

City of Keene
New Hampshire

PLANNING, LICENSES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

6:00 PM

**Council Chambers,
City Hall**

Members Present:

Kate M. Bosley, Chair
Mitchell H. Greenwald, Vice Chair
Philip M. Jones
Catherine Workman
Gladys Johnsen

Staff Present:

Elizabeth A. Dragon, City Manager
Thomas P. Mullins, City Attorney
Kürt Blomquist, Public Works
Director/Emergency Management Director
Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

Members Not Present:

All Present

Chair Bosley called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and explained the procedures of the meeting.

1) Keene Downtown Group – Request to Use City Property – Ice and Snow Festival

Chair Bosley asked to hear from the Petitioner. Mark Rebillard of 64 Blackberry Ln. stated that he is a business owner downtown and chair of the Keene Downtown Group. On February 5, 2022, the Keene Downtown Group hopes to hold the 19th annual Ice and Snow Festival. It is a free, fun day for families, with eight ice carvers. Last year with the help of the City and a local hardware store, they created pedestals that light the ice sculptures from below so they are lit like Christmas tree bulbs throughout the evening. There is a children's train, face painting, and more. In 2020, 17 businesses participated to do a scavenger hunt up and down Main St., for children to find Yeti in the different stores. There was free hot cocoa in nine participating stores, free s'mores, and two fire pits. It is a great event and they are grateful for the City's support. It is nice to have a community event to bring people outside when everyone is feeling the doldrums of winter. This time, they hope to enhance the event with more ice carvers or more ice. They have typically done one-block sculptures, but maybe this time it would be two or three blocks.

Chair Bosley stated that all sounds wonderful and she is happy to see this event coming back. She continued that any time they see something come back after it was canceled for a year, it is great. She asked if the committee had any questions. Hearing none, she asked to hear from staff.

Kürt Blomquist, Public Works Director/Emergency Management Director, stated that this is one of his favorite winter events in the community. He continued that City staff had a protocol meeting with Mr. Rebillard and others, which went very well. Staff is very comfortable with

what the event will be. They talked through a number of issues and Mr. Rebillard is in concurrence. Staff looks forward to supporting this event. They recommend that the Committee move forward with the recommended motion.

Councilor Jones thanked Mr. Rebillard and stated that this is always a great project and he knows a lot of effort goes into it. He continued that the recommended motion does not include the usual requirement for insurance. He asked if staff is recommending they waive that.

Mr. Blomquist replied no, within the application it talks about the “customary licensing requirements,” which includes the insurance. Councilor Jones replied that that used to be in the motion. Mr. Blomquist replied that is correct; staff are trying to condense the recommended motions a little bit.

Chair Bosley asked if there were any further questions from the Committee. Hearing none, she asked if members of the public had any questions. Hearing none, she asked for a motion.

Councilor Greenwald made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Jones.

On a vote of 5-0, the Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee recommends that The Keene Downtown Group be granted a street fair license to use downtown City rights-of-way for purposes of conducting merchant sidewalk sales, as well as use of downtown City property on Central Square, Railroad Square, and designated parking spaces on Central Square and Main Street to conduct the Ice and Snow Festival on Saturday, February 5, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. In addition, the applicant is permitted to close off a portion of Railroad Street from Main Street to the exit of the Wells Street Parking Garage. This permission is granted subject to the customary licensing requirements of the City Council, submittal of signed letters of permission from the owner for any use of private property, and compliance with any recommendations of City staff. In addition, the petitioner is granted use of the requested parking spaces free of charge under the provisions of the Free Parking Policy. The Petitioner agrees to absorb the cost of any City services over and above the amount of City funding allocated in the FY 22 Community Events Budget.

2) **Relating to Amendments to the Business, Growth, and Reuse District Ordinance O-2021-14**

Chair Bosley stated that Randall Walter is unable to attend tonight. She asked to hear from Mari Brunner.

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner, stated that the request is to amend Chapter 100 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Keene as follows: *“That ‘Personal Service Establishment’ be added as a permitted primary use to the Business Growth and Reuse District.”*

Ms. Brunner continued that “Personal Service Establishment” is defined as *“an establishment that provides services of a personal nature, including but not limited to barbershops or hair*

salons, nail salons, laundromats, dry cleaners, tailors, tattoo or body piercing parlors.” She gave a presentation at the public hearing for this, but she is happy to answer any questions.

Chair Bosley asked if the Committee had any questions for Ms. Brunner. Hearing none, she stated that there was a public hearing held on this topic at the last City Council meeting, and since the public hearing has been closed, no public comment will be taken tonight.

Councilor Greenwald made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Jones.

On a vote of 5-0, the Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee recommends the adoption of Ordinance O-2021-14.

3) In Support of a Mask Mandate – Debra Bowie

4) Relating to the Wearing of Face Coverings – Ordinance O-2021-16

Chair Bosley stated that items 3) and 4) will be taken together. She explained the procedures for public comment and the ground rules for respectful discourse. She stated that each member of the public who wishes to speak will have three minutes to speak, and will be given a 30-second warning when they are approaching the three minute mark, so they can wrap up their thoughts.

Chair Bosley asked Dr. Don Caruso to address his letter to the City Council.

Dr. Don Caruso, CEO and President of Cheshire Medical Center (CMC), thanked the Committee and the public for the opportunity to speak tonight. He continued that CMC has a specific responsibility to protect the community’s health. That is clear in their mission statement. His responsibility is to inform the community of where things are. He would be remiss if he were not in front of the Committee or Council to let everyone know where things stand today.

Dr. Caruso stated that he will not talk about the national picture or even the state picture. He will talk about Keene and Cheshire County, regarding what is happening with the COVID-19 pandemic, its impact on CMC’s resources, and CMC’s ability to take care of the community. CMC has been operating since 1892, at the request of the community. They are not a for-profit organization, so there is no benefit in changing what they do. It is about taking care of the community.

He continued that this morning, CMC had 19 COVID-positive patients, four of them on ventilators, and seven of them on high-flow oxygen, which is the state before the ventilator. There are ten Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds, and only enough staff right now for eight. The ICU currently has seven patients, and four are COVID-positive. You can see the dilemma. When he walked into the ICU at 7:30 AM, there were five patients waiting to go somewhere for COVID-19 treatments. Four needed inpatient care, and one was already on a ventilator, with nowhere to go. One of the big-picture issues people need to be aware of is that right now in our state, in our region, there are almost no beds available. On a given day, there might be one ICU

bed and a couple medical/surgical beds available, but there is incredible limitation for access for COVID-19 care. What happens is that people who do not have COVID, and become ill or experience a trauma such as a motor vehicle accident, come to the Emergency Room and staff's ability to take care of them is limited, because there are no beds available. People might wait in CMC's emergency room for many hours before a bed becomes available there or somewhere else, maybe not even in the state. CMC has transferred patients to New York and Connecticut.

Dr. Caruso continued that CMC is a robust organization, not a small, critical access hospital. There are 165 beds. However, one of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic has been a nursing [shortage]. Today, CMC had 65 patients hospitalized, which is the maximum number they can take care of on a given day, understanding that 19 of those 65 are COVID-19 patients. That is a huge burden, in terms of the individuals who need to take care of them. Fifty-six out of those 65 are medical/surgical patients. CMC still delivers babies; there are still things that CMC has to do, and yet, the reality is that there were still people waiting in the Emergency Room for care.

Dr. Caruso continued that to go a little deeper: why are we in this situation? Staff are very tired. During this time, there has been a dramatic reduction in workforce. CMC's turnover rate is 51% higher than it was last year. A significant number of nurses are leaving the organization. This is not just about Keene; this is happening across the country, but it limits CMC's ability to take care of patients. Even though they are a 165-bed hospital, they only [can use] 65. Last year at this time, there were about four COVID-19 patients in the hospital. The height of the pandemic last year was mid-January. At that time, there were about 10 COVID-19 patients. At that time, CMC had the ability to take care of 90 patients. They do not have that ability this year. You can see the dramatic change in terms of their resources to take care of the community.

Dr. Caruso continued that the question that follows is, what can we do? The first thing CMC does is look at the work they do. About a month ago, they realized this [surge] was coming. There was also messaging from him and the community to try to get the community to voluntarily wear masks. The COVID-19 numbers increased. About three or four weeks ago, the percent positivity rate, which is the way they measure how quickly COVID-19 is coming into the community, was around 8%. Today it is 20.1%, which is a dramatic increase in the number of COVID-positive people in the community. That is what causes the burden.

Dr. Caruso continued that two or three weeks ago, CMC stopped its surgical cases that require hospitalization. If you need a total hip replacement and could go home the same day as the surgery, CMC would do that, but all total knee replacement surgeries were canceled, because those patients need to stay in the hospital overnight. They are using those beds to take care of COVID-19 patients. That served a purpose for a while. CMC has learned over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic to slowly increase the resources within the organization. This past Monday, they stopped all non-emergent and urgent cases. If you right now have cancer, or trauma, CMC will take care of you, but if you were going to have a total knee or total hip replacement, that is not going to happen, for the specific reason that CMC has moved those nurses into the medical/surgical floor, into the ICU, and expanded another bed in the ICU. CMC

also did a few other things to decompress the Emergency Room. At about that time, there were about nine patients waiting in the Emergency Room, and now there are only four, so that is good. However, they also shut down all acute rehabilitation admissions – for example, patients who have had a stroke - because they are using the acute rehabilitation unit’s nurses to take care of COVID-19 patients.

