

A regular meeting of the Keene City Council was held on Thursday, October 2, 2025. The Honorable Mayor Jay V. Kahn called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Roll called: Kate M. Bosley, Laura E. Tobin, Michael J. Remy, Randy L. Filiault, Robert C. Williams, Edward J. Haas, Philip M. Jones, Andrew M. Madison, Kris E. Roberts, Jacob R. Favolise, Bryan J. Lake, Catherine I. Workman, Bettina A. Chadbourne, Thomas F. Powers, and Mitchell H. Greenwald were present. Councilor Madison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES FROM PRECEDING MEETING

A motion by Councilor Greenwald to adopt the September 18, 2025, meeting minutes as presented was duly seconded by Councilor Bosley. The motion carried unanimously with 15 Councilors present and voting in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Kahn shared a reminder of the Municipal Primary Election scheduled for October 7, 2025. Polls would be open from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Direct any questions about elections and voting to the City Clerk's Office, who the Mayor said was busy preparing in its usual professional manner.

Next, the Mayor shared many wonderful community events and holidays to look forward to this season, calling it a perfect time to come together and celebrate what makes the City so special:

- October 3 to 5, 2025: Monadnock International Film Festival (MONIFF), with many independent and short films of interest.
- October 3, 2025: National Manufacturing Day. Some local manufacturers would also be celebrating throughout the month.
- October 5, 2025: Fire Prevention Parade at 1:00 PM. Fire departments throughout Cheshire County and beyond would participate. Councilor Powers said there would be a trailer and platform to watch the parade outside Cherry Garden on Main Street.
- October 13, 2025: Columbus Day and Indigenous People's Day
- October 13, 2025: Navy 250th Birthday
- October 13 to 24, 2025: Einbeck, Germany, Sister City Student Exchange. The Mayor thanked households throughout the City for hosting members of the Sister City, calling it a great partnership.
 - October 13, 2025: The choral group of 25 to 29 students arrive.
 - October 15, 2025: Official Einbeck Delegation to arrive.
 - October 16, 2025: Opening reception at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers. Some members of the Delegation would attend the City Council meeting that evening for a Proclamation.
 - October 19, 2025: Keene-Einbeck Choral Exchange Concert at 5:00 PM at Redfern Arts Center.
 - The Delegation would travel throughout the City and region during the rest of its visit.
- October 15, 2025: Support Your Local Chamber of Commerce Day
- October 18, 2025: Keene Pumpkin Festival
- October 24 to 26, 2025: Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale

- October 31, 2025: Trick-or-Treating from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
- October 2025: Bat Appreciation Month

Mayor Kahn concluded his announcements by congratulating the Hannah Grimes Center on Radically Rural, October 7 to 9, 2025. This summit for rural businesses would attract more than 400 people to Keene from throughout the nation.

PROCLAMATION - EMPLOYEE-OWNED BUSINESS MONTH

Mayor Kahn noted that Whitney Brothers in Keene changed ownership in summer 2025. He welcomed new owner Scott Kroger, the first owner of an employee stock-owned company in the City of Keene. On behalf of this transition, Mayor Kahn read into the record and presented Mr. Kroger with a Proclamation, declaring October 2025 as Employee Ownership Month in Keene and recognizing Whitney Brothers' 121-year legacy in Keene and commitment to its employees.

Mr. Kroger said he was incredibly honored to receive this Proclamation on behalf of Whitney Brothers, just one of many employee-owned companies in the state of New Hampshire. Mr. Kroger was proud to be leading a company with a heritage of 121 years behind it. He was joined at the meeting by four colleagues (Debbie, Chris, Nate, and Chris), representing a dedicated team of people doing some tremendous things to innovate and build new, high-quality products in Keene. Mr. Kroger said Whitney Brothers manufactures a unique product and every single piece of furniture produced touches a young life in some way. Now, as an employee-owned company, every employee would have a stake; Mr. Kroger said that it drives a community of innovation, motivation, engagement, and quality. He added that Whitney Brothers was proud to be in Keene and hoped to be for another 121 years, and they planned to grow and expand in New Hampshire as well. Mr. Kroger thanked Mayor Kahn for the honor again.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION: PARAGON MARKETING NAMED TO THE "2025 BEST COMPANIES TO WORK FOR" BY BUSINESS NEW HAMPSHIRE MAGAZINE

