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A regular meeting of the Keene City Council was held on Thursday, October 5, 2023. The Honorable Mayor George S. Hansel called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Roll called: Bryan J. Lake, Michael J. Remy, Michael Giacomo, Randy L. Filiault, Robert C. Williams, Andrew M. Madison, Kris E. Roberts, Bettina A. Chadbourne, Catherine I. Workman, Mitchell H. Greenwald, and Thomas F. Powers were present. Philip M. Jones, Raleigh C. Ormerod, and Kate M. Bosley were absent. Ward Four Council seat vacant. Councilor Chadbourne led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING

A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt the September 21, 2023, regular meeting minutes as presented was duly seconded by Councilor Greenwald. The motion carried unanimously with 11 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilors Jones, Ormerod, and Bosley were absent. Ward Four Council seat vacant.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Hansel began by mentioning the Source to Sea Cleanup on September 29–30. A class from Keene High School participated with 45 volunteers. 1500 pounds of trash from the Connecticut River's tributaries were removed. He thanked Councilor Madison for bringing this to his attention. The Mayor said this event is great for the environment and the community.

Next, Mayor Hansel announced that the Annual Fire Prevention Parade will be on Sunday, October 8 at 1:00 PM. The reviewing stand will be on Main Street at the intersection with Railroad Street, and the parade will end at Keene Central Fire Station. Additionally, the Annual Inspection Dinner will be held on Thursday, October 12 at 6:00 PM on the apparatus floor at Keene Central Station. The Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee meeting for that evening is canceled so the Council and Staff may attend the dinner.

Lastly, Mayor Hansel announced that the Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee and Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee meetings have been switched this month, with MSFI on Wednesday, October 11, and PLD on Wednesday, October 25. Also, the Wednesday, November 22 MSFI meeting has been moved to Tuesday, November 21, because there are two issues that will require the MSFI Committee to meet that evening. Lastly, there will be a special meeting of the City Council on Thursday, November 9, at 5:45 PM to canvass the votes cast at the Municipal General election. This will be a very brief meeting that will occur before the 6:00 PM start of the FOP Committee meeting.

PROCLAMATION – CO-OP MONTH

Mayor Hansel presented a Proclamation on Co-Op Month to a representative of the Co-op. The Mayor declared October 2023 as Co-Op Month in the City of Keene and he encouraged all citizens to salute Co-Ops, their commitment to this community, and the role they play in serving citizens.

PROCLAMATION – FRIENDS OF THE KEENE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mayor Hansel presented a Proclamation on the Friends of the Keene Public Library to former Mayor Kendall Lane. Mayor Hansel declared October 20–22, 2023 as Friends of the Keene Public Library days, and he urged all citizens of the Monadnock region to visit the Library’s Fall Book Sale and to support the excellent Library programs and facilities.

Mr. Lane, a member of the Friends of the Keene Public Library, said this Proclamation would begin the process for the Fall Book Sale, which would be the second Library book sale this year. These sales are an opportunity to support literacy within the community and to continue supporting the Library. He encouraged the whole community to take advantage of the tremendous opportunities the Library has to offer.

PROCLAMATION – TRICK OR TREAT

Mayor Hansel presented a Proclamation on Halloween 2023 to Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities. The Mayor declared Tuesday, October 31, from 5:30 PM–7:30 PM, as Trick or Treating in Keene. He asked children and parents to limit Trick or Treating to these times, and to only visit houses that indicate their willingness to participate by leaving porch or front yard lights on. He asked that parents or other responsible adults accompany the children. Mayor Hansel encouraged cooperation from citizens young and old to make this a happy, safe occasion for all.

Mr. Bohannon asked the community to keep safety in mind during Trick or Treating. Keene Police and Fire Departments would be patrolling to ensure the evening is safe. He encouraged bright costumes that are easier to see in the dark. He wished everyone Happy Trick or Treating.

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE O-2023-13: ZONING MAP AMENDMENT – 0
ASHUELOT STREET

Mayor Hansel opened the public hearing at 7:13 PM and the City Clerk read the public hearing notice. Mayor Hansel welcomed Evan Clements, Planner, to present on behalf of the City, and Tara Kessler, Planner/Paralegal at BCM Environmental and Land Law, on behalf of the petitioner for a description of the proposed Zoning Map change. Mr. Clements said the first reading of this proposed Zoning Map change occurred at the July 20 City Council meeting, when it was referred to the Joint Planning Board-Planning, Licenses, and Development (PLD) Committee. The public workshop was held on August 14. During the workshop, three members of the public spoke in favor of this application. The Planning Board voted and found that the proposal meets the intent of the Keene Comprehensive Master Plan, and the PLD Committee recommended that the Mayor schedule this public hearing.

