

A regular meeting of the Keene City Council was held on Thursday, October 6, 2022. In the absence of the Honorable Mayor George S. Hansel, the City Clerk, Patricia Little, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Roll called: Bryan J. Lake, Michael J. Remy, Gladys Johnsen, Robert C. Williams, Randy L. Filiault, Philip M. Jones, Kris E. Roberts, Raleigh C. Ormerod, Bettina A. Chadbourne, Catherine I. Workman, Kate M. Bosley, Mitchell H. Greenwald, and Thomas F. Powers were present. Michael J. Remy, Michael Giacomo, and Andrew C. Madison were absent. A motion by Councilor Bosley to elect Councilor Powers as temporary Chair was duly seconded by Councilor Greenwald and the motion carried unanimously. Councilor Powers approached the dais and joined the Charter Officers as temporary Chair. Councilor Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Powers reminded the Councilors that the October 13th Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee was canceled to allow Councilors to attend the annual Fire Dinner. Councilors were also encouraged to participate in the Fire Prevention Parade on October 9 at 1:00 PM. Due to cancellation of the FOP meeting, representatives of Spectrum would be invited to the October 27 and December 8 FOP meetings to provide an update on the service issues in Keene.

Chair Powers also announced that the dates for the evaluation process for the Council's three Charter employees have been established. The City Manager's evaluation is scheduled first. There will be a special City Council meeting on November 1 at 6:00 PM. The evaluation dates for the City Attorney and City Clerk will occur in 2023.

Councilor Greenwald extended an invitation to all City Council and City Staff to the annual benefit Breakfast for the Keene Housing Kids' Collaborative on October 21.

MINUTES FROM THE PRECEDING MEETING

A motion by Councilor Bosley to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2022 regular meeting was duly seconded by Councilor Greenwald. The motion carried unanimously with 12 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilors Remy, Giacomo and Madison were absent.

PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT RESOLUTION – DIANE RICHARDS STAUDER

Chair Powers welcomed Diane Richards Stauder and read a retirement Resolution in honor of her dedicated service to the City of Keene. Ms. Stauder thanked the Council and City Staff. She said it had been a pleasure to work for the City. Ms. Stauder concluded that the City is a wonderful team and a wonderful place to work. Those in attendance demonstrated their appreciation for Diane's service with a standing ovation.

10/06/2022

PROCLAMATION – ENERGY AND CLIMATE

Chair Powers welcomed Peter Hansel of the Energy and Climate Committee and read aloud a Proclamation declaring the week of October 16 as Keene Energy Week. He encouraged everyone to participate in the week. Mr. Hansel encouraged everyone to participate in the week and he congratulated the City of Keene for getting approval of the Community Power Plan, which he called a big step forward for clean energy.

PROCLAMATION – FRIENDS OF THE KEENE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Chair Powers welcomed Jan Manwaring, representing the Friends of the Keene Public Library. The Chair read aloud a Proclamation declaring October 21–23, 2022 as the Friends of Keene Public Library Days and he urged all citizens to visit the Library’s fall book sale in support of continued excellent library programs and facilities. Ms. Manwaring expressed thanks and noted that this year the fall book sale would be in both Heberton Hall and Cohen Hall to allow more space. She invited everyone to attend and show their support.

PROCLAMATION – “CO-OP MONTH”

Chair Powers welcomed Megan Hercher of the Monadnock Food Co-Op, and read aloud a Proclamation declaring the month of October 2022 as Cooperative Month in the City of Keene. He expressed the City’s gratitude to cooperatives and their members for their commitment to our community and the role they play in serving our citizens.

CONFIRMATION

Mayor Hansel nominated Molly Ellis to serve as a regular member of the Heritage Commission, with a term to expire December 31, 2025. A motion by Councilor Bosley to confirm the nomination was duly seconded by Councilor Greenwald. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote with 12 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Remy, Giacomo, and Madison were absent.

