

06/03/2021

A regular meeting of the Keene City Council was held on Thursday, June 3, 2021. 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: Michael J. Remy, Janis O. Manwaring, Michael Giacomo, Randy L. Filiault, Robert C. Williams, Philip M. Jones, Gladys Johnsen (via Zoom), Andrew M. Madison, Raleigh C. Ormerod, Bettina A. Chadbourne (via Zoom), Catherine I. Workman, Mitchell H. Greenwald, Kate M. Bosley, and Thomas F. Powers. Stephen L Hooper was absent. A motion by Councilor Powers to accept the minutes from the May 20, 2021 regular meeting was duly seconded by Councilor Bosley, and the motion passed on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Hooper was absent. The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Hansel reminded Councilors to take their Chromebooks home and to bring them to Standing Committee meetings while the hybrid format continues.

Food Fest would occur the weekend of June 5. Mayor Hansel expressed excitement and thanked the several Councilors and community members who stepped-up to facilitate this downtown reopening.

The Mayor scheduled a site visit for the eminent domain process for the reconstruction of Winchester Street will be June 17 at 5:30 PM. A public hearing would follow the same evening at 7:00 PM.

The Human Rights Committee was sponsoring a Juneteenth celebration that Saturday June 19 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Railroad Square, featuring music, poetry, and speakers. Participants are encouraged to bring their own chairs. The Mayor encouraged Councilors to help spread the word.

#### PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:07 PM. Upon the Mayor's request, the City Clerk read the notice of hearing. Mayor Hansel stated that the public hearing was the public's opportunity to comment on the proposed budget. It is not the opportunity for Councilors to make general remarks on the budget. He went on to welcome introductory comments from the City Manager.

The City Manager stated that this hearing was to present to the City Council and the public the proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022, which includes the first year of the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). City Staff developed Operating Capital Budget proposals, which support the vision of Keene's Comprehensive Master Plan, City Council goals, and Fiscal Policy to continue to move the city to a sustainable future. The proposed Budget complies with the City Council's Fiscal Policy, which aims to limit property tax increases to a rolling three-year average of the Boston Cambridge Newton CPI net of any expenditure required by law. The City

Manager said that this year, the calculation was 1.9% of \$26 million or \$520,000. The City Manager did not utilize these additional dollars when creating the Budget because other increases required by law (contracts cost of debt, etc.) were driving up the tax rate. Instead, she worked with the Departments to reduce impacts of the municipal portion of the tax rate to 1.69% using the 1.9% CPI as a guidepost. Therefore, the recommended FY 2022 Operating and Capital Budgets, as proposed and supported by the Finance, Organization, and Personnel (FOP) Committee, was estimated to raise the City portion of the tax rate by 1.69%. This proposed tax rate adjustment is \$930,000 less than what was allowed under the City's Fiscal Policy Budget Index. This budget estimates conservatively the City revenues. In addition, the tax rate estimates were based on a projection of known increase to the tax base. The City Manager said this was a good conservative estimate as the City was amid a City-wide property revaluation, and the City's overall tax rate process. Both School and County had approved their budgets, setting the education and County portions of the overall tax rate. Considering the tax rate projections provided during adoption, and the recommended City budget, the total property tax rate was estimated to increase by 3.57% combined. The largest increase was estimated in the School's portion of the rate; the Superintendent shared recently with the City Manager that their increases were due primarily to reduced revenues from the State. However, he also indicated that due to the School's receipt of unanticipated funds, the City should receive funds back to offset at least part of that impact in time for the September setting of tax rates, which the City Manager said would of course be welcome news.

The City Manager continued that during the budget review Staff recommended, and the FOP Committee supported, minor changes with no impact to the bottom line of the general fund that merely shift funds within the Mayor and City Council budgets to appropriate lines, fixing an entry error. The two budget drivers this year included an increase in New Hampshire Retirement System contribution rates, which was the largest driving factor with a budget impact of \$770,000, and an adjustment to the Fire/Ambulance cost of living overtime account of \$100,000. The City Manager said this increase would not pay for more overtime wages that had not increased over the years. Staff analyzed the overtime lines over the past five years and made a partial adjustment as a part of the FY 2022 Budget and she expected further review and adjustment for the FY 2023 Budget. The City Manager said that American Rescue Plan funds would alleviate concerns related to revenue losses (\$350,000 in the General Fund and \$108,000 in the Parking fund), and the Cares Act and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds would address additional Covid-19 related expenses incurred to date. The City Manager stated that as discussed during the Council budget workshop, this budget included some modifications of the FY 2022 Capital Expenditures. She hoped to make further changes to the upcoming 2023 CIP and beyond if the City were awarded any of the grants submitted to date as a part of the Federal government's proven recovery strategy.