Dr. Caruso continued that this will likely get worse. All indicators are that this [COVID-19 surge] will continue probably until at least January 1, 2022, and probably beyond that, if people do not change their behaviors. If the current behaviors continue, CMC will have to figure out another step, regarding what CMC will do. The next most likely step is to stop outpatient care, because they need the nurses from the outpatient environment to support the inpatient care. If that is not enough, you can ask him what would happen, but he would rather not have that conversation until much further along, because that creates an incredible amount of anxiety. However, it is his job to prepare at least the organization for that level of care.

Dr. Caruso continued that for all of those reasons, it is important for him to speak to this Committee, to explain where they are and what he thinks they can do, knowing that masks are the most effective form that lower the rate of rise and decrease the transmission of COVID-19. Whether people believe that or not is irrelevant; the science says that is clear. It is clear in a couple ways, such as by looking at what Keene State College (KSC) does. [Because of] their masking expectations, their impact on the community’s COVID-19 rate is miniscule. There are about 4,000 people at KSC with a positivity rate of about 0.6%, he heard today. That is a huge indicator of what masking does. CMC has had no internal people get COVID-19 within the organization from transmission from staff or from people who actually have COVID. What does CMC do differently? They wear masks. Reality is that wearing masks makes a difference, whether people want to believe that or not. “Personal choice” is one way that they tried to go. But when they tried “personal choice,” people made the wrong decisions. That is why CMC is seeing people get admitted, and young people dying at the age of 40, unnecessarily. What they need to do, rapidly, is masking.

Chair Bosley asked if the Committee had any questions for Dr. Caruso.

Councilor Johnsen stated that she appreciates Dr. Caruso coming tonight, because she thinks many folks are not aware of how dreadful the situation is. She continued that she lost a stepdaughter two weeks ago to COVID-19. She was not vaccinated, and she was a healthy, young woman. This is not just happening in Keene, but in Keene, the [problem is] large.

Chair Bosley stated that she is glad the PLD Committee has the opportunity to hear from Dr. Caruso. She asked if he has any information about whether the State of NH is able to give Keene any support as this progresses.

Dr. Caruso replied that right now the State is focused on a couple things. He continued that the State finally accepted the Federal funding for vaccination and education; it was critical for that to

happen. They are starting to see vaccinations in the community again. This past week CMC did over 1,000 vaccinations of children and adults. This Saturday they will do another major clinic on Maple Ave. and there are about 900 people scheduled. His understanding is that that clinic is completely full. Those Federal dollars are trickling down through the state, which is good, and important. At the same time, what the State has chosen to do - short of [mandated] masking, which he is advocating for at that level as well - is to take Federal dollars and try to support the hospitals in ways that will have, in his mind, some effect but not a lot. For example, they are setting up strike forces that will be able to go to various institutions. His understanding right now is that those institutions are Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC), Concord Hospital, and Elliott Hospital in Manchester. The State does not have the resources to send nurses there. They are sending hands. His understanding, from what he heard today from DHMC, is that those hands will be there to help maneuver patients in the ICU. Intubated COVID-19 patients need to be prone on their stomachs. It is a huge amount of work to move them, physically, hourly. That usually takes about five sets of hands. The State is also trying to support nursing homes, to outlet those patients who are stacked up in the hospitals and cannot get into long-term care facilities, because they do not have the staff, either. They are not sending staff; they are sending dollars. They probably will not see a huge impact from that. When they talked about that today, in terms of Keene's local nursing homes, [they determined that] it will probably have minimal impact.

Chair Bosley asked about the use of infusion treatments and monoclonal antibodies and other methods for therapy. She asked if CMC has had any success with that.

Dr. Caruso replied that right now, monoclonal antibodies are not available in the community. Again, it is a matter of resources. He continued that CMC is talking about moving from infusion of monoclonal antibodies to subcutaneous (a shot). That makes it much easier for them to disseminate, so it is something they are exploring. Most people from the community are going either to Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital in Lebanon or to Monadnock Community Hospital in Peterborough. Throughout the state they try to use the hospitals as regional resources, trying to figure out which have the capacity to do things, or the things they do best. For example, Alice Peck Day and Monadnock Community Hospital do not have ICUs, so CMC has the responsibility to care for the sicker patients, and Alice Peck Day's and Monadnock Community Hospital's responsibility is to support CMC by helping with the patients who are not quite as sick, by doing things like IV infusions. One of the problems is that they have to catch those people very early. To catch something early, you have to test. Right now, Cheshire County is doing about 700 tests on any given day. It is not enough. There are not enough staff to do more than that. CMC is questioning how they could staff it. For example, do they pull the ambulatory nurses/staff to support them in those kinds of ventures?

Chair Bosley stated that she would like to use portions of this meeting to get information out into the community. She continued that many NH households recently received packages of testing kits. She asked Dr. Caruso if he would recommend that someone who tested positive at home

contact their primary care doctor. She asked how they would go about getting an infusion if they had a co-morbidity.

Dr. Caruso replied yes, if someone tests positive at home, they should contact their PCP to determine what kind of test they used at home, such as an antigen test or a PCR test, and whether it needs to be re-checked. Then based on that, the PCP could determine whether it is within the window in which antibodies will help. Hopefully, not too long down the road, we will start to see some of the oral medications, but they are still far off. We probably will not see those before this pandemic continues to escalate.

Chair Bosley stated that tonight there are UV-C air purifiers in Council Chambers. She asked if the hospital is using anything like that, or if CMC has done any research into that technology.

Dr. Caruso replied yes, they have done research on that, and he checked with Dr. Khole, the Infection Prevention Specialist. He continued that unfortunately, there is not a lot of data that supports the UV air purifiers. CMC uses HEPA filters and exhausts to the outside, and has negative pressure rooms. They know that works, based on the studies that done on how to lower the volume of COVID-19 in a room. It is unclear whether Plexiglas makes a difference and unclear to what degree UV air purifiers make a difference. They know about masking, handwashing, and social distancing, which are important methods that have an impact. This is an aerosolizing virus, and you get it when people cough, sneeze, or breathe on you. It is very hard to get it by touching your face after you have gotten it off a surface, but it can happen, which is why they also talk about disinfecting highly utilized surfaces/high contact areas. Those are the better mitigating approaches.

Chair Bosley stated that she has one more question: is there a correlation to vaccinated or unvaccinated patients in the ICU? Do they see it shifting one way or another?

Dr. Caruso replied that right now, 85% of the patients in the ICU are unvaccinated. He continued that the vaccination status is unknown for about 3% of people. Approximately 10-12% (of COVID-19 patients in the ICU) are people who have been vaccinated but have significant co-morbidities. Those patients' immune systems, CMC now knows, are probably not going to respond, whether due to the patient's advanced age, medications they are given, or a combination of multiple co-morbidities. It is very clear that vaccination prevents ICU admission.

Councilor Jones stated that in the Ordinance, Section L is a sunset clause with an open space for a date for when to sunset this Ordinance. He continued that he is thinking, science cannot tell them when the (COVID-19 pandemic) is going to end, and they should just eliminate the sunset clause, and have it be an action of the Council to just get rid of the Ordinance. That is, unless science tells them how long they should go on with this [mask mandate]. He asked for Dr. Caruso's expert opinion.

Dr. Caruso replied that from what he knows of public health, and of what makes a difference, he can say that setting a date in the future arbitrarily is why they are in the position that they are in. They sunset mask mandates in the past when they thought they were doing well. One thing that is known is that when a community is above 2% positivity rate, there is incredible community transmission. Thus, if the Council were to use any parameter, that is the parameter he would recommend – when the positivity rate is 2%. He knows how controversial it is to wear masks, but if we actually get things under control, and get to 6% or 4% and stop wearing masks, in a couple months we will probably be back to where we are now. He thinks that is what is driving people crazy right now. It would be best for the Council to take that under consideration at the time in the future, and at that time, look at what they know at that time that they did not know before, to help make that decision. Over time, they will get more information about that.

Councilor Jones asked if Dr. Caruso thinks they should use the language of 2%, or just take the sunset out and have the Council look at it.

Dr. Caruso replied that he would recommend taking the sunset out and letting the Council get back together as the rate gets closer to 2%, and find out what other information is out there at that time. The information is evolving. They may find, for example, that at 5% they should be having a conversation about whether to get rid of masks. It should be a conversation, and should not just automatically happen. The focus should be the evidence that is out there to tell them (when the right time is). If he were to pick a time, today, for [when to stop mask-wearing], it would be when they get to 2%.

Councilor Greenwald asked the City Attorney what the procedure would be to repeal an Ordinance like this. For example, would it require two readings and a public hearing, or just a motion? The City Attorney replied that it would just require a motion from the Council, to repeal or suspend the Ordinance. He continued that they have a lot of flexibility.

Councilor Greenwald stated that he would be very concerned about picking a number, such as 2% or 5%. He continued that if they repeal it and then the rate goes back up again, they will be back in the same position of trying to adopt another Ordinance two weeks later. He likes the other idea, where if this Ordinance is adopted, the sunset happens when the Council decides to do that.

Chair Bosley stated that she would like to address the topic of children's vaccinations. She continued that she has two children, ages 9 and 11, and they had not been eligible for vaccines until this point. A year ago, she knew someone who knew someone who had COVID-19. Currently, in past 60 days, anecdotally, she knows approximately 30 people who have tested positive, including herself, and she is vaccinated. She plans to vaccinate her children. Her 11-year-old has approximately six friends who are currently COVID-19 positive. She asked Dr. Caruso if many of the positive cases CMC is seeing are happening in children, and if he has any idea what that percentage is. A year ago, children were all quarantined at home, not moving around, not having playdates, not going to birthday parties, and so on and so forth. People's

behavior was incredibly different than it is today. She wonders if they are seeing the spike and spread having to do with the fact that children had not been eligible for vaccines.