Ms. Kessler explained that her firm represents the owners of the property that is subject to this rezoning request—JRR Properties LLC and the Monadnock Conservancy. The proposal is to rezone this undeveloped parcel of land on Ashuelot Street from its current Zoning designation in

the High Density District to the Commerce District. The 3.5-acre parcel located near the intersection of West and Ashuelot Streets was once used by the former Colony Mill Marketplace for overflow parking. The current owners purchased the property in 2013, with the goal of converting it into a community park, which is still the intention. In 2022, the City Council voted to accept the owners' donation of 2.5 acres of the lot to be used by the City as a park. The remaining 1 acre is intended to be subdivided and gifted to the Monadnock Conservancy to build a net zero energy building for the Conservancy's regional headquarters, particularly for conservation education. The Conservancy intends to construct both ground-mounted and roof-mounted solar energy systems, including the potential for roof-mounted systems on carports.

Ms. Kessler continued, explaining that the applicants seek this rezoning to allow this development, which is currently not allowed in the High Density District, where office uses and solar energy systems are not allowed as a main use of a lot. The Land Development Code also does not allow for more than one primary use in a mixed-use development. The Commerce District is immediately adjacent to the south of this lot, and rezoning the lot as the Commerce District would allow for mixed-use and sustainable development, which aligns with the City's Comprehensive Master Plan's goals for this neighborhood. In the Master Plan, Ashuelot Street is identified as a neighborhood that supports a mix of office and commercial uses that transition to residential uses, as well as trails and open space amenities. Ms. Kessler said the Master Plan also supports sustainable development, including renewable energy systems. With this lot currently in the High Density District, the use of solar energy is prohibited. Historically, this parcel was located in the Central Business Limited District until the 2021 Land Development Code update, when the parcel shifted to High Density. When the City was eliminating the Central Business Limited District as a part of the downtown rezoning effort, the property owners were given the choice of whether to be in the High Density District (borders parcel to the north) or Commerce District (borders the parcel to the south). At the time, the owner wanted to preserve the option for residential development, so they chose the High Density District. Ms. Kessler noted that recently, the Land Development Code was amended to allow for some residential activity in the Commerce District. Previously, the owner intended to gift a portion of the lot to the City for parking. However, since 2021, the owner began serious conversations with the Monadnock Conservancy about the use of this land for their headquarters.

Ms. Kessler noted that this parcel has more than sufficient land area to accommodate the minimum lot size requirements for the Commerce District. There would still be an opportunity for residential uses if the parcel is rezoned for Commerce. The lot is adjacent to existing commercial uses, including the Mascoma Bank plaza and the mixed-use building that includes Target Dry Cleaners. This lot is served by City water and sewer, and there is easy access to the lot, particularly from West Street. Ms. Kessler added that most of the parcel is in the 100-year floodplain and is thus subject to the City's floodplain regulations. A small northeast portion of the lot is outside the floodplain, which is where the Monadnock Conservancy proposes its building. Overall, Ms. Kessler felt that this rezoning would enhance opportunities for mixed use development and renewable energy in an area where—until recently—commercial uses had been allowed. The

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Master Plan encourages this type of mixed-use activity and sustainable development. She welcomed questions.

Councilor Greenwald noted the need for more and affordable housing has been an ongoing conversation in the City. He wondered if the property owners had considered this real need and that the High Density District would allow for multi-story housing that the Councilor personally believed the City needs. He favored housing over a solar field or an office. He noted that a housing development at this location would have access to the existing adjacent park space. Councilor Greenwald was disappointed with this proposal. Ms. Kessler replied that when the Land Development Code update was underway, the owner chose the High Density District because of the option for residential development. Ms. Kessler said the owners now think that the Monadnock Conservancy's proposal would boost the neighborhood. She said the net-zero building would include space for community education. Ms. Kessler thought it would be an exemplary building in the region. She understood the need for housing, but she thought that open space amenities would be valued by residential neighbors. Councilor Greenwald said he was more interested in housing and taxpayer revenue; this Conservancy development would be non-taxpaying. He thought the City already had a lot of open space. Still, the Councilor acknowledged that the landowner has the right to do what they want with their property.