The Manager continued that during May 2020, the City had submitted applications for a portion of the Cheshire Rail Trail Wilson Street improvement, the Beaver Street Bridge project, body worn police cameras, cyber security, a sidewalk project, a water and sewer project and Thompson Road improvements that were not yet in the CIP. If the City were successful at getting funds for any of these projects, it would help to reduce our capital expenditures in the

upcoming years. The Capital Planning process for the next six years would kick-off in the summer and in June, the sidewalk asset management planning process would begin also. The City Manager said that the FOP Committee was still working through the water and sewer rate study recommendations. This review would continue at the next FOP meeting and would be presented to the full Council before the end of June so that the rate structure could be implemented in the final approved FY 2022 Budget. Overall, the City Manager said that Staff felt this budget would support reasonably the City services provided to residents of Keene, accommodating the goals set by the Council, including current labor agreements and other contractual obligations. This budget would also support the City's infrastructure program through continued funding of the CIP.

Mayor Hansel listed the sections of the Budget book, one at a time, providing the public an opportunity to comment on the line items in each section, with a chance for general comments at the end.

There were no public comments on the following sections of the proposed FY 2022 Operating Budget: Revenue Budget (pgs. 14-18), Supplemental Requests (pg. 19), Long-Term Debt (pgs. 23-25), Elected and Appointed Officials (pg. 30), Outside Agencies (pgs. 31-34), Unclassified (pg. 35), Community-Funded Events (pg. 36), Capital Appropriations in the CIP (pgs. 37-42), Employee Benefits (pg. 43), Risk Management (pg. 44), City Manager's Office (pgs. 45-48), City Attorney (pgs. 49-52), City Clerk (pgs. 53-59), Assessing Department (pgs. 62-66), Finance and Human Services (pgs. 67-79), Human Resources (pgs. 80-83), Information Technology (pgs. 84-89), Fire Department (pgs. 93-102), Library (pgs. 103-108), Parks, Recreation & Facilities including Youth Services (pgs. 109-127), Airport (pgs. 104-145), Community Development Department (pgs. 146-151), Public Works Department (pgs. 152-167), and the individual funds for Parking, PC Replacement, Special Use, Solid Waste, Sewer, Water, Equipment, Fleet, and Southwest Regional Planning Commission.

**Police Department Budget:** There were public comments on the Police Department (PD) budget (pgs. 128-138). Mayor Hansel heard the following public statements.

Nat Wood, a Keene State College (KSC) student residing on campus, stated that they were a young Keene community member that had reviewed the proposed budget. They noticed that over the past roughly five years the PD budget has increased on average \$264,000 annually and they asked the City Council to consider working to decrease that annual raise. They said that there were other organizations and agencies working in the community that could use that funding. As a Keene citizen, the speaker believed the City Council should reconsider the proposed FY 2022 increase to the PD budget of \$276,000 on top of the existing budget. The Mayor thanked Nat Wood for their comments.

Matt Pyster of 141 Island Street provided a content warning on the topic of suicide before sharing a story with the City Council of an incident that did not occur in Keene but that he said could have occurred here for other people. He wanted to speak up to act and prevent such stories from repeating in Keene. Several years ago, Mr. Pyster was suicidal and attempted to take his own life, trying to overdose on various over-the-counter medicines. While Mr. Pyster did not die,