Dr. Caruso replied that he can answer part of the question: CMC is seeing a dramatic increase in the number of children testing positive. He continued that they do not have information about the percent positivity in children; they just have not looked at those numbers. He is hearing it through the school district, through primary care practices, and the word on the street like Chair Bosley is. They are also seeing, for the first time in the state, hospitalizations of children. There are two children (with COVID-19) in the pediatric ICU at DHMC this week, for the first time. That only happens when there is a huge number of children infected. That is what they saw in New York and Los Angeles, for example. When the number of adults who get COVID-19 (rises) and it gets passed on to children, immune-suppressed children are most at risk. CMC is definitely seeing that as the numbers go up, there are more and more children developing COVID-19 symptomology. Most of it is mild. No (children) here in the Keene community have been hospitalized, and in fact, CMC could probably not keep them here and they would end up in the pediatric ICU.

Chair Bosley asked if CMC had any pediatric cases of COVID-19 last year. Dr. Caruso replied none at all.

Chair Bosley asked if there were any further questions from the Committee. Hearing none, she opened the public comment period.

Judith Harris of 5 Central Square stated that her husband, two and a half years ago, contracted the flu but had a bronchial disease and was hospitalized with pneumonia and almost died. Neither he nor she ever had the flu shot. Many people have died from the flu. This January, she and her husband both contracted COVID-19. Hers was like a cold, but her husband, because he had a bronchial disease, ended up again in the hospital with pneumonia. He died. She should be a person saying “Everyone should wear a mask,” but her husband was against wearing a mask. He was for anyone wanting to wear a mask to protect themselves, but did not believe anyone should be forced to do that. She should be a person saying to everyone, “Wear a mask! My husband died!,” but no. She believes people should have the freedom to choose. Last year, her granddaughter was COVID-19 positive but was running around the house like crazy, dancing and doing gymnastics, while she was sick. Her son and grandson did not catch COVID; they obviously had what they needed to fight that off. She believes people should have the Constitutional rights whether to wear the mask or not. She wants to breathe.

John Yannacci of 282 Horse Hill Rd. in Roxbury read a prepared statement:

“In the winter of 2006, a daycare worker at DHMC reported a severe and persistent cough to her supervisors. Soon after, other employees began to exhibit the same cough. Hospital administrators began to suspect pertussis or whooping cough. DHMC then began screening all staff, patients, and visitors. That spring, they declared a whooping cough outbreak and began a

mass vaccination campaign of over 3,500 people, using the T-DAP vaccine, which had just been approved by the FDA. Employees were furloughed, forced to work in masks, elective procedures were canceled, and bed availability was reduced as a result. According to DHMC, they had successfully contained a whooping cough epidemic, but months later when the lab results were returned, they were forced to admit that not one was positive for whooping cough. The New York Times dubbed this incident 'the epidemic that wasn't.' DHMC then released a statement which blamed this monumental mistake on the tests they used for diagnosis, the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. That is the same test being administered by the same hospital today that is driving [COVID] case counts in our area. In July this year the PCR test failed its review by the CDC and its emergency use authorization was revoked under a class 1 recall, but implementation of that recall was delayed six months until December of this year. In less than three weeks, its use will no longer be allowed in this area. Although there is plenty of debate as to why this use was ended, the FDA released a statement that clearly said performance claims of the PCR test did not reflect observed clinical studies, presenting a risk of false positives. They stopped its use because it induced false positives, just like it did 15 years ago with the whooping cough epidemic that was not.

What does 'fully vaccinated' mean? The CDC itself states that you are only considered fully vaccinated two weeks after your second BioNTech shot or two weeks after taking any one of the other three. If you get the vaccine and end up in CMC within 13 days, they will consider you unvaccinated. The question we should be asking is, if they are already offering boosters, then who in this area is fully vaccinated? Clearly, the classification of 'unvaccinated' is not as cut and dried as it would first appear. For example, in Israel you are only considered fully vaccinated if you have taken your third booster shot, and they are already in the beginning stages of considering a fourth. This is the most vaccinated country in the western world."

Mr. Yannacci continued that in closing, he opposes the reinstatement of the City of Keene's mask mandate. The bed and nursing shortages that Dr. Caruso spoke about are "of his own making." The people who have been running this pandemic on a national level have been caught lying repeatedly and moving the goalposts repeatedly. Their methods are transparently un-American and this is not going to stop until we stop it. He asks that people be on the right side of history.

Keith Hetman of 225 Manning Hill Rd., Winchester, stated that his children go to school in Keene. He continued that he Albert Einstein said: "Respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth." With all due respect to Dr. Caruso, he hopes the Committee will not blindly follow his advice, but rather ask what his opinion is based on. What scientific evidence is there? Ethically, the onus is on the proponents of the mandate to show the scientific justification for this intervention. If you look at the real world data, it is not so clear that masks work. The progressive Scandinavian countries do not have mask mandates and no strict/forceful interventions, and they are doing quite well. He questions what happens if the Committee pushes this and then next month Dr. Caruso comes to them and says, "We need to follow the lead

of NYC and San Francisco and have our children vaccinated in order to attend indoor events.”
What will the City Council say then? He asks them to please use wisdom.

Peggy Schaufler of Swanzey, stated that as they talk about masks, she thinks they need to look at the immune system. She continued that the immune system is made to come into contact with billions of bacteria a day; that is what keeps it strong. It is like exercising. If we do not come into contact with these bacteria, then we have a weakened immune system. The real issue for her is the manipulation that has been forced on the world. Why? For answers, she went to the Bible, which says that right before Jesus comes, there will be a world takeover, no buy and no sale for those who will not follow along. This is already happening. The pharmaceutical companies will be at the heart of the controversy. The Bible actually spells it out and says ‘the pharmaceutical companies will not repent of their murders.’ Everyone on Earth has to decide who holds their allegiance. There are only two sides: Jesus’s side, and Satan’s side. Jesus never forces. He did not force Lucifer, Adam, or Eve, even though their decisions changed the history of the universe. Lucifer always lies, manipulates, and forces. For her, the force is evil. She cannot support it. She asks the City Council not to participate in force against the Constitution and God’s laws. She appreciates the stress Dr. Caruso is under, but she knows several nurses who work at CMC and there were over 100 nurses let go, who were willing to work and wearing masks, but would not have the vaccine.

Dr. Amy Matthews stated that she is the Chief Nursing Officer at CMC. She continued that she is here out of deep concern for the city of Keene, the people of the Monadnock region, and the staff at CMC. She acknowledges that beliefs are personal, and there is equal prominence in the media for facts, stories, and opinions. She asks that they sincerely consider her perspective, a perspective born of expertise and experience. She holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. That is years of study, focused on evaluating research and evidence to make informed decisions in the best interest of patient care and community wellness. Her request is based on the evidence that supports mask wearing as a public health initiative. Research on disease transmission is not new. However, hundreds of US and international studies since early 2020 confirm that this public health initiative reduces the transmission of COVID-19. Masking, and isolating if you have symptoms, is effective. Masking and social distancing in a public place, if you are well, is effective. However, the most effective implementation of masking is as a public health initiative, taken collectively, not individually. This is why mandates are important in decreasing the rate of infection, hospitalization, and death. Her experience also compels her to speak out. Her current experience is a daily concern for the healthcare resources of NH, which are increasingly disproportionate to the need, to the nurses who are at CMC tonight, continuing to work. They are tired. Seven days a week, chief nurses and medical officers huddle to solve for capacity around the state. They do not have ICU beds available. They have minimal medical/surgical beds available. Their options are few, and they are facing their greatest challenge yet. In her past direct-caregiving capacity, the most agonizing experiences she has witnessed is the regret when there was another choice. Harm that is preventable, suffering that is avoidable, and worst of all, the guilt of anyone who has, in part or whole, caused harm. CMC will be here for the community. She asks that people please help them, help decrease

transmission, help conserve resources, and let CMC's staff know that they do not stand alone. They need the community standing behind them and with them as they face this present crisis.

Sandra Phipps of 627 Old Walpole Rd., Surry, stated that she works at CMC. She continued that knowing the effectiveness and importance of masking since they entered into this pandemic, she has found that she has no other choice but to come to Keene, which she is happy to do, to do her commerce. She comes to Keene to have access to food, pharmaceuticals, anything else she needs from the pharmacy, and many other services. Having a mask mandate would be very important for her. Others have shared with her that they, too, do not feel safe at times going into businesses if there is not adequate masking. She and they feel that their health is at risk, and they are not adding to the region's economy and supporting local stores. There are times when she does not feel comfortable, even with a mask on, if there are enough people who are not masking or maintaining social distance, and she will leave a store without spending the money she planned to spend there. From that standpoint, this is also an economic factor, regarding what the [lack of mask Ordinance] is doing to local businesses.

Julie Rossall of 423 Elm St. stated that she has worked in a dental office for 18 years and has seen firsthand some of the damage mask wearing is doing. She continued that patients come in from the rain wearing a wet mask, and oftentimes as they remove their mask it drops on the soiled floor, and they pick it up and place it in their pocket or purse during their appointment and place it right back on their face at the end of their appointment. She has seen rashes and skin conditions on people's faces from extended mask wearing. People sneeze and cough in their mask and continue to wear the same one. People are constantly touching their faces as they are wearing their masks, causing cross-contamination, which causes further illness. These are just some of the reasons why mask wearing is creating more illness around us and why the illness is spreading.