Councilor Giacomo was a part of the Joint Committee decision as a member of the PLD Committee. He clarified that this would be a vote on the change from High Density to Commercial, and it is not about the specific uses proposed on the lot. He recalled updates to the Ordinance in the last few years to allow up to four levels of residential use above one level of commercial use in the Commerce District. He thought that if the Monadnock Conservancy arrangement does not work out down the line, there would be as much opportunity for housing on the lot, though the floodplain could complicate that.

Mayor Hansel clarified that the Council would not be voting on this proposal at this meeting. The matter would be referred to the PLD Committee for their meeting on October 25.

Councilor Williams echoed Councilor Greenwald's concern about the desperate need for housing in the City. While this could be a nice open space, he said the lot is already adjacent to a big open space at the Ashuelot River Park. He thought it would be nice for people to be able to live next to the Park.

Mayor Hansel opened the floor to public comments.

Ryan Owens, Executive Director of the Monadnock Conservancy (15 Eagle Ct.), began by reading a letter of support he received recently; he provided a copy to the City Clerk. The letter was written by Emily Hague, a former City Councilor, property owner on Ashuelot Street, and direct abutter to the parcel in question:

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Dear Mayor and City Council: As the owner of the property at 92 Ashuelot Street, I am writing to express my support for the proposed Zoning change for the parcel at 0 Ashuelot Street from High Density to Commerce. Such a change would facilitate the conversion of the parcel from vacant space to a vibrant space for recreation, education, and office uses. I have reviewed the application to amend the Zoning Map, and the proposed uses seem appropriate and compatible with existing and future uses in the vicinity. In addition, the proposed uses are consistent with approved uses under the pre-2021 Zoning designation for the property. Creating small scale sustainable commercial space, and adding play and gathering spaces to Ashuelot River Park, seems like the perfect mix of uses for a property that is largely in the floodplain. I hope you will find this application is in keeping with the Comprehensive Master Plan and approve it. Best regards, Emily Hague

Mr. Owens continued, providing some background on the Monadnock Conservancy, which is a 34-year-old conservation trust serving the greater Monadnock Region. For most of its history, the Conservancy has been headquartered in Keene. The Conservancy's mission is to work with communities and landowners to conserve natural resources, wild and working lands, rural character, and the scenic beauty of the Monadnock Region. The Conservancy cares for conservation lands and engages people in ways that strengthen their communities and their connections to the land. The agency does this work for the benefit of wildlife/plants/nature, but ultimately for the people, because quality of life is inextricably linked to the natural landscape. The agency also does this work to accomplish its mission, primarily through land acquisitions and conservation easements on forests, farmlands, and wetlands. The Monadnock Conservancy has conserved approximately 23,000 acres across the region, including thousands of acres on Keene's West Hill, extending south toward Pisgah State Park and extending north from the Greater Goose Pond Forest. The Conservancy has also partnered with the City of Keene and Pathways of Keene as a funder of the ongoing expansion and enhancement of the City's bicycle and pedestrian trail network. Mr. Owens explained that the Conservancy is currently limited by its rented space, and the layout and location are not conducive to engaging the public and connecting them more to land and nature. If the parcel in question was rezoned, it would enable the agency to construct a building that connects with the public and links to the expanded park and greater landscape of the Monadnock Region. It would also help to support the agency's values and help to achieve the City's clean energy goals.


Jaelyn Headings of 15 Ashuelot Court is a direct abutter of the parcel in question. She has rented her home for nine years. She noted that Ashuelot Court is a small, private road that dead ends at the dense tree line and the River Trail. She noted that there is also housing on Castle Street to demonstrate that there is a lot of housing in this neighborhood already. Also, in the City Staff report on the proposal, her home could be seen as property #4 on Figure 2 in the Medium Density Zone. Many homes on Ashuelot Court are original to when the Colony Mill was still operating. Ms. Headings completely supported this Zoning change, and she shared this support at the Joint Committee public hearing. She recalled that this parcel was once a beat-up parking lot, which was an eyesore when she first moved in. Since it was cleaned-up as a grassy area in 2021, neighbors have been able to easily access Ashuelot River Park, the River Trail, and the bridge; it has also