The Mayor welcomed Founder and CEO of Paragon Digital Marketing Zach Luse for community recognition. Mayor Kahn reported that Paragon Digital Marketing was just named one of the "2025 Best Companies to Work For" by Business New Hampshire Magazine. The Mayor called this a tremendous honor and a testament to the incredible vision and culture that Mr. Luse had built over the previous 13 years. This recognition was particularly meaningful because it was based directly upon feedback from Paragon employees, a remarkable 100% of whom agreed that they felt encouraged to learn and their manager truly cared about them as people. Located in downtown Keene and in the renovated historic church on Court Street, Mayor Kahn said Paragon Digital Marketing was proving a small team could have a huge impact. With just eight employees, Paragon built a creative, innovative, and deeply human centered workplace; they had prioritized the well-being of their employees with unlimited paid time off, flexible schedules, and unique team building events (e.g., kayaking trips and family-friendly pumpkin carving festivals). The Paragon office environment fosters creativity, with amenities like vintage arcade games, foosball, and an office kegerator. Mr. Luse was quoted stating, "We're not just here to do great work. We're here to do good for our clients, for our community, and for each other." The Mayor said this was evident in Paragon's mission driven work with

many of their clients being local nonprofits and small businesses. They also regularly volunteered and promoted sustainable practices. On behalf of the City of Keene, Mayor Kahn formally commended Paragon Digital Marketing, and its team, for their dedication to the Keene community and for building a workplace that truly values its people and makes Keene a better place to work and live.

Mr. Luse said Paragon had been in downtown Keene for 13 years and hoped to last 121 years (like Whitney Brothers). From the beginning, Paragon had been really invested in the community and giving back whenever possible, which he thought employees valued and enjoyed; from a fun night at The Colonial sponsoring a show, teaching a class at Keene State College, or building and managing the Explore Keene website. Mr. Luse appreciated all the support he received over the years from the City Council and the City staff as well, especially when it came to renovating church. In the upcoming months, he looked forward to opening Platz Beer Garden, which he hoped would be another Best Place to Work in New Hampshire. Mr. Luse thanked the Mayor for the recognition, saying Paragon loves being in Keene.

NOMINATIONS - ENERGY & CLIMATE COMMITTEE, HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Mayor Kahn nominated Matthew Boulton to serve as an Alternate member of the Energy and Climate Committee, with a term to expire December 31, 2027. The Mayor also nominated Gregory Kleiner to serve as an Alternate member of the Human Rights Committee, with a term to expire December 31, 2026. Mayor Kahn tabled the nominations until the next regular meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS - KEN KOST - IN SUPPORT OF PRESERVING 100 CHURCH STREET AS A POCKET PARK; ROBERT AND SUSAN HAMM - IN SUPPORT OF PRESERVING 100 CHURCH STREET AS A POCKET PARK; JODI NEWELL - PETITION FOR THE CITY TO RETAIN OWNERSHIP OF 100 CHURCH STREET AND PROPOSED MAINTENANCE PLAN; MICHELE CHALICE - REQUEST TO PURSUE CDBG GRANT FUNDS - FOR THE RENOVATION OF 100 CHURCH STREET; *AND* PAUL RODENHAUSER - IN SUPPORT OF THE SALE OF 100 CHURCH STREET TO A PRIVATE OWNER

The first communication was received from Ken Kost, submitting a follow-up letter of support for maintaining 100 Church Street as a pocket park for the benefit of the residents of East Keene. A second communication was received from Robert and Sandra Hamm, in support of preserving 100 Church Street as a pocket park. A third communication was received from Jodi Newell, submitting a petition containing 21 signatures of individuals residing in Keene who agreed to commit to the maintenance of 100 Church Street as a green space, and providing a maintenance and stewardship plan for consideration. Mayor Kahn accepted all three communications as informational.

A fourth communication was received from Michele Chalice, requesting permission to pursue a Federal Community Development Block Grant for up to \$500K to renovate the 0.12-acre green space at 100 Church Street. The Mayor referred the communication to the City Manager pending the Council's decision about 100 Church Street.

A fifth communication was received from Paul Rodenhauser, in support of the sale of 100 Church Street to a private property owner, citing the difficulties with private maintenance of publicly owned property, and the issues the location poses for the neighboring residents. Mayor Kahn accepted the communication as informational.