the medications made him hallucinate for several terrifying days when he was unsure if the hallucinations would ever stop as they intensified and furthered his depression. In his altered mindset, he walked through his neighborhood, and someone called the police because he said he was presumably acting atypical. He said that when the police arrived, his already suicidal mindset was terrified of being arrested, and he did not see the PD as on his side and trying to help him. He was anxious and afraid of what they might do. Mr. Pyster said he protested multiple times because he did not want the PD's help, and after signing a release form, the PD let him go. Against Mr. Pyster's wishes, however, an Officer walked him back to his room, and asked to come inside. Mr. Pyster said he understood the Officer's likely fear of Mr. Pyster doing further harm to himself or others. Still, he said that having that lone Officer with a gun in his room only heightened his anxiety and worsened his already vulnerable state of mind. Mr. Pyster said he needed a mental health professional who could talk to him safely and not an Officer, "with all the baggage that carries." While these events happened in a different City, he said that the same situation could occur easily in Keene too if a neighbor calls the PD about someone acting unusual. He said the public's thought process is that the PD would take care of the situation and ensure everyone was safe, but he said that often leaves out the person who needs the help most but has had police called on them. Mr. Pyster shared concluding thoughts on the proposed PD budget, stating that a lot of money is spent on policing nationally and in Keene specifically, and so he shared three concerns. First, instead of raising the PD budget, Mr. Pyster thought the proposed budget increase should be instead distributed to mental health services that could be called instead of the PD in situations like his, which could make those in need able to and open to receiving the help they need. Second, he said that the homeless community needed additional funding and attention to help them transition to a stable state and perhaps some PD funding could be diverted to that focus. Third, Mr. Pyster said that the fact there is a Bearcat in this town only heightens the fear that many people feel from the PD. He said this City does not need military-grade weapons. He called for the City to return that Bearcat to the military. Mr. Pyster concluded stating that those three concerns arose from his experience getting a badge and gun when he needed mental health professionals the most. Mayor Hansel thanked Mr. Pyster for sharing his experience.

Pauline Moll of 31 Elliot Street said that she was a woman of color living in Keene, working against racism in the community and volunteered helping to house neighbors and meet their basic needs. Ms. Moll said everyone knew there had been a national reckoning in the past year with racist and classist policing. She said that to protect black lives, our homeless neighbors, working class families, and people battling drug addiction and other mental health challenges, PD budgets must be lowered everywhere, and those funds used to enhance social services, affordable housing, and community mental health support. She said she knew, "all of us are horrified by the police's anti-black violence nationwide this past year." Ms. Moll thought a lot of people were asking themselves if there was a PD problem in Keene too and she said the answer was yes resoundingly. Just last year, Ms. Moll stated that, "the Keene PD brutalized Khady and Tyler, two young black KSC students, in an act of racist violence." Ms. Moll recounted that, "Khady was sick, and Tyler was just using the restroom, and campus police called upon the Keene PD, who escalated the situation and began to use violence that left Khady and Tyler with physical injuries and lasting trauma." She continued that she could not, "stress enough that there

was not violence present until the police escalated it and this is what happens so often. Khady and Tyler needed privacy, they did not need a beating.” Ms. Moll said there was a recent police accountability meeting, during which Cheshire County Sheriff, Eli Rivera, stated what Ms. Moll recounted as, “that the police are not the best people suited to respond to mental health crisis, and they are just the people who currently show-up.” Many times, Ms. Moll said these people do not get help, they get arrested. She wondered what would happen instead if a trained mental health counselor and peer supporter came to a person’s aid during a mental health crisis. Ms. Moll stated that, “Instead, I personally have lied about my own mental health crises because I am terrified of the police showing up and restraining me and forcing me into psychiatric hospitalization, or arresting me, when what I really need is gentleness and support from my community.” She said that what if instead of funding the police to arrest our homeless neighbors, that those funds instead go to expanding the Hundred Nights Shelter or creating more affordable housing that would decrease the number of people on the streets and decrease dependence on the PD. Ms. Moll stated that, “Police are a band aid to problems that need deep and lasting change. We try to make police handle all kinds of problems that they are not suited for, and the police know that, and recent research shows that reforms like body cameras and anti-bias training for police are not effective in reducing police violence. Instead of expanding the police budget for reforms that do not work, we should fund the social services that will improve regular peoples’ quality of life and decrease our dependence on police.” Ms. Moll asked the City Council to not raise the police budget this year, and instead give the proposed \$276,000 to mental health services and support for our homeless neighbors. Mayor Hansel thanked Ms. Moll for sharing her comments.