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shown the potential of what the space could be for the neighborhood, City, and visitors. Ms. Headings concluded by responding to Councilor Greenwald's and Councilor Williams' comments on housing. As a renter, she shared the concerns about needed housing. However, she thought that keeping the parcel Zoned as High Density puts the land at risk for housing development that would restrict neighborhood access to the river. Additionally, she thought more housing in the area would increase noise, traffic, and population density that would be harmful to wildlife and the environment. There is also already a lot of traffic on Ashuelot Street because it is an easy way to bypass downtown; there is also significant pedestrian traffic there, including those in wheelchairs, because of the adjacent housing. She did not think the area could handle the impact of more residents. Ms. Headings said that the proximity of this parcel to nature necessitates a future that is kind to the environment and benefits all residents of Keene, not just those who could build housing in that space. The Monadnock Conservancy's use of the space would support the neighborhood and the environment in a low impact way. She asked the Council to support this Zoning change.

Dian Mathews spoke as a representative of the Friends of the Arboretum at Ashuelot River Park, wanted to go on record as supporting the Monadnock Conservancy's application to rezone this lot. The Ashuelot River Park is in a position to become a major contributor to conservation education in the City. The Friends are restoring garden beds surrounding trees with native plants and the Ashuelot River Park Advisory Board (ARPAB) intends to reopen the Rachel Marshall area across the bridge for outdoor education. The Friends and ARPAB think that building a relationship with the Monadnock Conservancy would further their shared goals of community interaction, whether it be nature walks, natural playgrounds, a kayak launch, or a community garden. Ms. Mathews thought this would be a positive move toward strengthening a connection between the Conservancy's and the Ashuelot River Park's master plans, the latter of which's vision statement she quoted: "*The Ashuelot River Park shall be a place of beauty and social events for the enjoyment and education of the community, bringing further individuals and organizations with interest in maintaining the Park for future generations.*" The Friends of the Arboretum at Ashuelot River Park support rezoning 0 Ashuelot Street as Commercial, and they welcome the Monadnock Conservancy as a neighbor and partner with a shared vision for the Park's future.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Mayor Hansel closed the public hearing at 7:37 PM, except for written comments, which will be accepted until 1:00 PM on Tuesday, October 24. Written comments must be signed and submitted to the City Clerk by that date and time to be included in the record. This Ordinance will be before the Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee for their meeting on October 25, 2023.

A true record, attest: 
City Clerk

CONFIRMATIONS – ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE

Mayor Hansel nominated the following individuals to serve on the Energy and Climate Committee: Lisa Maxfield to switch from an alternate to regular member, with a term to expire December 31, 2024; and Michael Winograd to serve as an alternate member, with a term to expire December 31, 2026. A motion by Councilor Powers to confirm the nominations was duly seconded by Councilor Greenwald. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 11 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilors Jones, Ormerod, and Bosley were absent. Ward Four Council seat vacant.

NOMINATION – PLANNING BOARD

Mayor Hansel nominated Kenneth Kost to switch from an alternate to regular member of the Planning Board, with a term to expire December 31, 2025. Mayor Hansel tabled the nomination until the December 21, 2023 meeting of the City Council, at which point this slot will have been vacated by the current member.

COMMUNICATION – CHUCK REDFERN – CALL FOR ACTION – DRUG ABUSE IN PUBLIC SPACES

A communication was received from Chuck Redfern, proposing a two-pronged approach to address drug abuse in public spaces. The first would involve leveraging resources at the State, County and City levels to provide drug treatment. The second initiative would involve an amendment to State Law requiring mandatory mental health services for the distribution or possession of a controlled substance in a drug-free zone. Mayor Hansel was aware that informal conversations had already taken place with Senator Fenton about proposing a legislative change. Therefore, Mayor Hansel referred this communication to the Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee to consider whether the City Council wants to formally request the introduction of legislation.

COMMUNICATION – MAYOR GEORGE S. HANSEL – PROPOSED 2023 COUNCIL GOALS

A communication was received from Mayor George Hansel, providing the list of unprioritized goal statements to be presented to City Council for their consideration. Mayor Hansel thanked the Council and Staff members for their participation in the goals workshop. A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt the proposed 2023 City Council goals was duly seconded by Councilor Greenwald. The motion carried unanimously with 11 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilors Jones, Ormerod, and Bosley were absent. Ward Four Council seat vacant.