MSFI REPORT - SALE OF CITY PROPERTY - 100 CHURCH STREET; *AND* PETITIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE SALE OF 100 CHURCH STREET TO A PRIVATE OWNER - TENANTS OF 110 AND 116 CHURCH STREET AND 103 ROXBURY STREET

A Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report was read, unanimously recommending accepting the petitions from tenants of 110 and 116 Church Street and 103 Roxbury Street as informational. The Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report further recommended on a vote of 4 to 1, that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to negotiate and execute the sale of 100 Church St., Parcel #574-015. A motion by Councilor Greenwald to carry out the intent of the Committee report was duly seconded by Councilor Filiault.

Councilor Greenwald summarized the previous meetings on the potential sale of 100 Church Street. He noted that when Antioch University New England inhabited a small brick building on Roxbury Street, the parcel was well used as a small park, but the University no longer owned that building. Councilor Greenwald recalled that after this potential sale was discussed by the Finance, Organization and Personnel (FOP) Committee, which recommended the sale to City Council, several Councilors suggested reconsidering keeping it as a green space if neighbors could take it over. The matter was referred to the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure (MSFI) Committee, which discussed it for two meetings and asked the neighborhood for a plan. Councilor Greenwald said no firm plan had come forward. At the last MSFI meeting, there was a 4 to 1 vote to sell the property. He said there were a lot of neighbor comments that he wanted to inform the Council about. Councilor Greenwald reminded the Council of the basics about the parcel: City-owned small piece of land available to the public, not a park, not a dog park, cannot be posted as “no trespassing” in the case of nefarious activities, planted and maintained by Antioch University in the past. Councilor Greenwald said the MSFI Committee was told that the City did not want to keep this property; it wanted to sell or be rid of it in some manner. The City would probably cut the grass, but landscaping would be doubtful. It was unlikely the City would maintain the property as a safe area for the public and abutters. Two petitions were submitted by abutters, one from owners of the brick building on Roxbury Street. The petition from the Church Street abutter requested that the parcel be sold for safety concerns, which Councilor Greenwald thought was an important consideration. He also saw a group of neighbors organizing on Facebook to maintain it as greenspace, and he thought he saw someone looking to buy it for a communally owned greenspace; he said that idea would have various long-term problems (e.g., policing) the City Attorney could speak to. However, Councilor Greenwald said the neighbors would need a plan approved by City staff to pursue that. He noted that the Council had been going through this for three plus months, and he wondered if the neighbors would have a plan; maybe not. Councilor Greenwald wanted to give the interested neighbors one more month to develop their plan and said it would be the last time he would support referring it back to Committee.

A motion by Councilor Greenwald to amend the Committee report to refer the Sale of City Property – 100 Church Street back to the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee was duly seconded by Councilor Filiault.

Councilor Filiault was one of the four Councilors who voted to sell. In fairness, Councilor Filiault agreed that the MSFI Committee had told the east side neighbors that if they came up with a plan, the Council would look at it. He said the request had gone through the FOP Committee, which voted to sell, and the MSFI Committee twice, and nobody had a plan. Councilor Filiault mentioned the five communications to the Council this week on this matter, one of which was referred to the City Manager because of logistical and legal questions. Councilor Filiault agreed with Councilor Greenwald to send this back to the MSFI Committee one more time, and not again, to see if there could be a legitimate plan in the next 30 days. He did not think it was that pressing an issue and the City could wait 30 more days. Councilor Filiault agreed with the amendment.

