

A regular meeting of the Keene City Council was held on Thursday, April 2, 2026. The Honorable Mayor Jay V. Kahn called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Roll called: Randy L. Filiault, Michele A. Chalice, Bryan J. Lake, Jacob R. Favolise, Laura E. Tobin, Robert C. Williams, Philip M. Jones, Kris E. Roberts, Bettina A. Chadbourne, Edward J. Haas, Laura E. Ruttle-Miller, Molly V. Ellis, Thomas F. Powers, and Mitchell H. Greenwald were present. Catherine I. Workman was absent. Councilor Favolise led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES FROM PRECEDING MEETING

A motion by Councilor Greenwald to adopt the March 19, 2026 City Council meeting minutes as presented was duly seconded by Councilor Powers. The motion carried unanimously with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Workman was absent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Kahn announced upcoming dates of interest:

- April is Sexual Assault Prevention Month - wearing a teal ribbon signifies awareness and support for survivors.
- The Mayor wished joyous and good holidays to all celebrating:
 - April 2, 2026 through April 9, 2026: Pesach (Passover)
 - April 3, 2026: Good Friday
 - April 5, 2026: Easter Sunday
- April 6, 2026 through April 10, 2026: NH Energy Week

On the topic of NH Energy Week, Mayor Kahn noted that the week before this meeting, he communicated the City Council's support for Senate Bill 538 (authorized at the March 19, 2026 City Council meeting). Mayor Kahn called SB 538 a critical Bill before the Legislature that enables municipalities to invest in clean energy through a stable 20-year net metering term. The Mayor communicated the City Council's motion, which passed unanimously, to Clean Energy NH, which they appreciated; now he is on their mailing list and there are several other bills they would like the City to consider. This week, Senate Bill 449 and Senate Bill 540, both of which aim to lower energy costs and expand access to clean energy. The public hearings on these would be on April 6, 2026. The Mayor encouraged Councilors and the public to participate in that process by either contacting their state representatives or signing in remotely to support these bills through the New Hampshire House system by selecting the hearing date, the Committee (Energy), and the bill numbers to show support. Mayor Kahn said even a brief message can make a meaningful impact.

The Mayor announced an Open House at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant (420 Airport Road in Swanzey) on Thursday, April 16, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. A rain date is scheduled for Friday, April 17. Members of the public and Council are invited to attend. Mayor Kahn said it is very interesting to see how they take waste and turn it into clear water that is disposed.

Next, the Mayor shared reminders for the City Council's schedule. First, the City Council would host the Legislative Delegation Meeting on Monday, April 6, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the County

Delegation Hall. Over 50 RSVPs were received, including Cheshire County State Legislators, town managers and administrators, elected School Board members, and key individuals involved in legislative matters. Keene's full Delegation from the NH House, along with State Senator Donovan Fenton, Executive Councilor Karen Liot Hill, and Commissioner of the Department of Business and Economic Affairs Lucy Lange would be present; this would provide representation across all levels of government. Mayor Kahn said it was interesting that it had attracted this much attention. The presentation by NH Municipal Association would begin at 6:30 PM after light refreshments. The Mayor extended his sincere thanks to the County for generously hosting this meeting at their facility.

Second, Mayor Kahn reminded the Council that its annual break would be in August. The regular City Council meeting of August 6, 2026, will be held as planned; however, the August 20 and September 3 Council meetings are canceled. All Standing Committee meetings in August 2026 are canceled. This includes PLD on August 12, FOP on August 13 and August 27, and MSFI on August 26. Regular meetings will resume with PLD on September 9 and FOP on September 10, 2026.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION: KEENE STATE COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Mayor welcomed the Keene State College (KSC) Men's Basketball Team and KSC Athletic Director Marty Testo, noting Coach Steve Enright was likely watching remotely. Mayor Kahn recapped the team's 2025–2026 season, which he said was supposed to be a rebuilding year following the Keene State College Men's Basketball Team's Division III Final 16 appearance during the 2024–2025 season, and with the loss of the teams two leading scorers, Octavio Brito (Division III Player of the Year, national news) and Wesley Odiase. The 2025–2026 season was supposed to be about rebuilding without those players, but none nonetheless, the Team finished with a record of 20–11, battling their way to the Little East Championship game, and ultimately winning the Eastern College Athletic Conference Championship. They won this Championship without playing the three seniors on the team, with the designed intent of giving the underclassmen, who would be returning players, the opportunity to compete for championship-level experience. Mayor Kahn said the underclassmen pulled through, sweeping the last five playoff games, four of which were played at KSC. The Mayor called it a thrilling opportunity to see this really high level of basketball as one of the team's citizen/community fans. Mayor Kahn noted that this season marks the fifth straight 20-win season for KSC Men's Basketball. The Mayor proceeded to recognize various members of the Team:

