

A regular meeting of the Keene City Council was held on Thursday, November 19, 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, Terry M. Clark, Raleigh C. Ormerod, Bettina A. Chadbourne, Catherine I. Workman, Mitchell H. Greenwald, Kate M. Bosley, and Thomas F. Powers. Gladys Johnsen was absent. The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee and the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee meetings were canceled for the week of Thanksgiving. The Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee would be moved to that Tuesday, but it could be canceled if there is no need to meet.

MINUTES

The Mayor recognized the City Clerk to comment on the minutes of October 15th. The City Clerk noted that Councilor Clark had proposed a correction to that set of minutes to reflect that the City Council had voted nine to five to set a meeting on the Council goals for the *Council as a whole* and not to schedule a meeting after conferring with staff on the best forum, as stated in the minutes. Ms. Little stated she had reviewed the audio tape of the meeting and the motion as well as the vote were correct. She continued, however; that the minutes could be clearer in terms of the phrasing for the vote. She explained her intent to correct the October 15th minutes as follows: "On a roll call vote with 14 present, 9 voted to overturn the Mayor's ruling to refer this matter to the City Manager. Councilors Hooper, Remy, Giacomo, Johnsen and Powers voted to sustain the ruling of the Chair.

A motion by Councilor Powers to accept the minutes of the November 5, 2020 meeting was duly seconded by Councilor Bosley. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

PROCLAMATION – SMALL BUSINESSES

Mayor Hansel read a proclamation in support of small businesses. The proclamation declared the Saturday after Thanksgiving as Small Business Saturday, and encouraged consumers to frequent small businesses.

PETER STARKEY – RESIGNATION – COLLEGE CITY COMMISSION

A communication was received from Peter Starkey resigning from the College City Commission. A motion by Councilor Powers to accept the resignation with regret and appreciation for service was duly seconded by Councilor Bosley. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor. Councilor Johnsen was absent.

COMMUNICATION – PETER ESPIEFS – CONGREGATE CARE PROVISIONS IN THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

A communication was received from Peter Espiefs expressing his concern with the congregate care provisions of the Land Development Code and suggesting that the City establish a Community Services and Care Planning Board pursuant to RSA Chapter 678. The communication was accepted as informational.

COUNCILOR HOOPER - RESIGNATION – ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD

A communication was received from Councilor Stephen L. Hooper resigning from the Ashuelot River Park Advisory Board. A motion by Councilor Powers to accept the resignation with regret and appreciation for service was duly seconded by Councilor Bosley. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor. Councilor Johnsen was absent.

COUNCILOR FILIAULT - ROOMS AND MEALS TAX

A communication was received from Councilor Randy L. Filiault requesting a letter be sent to Governor Sununu opposing his proposed reduction to the Rooms and Meals Tax. The Mayor referred to the communication to Planning, Licenses and Development Committee.

MSFI REPORT - KATIE SCHERWIN – PROPOSAL FOR PERMANENT PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION – AIRPORT PROPERTY

A Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report read recommending on vote of 4-0 that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept and install the proposed Public Art Piece by Adam Schepker to be placed at the Dillant-Hopkins Airport in accordance with Resolution R-2018-22. A motion by Councilor Manwaring to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Giacomo. On roll call vote, 14 Councilors were present and voting in favor. Councilor Johnsen was absent.

MSFI REPORT – MAINTENANCE OF THE WILSON POND DAM – CITY MANAGER

A Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report read recommending on a vote of 4-0 that the communication from Councilor Jones relative to maintenance of the Wilson Pond Dam be reported out of Committee. A motion by Councilor Manwaring to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Giacomo. A motion by Councilor Jones to refer this item back to Committee was duly seconded by Councilor Clark. On roll call vote, 14 Councilors were present and 8 voting in favor and Councilors Manwaring, Giacomo, Williams, Bosley and Powers voted in opposition to sending the item back to Committee to be placed on more time. Councilor Johnsen was absent. Councilor Remy indicated that he misunderstood the motion on the floor and wondered whether his vote could be corrected. The City Attorney stated this would require a motion to suspend the Rules of Order to allow a motion to reconsider.

FOP REPORT – ACCEPTANCE KIWANIS CLUB DECORATIVE LIGHTING – PUBLIC WORKS/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

A Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending on a vote of 5-0 that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept decorative lights and associated apparatus placed on decorative light poles located on Main Street from the Keene Kiwanis Club. Councilor Powers affirmed that the consensus of the Committee was that the lights remain lit year-round. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Hooper. On roll call vote, 14 Councilors were present and voting in favor. Councilor Johnsen was absent.