Councilor Tobin said in thinking about and listening to this matter, one thing discussed a lot was greenspace, but she did not think this was really a question about greenspace. She stated this property was never designed as a park. Whether the City were to buy or sell it, Councilor Tobin said that would not guarantee the property would remain greenspace. She said it was confusing to her why the City would sell the space to one group when there was already another individual asking. She also thought it was important to remember this request to purchase the property developed out of safety concerns from the neighbors. Councilor Tobin said she had not heard any of those things being addressed in any of the plans, which she called lovely, but were more focused on landscaping and helping to clean up garbage. He said the neighbors were already doing that, which was great, but now they were asking for more that might solve the problem of being afraid to go out to the dumpster because of fear of who might be there. Councilor Tobin thought the City had done a lot of work to create a City that is open to new housing development. If the City was going to be friendly toward new housing, she thought the City would also have to be friendly toward landlords and tenants; she said the Council could not walk away when they ask for help. Councilor Tobin thought it made sense to send this to MSFI back in August and to listen to the neighbors after she initially supported the FOP Committee's recommendation to sell. However, she said nothing had addressed the safety concerns that were the initial reason for selling the property. If the option was to refer this back to Committee and discuss this again, Councilor Tobin was okay with it but said it was also delaying resolving these safety concerns. Councilor Tobin added that regardless of whether this property would be sold or not, she really appreciated how engaged the neighbors were, and she hoped the City could really harness that energy as many properties need extra love and care: a plot of land across the street, another park not far from there, a pocket park on Church Street. Councilor Tobin thought it would be great to work with City staff on developing a program that would help allow residents to participate more in their community, citing the real need for that.

Councilor Roberts said he heard people talking repeatedly about safety and how much the Police had to get involved. He wanted to emphasize that the reason they suggested getting rid of this park could and would be used against the City Council in the future. When talking about the people in the neighboring building feeling unsafe, Councilor Roberts said in the previous six months, he saw three people there: one sitting on the wall drinking and two people from the

neighborhood cleaning the park. He thought the people whom neighbors were really scared of were sitting across the street on the bench under the tree, sometimes 10 or 12 together, from early in the morning and until late in the afternoon. If talking about safety, Councilor Roberts said the Council needed to discuss the Rail Trail and Bike Path: under the bridge where women were now scared to walk on the Bike Path because there were people there, further up the Bike Path where people smoke by the bench, needles on the road that goes Public Works, or the property behind Hundred Nights Shelter. He also cited cars, who have nothing to do with recreation, coming/going from the new Pat Russell Park early in the mornings. So, Councilor Roberts said that if using safety as the reason, to ensure it applies to everything. If the City did not want the park, Councilor Roberts said the City should just come out and say it did not want the park, not say it was for safety reasons.

Councilor Madison noted that the City did not initially own this parcel, it was seized by the City through eminent domain for a road that was then not built. He said the City did not buy this property with the intention of creating a park, the City took the property through eminent domain and then did nothing with it. Councilor Madison added that he really appreciated all of the community/neighborhood feedback and input, but he noticed two differences between the communications he had received: (1) the residents adjacent to this property, who were dealing with the concerning behaviors on a daily basis, and were very much in favor of selling; and (2) people who generally lived several blocks away (or in a few cases, way across town) and really wanted the City to keep the property. Councilor Madison said he leaned toward listening to the people who dealt with these behaviors daily. For example, he walked this route pretty frequently as a shortcut to the Monadnock Food Co-Op, and on his last walk, he saw someone defecating in the open on this parcel. Councilor Madison called it, “pretty ridiculous” adding the City had few resources available to address these issues without the ability to “trespass” people from the parcel. He reiterated that this property was sitting as an empty lot because the City took it and that it could be returned to the tax rolls; the City did not buy the property, did not ask for it, but took it. Councilor Madison supported returning it to the public and tax rolls and moving forward.

Councilor Williams noted that it takes time to raise the interest of these many volunteers in the community, but it was achieved. He added that there was not just a petition, but a list of 21 people who volunteered to help create and implement the plan Councilor Greenwald was asking for, which Councilor Williams called an exciting development. Councilor Williams hoped the City could make use of this property, take what is learned, and deal with some of the other issues that Councilor Roberts discussed. However, Councilor Williams said there needed to be a chance for the people who had been coalescing around this to come together and develop a plan to make this property work first; there was only one week between the MSFI meeting and this Council meeting. He hoped that with more notice, there would be a plan that everyone would be happy with.

Councilor Haas appreciated the option to send this back to MSFI for another month and give people a chance to think through what they could come up with. He thought it was a good thing and hoped the Council would vote for the amendment. He was unsure what would come out of that month’s effort but said the Council heard a group assembling to care for this empty space. He noted that it was not the usual people he expected to see organizing, but new people were getting involved. So, the effort was building some momentum. Councilor Haas heard the

organizers knew they needed to involve neighboring tenants in the process, with ideas to make them feel safe. Councilor Haas appreciated the extra month and hoped everyone would vote for it.