- Junior Guard Jordan Cooper (from Goldsboro, North Carolina) had a breakout first season for the Owls. Jordan was named 1st Team All Little East Conference (LEC) and 2nd Team All Region. He had the dunk seen around the country on February 25, 2026 in a LEC quarterfinal win versus Rhode Island College. The dunk was #5 on ESPN SportsCenter's top 10 plays the following day.
- Senior Forward Leo Chaikin (from South Hero, Vermont) was named 2nd Team All Little East Conference. The Mayor had also been watching Mr. Chaikin for a few years and said he had a great second half of the season. He wished him the best in the year to come.

- Sophomore Center Denis Wainaina (from Nashua, New Hampshire) was named Little East Conference Defensive Player of the Year and finished the season with 109 Blocked Shots, second most in the country. This year, he shattered the previous single season blocked shots record in KSC Basketball history (Jeff Hunter, 83 blocked shots, 2022–23). Mayor Kahn congratulated Mr. Wainaina.
- Mayor Kahn said over the course of the season, three players eclipsed the career 1,000 college points barrier: Senior Guard Mitchell Shettles (from New Albany, Mississippi), Senior Guard Ryan Blakey, (from Akokeek, Maryland), and Junior Guard Jordan Cooper (from Goldsboro, North Carolina). The Mayor also noted enjoying watching Mr. Shettles' outside shots and commented on Mr. Blakely's remarkable pre-game warmup (including his loud voice) that pumps up the team.

Mayor Kahn said this 2025–2026 KSC Men's Basketball Team continued their dominance at home in Spaulding gymnasium, with a 13-3 home record and a 69-9 home record since 2020. He thought the greater Keene community could take pride in being the sixth player on the court, spurring the Owls Men's Basketball Team to that remarkable 69-9 home court record. The Mayor thanked Coach Steve Enright and the team for their dedication, for sharing the best show in town, and carrying Keene area basketball fans through the winter season. The Mayor almost wished for winter 2027.

Mr. Testo thanked Mayor Kahn for this opportunity, stating what this Basketball Team had accomplished was tremendous—not only this year, but in previous years. Mr. Testo thought the bigger story was what the KSC Athletic Department as a whole had been able to accomplish, including four champions this year, with multiple All Americans, multiple Regional Champions, and Regional Coaches of the Year. He said all those accolades are great and the coaches do a great job of bringing high level athletes in to achieve those awards. He thought the things that go unnoticed are the 84 athletes in the fall who had 4.0 GPAs, the athletes' more than 2,700 hours of community service, which equate to about \$80,000 of service financially in the community. Mr. Testo thinks those are the things that people do not realize that these athletes do. The day in the life of a student athlete is not just practicing for a couple of hours: they go to class, they study, some work, and some commute. He called it a big commitment by these gentlemen and the rest of the 500 student athletes, which was one fifth of KSC's campus at this time; athletics is a huge part of what makes the KSC community what it is today. Mr. Testo thanked the Mayor for this honor and encouraged everyone to continue coming to watch the athletes because they are special and it is the cheapest show in town.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION: UNION LEADER 40 UNDER FORTY AWARD - DR. LITO M. AMIT

The Mayor welcomed Dr. Lito M. Amit, who had some students with him in the audience. Mayor Kahn said it was an honor to recognize Dr. Amit as a 2026 New Hampshire Union Leader, 40 Under Forty honoree for his outstanding contributions to education, innovation, and to the Keene community. Mayor Kahn explained how Dr. Amit is distinguished among his peers, approachable, and has a great influence on his students. A tenured Associate Professor at Keene State College, Dr. Amit brings a rich interdisciplinary background to occupational safety and health, combining academic rigor, practical experience, and expertise in ergonomics. He holds a

Doctor of Health Science in Public Health, specializing in ergonomics, and a Master of Science in Occupational Health, both from Daegu Catholic University in South Korea. In addition, Dr. Amit holds a Master of Arts in Science Education from Christ the King College, and a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education majoring in Biology from Northwest Samar State University in the Philippines. He is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health at Dartmouth College as a Dartmouth Scholar. Dr. Amit is a Certified Safety Professional, Certified Instructional Trainer, Associate Safety Professional, and a Licensed Professional Teacher.