Catherine Lang of 23 Beech Street stated that she had been a Keene resident for one year and was very disappointed to see that the proposed budget allocated such an enormous amount of money toward the PD, while taking funds actively away from community-based services, such as Hundred Nights or other mental health resources and direct-action programs that give food and shelter to people who need it in the community. Ms. Lang stated that, “I believe that policing, and certainly in Keene, often is used as a band aid, like [Ms. Moll] said to attempt to cover-up much deeper problems that we are facing as a community, like homelessness, like people struggling with mental health and sensitivities. So, to put all that money into a police force, which is not actively addressing the core issues that perhaps crime is a symptom of is not only taking it away from more direct-action programs but is, in fact, not curing the problem at hand.” Ms. Lang said that as a Keene resident and someone very concerned about those more sensitive and at-risk around her, she advised strongly that the Council and the Mayor not take this increase in the PD budget, but to use that money instead to fund more direct resources. Mayor Hansel thanked Ms. Lang for her comments.

Sabine Maloney of 89 Dale Drive stated she was not from this area, having grown-up in Burlington, VT, where she was a single mother that worked to support the working-class family. She said that the family benefitted greatly from the available assistance programs. She said that was fortunate when she was a child but that her mother did not have the same fortune when, “growing up in Dorchester in Boston during the crack epidemic, where police were heavily implemented in controlling the community. The lack of community programs in a relatively

impoverished area, and the increase in police budgets was not a coincidence. My mom saw many people incarcerated who she had known her whole life, people who could have used assistance from community programs because they were food insecure or battling addiction. I do not want to give the impression that I am unaware that there [are] some pretty big differences between the inner city and a town like Keene, but we are currently facing an opioid epidemic nationwide that is heavily affecting this area. Over policing, often comes hand-in-hand with drug dependency.” Ms. Maloney said it was devastating to see such a sharp rise in the PD budget, particularly when opioid use was only increasing during the Covid-19 pandemic, without seeing the same rise for community programs. Ms. Maloney stated that the budget increase was expected however, because, “when police budgets rise, a large amount is going towards policing people who are experiencing poverty, homelessness, or addiction. This is in direct opposition to the community programs that could be going to help those people instead. When police force is used instead of assistance programs to battle addiction and drug use, it creates an endless cycle. People battling addiction are put behind bars or charged, which causes them to lose their jobs and then returned [to the community] having no resources and difficulty finding someone who will employ them, [when] they often turn back to drugs, which creates the pattern.” Ms. Maloney said that drastic changes are evident when community programs are implemented, alleviating fear of incarceration, or losing income. She said that medical, addiction, and social work professionals have more training than police, whose training is less focused on these issues. Ms. Maloney concluded that cutting the PD budget and turning that money toward other professionals seemed to her a logical solution if wanting to help fellow neighbors in Keene battling drug dependence, poverty, and the Covid-19 aftermath. She said that more community programs need financial support. Mayor Hansel thanked Ms. Maloney for her story and comments.

Emma Provencher of 81 Ralston Street, a KSC student, asked that the PD budget increase be reinvested into services that would help struggling members of the community, especially coming out of the pandemic. She said that Hundred Nights Shelter requested \$35,000 from the City but was being allocated only \$30,000 and said, “I believe that there is no reason they should not get every dollar that they are asking for. I think that can easily be invested into Hundred Nights Shelter, rather than the PD, to ensure that we are providing the resources necessary for Hundred Nights to provide to our community,” adding that Hundred Nights cares for the most vulnerable in town. Ms. Provencher continued that she thought Keene should be supporting those struggling financially. She did not understand why, then, that the Human Services budget was decreasing by \$10,000, especially coming out of Covid-19 when so many are struggling financially, stating that, “many people are in the worst positions of their life right now, financially.” By supporting the PD budget to such a degree while not funding other services, Ms. Provencher said it shows that Keene does not support struggling members of the community and instead shows that, “we are more likely to criminalize them rather than help them get out of the situations that they are in,” which she thought was wrong and that money should be redistributed from the proposed PD budget. The Mayor appreciated the comments.

Kosta Koster of 9 Ashuelot Court, who said she was speaking as a graduate student studying to be a therapist at Antioch University New England. In her field of specialization, Ms. Koster said long-gone are the days when mental health professionals are qualified ethically to treat diverse