The motion to amend the Committee report to refer Sale of City Property – 100 Church Street back to the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee carried on a vote with 9 Councilors voting in favor and 6 Councilors voting in opposition. Councilors Bosley, Tobin, Remy, Madison, Lake, and Powers voted in the minority.

The motion to carry out the intent of the Committee report as amended carried with 14 Councilors voting in favor and 1 voting in opposition. Councilor Remy voted in the minority.

A point of order was raised by Councilor Remy related to the motion to refer the matter back to Committee having precedence over the motion to carry out the intent of the report. The City Attorney agreed with Councilor Remy's assessment that the motion to amend the report to refer the matter back to Committee was unnecessary but it was not an issue as long as the final outcome satisfied the Council.

Councilor Roberts temporarily left the meeting room after the vote.

MSFI REPORT - RELATING TO THE LOAD RATING STUDY RESULTS FOR THE BEAVER STREET AND SPRING STREET BRIDGES OVER BEAVER BROOK

A Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report was read, unanimously recommending the City Engineer's report related to weight limits for Beaver Street and Spring Street bridges be accepted as informational. Mayor Kahn accepted the report as informational.

MSFI REPORT - DOWNTOWN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT UPDATE

A Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report was read, unanimously recommending accepting the Downtown Infrastructure Project report as informational. Mayor Kahn accepted the report as informational.

FOP REPORT - COUNCILOR REMY - REQUEST TO PLACE SOCIAL DISTRICT QUESTION ON 2025 MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

A Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report was read, unanimously recommending the question of whether to allow social districts in the City of Keene be placed on the 2025 Municipal General Election Ballot, and that a public hearing be scheduled for October 16, 2025. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the Committee report was duly seconded by Councilor Remy.

Councilor Remy summarized the Committee report, noting that after a vote of the City to decide if constituents were interested, it would ultimately be the Council's decision. To demonstrate the possibilities of social districts, he used the Keene Food Festival as an example (which he was long involved with). For example, under a social district, The Stage could allow carry-out

martinis during the festival and patrons could walk around the festivities with their drinks and visit sidewalk booths of other businesses. Councilor Remy imagined some fun opportunities. He did not see harm in putting the option on the ballot to determine the interest of the voters, which was why he brought this forward.

Councilor Roberts returned to the meeting.

Councilor Greenwald apologized for not attending the Finance, Organization and Personnel (FOP) Committee meeting to ask directly. If the Council thought this was a “terrible” idea, he wondered why not vote in opposition now; why was the Council sending it to the ballot? The Mayor referred to a summary in the FOP minutes. Councilor Remy said he brought this forward because Keene is a City, not a town. So, this question must go through a ballot process, and the next time Keene could address this would be the 2027 election. He said that if the Council voted against this at this meeting, there would need to be a Public Hearing, so the public could ask any questions about how this would work. Then, the decision would be on the November ballot. If the public voted no, then social districts would not be allowed in the City of Keene. Someone could raise the issue and ask for it to be added to the ballot again in 2027; they would not be prohibited forever. It would give two more years to consider those interests.

Mayor Kahn added that unlike keno, which is structured to automatically go into effect in communities if no action is taken to prevent it by a certain date, the City does not *need* to put this question on the ballot in order to decide before it is allowed by default. Councilor Remy agreed that keno was the opposite. If the Council did not make the decision to put the social district question on the ballot, then Mayor Kahn said state law would supersede local decision-making. If the Council voted against this, the City would not have an opportunity to consider this on the general ballot for another two years.

Councilor Filiault said he thought social districts would be a bad idea and would not work for the City of Keene. He also felt that anytime the Council could allow the voters to look at something, vote on it, and refer their opinion back to the Council, it would be good. Councilor Filiault said the State of New Hampshire does not usually allow the City to do anything, and in this particular case, the state was allowing the voters to tell the City how they felt. So, he thought it was a positive thing. Again, Councilor Filiault said he thought social districts would be a bad idea, but he said 23,000 other people in Keene might disagree with him.

Councilor Williams said he also thought social districts would be a bad idea, but he agreed that the Council should send the question to the voters. Mayor Kahn said the Council was not voting on the idea.