Ms. Rossall continued that according to OSHA experts Tammy Clark and Kristen Meghan, *"We don't just mask up. This is not only illegal and against our civil liberties, it is incredibly dangerous, unsafe, and unhealthy. When you are dealing with infectious disease patients, these are not the masks that you wear. Even N-95 masks are not fully rated to protect against a virus."* The virus comes right out the side all masks we are wearing. If you had COVID, you would be spreading it. She continued that the quote continues, *"With these micron sizes, the masks are not rated by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. They are not approved for use. Therefore, this is very bad idea. There have been numerous studies for years based on the flu outbreaks across the world that prove that not only do these masks not work, they are increasing the spread through cross-contamination. People wearing their masks, touching their faces; no one has trained you on how you are supposed to change these out and wear these masks properly. These things increase viral spread. You re-inhale your exhausted, gaseous waste, and you can increase viral load. If you're ill, not only can you continue to spread it, you'll be sicker for longer. If these masks worked, we would be the first people promoting them."* Both of these experts train doctors on how to properly wear the masks. In addition, a CDC study regarding masks reported that *"Among the infected, in the 14 days before*

illness onset, 71% of case patients and 74% of control participants reported always using cloth face coverings or other masks.” In conclusion, 85% of people in the trial wearing the masks still got COVID. The CDC said at no time have they suggested that mask wearing was intended to protect the wearer.

Ms. Rossall continued that she and her husband have been foster parents for 11 years. They see firsthand what putting masks on psychologically traumatized children does to them. She has foster children in her home and they cannot enter a building with a mask. They have PTSD and trauma.

John Schmitt of 31 Green Acres Rd. stated that everyone tonight is against the masks except the “medical industrial complex” so far. He continued that they are biased. He believes they are making money off this [COVID-19] “scam” and keeping it going. Attorney Thomas Renz says that hospitals get about \$100,000 per COVID-19 patient. CMC is firing people for not taking the [COVID-19 vaccine], which is wrong, and then they cry that they do not have enough help. They should stop firing their help. He is a retired volunteer firefighter and has worked with all kinds of protective equipment, but never one of these “silly masks,” which he believes are worthless. This “supposed” COVID-19 virus has never been isolated anywhere in the world. The public should be shown the virus before being told they have to do this or have to do that. He is not surprised the masks and vaccines do not work, because there is no virus. PCR tests are worthless. The person who invented them said, “You cannot use this PCR test to diagnose any diseases.” PCR tests are being used to get fake cases. Yes, some people always get sick, and yes, some people die. They should find out why. Hospitals are killing people with deadly drugs like remdesivir. They refuse to allow people the freedom to try useful things, like nutrients and drugs that work, like ivermectin. That is because hospitals are only paid to use their protocols that do not work.

Mr. Schmitt continued that he thinks asking children to wear masks is “government terrorism.” They should not force children to wear masks all day. The Constitution does not say anything about suspending people’s rights over a “fake scam-demic.” He asks the Committee to vote for freedom instead of tyranny and to stop listening to the “medical industrial complex.” Regarding a mask mandate’s effect on business, the City wants people to move to Keene, but that will not happen with masks.

Kate McNally of 36 Cross St., Marlow, stated that she hates masks. She continued that she hates having her glasses steam up, and hates sounding as if she has a mouthful of marbles, but it is not about her. She wears her mask because the research has shown there is a science-based, evidence-based basis for wearing a mask. It is something that will help prevent the spread of COVID-19. She wears her mask not because she is worried about getting COVID-19, but she does not want to take a chance on somehow spreading it. She thinks that people who will wear a mask are on the less selfish side. She thinks (not wearing it) is fear-based. People fear having their rights taken away, and people fear dying. She works at a cancer center in NH and sees people fighting for their lives every day. These folks are afraid to go out because of the threat of

exposure to COVID-19 in places where people are not wearing masks. Putting a mask on is a selfless act. She does not like it and does not like being told what to do, either, but she is willing to take a chance right now to help prevent the spread of this disease in our community. Peer-reviewed studies have shown that getting vaccinated, wearing a mask, maintaining social distancing, and washing your hands frequently work. Her husband is a nurse in a long-term care facility. She wants to support him so that he does not possibly spread the disease to his workplace where he is in charge of helping people stay alive.

Ms. McNally continued that to her, it is a no-brainer that the City would reinstate the mask mandate. It is just a temporary thing they can do to protect the community. A friend of hers, a Public Health Advocate, would say, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." She echoes that. It is about prevention. No one wants to take away anyone's rights. They just want to save some lives and take some burden off the community's healthcare system.

Dave Rossall of 423 Elm St. stated that as his wife mentioned, they are foster parents, and have seen the challenges children have. He continued that the biggest point he wants to make is that there are experts in this room, but there are experts all across the country. The tricky business with science is that there are always multiple sides. He thinks it is audacious to assume that the science only goes one way. It is responsible and rational to consider all sides of the equation. Experts are coming forward and speaking out at meetings just like this all across the country, advocating for the fact that the claims of [masks'] efficacy are not substantiated. The statistics being claimed are not statistically significant. He is happy to hear that COVID-19 rates are wonderfully low at KSC, but coincidence does not equal causality. The fact that something exists in a place and there is a result in that same place does not mean there is a one to one correlation. When he took Applied Statistics at KSC, his final project was a humorous one; he proved a statistical significance that people who wear boxers are healthier than people who wear briefs. He did that for fun to demonstrate that it is possible to do things with numbers to make the point you want to make.

Mr. Rossall continued that he is for the freedom of choice. If people want to wear masks, they can. People can do whatever they choose to protect themselves. People should take responsible steps, like handwashing, coughing into their sleeves, and staying home if they are sick. Of all the difficulty that has come from the [pandemic], one good thing is that businesses now encourage sick employees to stay home. For a long time it was not like that. He once sat at his desk at work and vomited three times before going home, because he did not want to risk his job. Now, his company tells employees to go home. Full perspective and full consideration to both sides of the equation should be taken. He thinks the Council should err on the side of freedom.

Melinda Savard of 109 Island St. stated that she is against a mask mandate for various reasons. She continued that she is speaking on behalf of (people from) a couple local businesses who could not be here and prefer to remain unnamed. A couple things for these businesses to consider are higher theft, as has been mentioned, and [the way in which mask Ordinances] isolate people who have PTSD. How are we addressing Deaf or hearing-impaired people? We

are not. It is hard to hear with a mask on. She herself is not hearing-impaired and has a hard time hearing, because she tends to look at a speaker's lips, which is a natural tendency. People with developmental disabilities [struggle], and putting a mask on a child with a disability has to be a challenge.

Ms. Savard continued that we are entering peak holiday shopping season downtown. Many businesses rely on this income for their livelihood. We have been through this before. It did not stop or slow down transmission. Last night the conversation in the Keene Facebook group was about how two people who work at two local businesses were both told by their managers to come in to work, even though they were COVID-19 positive. The managers said "just wear a mask." This is not helping the situation. The issue is freedom. She would never tell anyone in here who is wearing a mask that they cannot, or tell someone they cannot get vaccinated. However, it is her right to not wear a mask and rely on her own natural immunity, and it is her right to not be vaccinated. Paper masks say on the box that they do not prevent COVID-19. They are not doing anything. She respects the doctors' and nurses' opinions, but it is her understanding that fitting someone for an N-95 mask takes at least 45 minutes to an hour. When people wear paper masks, drop them on the floor and pick them up and put them back on, that is not doing anything. What is happening in NY and other countries is that it starts with mandating masks, then it is mandating vaccines. We are already seeing some of that here.

Dorrie Masten of 326 Matthews Rd., Swanzey, stated that she owns real estate and businesses in Keene. She continued that she is 100% opposed to masks. That is just her opinion and her belief that they do not work. Half of the people tonight are wearing masks from a box that says the masks do not work against COVID-19. She owns a restaurant and a bar in Keene. In the last week, they have had over 775 customers walk through the door. Of all of those people, maybe five per week have a mask on. They look around and ask staff in a whisper, "Do I have to wear this?" The minute staff says no, the people take off their masks and sit down. Those that do wear masks take them off the minute they sit down at the bar. What is the purpose? She has the heat on. Right now in this room, the air is circulating, the heat is on, and people are wearing masks that do not work, breathing everyone else's air. She asks the City Council to not take away or limit her rights or the rights of her customers. She asks them to also have their phones available for when her bartender, who is 5'2" and weighs 130 lbs., has someone at the bar door confronting her when she tells them they cannot come in without a mask.

Joe Blanchard of Liberty Ln. stated that he is a retired Navy Special Warfare, working with nuclear weapons. He continued that he understands how a mask works. He also understands that everyone here tonight with the blue masks on are now breathing Teflon into their lungs. The report on the front page of the Keene Sentinel the other day that bore a photo of Councilor Filiault is an "out and out fabrication." Being that he was Special Warfare, he goes behind the scenes and finds information. From talking to CMC's nurses, the Police, and local EMTs, [he can say about] the report in the Keene Sentinel that there is no one laying in the ER waiting for a bed or anything like that. He asks them to stop the fear mongering. People do not mind doing things if the narrative is true. But if they are going to control the narrative, and put out false

information, [that is different]. He questions the purpose of this Council, and why Councilor Filiault was on the front page of the paper even proposing this. People have a right to wear a mask if they want to, and people have a right to not have their businesses destroyed, and to not have the city killed. By [considering this mask Ordinance], the City Council is only causing more problems. Dr. Caruso talked about masks, but the National Institute of Health has issued a report talking about the efficacy of facemasks. They do not work. Anyone with facial hair or a gap in their mask [has a mask that] is not working. Next week, the Council will vote on this. He believes that as a service to the people in Keene, this process should be extended, and all the Councilors who are beholden to the people who elected them should find those people and consult them about this. He believes they will find that this is not a popular mandate. He asks them to please stop lying.