COMMUNICATION – JULIANA BERGERON – REQUESTING NO PARKING – 191 WASHINGTON STREET

A communication was received from Juliana Bergeron, requesting that the City enact “No Parking” at 191 Washington Street. In making the request, she indicated that the clients and employees exiting the parking lot at this location have a difficult time exiting the lot due to the number of cars parked along Washington Street. Chair Powers referred the communication to the Municipal Services, Facilities, & Infrastructure Committee.

COMMUNICATION – RON ROBBINS/KEENE SNORIDERS – REQUESTING PERMISSION TO RUN SNOWMOBILES IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY ALONG KRIF ROAD FROM THE ASHUELOT RAIL TRAIL TO WINCHESTER STREET

A communication was received from Ron Robbins of the Keene Snoriders, submitting their annual request for permission to run snowmobiles in the right-of-way along Krif Road from the Ashuelot Rail Trail to Winchester Street, crossing Winchester Street to the property of Perry Kiritsy at 471 Winchester Street. This request is for the timeframe of December 15, 2022, through March 30, 2023—snow permitting. Chair Powers referred the communication to the Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee.

COMMUNICATION – RANDY FILIAULT – SAFETY CONCERNS WITH 5G TOWERS

A communication was received from Councilor Randy Filiault, requesting that the City Council address the issue of 5G cell towers and that any health issues with the 5G technology be answered before any of the recently erected 5G cell towers become operational. Chair Powers referred the communication to the Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee. The PLD Chair clarified that the intent of the Committee would be to consider both the communication from former Councilor Terry Clark, which has been on the “more time” agenda and Councilor Filiault’s recent letter.

MSFI REPORT – CONTINUED DISCUSSION – REQUESTING THE CITY RESUME MAINTENANCE OF BLAIN(E) STREET – PRIVATE WAY

A Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee report read recommending the communication regarding the maintenance of Blaine St. be accepted as informational. Chair Powers filed the report as informational.

FOP REPORT – AMENDED FY21 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANT AWARD – FIRE LIEUTENANT/TRAINING OFFICER

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, recommending that the City Council authorize the City Manager to do all things necessary to apply for, execute, expend and accept the terms of the amended grant agreement for the Hazardous Materials Preparedness Grant application as presented in the amount of \$37,751.25 for the purchase and installation of conferencing equipment and hazmat plan updates. A motion by Councilor Chadbourne to carry out the intent of the Committee report was duly seconded by Councilor Lake. The motion carried unanimously with 12 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilors Remy, Giacomo and Madison were absent.

FOP REPORT – ACCEPTANCE OF 2021 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG)
– FIRE CHIEF

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, recommending that the City Council authorize the City Manager to do all things necessary to accept and expend the FY 2021 Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$219,589.09 with a 10% City match. A motion by Councilor Chadbourne to carry out the intent of the Committee report was duly seconded by Councilor Lake. The motion carried unanimously with 12 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilors Remy, Giacomo and Madison were absent.

FOP REPORT – AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT A HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
PLANNING GRANT FOR HOUSING NEEDS ANALYSIS AND PLANNING –
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, recommending that the City Manager do all things necessary to accept and expend the Housing Opportunity Planning Grant for Housing Needs Analysis and Planning in the amount of \$15,500 from the Invest NH Municipal Planning & Zoning Grant Program as funded by the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs for the purposes of hiring a consultant to complete a Housing Needs Analysis for the City of Keene. A motion by Councilor Chadbourne to carry out the intent of the Committee report was duly seconded by Councilor Lake. The motion carried unanimously with 12 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilors Remy, Giacomo and Madison were absent.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

The City Manager began by recognizing our newly appointed Police Chief, Steve Stewart, who was in the audience. Chief Stewart was appointed on September 19. The City Manager publicly congratulated the Chief and thanked him for taking on this role.

The City Manager also recognized the new Deputy Fire Chief in the audience, Christopher McCarthy, who came from the State of Colorado. He was recently the Fire Chief in Palmer Lake, CO, and he brings 37 years of experience in Fire and EMS service. The City Manager was excited to welcome Deputy Chief McCarthy.