Councilor Haas remembered that if the City had not addressed the Keno question, someone could have applied for and received a license, and they would have been grandfathered in later if the City chose to then object to Keno. He asked if the same situation would apply to this vote, or would this be a clear “yes or no” by the Council. The Mayor and City Attorney Amanda Palmeira agreed that Councilor Haas’s interpretation of the Keno situation was not entirely correct. The Mayor confirmed that the Council was voting “yes or no” on social districts whether to send the question of social districts to the ballot. The Mayor added that a yes vote by the

public on the ballot in November would allow the City to exercise its option for social districts with local rules designed by the City. Councilor Haas said that would place a lot of importance on this election. He said it would be up to the Council to ensure an incredible turnout to measure the will of the citizenry rather than some lobbying group.

Councilor Roberts said the FOP Committee specifically asked who would have final approval of this and the City Attorney confirmed that regardless of whether the public voted to approve this, it would only be the Council's decision whether to go forward with implementing social districts. That was why Councilor Roberts supported this motion, because if the voters supported this, the Council would get to consider it and decide whether it would be a good idea.

The motion to carry out the intent of the FOP Committee report carried with 14 Councilors voting in favor and 1 voting in opposition. Councilor Greenwald voted in the minority.

Mayor Kahn scheduled a Public Hearing on the request to place Social District Question on 2025 Municipal General Election ballot for October 16, 2025, at 7:05 PM.

Councilor Remy asked if a NH Liquor Commission representative would come to help him present at the Public Hearing. The City Clerk said she contacted the Liquor Commission, and they were not inclined to participate because they were not involved in this legislative initiative and did not have educational information to offer.

REPORT - ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS - HOLIDAY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM - HUMAN SERVICES

A Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report was read, unanimously recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept donations associated with the City's 2025 Holiday Sponsorship Program. 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 15 Councilors present and voting in favor.

REPORT - OVERVIEW OF OUTSIDE AGENCY FUNDING PROCESS - HUMAN SERVICES

A Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report was read, unanimously recommending the overview of the outside agency funding process be accepted as informational. Mayor Kahn accepted the report as informational.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Deputy City Manager Rebecca Landry thanked the City Council for its support of the Holiday Sponsorship Program. She called it a fantastic program, whether giving or receiving.

Next, the Deputy City Manager congratulated the Keene Fire Department for delivering a baby at the Fire Department in downtown Keene this week. Someone was directed to the Fire Department when there was supposed to be a longer drive to the hospital, but there was no way

to get there in time. Deputy City Manager Landry said the Fire Department team did a fantastic job and the City celebrated the birth of that child. She congratulated the Fire Department for all they did to make that a positive experience.

Deputy City Manager Landry also congratulated the Community Development Department for the formal adoption of the 2025 Comprehensive Master Plan by the Planning Board on September 29, 2025. The Deputy City Manager thanked Community Development Director Paul Andrus' team and all the community stakeholders who participated in the outcome of this project. Deputy City Manager Landry also thanked the City Council. There would be a Council workshop soon, when the Community Development Department would present ways to integrate the new Master Plan Pillars and other priorities with the Council's goals.

Additionally, City Clerk Terri Hood reported that voters would notice the new vote tabulation machines at the upcoming Municipal Primary Election. The Ballot Law Commission approved this voting system in 2024, so Clerk's office staff had been working many hours, preparing for these new systems to go as smoothly and seamlessly as possible. The Clerk's office was excited that this tabulation system would streamline things and the City Clerk thought voters would find the machines helpful, with large screens; if there are issues with any votes on the ballot, machines offer voters the option to review their ballots and either place them in the side compartment for hand counting, or choose to mark a new ballot in case of mistakes. Overall, the City Clerk thought it would be a nice change for people that would streamline the Clerks' election close out process as well, so she was looking forward to it. Mayor Kahn thanked the Clerk's office for all its election prep.

O-2025-29 RELATING TO PAVEMENT SETBACKS AND CROSS-SITE ACCESS – JOINT PLANNING BOARD/PLD

A Joint Planning Board/Planning, Licenses and Development Committee report was read, with the Planning Board unanimously finding Ordinance O-2025-29 consistent with the 2010 Master Plan, and the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee recommending the Mayor set a Public Hearing on Ordinance O-2025-29. Mayor Kahn filed the memorandum and set a Public Hearing for November 6, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

R-2025-26 RELATING TO AN AMENDED RETURN OF LAYOUT FOR A PUBLIC RIGHT-OF- WAY KNOWN AS GROVE STREET - PLANNING BOARD

A Planning Board report was read, unanimously recommending the City Council approve a petition to amend the layout of Grove Street in the vicinity of Water Street. Mayor Kahn filed the memorandum as informational.