Derek Drouin of 8 Ridge Rd., Swanzey, stated that real science is not done with censorship. He continued that all opinions should be available to the public. Thousands of doctors all over the country and the world do not agree with this narrative and push back against it, but the majority of people do not hear their voices. You so often hear “I trust science,” but that narrative is junk. Censorship eliminates science. People are tired of this never-ending narrative of “your carrot of freedom is ‘right over here.’” Too bad, you never get the carrot. Last week, he heard some hypocritical words from the PLD Committee, like “We’re all adults. We can all make our own decisions,” when they were talking about Zoom calls and vacations. Also, “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” Since the mandate has been lifted, he notices that many people in stores wear masks, but many people do not, and he does not see anyone fighting or yelling. He sees a peaceful society where people can coexist. When the City Council makes one opinion law/an Ordinance, all they are causing is more chaos. Why do they want that? They act as if they are concerned about the people, but they do not look like it, when they are scrolling on their phones while people are pouring their hearts out.

Chair Bosley replied that regarding Mr. Drouin’s comments about PLD Committee members’ phone usage at the table, they are using two devices to time each person’s testimony. She continued that that is how they are keeping track of it. The Councilors sitting at the table are 100% listening to what people have to say and are not scrolling on their phones. She would not tolerate that.

Ruthellen Davison of 656 Main St. stated that she is sorry to hear about Councilor Johnsen’s loved one passing. She continued that she is proud to be part of the Keene community. She thinks the community shines brightly, and that people care about each other. She is also proud to live in NH, where the license plate says “Live free or die.” She is not asking for people to die, but she is asking for freedom. She has four examples of people who live in Keene; they might be people the Committee members know, or Committee members themselves or their loved ones. First is a person who cannot wear a mask because it causes harm, such as a war veteran who served for the country and has flashbacks each time they put on a mask, because they had to wear gasmasks. Second is a person who has COPD and cannot breathe properly through a mask, because they are breathing in their own carbon dioxide and it is putting stress on their lungs.

They are not smokers but came down with a disease due to the environment they worked in. Third is the person who has asthma, and wearing a mask triggers their anxiety, leading to an asthma attack. That would increase hospitalization. Fourth is a woman, such as herself, who has been raped and had her mouth and nasal passages covered. When a mask is put on, there is post-traumatic stress. She is not looking for pity, but for the freedom to be able to walk around without a mask, just as she asks for the freedom for others who want to wear masks to be allowed to do that. A mandate would not cause community, and she knows the Council is for community. She knows they are people who care about Keene and its constituents. The word “community” has “unity” in it. There is not division. Right now there is peaceful community, with some people wearing masks, and others not.

Anthony Ferrantello stated that he is a transplant from NY and now lives at 84 Woodland Ave. He continued that with all due respect to Dr. Caruso, he has a list of 30 studies showing that facemasks are useless against COVID-19. For the record, he would like to leave it with the Committee so that perhaps they can review it and have the Council research this. They should be careful of having the experts create policy. One has to be a leader and show leadership. Regarding Dr. Caruso’s comments about a lack of resources CMC has, it seems to him that is coming from a position of lack. They need leadership that can plan ahead and create sufficient beds so that one can anticipate any ticks in health needs and separate those who need non-COVID-19 treatment from those who do. The military is known for being able to create running water and sewer in jungles. People have that capability, just not the imagination, apparently, to expand our horizon and see what other entities are doing and copy that and harness that and see what facilities there might be, such as warehouses or tent cities, which, along with sufficient air changes, can create the healthy atmosphere to treat patients. He thinks leadership is the issue to focus on.

Mr. Ferrantello continued that in addition, he thinks psychological coercion is happening when people say to children, “Wear a mask, otherwise you’re going to kill Granny.” There is no proof that masks prevent the rate of infection. He asks the Council to study this. It is akin to building a chain link fence to try to hold up sand. He thinks of a basketball the size of a COVID-19 and a mask the size of this room. It is going to get in. To quote Dr. Theodore Noel: *“If the coronavirus is indeed transmitted via indoor aerosols, face masks are unlikely to be protective, and thus, health authorities should not assume or suggest that face masks will reduce the rate or risk of infection.”*

Tom Burton of 45 Dover St. stated that he thanks the Council for providing this opportunity for everyone to speak, and he thanks the [City] Attorney for making this happen, because he knows Councilor Filiault tried to bypass this democratic process. He feels sad, seeing the division in this room. This is not what he expects Keene to be and it is not what he has seen Keene to be. Keene is a place of community and embraces people with different ideas and positions, and people in need. Keene is a beacon in that sense, in this area, and he loves this city. His concern is that if they pass a mask mandate, even though it is with good intention, it will increase that division. That is not a good thing. He knows they are well-intentioned and they believe masking

will make the community safer. He does not agree with that opinion. He thinks there can be other ways. He asks the Committee to not vote tonight. They are hearing many different opinions and hearing a lot of new information. He requests that they table the vote tonight, so they can take the time to go through the information and make a decision. There are experts coming from different places, but tonight they only have an expert coming from one position. He asks that they consider the other experts.

Cherie Holmes, Chief Medical Officer at CMC, stated she is a trauma surgeon and pointed out that with the lack of beds she is not even sure some of her patients could be treated by her at her hospital, or any hospital in NH or even Boston, but would likely need to be shipped to New York or elsewhere. CMC is suffering from the COVID crisis encompassing New Hampshire and the country. Their staff are doing their part to take care of patients needing care in the community; however, the inflow of COVID patients is unrelenting and increasing. She went on to state that vaccinated, or more often not, COVID patients want the hospital's very best care but their beds and staff are at a shortage. She gave the example that if someone had a heart attack tonight, or a serious car accident on the way home, although CMC wants to take care of you, they do not know that they have the manpower to do so. Additionally, anyone in the room waiting for elective surgery knows that their case has been canceled until further notice because they have had to prioritize their limited resources to care for patients on the floor, adding that masks save lives.

Ms. Holmes reported that, as of the date of the meeting, one in five people in Cheshire County are testing positive for COVID-19. That means that of the 70 plus people in the room, at least 14 are likely spreading COVID-19. She went on to state that data tells us most of the positive cases are also unvaccinated and unmasked. It is lawful to carry a gun, but against the law to stand up and shoot someone in an open venue, yet the unmasked COVID person, either in a closed space such as store or restaurant or in the room for the meeting, is unintentionally sharing their infected breath as an invisible weapon against everyone around them. She stated that they might not even know that they are positive and if anyone in the room becomes positive and symptomatic in the next 72 hours, it is unclear whether CMC, or any hospital in the state, will have a bed for them. She reiterated that masks save lives; they cut transmission risk to you and others by up to 98%. She continued to state that, for those who die by COVID, it is a miserable death described as feeling like a tire belt is around your chest; your nose is stuffed with cotton balls, a thick rag is in your mouth and you are trying to breathe. COVID patients die by suffocating to death. Masks go a long way to saving lives. Ms. Holmes continued to state that if not wearing a mask were merely self-harm to the unmasked individual, then we would not be here; however, unmasked individuals are unintentionally causing harm to others, which is not okay. She stated that masks save lives, the lives of friends and family, the lives of everyone in the room.

James Castagna of 82 Baker Street stated he has lived in Keene all his life, is a business owner and has been in the construction business for over 20 years and knows what a mask does. He has been in attics with insulation wearing a mask and that insulation still gets into his lungs. He went on to state that COVID is a microscopic virus and to put a mask on people that do not want to wear it is wrong. He added that when they had the mask mandate in the past, it hurt businesses

throughout the City. He noted that restaurants are struggling because staff are afraid to go into work or they are getting paid more not to work, mentioning that they are all adults and need to act like it and should be able to make their own choices. He stated that he is not against people wearing masks and noted that he is unvaccinated, has never been tested for COVID, and has not worn a mask throughout the entire COVID pandemic. Common colds he has treated with over the counter drugs from CVS. He added that he understands people are dying and is not saying COVID does not exist, but asked that their freedom not be taken away from them, and that they be allowed to make their own choices.

Barbara Hecker of 400 Hurricane Road, Human Resources (HR) Director for one of the larger employers in Keene, stated she came to the meeting optimistically hoping that there would be open minds, adding that she has talked to many medical advisors and sits on a pandemic Scrum team that meets 2 to 3 times a week. She explained that they have medical advisors that help them determine policy for their company, which has offices throughout the United States. She asked them to consider the topic from a business/economic mindset because that, to her, is what the objective of the Council is. She added that they are all very emotional about this, noting that after being in HR for 40 years she has never had to deal with these kinds of emotions. She went on to state that she has also lost a brother, has had family members on ventilators and has a cousin who is a pulmonologist, so she has heard all different sides and she is not taking sides. She stated that when there is a mask mandate she cannot get people into the office. When they had to close their offices last year, and the streets were empty, the COVID cases were not spiking because people were home. When they opened back up, they found that people were happy and mental health issues started to subside because people were no longer isolated. In Florida, they have an office where they do not have a mask mandate and the medical advisor told them they will have ups and downs and see spikes, which is to be expected.

Ms. Hecker went on to state that the Councilors need to make the decision whether to mandate masks, and if they do, she is not going to get people in her building. She asked them to think about that because it is going to hurt businesses. She added that she respects Dr. Caruso and thinks they need to figure out how to help the hospital situation and not put the onus on businesses.