At Keene State College, Dr. Amit teaches a wide range of occupational safety and health courses while working to make a bigger impact by supporting and mentoring first-generation college students. Mayor Kahn said Dr. Amit is dedicated to developing a strong research culture among students, actively involving them in discussion, inquiry, hands-on-activities, conference presentations, and research projects, including a research trip to Berlin, Germany with students as co-authors. His research interests include musculoskeletal disorders, workplace hazards, and innovative occupational biomechanic solutions such as wearable technologies, specifically shoulder-assistance devices designed to improve worker safety and performance. Beyond the classroom, Dr. Amit is an active member of St. Bernard's Church, where he participates in the folk music choir. In recognition of Dr. Amit's professional leadership and community involvement, he was named in the 2026 New Hampshire Union Leader's 40 Under Forty. Mayor Kahn congratulated Dr. Amit on this well-deserved recognition and for the meaningful impact he continues to have on teaching, research, and service to his community.

Dr. Amit was unsure how to react to the attention and accolades. He said when he came to the U.S. and Keene State College during the height of the pandemic, it was a very strange time. When he stepped into the City of Keene at Keene State College, he felt welcome and warmth; he felt like he found a new home. He said he still feels that way today. Dr. Amit is very proud of being a part of a community that supports not just progress in terms of economic impact but also an avenue for students to actually realize their potential. He saw the basketball players in the room and some of his students and said despite challenges they face, they experience resilience every day. Dr. Amit was proud to see and feel so much love, support, and sense of community in the City of Keene and at KSC. He thanked Mayor Kahn and the City Council for this honor. Dr. Amit hopes to continue to be given the opportunity to be impactful not just for his students and the KSC community, but the Keene community as a whole.

CONFIRMATIONS - ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE; *AND* LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mayor Kahn nominated Claire Oursler to serve as a Regular Member of the Energy and Climate Committee, with a term to expire December 31, 2028. The Mayor also nominated Susan Matthews to serve as a Regular Member of the Library Board of Trustees, with a term to expire June 30, 2028. A motion by Councilor Greenwald to confirm the nominations was duly seconded by Councilor Powers. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS - PATHWAYS FOR KEENE - REQUEST FOR USE OF CITY PROPERTY - 4 ON THE 4TH ROAD RACE - JULY 4, 2026; AND KEENE PRIDE FESTIVAL - REQUEST FOR USE OF CITY PROPERTY - PRIDE FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

The first communication was received from Janelle Sartorio, requesting the annual license for Pathways for Keene to sponsor a footrace on July 4, 2026; the applicant requested Community Event funding for this FY27 event. A second communication was received from Adam Toepfer, requesting the annual license for use of downtown City property on September 20, 2026 to conduct the 2026 Keene Pride Festival; the applicant requested Community Event funding for this FY27 event. Mayor Kahn referred both communications to the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee.

COMMUNICATION - BRITTANY WILLIAMS - CONCERNS RELATING TO CARS CONGESTING ROYAL AVENUE DURING SCHOOL PICK-UP

A communication was received from Brittany Williams, submitting concerns related to the cars congesting both sides of Royal Avenue when Keene High School students are about to get out of school. Her submission includes some photographs of the congestion and an email that Keene High School has sent out to parents. Mayor Kahn referred the communication to the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

COMMUNICATION - COUNCILORS FILIAULT, JONES, AND HAAS - REQUEST TO REVIEW RECENT AMENDMENTS TO LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE - CODIFIED WITH THE ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE O-2025-15-A

A communication was received from Councilors Randy Filiault, Philip Jones, and Ed Haas, requesting that the Council review recent changes to the Land Development Code, citing community concerns about increased costs of fire separations and maintenance access, as well as concerns relating to allowing a 100% increase in multifamily units by right in the Medium Density District. Mayor Kahn referred the communication to the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee.