COMMUNICATION – MAYOR GEORGE S. HANSEL – AMENDMENT TO LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE – CHARITABLE GAMING FACILITIES

A communication was received from Mayor George Hansel, requesting that the City Council consider restricting charitable gaming facilities from being allowed in the Downtown Core Zoning District. Mayor Hansel noted that the Ordinance amendment was not ready for this agenda, so he

tabled his communication until the October 19 City Council agenda, at which time the Ordinance for first reading would be introduced.

MSFI REPORTS – UPDATES ON THE SIDEWALK ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, INSTALLATION OF A SIDEWALK ON ARCH STREET BETWEEN HURRICANE ROAD AND FELT ROAD, AND RECONSTRUCTION OF NH ROUTE 101 FROM EAST OF OPTICAL AVENUE TO BRANCH ROAD; AND FOP REPORT – ALEX STRADLING/FACT TV – ANNUAL REPORT

A Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee report read, unanimously recommending that the update on the Sidewalk Asset Management Plan be accepted as informational. A second MSFI Committee report read, unanimously recommending that the petition for the Arch St. neighborhood, and the background information provided by the Public Work Director, be accepted as informational. A third MSFI Committee report read, unanimously recommending the acceptance of the presentation on Reconstruction of NH Route 101 from East of Optical Avenue to Branch Road as informational. Additionally, a Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, unanimously recommending accepting FACT TV's annual report as informational. Mayor Hansel filed the four reports as informational.

FOP REPORT – FY2023 AUDIT ENGAGEMENT – WAIVER OF BID

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, unanimously recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to waive bidding requirements under Section 2- 1336 (Waiver of Requirements) for the FY2023 City of Keene annual audit engagement and authorize the City Manager to sign the engagement letter with Marcum LLP. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the Committee report was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously with 11 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilors Jones, Ormerod, and Bosley were absent. Ward Four Council seat vacant.

FOP REPORT – ACCEPTANCE OF FAA AIP GRANT FOR AIRPORT – AIRPORT TAXIWAY 'A' RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, unanimously recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept, execute, and expend grant funding for up to the amount of \$3,102,257 from the Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program for the Taxiway A reconstruction project. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the Committee report was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously with 11 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilors Jones, Ormerod, and Bosley were absent. Ward Four Council seat vacant.

FOP REPORT – ENGINEERING AGREEMENT – TAXIWAY 'A' RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, unanimously recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to execute a Professional Engineering Services contract with McFarland Johnson for the construction administration of the Taxiway 'A' Reconstruction project. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the Committee report was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously with 11 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilors Jones, Ormerod, and Bosley were absent. Ward Four Council seat vacant.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

The City Manager led the Council in congratulating Beth Fox, HR Director/Assistant City Manager, for being selected for one of this year's Extraordinary Woman awards. Ms. Fox is a committed leader in public service through both her work and volunteer life. She began her municipal career in the Town of Greenfield where she served for three years before becoming the first Town Administrator of Swanzey, where she served for 25 years. Ms. Fox has been with the City of Keene for the past 11 years. She was recognized in 2019 at the International City Managers' Conference for reaching her 35th year in municipal service. In addition to her work for our community, she has been involved with the Elm City Rotary Club and DeMar marathon. Ms. Fox is a current member of the NH Community Development Finance Authority and has served on the Southwestern Community Services Board, Southwest Region Brownfield Committee, Endowment for Health Advisory Committee, and Health Trust Board of Trustees. She is former president and current member of the Executive Board for the NH Municipal Managers' Association. The City Manager said Ms. Fox is well deserving of this recognition, and we are lucky to have her on our team.

REPORT – WITHDRAWAL OF BLOCK PARTY REQUEST FOR OCTOBER 21, 2023 – ROGER WEINREICH

A memorandum read from the Public Works Director/EMD/ACM, recommending that the City Council accept the communication from Roger Weinreich, withdrawing his request for a block party on Main Street on October 21, 2023. Mayor Hansel accepted the request to withdraw and filed the communication as informational.

REPORT – PLANNING BOARD NOMINATION OF KENNETH SWYMER TO SWRPC COMMISSIONERS

A Planning Board report read, unanimously nominating Kenneth Kost as a Commissioner to serve on Southwest Regional Planning Commission. A motion by Councilor Powers to confirm the nomination from the Planning Board, with a term to expire December 31, 2027, was duly seconded by Councilor Greenwald. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 11 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilors Jones, Ormerod, and Bosley were absent. Ward Four Council seat vacant.