MORE TIME - RELATING TO RULES FOR THE OPERATION OF BICYCLES - ORDINANCE O-2025-33

A Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report was read, unanimously recommending placing Ordinance O-2025-33 Relating to Rules for the Operation of Bicycles on more time. Mayor Kahn granted more time.

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING - PETITION TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP - 1.24 ACRE PORTION OF 62 MAPLE AVENUE - INDUSTRIAL PARK TO MEDIUM DENSITY - ORDINANCE O-2025-34

A memorandum was read from Public Works Director Don Lussier, recommending that Ordinance O-2025-34 Relating to a Zoning Map Amendment – Maple Avenue, be referred to the Joint Planning Board/Planning, Licenses and Development Committee. Mayor Kahn referred Ordinance O-2025-34 to the Joint Planning Board/Planning, Licenses and Development Committee.

ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING - RELATING TO CLASS ALLOCATION - ORDINANCE O-2025-31

The City Clerk noted that a Scrivener's error in the preamble of Ordinance O-2025-31 was corrected as the first iteration listed an effective date of September 21, 2025 assuming the Ordinance would be before the Council for second reading on September 18, 2025. That date was removed, and if adopted the Ordinance would become effective upon passage.

A Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report was read, unanimously recommending adoption of Ordinance O-2025-31 Relating to Class Allocation. Mayor Kahn filed the report. A motion by Councilor Powers to adopt Ordinance O-2025-31 was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 15 Councilors present and voting in favor.

RESOLUTIONS - RELATING TO AN AMENDED RETURN OF LAYOUT FOR A PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY KNOWN AS GROVE STREET - RESOLUTION R-2025-26; *AND* RELATING TO A DEED FOR LAND REMOVED FROM THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND AN EASEMENT FOR PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PETITION - PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR - RESOLUTION R-2025-27

The City Clerk noted that a Scrivener's error in Resolutions R-2025-26 and R-2025-27 was corrected to change the Public Hearing date from the originally listed August 21, 2025, to the actual date of September 4, 2025.

Mayor Kahn reminded the Council that only Councilors who participated in the site visit could vote on these Resolutions. Councilor Powers recused himself.

The first Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report was read, unanimously recommending the adoption of Resolution R-2025-26 Relating to an Amended Return of Layout for a Public Right-of-Way Known as Grove Street. Mayor Kahn filed the report. A motion by Councilor Greenwald to adopt Resolution R-2025-26 was duly seconded by Councilor Filiault.

Councilor Greenwald summarized the Committee report and recalled the site visit. He said moving this very small piece of land would facilitate Habitat for Humanity's extra unit, which

10/02/2025

would not really affect the roadway operation. He thought this made a lot of sense and urged a positive vote.

Councilor Roberts noted he has lived on Grove Street for 24 years, and felt this correction would absolutely improve Grove Street. At this time, he said many people used this lane to access Community Way or Marlboro Street from Grove Street. Councilor Roberts said this correction was needed a long time ago. Mayor Kahn said they would see how much could be done by virtue of the vote.

Councilor Bosley agreed completely with Councilor Roberts, but Councilor Bosley did not think the outcome of the vote on Resolution R-2025-26 would make those things happen. Councilor Bosley said this was about adjusting a very small strip of land, so it would not consume a second awkward lane. She thought the Public Works Department was aware of the problem Councilor Roberts cited and could fix it in the future. Mayor Kahn thought Councilor Bosley made a good distinction that there were two separate actions here.

The motion to adopt Resolution R-2025-26 carried unanimously with 14 Councilors voting in favor. Councilor Powers abstained.

A second Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee was read, unanimously recommending the adoption of Resolution R-2025-27 Relating to a Deed for Land Removed from the Right-of-Way and an Easement for Public Infrastructure. A motion by Councilor Greenwald to adopt Resolution R-2025-27 was duly seconded by Councilor Filiault. The motion carried unanimously with 14 Councilors voting in favor. Councilor Powers abstained.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Kahn adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM.

A true record, attest:



City Clerk