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A regular meeting of the Keene City Council was held on Thursday, August 18, 2022. The Honorable Mayor George S. Hansel called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Roll called: Bryan J. Lake, Michael J. Remy, Gladys Johnsen, Michael Giacomo, Randy L. Filiault, Robert C. Williams, Philip M. Jones, Andrew M. Madison, Kris E. Roberts, Catherine I. Workman, Mitchell H. Greenwald, Kate M. Bosley, and Thomas F. Powers were present. Bettina A. Chadbourne was absent. Councilor Johnsen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Hansel wished happy birthdays to Councilors Roberts, Powers, and Lake.

MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING

A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt the July 21, 2022 meeting minutes as printed was duly seconded by Councilor Bosley. The motion carried unanimously.

CONFIRMATION

Referring to the Mayor's nomination of Doris McCollester to serve as a regular member of the Partner City Committee, a motion by Councilor Powers to confirm the nomination was seconded by Councilor Bosley. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote. Term to expire December 31, 2025.

COMMUNICATION – KEENE KIWANIS CLUB – REQUEST TO USE CITY PROPERTY – TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

A communication was received from Peg Bruce on behalf of the Kiwanis Club, requesting to host the Tree Lighting Ceremony Friday, November 25, 2022, on Central Square. Mayor Hansel referred the communication to the Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee.

COMMUNICATION – COUNCILOR FILIAULT – SPECTRUM SERVICE ISSUES

A communication was received from Councilor Randy Filiault, requesting the City Council invite Spectrum to come before them to discuss concerns about the cable and internet services they provide to Keene residents. Mayor Hansel referred the communication to the Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee.

COMMUNICATION – COUNCILOR GREENWALD – DESIGNATING CITY PARKS – DRUG-FREE AND SMOKE-FREE ZONES

A communication was received from Councilor Greenwald requesting that the Patricia Russell Park be designated as a "drug-free zone" as well as a "smoke-free zone" and that if this made

sense for a new park, these restrictions should be instituted for all City parks. Mayor Hansel referred the communication to the Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

The Assistant City Manager/HR Director, Beth Fox, spoke on behalf of the City Manager, Elizabeth Dragon.

The Assistant City Manager reported that the City held a Red Cross blood drive on August 12, which was a success, with 71 units of blood collected from staff and the public, which could result in saving 179 lives. 32 employees donated from departments and divisions across the City. 10 participants were first time donors. The goal is to have another blood drive in the spring.

The City pools closed on August 18 for the season. The Assistant City Manager thanked the staff and lifeguards who kept the pools running during a very busy and hot summer season to keep users safe. Playground programs ended on August 12 and participants reported it was a good season. Additionally, fall programs are opening with strong registrations. The Parks & Recreation Department has also been holding bike races with great success at Wheelock Park, with participants from five New England states. The final race would be the week after this meeting. The Parks and Recreation Department continues exploring new opportunities like these with program partners.

Finally, the Assistant City Manager recognized an anonymous donation of \$1,000 to the Human Rights Committee and annual International Festival that celebrates the rich diversity in Keene; the event is open to the public. A motion by Councilor Powers to suspend the Rules of Procedure to accept the donation was duly seconded by Councilor Bosley and the motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote. A motion by Councilor Powers to accept the donation to the Human Rights Committee was duly seconded by Councilor Remy and the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Hansel and the Council expressed their appreciation for the generous donation.

CITY OFFICER REPORT – PURCHASE AND SALE OF CITY-OWNED RAIL SPUR – CITY ATTORNEY

A memorandum was read from the City Attorney introducing this matter. A motion by Councilor Powers to suspend the Rules of Order to act on the purchase and sale of the Rail Spur at the corner of Ralston and Emerald Streets was duly seconded by Councilor Bosley. Discussion ensued. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

A motion by Councilor Powers to grant the City Manager to do all things necessary to negotiate and execute the purchase and sale of the Rail Spur at the Corner of Ralston and Emerald Streets. was duly seconded by Councilor Bosley and the motion carried unanimously.

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PB-PLD REPORT – RELATING TO AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF KEENE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE - ORDINANCE O-2022-09-A

A memorandum was received from Senior Planner, Mari Brunner, reporting the recommended motions from the Joint Planning Board-Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee. A motion was made by Chair Kate Bosley that the PLD Committee recommend that the Mayor set a public hearing on the amended Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michael Giacomo and carried on a unanimous roll call vote..

Mayor Hansel set a public hearing on Thursday, September 1 at 7:15 PM.

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING – RELATING TO WATER AND SEWER UTILITY CHARGES – ORDINANCE O-2022-10

A memorandum was received from the Public Works Director, Kurt Blomquist, recommending the City Council have a first reading of Ordinance O-2022-10 Water and Sewer Rates and the Mayor refer the Ordinance to the Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee. Mayor Hansel referred the Ordinance to the Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee.

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING – RELATING TO AMENDMENTS TO THE BUSINESS, GROWTH AND REUSE DISTRICT – RECREATIONAL/ENTERTAINMENT FACILITY – INDOOR - ORDINANCE O-2022-11

A memorandum was received from Randall Walter of 310 Marlboro St., LLC., submitting an application and Ordinance that would amend the Land Development Code by permitting a "recreational/entertainment facility - indoor" as a permitted primary use for the Business Growth and Reuse District. Mayor Hansel referred the Ordinance to the Joint Planning Board-Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee.

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS

The City Attorney, Thomas Mullins, referred to the various Resolutions from the petitioner on the Magnolia Road layout and Matthews Road alteration. The Resolutions contain some technical issues, namely that the owners of the property over which the alterations are to pass. Unfortunately, that requires notice to those owners and waivers and damages, so the ownership status needs to be confirmed. Secondly, there is a utility easement with respect to Magnolia Road that will need to be extinguished in order for the City to move forward under its City Code to accept the layout. It was decided that the best course of action at this time is to withdraw the petitions and the previously scheduled September 1 public hearing, thereby giving the owner an opportunity to resolve those issues.

Hearing no objections, Mayor Hansel canceled the two public hearings that were scheduled with these layouts for September 1 and instructed that the Resolutions be withdrawn without prejudice

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and the petitioner be informed that they can submit new petitions and Resolutions at a future time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Hansel adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:15 PM.

A true record, attest:



City Clerk