REPORT – DAVID ORGAZ – RESIGNATION FROM THE PLANNING BOARD

A memorandum was read from Senior Planner, Mari Brunner, recommending that the City Council accept David Orgaz's resignation from the Planning Board. A motion by Councilor Powers to accept the resignation with regret and appreciation of Mr. Orgaz's 3 plus years of service on the Planning Board was duly seconded by Councilor Greenwald. The motion carried unanimously with 11 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilors Jones, Ormerod, and Bosley were absent. Ward Four Council seat vacant.

MSFI REPORT – MORE TIME – AD-HOC LOWER WINCHESTER STREET PROJECT

A Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee report read, unanimously recommending placing this item on more time. Mayor Hansel granted more time.

IN APPRECIATION OF JOHN ARTHUR COONS UPON HIS RETIREMENT – RESOLUTION R-2023-33

A memorandum read from the HR Director/ACM, Beth Fox, recommending accepting Resolution R-2023-33, in appreciation of John Arthur Coons upon his retirement. A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt Resolution R-2023-33 with appreciation of Mr. Coons' 30 years of service to the City was duly seconded by Councilor Greenwald. The motion carried unanimously with 11 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilors Jones, Ormerod, and Bosley were absent. Ward Four Council seat vacant.

IN APPRECIATION OF EDWARD C. SWEENEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT – RESOLUTION R-2023-35

A memorandum read from the HR Director/ACM, Beth Fox, recommending accepting Resolution R-2023-35, in appreciation of Edward C. Sweeney upon his retirement. A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt Resolution R-2023-35 with appreciation of Mr. Sweeney's 35 years of service to the City was duly seconded by Councilor Greenwald. The motion carried unanimously with 11 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilors Jones, Ormerod, and Bosley were absent. Ward Four Council seat vacant.

FOP REPORT – KEENE ROADWAY SAFETY ACTION PLAN PROJECT GRANT ACCEPTANCE AND CONSULTANT SELECTION

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, unanimously recommending that the City Council adopt a resolution at its earliest opportunity to appropriate \$87,500 from the unallocated fund balance to fund the City's local matching funds for a United States Department of Transportation Safe Streets and Roads for All planning grant. Mayor Hansel filed the recommendation.

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee report read, unanimously recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept and execute a Safe Streets and Roads for All planning grant from the US Department of Transportation in the amount of \$350,000 (federal share). A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the Committee report was duly seconded by Councilor Remy.

A motion by Councilor Powers was duly seconded by Councilor Remy to amend the motion to the following: that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept, execute, *and expend* a Safe Streets and Roads for All planning grant from the US Department of Transportation in the amount of \$350,000 (federal share). The motion to amend carried unanimously.

The amended motion carried unanimously with 11 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilors Jones, Ormerod, and Bosley were absent. Ward Four Council seat vacant.

A Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee Report read, unanimously recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to negotiate and execute a Professional Services Agreement with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB), Inc. for the Keene Roadway Safety Action Plan Project, for an amount not to exceed \$437,500, and, if an agreement cannot be reached with VHB, that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to negotiate and execute an agreement with the next highest-ranked firm. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the Committee report was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously with 11 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilors Jones, Ormerod, and Bosley were absent. Ward Four Council seat vacant.

MEMORANDUM – CITY ENGINEER – APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE KEENE ROADWAY SAFETY ACTION PLAN PROJECT – RESOLUTION R-2023-36

A memorandum read from the City Engineer, recommending that the City Council suspend their Rules of Order, specifically Section 27, Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions, to act upon Resolution R-2023-36 relating to the appropriation of funds for the Keene Roadway Safety Action Plan and further to adopt Resolution R-2023-36.

A motion by Councilor Powers to suspend Section 27 of the City Council Rules of Order to act upon Resolution R-2023-36 was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 11 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilors Jones, Ormerod, and Bosley were absent. Ward Four Council seat vacant.

A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt Resolution R-2023-36 relating to the appropriation of funds for the Keene Roadway Safety Action Plan was duly seconded by Councilor Remy.

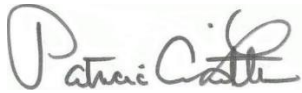
Councilor Remy pointed out a Scrivener’s error in the third “whereas” statement of the Resolution.

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The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 11 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilors Jones, Ormerod, and Bosley were absent. Ward Four Council seat vacant.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Hansel adjourned the meeting at 8:09 PM.

A true record, attest: 
City Clerk