Tim Congdon of 28 Lee Street stated he speaks from personal experience, having both hips totally replaced at CMC after a history of running 51 marathons, noting that he will likely need a new knee soon and would like to be able to go to CMC. However, if it is full of COVID patients who do not wear masks, he is not going to be able to get in. He stated that is his reason for asking them to make mask wearing mandatory. He went on to state that he has a brother dying who refused to wear masks or get vaccinated and nursing homes will not take him, naming that as his second reason to request that they make masks mandatory. Lastly, he stated he has friends on both sides of the aisle but it is personal for him and he thinks masks are necessary.

Dr. Gene Clerkin of 135 Silent Way stated that he has heard a lot of testimony and, as others have said, you can manipulate science any way you want and a lot of it depends on who is paying for the science. For people to stand up and state, "The science says this or that" is really a meaningless statement, even for the esteemed Dr. Caruso. This is because you are not being

presented with the science, you are being presented with somebody's opinion of the science. He asked Council to keep that in mind and stated it is their responsibility to go beyond the day's testimonies and do their research. He went on to state that they have studies that are done but when they look at what is going on in real time in the world, and look at places that do or do not have mask mandates, they are not seeing what was predicted. He gave the example of Dr. Fauci mentioning football games that will cause a mass super spread of COVID, yet there are football stadiums filled with people and nothing is happening. He stated there is a narrative and they need to step back and look at where the information is coming from, noting that the CDC is a private organization funded mostly by pharmaceutical companies. The information that comes down from them is not law; it is guidance from a private organization that is in the vaccine business. He stated they are not beholden to Dr. Caruso, they are beholden to their constituents. Last time they debated this, 75% of the people were against the mask mandate, but Council went ahead and did it anyway. He asked them to consider going beyond what they have been told, adding that a lot of the people present would be happy to provide them with information if they are willing to look at it and give feedback. He stated he appreciates their time and recognizes that they have a lot going on but this is a serious matter and it is bestowed upon them to take the next steps and be willing to have conversations and look further into the information shared with them.

Ian Freeman of 63 Emerald Street stated that with regards to "live free or die," death is not the worst of evils and freedom is the freedom to choose to make a mistake and to say no. He suggested that the City Council had likely made up their minds before they walked into the room, noting that certainly happened with the BearCat where over 90% of the people in Keene on both political sides came out and spoke against it, but Council approved it anyway. He pointed out that the hearing and what the Council decides will not take away people's freedoms because they can still go ahead and not wear a mask. He added that he has spoken to multiple Keene police officers and they do not want to enforce a mask mandate, so there is a good chance people will not get ticketed, even if you are a business owner. He recommended, if you do get ticketed, not to pay the fine, demand a day in court and make them get you on trial so you can clog up the court system, and do not pay the fine if you are found guilty. Additionally, if you are willing to go to jail you can sit it off for a night in jail, or you can get the option to do hours of community service.

Lastly, Mr. Freeman directed his comments to the Council and stated it is their job to plow the roads, take care of the sewage system and stuff like that; it is not their job to tell people what to wear, especially in the Live Free or Die state. He added that if they think it is their job to do so, they really belong to Massachusetts or New York and, if he had to guess, that is probably where they moved to Keene from.

Bonnie Kruse of 73 Leverett Street stated a BearCat tank, owned by the Keene Police Department, broke down her door on March 16th and gave her PTSD. The BearCat armored vehicle was clearly opposed by the people, noting 90% of people disagreed with it and the Council still voted to let it in, which she suggested is likely what will happen with the mask mandate. She added that she is a volunteer, radio personality, human rights activist and Vice President of the Mighty Moose Mart located at 661 Marlborough Street or Route 101. She went

on to state that she speaks for the Mighty Moose Mart when she says mandating masks is unnecessary. She stated, even if you believe that COVID-19 is a danger to you or that masks are effective, which she was not there to argue about, you should still be against mandating masks. At the Mighty Moose Mart, people come in masked and unmasked every day and no one is turned away for either choice. She stated people can make the choice that allows them to feel safe and comfortable but the mandate goes beyond keeping people safe and comfortable, it creates a situation where every customer service worker in town becomes an unpaid, untrained law enforcer.

Ms. Kruse continued to state that, as a human rights activist, she is against slavery. She asked anyone to raise their hand who agreed with asking people to do things for them without payment, stating she calls that slavery. Additionally, she added that it also puts the workers in an unsafe environment. She mentioned the gentleman that spoke for CMC, and stated that an organization not having positive workers is not the same as scientific evidence proving that masks are effective. She stated she and her friends never wear masks and none of them are dead, noting that that is an unscientific data point. Next, she stated that Councilor Johnsen sent out the same email to everyone who emailed her against the mask mandate, which makes her feel insecure about the state of representative democracy in Keene. She added that no one should believe in that fiction anymore if the Council votes for the mandate, because it is about mandating masks, not about people who are against masks in general or people who are for it. Additionally, she stated that one should be considered a child abuser if they give their children a shot that has not been around for more than 10 years because they are afraid of a virus that the children will certainly survive. She stated that they must stand up for the average business owner in Keene because they will suffer the most while hospital operators will profit in federal money from keeping the fear alive.

Katherine Richardson of 30 High St., stated she owns property in Keene and works in Keene and is not present to say yay or nay to the mask mandate but to voice her significant disappointment in the CDC, FDA, NIH, WHO, Dr. Fauci, President Trump and President Biden in not using the past two years to push health. She stated that no one at the meeting had talked about real health, meaning good diet, sleep, reducing stress and exercising. She stated the healthcare system does not mention that either, all they have heard is about masks, vaccines and social distancing. She noted that she believes 90% of the people who died from COVID were obese, had comorbidities, or both. She stated they might have been able to reduce those deaths in the past two years, and CMC would not have the problems that they do now, if they had been pushing real health. She suggested that, if the Councilors approve the mask mandate, they make it contingent on CMC and the Keene Sentinel promoting good diet, sleep, exercise and stress reduction. She continued to add that personally she benefited from the aforementioned health practices, which allowed her to eliminate an autoimmune disease and stop taking medication. She mentioned that it may not be possible for everyone but felt it would clear up some of the hospital beds.

Jared Goodell of 39 Central Sq. stated that in 2018 NH had the highest fatality rate in the country in a specific category. He continued that 71% in 2018, compared to a national average of 43%. The category is seatbelts. NH also had a 22% higher occupant ejection rate in a motor vehicle

crash than those states that have a seatbelt law. NH's absent law puts a stress on CMC when a victim of a car accident is injured after having chosen not to wear a seatbelt. Nonetheless, NH citizens accept the risk of not wearing a seatbelt. The state's motto is "Live free or die." Most people do not know the rest of the motto. In 1809, General John Stark coined the phrase: "Live free or die. Death is not the worst of evils." In NH, citizens value their freedoms. We value our right to choose. Live free or die is a motto we embrace. You might label those opposed to the mask mandate as "uneducated" or "science deniers," but these people are your constituents and neighbors, NH citizens who live by the state's motto. Dr. Caruso commented earlier that they tried personal choice and that people made the "wrong choice." He is shocked that a medical leader would call people's personal medical decisions "wrong." Any doctor he has ever had has always provided him their medical opinion, and then said, "Think about what is right for you and your family." When your doctor gives you a major diagnosis, do you consider getting a second opinion? Is there a reason it is called a "medical opinion"? Has the Council considered getting a second opinion on this matter, from a peer of Dr. Caruso?

Mr. Goodell continued that he operates a large business in Keene and sees hundreds of community members walk through its doors each week. Recently, there has been an uptick in customers wearing masks. Many are choosing to wear masks right now because of the increased cases, or whatever reason they choose. They have that right. Businesses have the right to require their patrons to wear masks. Most business leaders in the community are choosing not to require masks. The reason is that it is not conducive to business. It creates tension and stresses employees who are on the front lines of defending mask requirements. With that said, businesses should have the choice to require or not require their customers or employees to wear masks. In 2020, several longtime Keene businesses were forced to close as a direct result of COVID-related restrictions. He fears that if this mandate is put into place that will happen again.

Mr. Goodell continued that sometimes you have to be smarter than the herd. The people who are willing to wear masks are already wearing them. The people who refuse are not going to start wearing masks because the Keene City Council passes an Ordinance. In fact, they will likely further dig in and further refuse to wear a mask *because* they passed an Ordinance.

Michael Rigoli of 64B West St., Swanzey, stated that he owns Fritz in Keene. He continued that he did not know what he was going to say tonight, and it helps to have listened to others tonight. He wrote a letter to the Council and he hopes they all read it. He owns a very popular restaurant and routinely has customers who are nervous about removing masks, because they do come in with masks. Fritz has a lot more customers who wear masks these days than before. He has the ability to calm down a bit and be relaxed in the restaurant. He does not believe that people who are talking about forcing people to wear masks understand what it has done to the general public. He deals with this every day. Because of his education and background, he has been able to make modifications in the restaurant that has given them the opportunity to not have a single issue with COVID-19 in the restaurant in two years. He has shared this information with the City, the Governor, and several Councilors. They have not made any effort to do anything else other than what the medical community has asked, which he was always 100% opposed to, not

because COVID-19 does not exist, but because it never did enough to fix the problem. He does not believe in masks. He thinks they are useless. As a former nuclear power plant operator, he has worn protective clothing, the type that really does protect you. He doubts that Keene's Fire Chief would ask a firefighter to enter a burning building filled with smoke without their Scott Air-Pak on, which he used to wear on a regular basis. The smoke is so large they can actually see it, and would not actually be stopped by "those foolish masks that everyone wears," instead of wearing something that would actually protect a person. He would not want to go in there like that. He is an engineer. If Dr. Caruso is interested in understanding the other things that exist that could have dealt with this passively instead of forcing people to do things, he has all the time in the world to educate him, or the Council, or the Community Development Department or Code Enforcement Director or anyone else.