issues and rather now specialization is key. While everyone in her cohort would earn the same license, they would not all be qualified to treat the same populations, citing the concept that you would not want a cardiologist operating on your foot and, “specialty saves lives.” Therefore, Ms. Koster stated that, “It is wild to me that the police is this overarching all-encompassing police system for almost every public disturbance, emergency, minor infraction, traffic violations, and crowd control. That is spreading experience way too thin and arrogantly pretending to be a jack of all trades. As a therapist, when you are out of your scope of practice, it is a disaster and harm is very likely to occur. That is what I see happening in the US police system overall, and I can see harm being done here, due to an outdated overgeneralizing structure. So, I do not feel comfortable calling the Keene PD and inviting them into my neighborhood, because I am worried about who might get unnecessarily hurt because the Officers are not qualified. Maybe they are not qualified to deescalate drunkenness, disarm without killing someone, scan for mental health issues or inter-partner violence, or even be knowledgeable about all the crisis centers in the area. I do not know how or why you would expect one person to have all of those qualifications in the first place.” Ms. Koster concluded that she hoped that PD budget would be redistributed to other specialized resource options, to call upon community healthcare, Hundred Nights Shelter. She wondered whether Hundred Nights could develop a public safety unit for homeless neighbors, or perhaps they already had something similar in the works but needed funding. She believed that citizens should have the options and power to choose the help they want based on the specific public concern or emergency and that the only choice should not be the PD dispatcher. She asked the City Council to reallocate the proposed increase to the PD budget to specialized public safety and community mental health resources instead of over-policing. Mayor Hansel thanked Ms. Koster for her comments.

Leah Chitayat of 129 Howard Street stated that she too was asking the City Council to not increase the PD budget this year. She said she attended a budget meeting last year and recalled the meeting purpose as confirming budget decisions that had been made already and there was outcry from the community to not increase the PD budget and instead invest in more in-depth community services. Therefore, Ms. Chitayat said she knew this was not the first time the City Council was hearing this demand from the community and that it would not be that last time. She questioned specific line items in the proposed PD budget such as why there is an increased need for tactical training and supplies this year when the budget for those items was not used fully last year; why there was a budget increase for the Bearcat, which was only \$100 for maintenance but she questioned why Keene needed a Bearcat at all, with the town having, “been ridiculed on national televisions,” and stating, “I know Keene can do better and should step-up, say we made a mistake, and that we do not need this.” Ultimately, Ms. Chitayat said these requests are to help unburden the PD because without significantly more training or requiring Officers to have a mental health degree, then it was too much to ask of the PD when there are support services in the community already. She hoped the City Council would listen to these community members speaking out on this issue. Mayor Hansel thanked Ms. Chitayat for her comments.

06/03/2021


Shawn Belden of 48 Elliot Street said he was a Keene State Senior not from Keene originally, who appreciated hearing all the preceding voices and stories. He stated that the past year had been challenging for him. He shared, "I have lost my grandfather who was an FBI agent, and I can sense everyone just wants to be free and wants to allocate these resources to better services and unburden the PD, and I totally support that. Please listen to the community. I am very scared sometimes when I walk outside and see police cars and I know it is not a good fear to have, I know they are there to protect and serve, but this past year it is just all these mixed messages. It has just been hard to hear from both sides. Just allocate your resources wisely, please. I do not think this community needs a Bearcat for has a riot many years ago. I have been from a town of America where the PD was right next to the high school. I am from a place of privilege. I do not know why have to be here to speak and try to say anything that these people have already said." Mr. Belden hoped the City Council would make the right decision. Mayor Hansel thanked Mr. Belden for his story.

After concluding the budget book, Mayor Hansel opened the floor to general comments on the proposed FY 2022 Operating Budget.

The Mayor recognized Matt Pyster to speak again. Mr. Pyster thanked those who were listening intently while the community was speaking. He went on to state his concern that Councilor Johnsen seemed to be completely ignoring everything that everyone said. He asserted that the Councilor was on their phone the whole time, and they left the room at one point. Maybe you were having a personal emergency, Counselor Johnson, maybe there was an important reason for you to not be listening to this specific portion of this, which is designed to listen to the community. If you did have a really good reason for not listening, then apologized for calling out what he saw. Mayor Hansel addressed Mr. Pyster's comments, stating he had known Councilor Johnsen for a long time and guaranteed that she was not ignoring the speakers. He said she could have been having technical difficulties or helping a constituent log-in to the meeting. All Councilors' emails were listed on the City website and Mayor Hansel said that Councilor Johnsen took her constituents concerns seriously and would certainly reply to an email. He thanked Mr. Pyster for his comments.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Hansel closed the public hearing at 7:47 PM, except for written public comments, which would be accepted until 1:00 PM on Tuesday, June 8. Written comments must be signed physically and submitted to the City Clerk by that date and time to be included in the record. Pursuant to Section 30 of the Rules of Order, any Councilors wishing to make amendments to the budget will need to provide the City Clerk with written notice by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, June 15.