FOP REPORT – TAX DEEDS FOR UNPAID 2017 PROPERTY TAXES – REVENUE COLLECTOR

A Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending on 5-0 roll call vote that the City Manager be authorized to instruct the Revenue Collector to waive until February 26, 2021, the tax deeding for the 15 properties identified in the November 5, 2020, memorandum from the Revenue Collector as being contrary to the public interest; and after such date to provide further recommendations with respect to the payment status of the properties; and further that the City Manager be authorized to accept the tax deed from the Revenue Collector for the two properties identified in the November 5, 2020 memorandum. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Hooper. On roll call vote, 14 Councilors were present and voting in favor. Councilor Johnsen was absent.

ITEM BROUGHT FORWARD – FOP REPORT AND RESOLUTION R-2020-39: RELATING TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM KEENE STATE COLLEGE

A Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending on 5-0 roll call vote that Resolution R-2020-39 relating to the acceptance and use of funds from Keene State College be adopted. The Mayor filed the report as informational. A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt Resolution R-2020-39 was duly seconded by Councilor Hooper. On roll call vote, 14 Councilors were present and 13 voting in favor and one opposed, Councilor Manwaring. Resolution R-2020-39 was adopted. Councilor Johnsen was absent.

FOP REPORT – THIRD AMENDMENT TO MUNICIPAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH KSC – CITY MANAGER

A Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending on 5-0 roll call vote that the attached Third Amendment to the Municipal Services Agreement between the City of Keene and Keene State College be forwarded with a recommendation that the City Manager be authorized to execute the amendment. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Hooper. On roll call vote, 14 Councilors were present and 12 voting in favor and two opposed, Councilors Manwaring and Clark. Councilor Johnsen was absent.

FOP REPORT – TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET – FINANCE DIRECTOR

A Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending on 5-0 roll call vote that the City Manager be authorized to re-appropriate and transfer funds from Marketing and Development to Police Admin Part Time Wages and Social Security Taxes as a funding source for fifty percent (50%) of the cost and related job expenses incurred to employ a Community Specialist. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Hooper. On roll call vote, 14 Councilors were present and 12 voting in favor and two opposed, Councilors Manwaring and Clark. Councilor Johnsen was absent.

ITEM CALLED FROM COMMITTEE: KEENE SNORIDERS – REQUEST TO USE CITY PROPERTY – 2020/2021 SNOWMOBILE SEASON

The Mayor called from Committee the communication from Keene Snoriders – Request to Use City Property – 2020/2021 Snowmobile Season that was forwarded to the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee for action by the Council.

A motion by Councilor Bosley was duly seconded by Councilor Greenwald to recommend the Keene SnoRiders be granted permission to use the following locations on City property for a snowmobile trail: the right-of-way along the north side of Krif Road from Krif Court to Winchester Street; City property identified by tax map numbers 911-26-015, 909- 05-012, 909-03-210 and 707-02-009; the crossing of Winchester Street at Krif Road; and, The crossing of Production Avenue approximately 200 +/- feet south of NH Route 9. As well as access to the Class VI Portion of the Old Gilsum Road starting approximately one mile from the Gilsum Town Line and going north, (“Premises”) for the following purpose: for a snowmobile trail, and under the following conditions:

Said use shall commence on December 15, 2020, and expire on March 30, 2021, and is subject to the following conditions: the signing of a revocable license and indemnification agreement; and the submittal of a certificate of liability insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000, naming the City of Keene as an additional insured.

In addition, the Keene SnoRiders, Inc. will be responsible (including cost) for the installation and maintenance of all signage/markings, which will be in accordance with Snowmobile Trail Standards published by NH Business and Economic Affairs; that all signage/markings installed shall be removed from the City right-of-way and City property when there is no longer any snow cover, no structures, including buildings, shelters, lights, displays, walls, etc. shall be permitted with the City right-of-way or on City property; no parking of motor vehicles or trailers and no catering servicing activities of any kind shall be permitted within the City right-of-way or on City property; grooming shall not extend outside the right-of-way of Krif Road, snow windows shall be groomed to provide adequate sight distances and a gentle sloping approach at all road and driveway intersections; no part of the City Street (paved surfaces) may be used by off-highway recreational vehicles (OHRV) or their operators for any purpose, other than direct crossing; and that Keene SnoRiders, Inc. shall be responsible for the repair of any damage (including costs) and the City right-of-way and property shall only be used when there is snow

cover. On roll call vote, 14 Councilors were present and voting in favor. Councilor Johnsen was absent.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

The City Manager recognized the work of City crews who responded to a couple of EMS calls on November 11, 2020. The crews responded to Bretwood Golf Course for a reported person in cardiac arrest. Crews from both stations responded including Captain Staples, Lt. Nowill, Firefighter/Medic Lang, Firefighter/AEMT Olson, Firefighter/AEMT MacLean. Efforts to resuscitate the patient had already started when crews arrived with CPR being performed and the automated external defibrillator (AED) was applied to the patient with no shock advised. Our crew took over the care of the patient and provided advanced care on the scene. While being transported to Cheshire Hospital, the patient was awake and talking to the crew. The efforts of staff at Bretwood and the KFD crews providing this advance life support care, saved this patient's life. This successful resuscitation showed the importance of community involvement during cardiac arrest by calling 911, starting CPR and applying and using an AED when available. She gave kudos to all involved.

