health insurance provider, sent the City a check for return of contributions from 2016 health insurance premiums City-wide in the amount of \$100,000. In addition, the City's current carrier HealthTrust notified the City that as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and related stay at home emergency orders, they saw a significant reduction in HealthTrust's coverage claims during the last four months of FY-2020. As a member, The City's health group's share of the anticipated FY-2020 return of surplus is approximately \$200,000. In

10/01/2020

accordance with the City's fiscal policies, the funds will be reserved for advancing budgetary policies related to bonded debt, capital outlay, or property taxes.

MORE TIME

More time was granted by the Mayor for the following items in Committee: Social Host Ordinance – Draft; Authorizing the Condemnation of Land for the Winchester Street Reconstruction Project – Resolution R-2020-36.

RESOLUTION – RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE SOLID WASTE FUND BALANCE TO THE 2020/2021 SOLID WASTE OPERATING BUDGET FOR REPAIR OF THE EXISTING SCALE SYSTEM – RESOLUTION R-2020-37

The Mayor read Resolution R-2020-37 – Relating to the Transfer of Funds from the Solid Waste Fund Balance to the 2020/2021 Solid Waste Operating Budget for Repair of the Existing Scale System. The Mayor referred this matter to the Finance, Organization & Personnel Committee.

RESOLUTION – COLONIAL THEATER GROUP, INC. – PETITION FOR DISCONTINUANCE

The Mayor referred the petition and Resolution R-2020-38 to the Municipal Services, Facilities & Infrastructure Committee. A site visit and public hearing are scheduled on Thursday, November 5th at 5:15 PM and 7:10 PM, respectively. Councilors are responsible for their own transportation and meal as opposed to previous years.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Hansel adjourned the meeting at 7:37 PM.

A true record, attest:


Assistant City Clerk