A true record, attest:



City Clerk



**CONFIRMATION**

Mayor Hansel nominated to the Energy and Climate Committee, Hillary Ballantine as an alternate, with a term to expire December 31, 2023. A motion by Councilor Powers to confirm the nomination was duly seconded by Councilor Bosley. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Hooper was absent.

**NOMINATION**

Mayor Hansel nominated to the Southwest Regional Planning Commission, Chris Cusack, with a term to expire December 31, 2024. The Mayor noted that this nomination is being referred to the Planning Board for their recommendation. The nomination will eventually come back to the City Council for confirmation.

**COMMUNICATION – LESLIE KELTON – IN SUPPORT OF MACHINA ARTS REQUEST FOR PARKLET**

A communication was received from Leslie Kelton, expressing her support for the request by Machina Arts to build a parklet in front of their establishment on Court Street. Mayor Hansel filed the communication into the record as informational.

**COMMUNICATION – COUNCILOR WILLIAMS – RENAMING OF THE NORTH BRIDGE**

A communication was received from Councilor Robert Williams, recommending that the North Bridge be named after former Mayor, Philip (Dale) Pregent. Mayor Hansel. Referred by the Chair to Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee.

**MSFI REPORT – ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC ART – PARKS, RECREATION AND FACILITIES DIRECTOR**

A Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept and install the proposed public art piece by Martina Muller, 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. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Hooper was absent.

**MSFI REPORT – EUGENIA SNYDER/EVERSOURCE ENERGY – REQUEST TO ACCESS OLD GILSUM ROAD – TRANSMISSION POLE REPLACEMENT IN POWER LINE RIGHT OF WAY**

A Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee report read recommending, per Section 94-238 of the City Code of Ordinances, that Eversource Energy be permitted to use motorized vehicles on the Class 6 portion of the Old Gilsum Road from the date of approval through November 30, 2021, for the purpose of transporting in and out equipment needed to replace existing wood transmission poles in the power line right-of-way. This access is to be coordinated with City Staff and subject to compliance with any conditions set by Staff. A motion by Councilor Manwaring to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor

Giacomo. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Hooper was absent.

**MSFI EPORT – ERIC GEORGE/NATIONAL GRID – REQUEST TO ACCESS OLD GILSUM ROAD FOR TREE AND BRUSH CLEARING OF POWER LINE RIGHT OF WAY**

A Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee report read recommending, per Section 94-238 of the City Code of Ordinances, that the National Grid be permitted to use motorized vehicles on the Class 6 portion of the Old Gilsum Road from June 4 through June 18, 2021, for the purpose of transporting in and out the equipment needed to perform maintenance to control trees and brush on the power line right-of-way. This access is to be coordinated with City staff and subject to compliance with any conditions set by staff. A motion by Councilor Manwaring to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Giacomo. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Hooper was absent.

**MSFI REPORT – ACCEPTANCE OF DRAINAGE EASEMENT – OLD WALPOLE ROAD – CITY ENGINEER**

A Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to negotiate and accept a drainage easement over portions of parcel #506-065. A motion by Councilor Manwaring to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Giacomo. Discussion ensued. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Hooper was absent.

**PLD REPORT – MADELINE ULLRICH/KEENE DOWNTOWN GROUP – REQUEST TO USE CITY PROPERTY – ART WALK**

A Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee report read recommending that the Keene Downtown Group be granted a street fair license to use downtown City property in conjunction with the annual Art Walk. Said permission is extended to use downtown City sidewalks on June 5, 2021 and June 12, 2021, for art demonstrations in front of various businesses from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Further, permission is extended for the shared use of Railroad Square on June 5, 2021 to accommodate the Art Market sponsored by the Friends of Public Art and use of Railroad Square on June 12, 2021 for related event activities. Said license is granted subject to the following provisions: the furnishing of a certificate of liability insurance in the amount of \$1 million; listing the City of Keene as an additional insured; the signing of a revocable license and indemnification agreement; the maintenance of a 6-foot clearance on the sidewalk for pedestrian traffic; and compliance with any recommendations from City staff. The Petitioner agrees to absorb the costs for any special City services provided. A motion by Councilor Bosley to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Greenwald. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Hooper was absent.