Ann Savastano of 75 Winter St. stated that she appreciates the opportunity for the public to speak. She read a written statement:

"The proposed Ordinance, O-2021-16, seeking to mandate the wearing of facemasks, not only in public places but in all private businesses, causes me to have some concern. My primary concern with regard to this proposal is that it would infringe on some of the most basic freedoms of individuals, which at least the United States of America's government is constituted to protect. Our government is uniquely for the people, by the people, and of the people, and is meant to establish and to protect individual freedoms and not to usurp them. Overriding the personal choice of individuals for the common good may be warranted in extreme cases, but I believe that mandating individuals to wear masks in private businesses for their own safety is a curious irony, and substitutes government mandates for personal responsibilities. I also fear for the precedent which would be set if this Ordinance were to pass. If a mask mandate to protect us from individual irresponsibility can be instituted, then why not a vaccine mandate? And if this mandate can reach into the space of private businesses, why not next into private residences? Given that the concern is for vulnerable individuals, whether due to age or underlying conditions, then shouldn't these individuals be the ones to decide what measures of protection they should take? Wouldn't a government mandate aggregate their personal responsibility to protect themselves as they see fit? I do believe that each private business has the right to determine what it wants to require, in terms of masks or other protective measures, and I would respect their decisions. For that matter I would respect the City's decision to require masks in City-owned buildings. But this requirement is not within the proper purview of the government to determine and impose upon private businesses and would seriously infringe upon individual freedoms and further jeopardize those rights by setting an unwise precedent. I do believe there are other ways to deal with it. I think looking at the studies that Dr. Gene Clerkin has offered to give and what Michael Rigoli was mentioning would be wonderful to look into."

Jodi Newell of 32 Leverett St. stated that there has been a full conversation tonight about the medical perspective and she would like to bring the perspective a mom. She continued that not only has she lost multiple family members to this, but over the last few weeks both of her children have tested positive for COVID-19. Each of her sons' experience of COVID-19 was different. One's experience was mild with a low-grade fever, and the other had cold symptoms

and a high fever. She works as an advocate for homeless people and has been vaccinated since the very beginning. She did not get her children vaccinated. The timing did not work out given her work schedule and she began not taking COVID-19 very seriously. She thought it was a good idea to get her children vaccinated but just had not done it. Her sons, who have each had COVID-19 and lost family members to COVID-19, do not care about wearing masks. They care about losing [their grandma], who was alone in a hospital room with no one to comfort her except the nurses. Family was not allowed in. That is what affected her children and herself. Her takeaway from the experience was that she could not believe she had gotten so lax and had not gotten her children vaccinated, and what might have happened if she had not taken that simple step, and that simple step led to severe consequences for her children. Wearing a mask, just a piece of fabric, is not a big deal. She knows masks mandates are hard and that this is a tough decision for the Council to make. She appreciates them listening to everyone. If it comes down to business owners making the decisions about their own stores, she asks them to think about the experience she had as a mom, thinking that there was this very simple step they could have taken to spare her children from what they went through.

Melissa [no last name given] stated that for the privacy of her husband, she will not disclose her address, because he is a public servant. She is Canadian and moved to NH when she got married about eight years ago. She has compassion for anyone who has had to see a loved one suffer due to this. She continued that she has a problem with the lack of transparency. She is an RN and could have been a resource to CMC, but the lack of bodily autonomy disallows many people who are qualified and want to help their community from being able to do so. The lack of resources is created internally by what she believes is mismanagement, so they should not blame the public and enforce things on the public. CMC made bad decisions. If this hospital opened its doors and said they did not care if [staff] was vaccinated or not, many people would flock over and apply. As an RN, when she assesses a patient, she wants to know everything about them. If someone walks through the door of the Emergency Room with COVID-19 symptoms, they should be tested, and given extra oxygen if needed, but they cannot say a mask mandate is the solution in the community if they are not also assessing whether someone has been wearing a mask. If hospital staff are not asking whether patients have been wearing a mask, how do they know the individual contracted COVID-19 because they were not wearing a mask? She also sees division with the terms people are using, like “anti-masker” and “anti-vaxxer.” That is repulsive to her. The number one ethics she learned in nursing school was about bodily autonomy and the autonomy of your patient. Imposing protocols on people in the community when they do not want it is wrong and makes people push back even more. In nursing school she heard about cultural differences in care, such as Jehovah’s Witnesses declining blood transfusions for their children, and she was heartbroken and did not understand their position, until she was forced to all of a sudden no longer have a choice for her own bodily autonomy. That serious discussion is not happening here. She has seen how mask mandates have quickly evolved to QR codes, which is nonsensical. Acting like half the population is a walking disease is dangerous. She asks the Council to do their research.

Rachel [no last name given] of 186 Barnett Hill Rd., Walpole, stated that she works for a business in Keene. She continued that she moved here from NY last year, because NY was trending in a terrible direction. When she moved here, she was excited and applauded the City's efforts to keep Keene safe by putting measures in place, and applauded the City for foregoing the draconian measures other states were using. Then she saw that even with the data and information available, Keene put a [mask] mandate in six months after the start of a pandemic, which essentially gave COVID-19 a runway to be here for six months. They may dismiss her because she is not a virologist, epidemiologist, or doctor, but she works at a business that works with fabric, which is specially woven to create a situation where particles cannot pass through. According to the study "Modality of Human Expired Aerosol Size Divisions," 99% of particles emitted from coughing during colds were less than 5 microns in diameter. Most cloth fabric is not specially woven to create a barrier that prevents viruses from going through. She would be willing to accept the premise that the reason for the mandate in 2020 was for community safety, given that COVID-19 was still relatively new and mask mandates were still largely prevalent and the protocol was touted as necessary given the available data. However, based on the new information we have learned over the last two years, the facts no longer support that. There is no longer a State of Emergency in NH. The State has not had a mask mandate since April. From the vast array of information available, there is no hard and fast data to prove that masks are necessary technology to combat COVID-19. Using evidence for community cloth masking to limit the spread of COVID-19, of 16 randomized controlled trials this study reviewed, which compared facemasks to no facemask control groups, 14 of those 16 studies failed to find a statistically significant benefit of masking. The paper also points out that high quality clinical evidence is the only thing that can establish cloth mask wearing works under real world conditions, and of the two randomized controlled trials of the efficacy of masking against the spread of COVID-19 – Rachel stopped her sentence and continued that her point is that there is information to say that masking does not work. There are entire papers. There are thousands of documents that say masking does not work. She does not know how the Council denies that information exists. Doctors here tonight have said it to them. For the Council to then tell the community that they have to wear a mask, even though there is evidence that it does not work, is scary to everyone.

Kathy Willbarger from Marlborough stated that she is the Chief Operating Officer at CMC. She continued that CMC has been here for the community and always will be. That is their job. As COO, she is working hard with everyone to be creative for how they will take care of the community today and in the near future as the COVID-19 cases rise and they have the staffing challenges. They did not lose many staff members due to the vaccinate mandate. CMC is struggling and needs the community's help. She asks people to please trust science and help their local community hospital.

Ben Robertson of 20 West St. stated that he has written the Committee a couple letters. He continued that the University of Minnesota did a comprehensive survey and said you cannot prove that [masks] work, especially within the context of the general public. He appreciates the Council trying to protect the community and appreciates the Council's service to the community

as Councilors. He thanks them for that. He also would really appreciate it if the Council would use some restraint in exercising their power. He knows they have the legal authority to create a mask mandate and he asks them to please look at the article he sent them and think about it. They would be imposing something that is not supported by science. He does not care how many highly paid bureaucrats say it is; it does not mean they are right.

Molly [last name indiscernible] from Nelson stated that someone talked about how they wear a mask because it is important but they do not like it because it fogs her glasses. She continued that she wants to know how a person's glasses become fogged, if the mask works. How does your breath get into your glasses? To her it sounds like masks do not work. If your breath can get out, stuff can get in, too.

Chair Bosley stated that they have gone through all of the speaker cards and she does not see anyone else wishing to speak. She asked for the Committee's thoughts and discussion about the information they have heard tonight. They have heard a lot of amazing comment and for the most part have had a productive conversation tonight.

Councilor Greenwald stated that there is a lot of emotion on both sides of the discussion. He continued that he wants to send a personal thank you to everyone who called or sent emails, which he is sure every Councilor received. He received so many emails he could not send individual replies. He read the emails and sent a quick "Thank you for your comments" in reply. It was overwhelming. In all of his years as a Councilor, he does not think he has ever had so much contact with the public on an issue. This evening they took comments from not just Keene residents, but also all the surrounding towns, which is a strong statement about representative government in Keene. He does not think the surrounding towns would necessarily want to hear from Keene in the same way.

Councilor Greenwald continued that in terms of the issue, it is very difficult for him. He has gone back and forth all week. He spent a lot of time walking up and the streets talking to people, and the last time he did that, it was involving parking meters, which also brought out a lot of passion. It is very difficult. He could argue both sides. He understands both sides of the discussion. However, ultimately, he will have to make a decision. For clarification, the process is by the Committee. It is not a Town Meeting; it is not a matter of how many people spoke this evening, or a raising of hands, or something of that sort. The process now is for the PLD Committee to discuss this and make a recommendation to the full Council. A week from Thursday, the full Council will discuss this. That is when the actual decision will be made.