She went on that later in the day, crews responded to a second cardiac arrest at a private residence. Crews from the Central Station responded including Captain Staples, Lt. Phillips, Firefighter/Medic Riley, Firefighter/AEMT MacLean, Firefighter/AEMT Fuller, Firefighter/AEMT McKenna, and Probationary Firefighter/AEMT Snowden. Crews again were able to resuscitate the patient on scene and transport the patient to Cheshire Hospital for further care. The Manager continued that the Keene Fire Department responds to many cardiac arrests throughout the year. The department members work hard to provide the best care possible using advanced training, advanced care skills, advanced equipment and teamwork.

The City Manager congratulated John Bates. He was promoted from Lt. Fire Prevention to the rank of Captain.

The City Manager congratulated the Finance Department about a recent achievement, second year in a row. The City was notified on Friday, November 13, 2020 that our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) has been awarded the certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting for FY 2019. The financial reports were judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program which included demonstrating a constructive spirit of full disclosure to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the financial report. The certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. In essence, in our world of government financial reporting this is the standard everyone should be striving to achieve.

The City Manager acknowledged that the State's positivity rate is increasing, now over 2%, and hospitalizations have doubled. She went on that Governor Sununu announced a statewide mask mandate is in effect through January 15, 2021, for both inside and outside of buildings in situations where social distancing is not possible. This mandate will become effective, November 20, 2020.

She continued that in a meeting earlier this week with the hospital, college, and the SAU, Dr. Caruso shared that the amount of testing they are conducting has increased 35%. Here in Cheshire County, the positivity rate is 2.05%. Currently the hospital has no PPE concerns and has adequate testing capacity. They have been speaking with the State about plans for vaccination of our most at risk individuals: health care workers, first responders, and nursing home nurses and residents. Dr. Treadwell, Keene State College President, has offered to move their on campus COVID testing if the hospital needed to stand up the Alternative Care site. She reported that KSC's most recent positivity was still very low at .35%. However, it is increasing and that represented 12 positive in their last round of testing. Students will be getting a Covid test before returning home for the break. KSC will continue surveillance testing for any on-campus students and staff that remain. Off-campus students are not part of surveillance testing, however, if they become symptomatic they still have access to the wellness testing and the ability to be tested.

On November 13, 2020, Governor Sununu extended the safer at home order and the State issued travel guidance on November 12, 2020. The travel quarantine guidance is being applied by the City for its employees that may be traveling. Travelers and visitors need to self-quarantine for 14 days following the last date of any high risk travel internationally, on a cruise ship, or domestically outside of New England. The 14 day requirement to self-quarantine is shortened by a negative test, must be a PCR based test, on day 7; antigen tests are not accepted for this purpose. If they test negative they can end their quarantine early but continue to self-observe for symptoms of Covid-19.

The City Manager stated that the City has started the voluntary first responder testing. 11 volunteers from the Fire Department were tested and all were negative. Next week 8 individuals from the Police Department will be tested.

Lastly, the City Manager announced Monadnock Ford donated 10,000 masks for our community. This was a very generous donation and another example of our community stepping up in this time of need. With the increase in community transmission the timing could not be better. She thanked Monadnock Ford and Councilor Filiault for facilitating this donation.

AD HOC RACIAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE - RESIGNATION JULIA ATKINS

A memorandum from Rebecca Landry reported that Julia Atkins had resigned from her membership on the Ad hoc Racial Justice and Community Safety Committee. A motion by Councilor Powers to accept the resignation with regret was seconded by Councilor Bosley. On roll call vote, 14 Councilors were present and voting in favor. Councilor Johnsen was absent. The Mayor has been pleased with the significant amount of work that has already been completed by the Committee, he reduced the membership of the Committee from ten to eight to assist in the ability to achieve a quorum.

11/19/2020

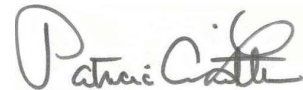
MEMORANDUM – POLICE CHIEF – AND ORDINANCE O-2020-13: RELATING TO
SPEED LIMITS – EASTERN AVE

A memorandum was received from the Police Chief, along with Ordinance O-2020-13 relating to Speed Limits – Eastern Ave. The memorandum was filed and Ordinance O-2020-13 was referred to the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Hansel adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.

A true record, attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia C. Cottle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

City Clerk