**PLD REPORT – GEORGIA CASSIMATIS/FRIENDS OF PUBLIC ART – REQUEST TO USE CITY PROPERTY – OUTDOOR ART MARKET – RAILROAD SQUARE**

A Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee report read recommending that Friends of Public Art be granted a General Use of City Property license for the shared use of Railroad Square on June 5, 2021, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM to accommodate activities associated with the Art Walk sponsored by the Keene Downtown Group; and the use of Railroad Square on July 30, September 4, and October 2, 2021, from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM to hold an outdoor Art Market. Said license is granted subject to the following provisions: the furnishing of a certificate of liability insurance in the amount of \$1 million, listing the City of Keene as an additional insured; the signing of a revocable license and indemnification agreement; and compliance with any recommendations from City staff. Petitioner agrees to absorb the cost for any additional City services provided. A motion by Councilor Bosley to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Greenwald. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Hooper was absent.

**PLD REPORT – GENERAL DISCUSSION – PARKLETS – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

A Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee report read recommending the amendment of Chapter 46 to create a provision for parklet requests to come to the PLD Committee for initial review. Mayor Hansel recognized the City Attorney for comment. The City Attorney stated that he discovered case law and statutory provisions that could impact the Council's ability to authorize long-term occupation of the City's public rights-of-way, which he needed time to review before presenting the research to Council. He requested that the Mayor refer this matter back to Committee. The report was referred back to the PLD Committee.

**FOP REPORT – ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2020 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT AWARD – HAZMAT ALLOCATION – 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 grant in the amount of \$25,000 from the 2020 State of New Hampshire Homeland Security Program - HazMat Allocation. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Hooper was absent.

**FOP REPORT – USE OF AIRPORT PERSONNEL FUNDS – AIRPORT DIRECTOR**

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read on a roll call vote of 5-0 recommending that the City Manager be authorized to use unexpended personnel monies from the FY21 Airport personnel budget for operations. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Hooper was absent.

**FOP REPORT – ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS – NH DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT – SENIOR PLANNER**

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Council authorize the City Manager to do all things necessary to accept and execute a \$10,000 grant award from the NH Division of Historical Resources Certified Local Government Grant Program for the development of a web-based, crowdsourcing tool for the Heritage Commission. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Hooper was absent.

**FOP REPORT – FUNDING FOR POOL IMPROVEMENTS – PARKS, RECREATION, AND FACILITIES DIRECTOR**

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read recommending the capital transfer of \$45,000 from the 2020-2021 operating budget to the Municipal Parks capital project #90318 and that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to negotiate and execute an agreement with Project Resource Group, LLC for the work to be completed at the municipal pools. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Hooper was absent.

**FOP REPORT – CAPITAL PROJECT TRANSFER FOR BODY WORN CAMERAS – POLICE CHIEF RUSSO**

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read recommending the authorization of the capital transfer of \$460,000 from the 2020-2021 operating budget to a Body Worn Cameras capital project. In addition, that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to negotiate and execute an agreement with BodyWorn, part of Pileum Corporation, for the purchase of body worn cameras, in-car video systems, and necessary support equipment and training. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Hooper was absent.

**FOP REPORT – COUNCILORS REMY, WORKMAN, AND MADISON – COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEES AND MEETING CYCLES, AGENDA DEADLINES AND PACKET DISTRIBUTION TIMELINES – CITY CLERK**

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read recommending acceptance of the communication from Councilors Remy, Workman and Madison as well as the presentation from the City Clerk as informational and requesting that the Mayor set date for a workshop after the budget discussion has concluded. Mayor Hansel filed the report. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Hooper was absent.

REPORT – COUNCILOR ORMEROD – BUDGET PRIORITY FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT OF SIDEWALKS

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read recommending the communication from Councilor Ormerod regarding sidewalk funding be accepted as informational. Mayor Hansel Filed the communication as informational.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Before sharing her updates, the City Manager made a statement for the record. She stated that she does not respond typically to public hearing comments, but that she felt compelled to state that the characterization of the event that occurred on the KSC campus when the Police Department was called to assist KSC. The City Manager stated for the record that she felt the comments made about the incident were an unfair and inaccurate characterization of the Keene PD.