Councilor Greenwald continued that an issue he is wrestling with, and that he wants the Committee to consider, is that this should not be an open-ended Ordinance. He would like it to have a review process where every, say, 60 days, it is reviewed and considered for termination if the situation is such that it is not necessary. He does not think it has to go through the entire process that the Ordinance had to, with a reading and going back and forth to the Committee. It could just be fast-tracked through the Council for that. In terms of the process that has gone on

to get us to this evening, yes, they could have suspended the rules and just jammed it right through, but he thinks that would eliminate all public comment. Thus, whether the Committee agrees or disagrees with what members of the public said tonight, they heard everything. Yes, they do represent the public, and they have to make the best choice for the community as a whole. He sees this as a health issue. He does not see it as monetary, such as whether a business is going to somehow be impacted. It is all about health. They need to decide, based on what they have heard this evening and other research, where they will come down on this. He thanks everyone for coming tonight.

Councilor Jones thanked everyone for coming tonight, and stated that this is how the system works. He continued that he took notes on what every person said, and plans to read and digest it all. He is already thinking, because of what was said, of making some amendments. He would not do that tonight; he would wait until the Ordinance gets before the full Council. He wants to read people's comments over again and consider some amendments. He is glad the process worked. Every Councilor here has the public in their best interest and he thinks everyone here tonight is the public, and it is important that the Committee did listen to them. The Committee will consider everything that was said.

Chair Bosley stated that every Committee member came in tonight with an open mind and wanted to listen to the community members. She continued that she is not sold on the Ordinance that was presented to the Committee. It was a matter of fast tracking something through because of a public health concern. She honestly believes that whether they mask or not is not necessarily going to make a difference in the numbers [of COVID-19 cases] they see in the hospital. Anecdotally, her experience is that the transmission is occurring through our human behavior. People are having birthday parties, girls' trips, going out to dinner, and so on and so forth. People's entire behavior has changed in the last 12 months. She is seeing the transmission happening at children's soccer games, in the backseat of the car on the trip to Boston, at a baby shower. It is at these places where the Ordinance is not going to reach. She hears the concern of the community in the over-reach of the Council, and she wonders if what they are trying to impose would create a negative emotional impact and not accomplish what the goal is, which is to assist the hospital. She would have to see a worked-over version of this Ordinance in order to support it.

Councilor Johnsen stated that she has a question for the City Attorney. Does the City Council have something that tells them that they are responsible if a health issue like this occurs? She continued that she sees this as a health issue. Is there something in the law that says the Council has a responsibility to protect the community?

The City Attorney replied that that is a rather broad, philosophical question. He continued that he thinks many people from both sides of the political spectrum would agree that the primary purpose of any form of government is to protect the community's health, safety, and welfare. That is an easy thing to say. How to go about doing that is different; that is where the policy issues come into play. Certainly, there are laws that deal with public health in general. Is there a

law that deals specifically with this situation? The answer to that question, outside of the general authority to adopt this kind of an Ordinance, is no. It really does come down to the policy decision, and listening to all of these good people here, and anyone else that the Council is listening to, and trying to make the best decision that they can on the broad philosophical point, which is public health, safety, and welfare.

Councilor Johnsen stated that it is important to note that they are dealing with something that really no one knows much about, except the medical professionals. They are looking in people's eyes and seeing this happening. They know where they are coming from. However, everyone has a right to be angry. She is angry that we are dealing with this, but that is a given, for 2020, 2021, and who knows how long. We are just trying to find a way to live with whatever this is that is trying to kill us. [COVID-19] is a killer, no matter what we think. As the Committee listens to the public, do they make decisions whether it is private or public? That is one of her questions. Do they make decisions that everyone should require a vaccination? That would not go over well.

Councilor Johnsen continued that it is a pain to have to wear glasses and a mask; she knows that. She does it, though, because she believes in the masks, because she is a senior, and her family really requires that she take good care of herself. She wonders if there is some apparatus that could be recommended to [people who wear glasses], that might help with that issue. The woman who said "it is coming out all over the place" is right.

Councilor Johnsen stated that she appreciates Dr. Caruso showing up. She knows this is challenging, when he is out there in the trenches. She appreciates what he shares with the Council, and wants him to know that she very much respects what he is doing. Many decisions he makes affect her teenage grandson, whom she is helping to raise.

Councilor Workman stated that she, too, wants to thank everyone for their input and comments tonight, as well as over the course of the last few weeks. She continued that she, too, received many emails and phone calls and could not respond to every one. She did a quantitative analysis of those emails, and it is interesting that there is a down the middle split for yay and nay, based just off that email correspondence. She continued that she sees people shaking her heads, but she saved the emails and this is true. She sees the mask Ordinance presented to the Committee as needing some reworking and wordsmithing, but she does think that if human behavior is contradictory of where we are right now, our human behavior is not working. Thus, she thinks we do need more extensive measures at this point. She is in favor of a mask mandate, maybe just not this one presented in front of the Committee today.

Councilor Jones stated that he somewhat agrees with Chair Bosley and Councilor Workman. He continued that he thinks there is room for wordsmithing. As he said earlier, he would like to see the sunset clause removed, but he does not think the Committee should make amendments tonight. He does not think they should send an A version to the City Council. It should go to them as written, and then [when it is before the full Council], they can all make amendments and

adjustments as needed. Everyone has a right to make a recommendation or an amendment, but that is just his feeling. He wants to hear the opinions of all 15 Councilors before they start making amendments.

Councilor Johnsen replied that some Councilors are here tonight. She asked if they can check in with them. Chair Bosley replied that there is no motion on the floor. She continued that they are considering sending the Ordinance to Council to be debated at full Council. If the Committee tried to come up with the amendments, they might spend hours doing it tonight, since the PLD Committee likes to be very thorough in its rewrites. If they rewrite and send it back to staff with suggestions, the PLD Committee's rewrites might be completely taken apart at the Council meeting again. Amending things at Council is very difficult.

Chair Bosley stated that to the people in the room tonight it probably felt like there were more people on one side than another, and although she does not have all of the records, because she wanted to concentrate on the testimony, she has all of the speaker cards. There are 42 speaker cards opposed and 11 in favor. There were also a few speakers who did not fill out cards. Her goal, out of this deliberation process, is to get something in front of the full Council. She asked if the other Committee members agree.

Councilor Greenwald replied yes, he wants to see it front of the full Council, but he sees there is a blank Section L, and he wants to fill in that blank. That would turn the Ordinance into an A version. The City Attorney replied that is correct. He continued that the blank in Section L is regards to the issue of sunseting. The Council could decide next Thursday. Councilor Greenwald asked if the City Attorney is suggesting the Committee send the Ordinance with the blank space. The City Attorney replied yes.

Chair Bosley stated that before the Committee moves to make a recommendation on this either way, she has a piece of housekeeping – a letter was submitted to the City Council Debra Bowie, which is agenda item 3). She continued that she does not know if Ms. Bowie is present tonight. If she is not here to speak on behalf of her letter, she wants to acknowledge that it was in the Committee's agenda packet and when they make a recommendation, they will also be acknowledging that letter.

Councilor Greenwald made a motion for the Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee to recommend adoption of Ordinance O-2021-16. Councilor Jones seconded the motion.

Councilor Greenwald made a motion to amend the motion, creating O-2021-16A, substituting Section L, which says, "This Ordinance shall automatically terminate without the necessity of further action by the City Council on (blank) date," with "This Ordinance to be reviewed by the Keene City Council for termination every 60 days."

Chair Bosley asked if Councilor Greenwald could include in his motion an acceptance of Ms. Bowie's communication. She continued that they took items 3) and 4) together tonight.

Councilor Greenwald made a motion to accept the communication in support of the mask Ordinance. Councilor Jones seconded the motion.

Councilor Johnsen stated that she seconds Councilor Greenwald's amendment.

Chair Bosley stated that the motion is to amend the original motion to recommend adoption of Ordinance O-2021-16 and turn it into an A version with the language that Councilor Greenwald read, and to accept the communication in support of the mask Ordinance.

Councilor Jones stated that he agrees with part of it and disagrees with another part. He asked how to do that. The City Attorney replied that that is a good point. He continued that the best approach would be to revoke the motion, with the approval of the person who seconded it, and start over.

Councilor Greenwald stated that with the consent of the second, he withdraws his motions. Councilor Jones stated that he consents.

Councilor Greenwald made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Workman.

On a vote of 5-0, the Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee accepted the communication in support of the mask Ordinance.

Councilor Greenwald made a motion for the Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee to recommend adoption of Ordinance O-2021-16. Councilor Jones seconded the motion.

Councilor Greenwald made a motion to amend: "This Ordinance to be reviewed by the Keene City Council for termination every 60 days." Councilor Johnsen seconded the motion to amend.

Councilor Jones stated that he is opposed to the amendment, not necessarily because he disagrees with it, but because he prefers not to send an A version to the City Council. He continued that he prefers to do all of the amending when they get the input from the full Council. He will vote no on the amendment.

Chair Bosley called for a vote. The motion to amend passed with a vote of 3-2. Councilor Jones and Councilor Workman were opposed.

Chair Bosley asked for comments on the amended motion. Councilor Jones stated that it changes to an A version now. Chair Bosley called for a vote.

The amended motion passed unanimously with a vote of 5-0. Chair Bosley stated that the Ordinance now moves forward to the full Council. It still needs a lot of work. The public will see 15 Councilors debate it [vigorously] on Thursday, December 16.

5) **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Bosley adjourned the meeting at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Britta Reida, Minute Taker

Edits submitted by,
Krishni Pahl,
Nicole Cullinane,
and Terri M. Hood