Regarding Fire and Community Development, the City Manager said she had been working to integrate the fire permitting and inspection processes in the IWORQ software system used currently by the Community Development Department. They have mapped out the process, created the forms, and will be going live in the next month or two. The City Manager had asked the Fire Chief to provide an update to the Council at their meeting regarding our fire prevention program, and at the same time introduce our two new Fire Inspectors. The Chief has made significant progress in this area with the help of his Department, the Fire Marshal's office, the Community Development office, and help and support from both Med Kopczynski & our

Community Development Director, Jesse Rounds. There has been significant progress on inspection backlogs, improvement in the quality of inspections being conducted, increased training opportunities, and this partnership between Fire and Community Development that is evolving. The City Manager looks forward to the Chief sharing some of these updates with the Council at their next meeting.

Next, the City Manager provided a branding updated. She attended a stakeholders' meeting via Zoom the previous week with the Chamber of Commerce regarding their branding campaign. She got a sneak peek at what they will be presenting to the public in the next few weeks. She was very encouraged. The Chamber's branding efforts will dovetail nicely with the City's efforts. The Chamber is planning to focus on implementation during years one and two around messaging to visitors and new residents/potential workforce. During year three, they will focus their messaging on business recruitment.

The City Manager concluded her comments with remarks about the Community Power Program. The City Council adopted the City's Community Power Plan last year in May. Staff submitted that Plan immediately to the Public Utilities Commission. The final rules related to community power were only recently approved (mid-September). Our initial plan submitted last year needed several minor changes to comply with the rules, including a new appendix describing data security. In August, Staff resubmitted what they believed would be the required revisions. On October 3, the City received word that our Community power Plan had been approved. The next step is to bring the Plan changes back to City Council for approval. This is currently scheduled for the October 27 FOP meeting. Assuming it receives Council approval, the plan would be to launch the program in the spring. Given the ever-increasing cost of energy, Staff are anxious to launch to the Plan and not only move the City closer to our energy goals but to also provide competitive pricing for our residents.

PB-PLD REPORT – RELATING TO AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF KEENE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE – ORDINANCE O-2022-11

A Joint Committee of the Planning Board and Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee report read with the following votes: A motion was made by Councilor Michael Remy that the Planning Board find Ordinance O-2022-11 consistent with the Comprehensive Master Plan. The motion was seconded by David Orgaz and was unanimously approved on a 5-0 vote. A motion was made by Councilor Kate Bosley that the PLD Committee recommend that the Mayor set a public hearing on the Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gladys Johnsen and carried on a unanimous roll call vote. Chair Powers filed the report. Chair Powers set a public hearing for November 3 at 7:00 PM.

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MORE TIME – MSFI REPORT – CONTINUED DISCUSSION – DESIGNATING CITY PARKS –DRUG-FREE AND SMOKE-FREE ZONES; MSFI REPORT – DISCUSSION – CHAPTER 58 – PARKS, RECREATION, AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

A Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee report read, recommending placing this item on more time. Chair Powers said that in speaking with the Staff and Councilor Greenwald, who is the petitioner for this request, this item can be reported out as informational. The Chair understood that the discussion at the last MSFI Committee, and the information provided at that meeting, that City Staff would be administratively posting the appropriate signage relative to the prohibited use of illegal drugs in the parks. With this action, there are no further aspects of this discussion that would warrant more time. With no objection, this item was reported out as informational. Councilor Greenwald requested to view the signage before it is posted, and the City Manager agreed.

A Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee report read, recommending the discussion of Chapter 58 be placed on more time. Chair Powers granted more time.

ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING – RELATING TO PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTERS – ORDINANCE O-2022-13

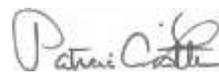
A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, recommending the adoption of Ordinance O-2022-13. Chair Powers filed the report.

A motion by Councilor Chadbourne to adopt Ordinance O-2022-13 was duly seconded by Councilor Lake. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 12 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Remy, Giacomo, and Madison were absent.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Powers adjourned the meeting for collective bargaining at 6:41 PM.

A true record, attest:



City Clerk