The City Manager reported that the annual Firefighters Memorial Service would be conducted Sunday, June 6 at 9:00 AM at the Central Station Memorial. The City, Staff, Councilors, and public are welcome.

The Human Rights Committee would be celebrating Juneteenth with guest speakers, music, and poetry at Railroad Square on Saturday, June 19, 11:00 AM—3:00 PM.

The Friends of the Library would begin collecting book donations on June 7. Books in good condition are sold at a twice annual book sale to raise funds to support the Library. Anyone with questions about the types of materials accepted should call the Library. The next book sale would be this October. Three book sales had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

The Library would be returning to continuous hours and offering meeting rooms as of July 6. The large event spaces would be available to the public as of September 1. Library staff were eager to provide summer programs to keep Keene's students reading and engaged in learning throughout their summer vacation. To provide safer events for youth who are not yet able to be vaccinated, there would be limited in-person events this summer with most programs remaining virtual for some time. In-person programs would be mostly outdoors or in Heberton Hall where attendees would have plenty of room.

The Library would be a pop-up vaccination site on Monday, June 7 and Tuesday, June 8. Those seeking Covid-19 vaccination would be able to get one at Heberton Hall from 10:00 AM—6:00 PM. Greater Monadnock Public Health Network was organizing the clinic. The City Manager was also in talks with the health network about doing the same at Railroad Square and potentially when events are occurring.

**MORE TIME – SIDEWALK ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN – KEENE SWAMP BATS – REQUEST TO DISCHARGE FIREWORKS; AND MACHINA ARTS – REQUESTING PERMISSION TO ERECT A PARKLET IN PARALLEL PARKING SPACES AND A PETITION IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPROVED MEDICARE ACT OF 2021**

More time was granted by the Chair for the following agenda items in Committee: sidewalk asset management; discharge of fireworks; use of public parking spaces for a parklet; and a petition in support of the Improved Medicare Act of 2021.

**FOP REPORT – ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING – RELATING TO THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE ASSESSOR’S BOARD – ORDINANCE O-2021-05-A**

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Council adopt Ordinance O-2021-05-A. Mayor Hansel filed the report. A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt Ordinance O-2021-05-A was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Hooper was absent.

**FOP REPORT – ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING – RELATING TO CLASS ALLOCATION AND SALARY SCHEDULE – ORDINANCE O-2021-08-A**

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Council adopt Ordinance O-2021-08-A. Mayor Hansel filed the report. A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt Ordinance O-2021-08-A was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Hooper was absent.

**FOP REPORT – RESOLUTIONS – R-2021-25 RELATING TO BLIND EXEMPTION; AND R-2021-26 RELATING TO AN EXEMPTION FOR DEAF OR SEVERELY HEARING-IMPAIRED PERSONS AND AN EXEMPTION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO ASSIST PERSONS WHO ARE DEAF OR SEVERELY HEARING IMPAIRED; AND R-2021-27 RELATING TO VETERANS' TAX CREDITS; AND R-2021-29 RELATING TO EXEMPTION FOR THE DISABLED; AND R-2021-30 RELATING TO ELDERLY EXEMPTION QUALIFICATIONS**

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read on a roll call vote of 5-0 recommending the adoption of Resolution R-2021-25, Resolution R-2021-26, Resolution R-2021-27, Resolution R-2021-29, and Resolution R-2021-30. Mayor Hansel filed the report.

A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt Resolutions R-2021-25, R-2021-26, R-2021-27, R-2021-29, and R-2021-30 was duly seconded by Councilor Filiault. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Hooper was absent.

06/03/2021

FOP REPORT – RESOLUTION R-2021-22 – RELATING TO THE FY 2021-2022  
OPERATING BUDGET

Mayor Hansel tabled this matter until the next regular Council meeting on June 17, 2021.

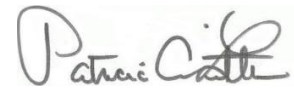
RESOLUTIONS – R-2021-15 RELATING TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE  
FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECT; AND R-2021-16 RELATING TO THE  
APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE PATRICIA T. RUSSELL PARK IMPROVEMENT  
PROJECT; AND R-2021-17 RELATING TO THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE  
ROAD REHABILITATION PROJECT

Mayor Hansel tabled these Resolutions until the next regular Council meeting on June 17, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Hansel adjourned the meeting at 8:42 PM.

A true record, attest:



City Clerk