COMMUNICATION - COUNCILOR WILLIAMS - REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO ALLOW LEASHED DOGS IN WOODLAND CEMETERY

A communication was received from Councilor Robert Williams, requesting the Council consider updating the current regulations restricting dogs in cemeteries to allow leashed dogs in the Woodland Cemetery. Councilor Williams suggests this would benefit the neighborhood as allowing dog walkers would increase foot traffic on the paths, improving security for everyone. Mayor Kahn referred the communication to the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

COMMUNICATION - RICK MACMILLAN - WITHDRAWAL OF REQUEST FOR PUBLIC ART DISPLAY - TEMPORARY SCULPTURE INSTALLATION; AND MSFI REPORT PUBLIC ART DISPLAY PROPOSAL - TEMPORARY LARGE-SCALE SCULPTURE INSTALLATION

A communication was received from Rick MacMillan, requesting the Council accept the withdrawal of his proposal of March 13, 2026 for the temporary installation of a large-scale outdoor sculpture on City property as circumstances had changed since the request was submitted.

A motion by Councilor Greenwald to accept the withdrawal of request for Public Art Display - Temporary Sculpture Installation with regret, and to file the MSFI report into the record, was duly seconded by Councilor Tobin. The motion carried unanimously with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Workman was absent.

MSFI REPORT - EVERSOURCE ACCESS ACROSS CITY-OWNED LAND IN THE TOWN OF SWANZEY - TRANSITION TO LICENSE

A Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report was read, unanimously recommending the City Manager be authorized to negotiate and execute a revocable license and indemnification agreement with Public Service Company of New Hampshire, d/b/a Eversource, for the use of City-owned land located near the Dillant-Hopkins Airport in Swanzey for access to its transmission lines. A motion by Councilor Greenwald to carry out the intent of the Committee report was duly seconded by Councilor Tobin. The motion carried unanimously with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Workman was absent.

MSFI REPORT - ACCEPTANCE OF FIRE DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

A Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report was read, unanimously recommending the 2026 Fire Department's Strategic Plan be accepted as informational. Mayor Kahn filed the report as informational.

Mayor Kahn noted that the MSFI Committee presentation on the Fire Department Strategic Plan was informative and the Department provided a pretty thorough review of the activities and priorities. He thanked Fire Chief Jason Martin for sharing that report, which can be found on the Fire Department's City of Keene webpage.

MSFI REPORT - PRESENTATION - RED PINE SCALE - DINSMOOR WOODS (MAPLE AVENUE) HARVEST

A Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report was read, unanimously recommending the Dinsmoor Woods Harvest Plan and presentation by Long View Forest be accepted as informational. Mayor Kahn filed the report as informational. He stated that that the Councilors were provided with information on red pine scale that is also available at the Parks and Recreation website, should the public wish to find out more.

Councilor Tobin mentioned that the red pine scale fact sheet listed an incorrect date. It listed April 10, 2026 but should have listed April 11 at 3:30 PM for a walk with the arborist supporting Parks and Recreation on this matter. Mayor Kahn confirmed that the public were invited to join the walk.

Councilor Chalice thanked Director of Parks and Recreation Carrah Fisk-Hennessey for this extremely thorough information. Having been through a situation like this, Councilor Chalice knew the public could be really upset by these types of things, so she really appreciated that she could keep this information right on hand. She hoped Director Fisk-Hennessey might have a chance to appear on the radio to share some of this as well. Councilor Chalice really appreciated the time that was spent on this.

Councilor Greenwald said this would be a very sad, brutal cutting and the public could react to this unfavorably. He went on to encourage everyone to please read this report and asked the media to report on this to assist with getting the word out. He said this cutting would not just be done on a whim; it is a serious disease affecting the trees that will spread and this is not the only example of where this will be. There are other red pine scale issues in other forests around the City. That is why Councilor Greenwald said the City Council would be taking this very seriously. It really hurts because it is a beautiful looking forest driving down Maple Avenue. However, Councilor Greenwald said it has to be done and now, so that there is some marketable value for the timber, and so the disease will not spread. Mayor Kahn said they were good points.

MSFI REPORT - PRESENTATION - TRANSFER STATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

A Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report was read, unanimously recommending the Transfer Station Assessment Report be accepted as informational. Mayor Kahn filed the report as informational.

MSFI REPORT - PRESENTATION - MANAGEMENT OF EMERALD ASH BORER INFESTED TREES

A Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report was read, unanimously recommending the Highway Operations Manager's report [Management of Emerald Ash Borer Infested Trees] be accepted as informational. Mayor Kahn filed the report as informational.

MSFI REPORT - PRESENTATION - OUTLINING THE ROLE OF CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANTS

A Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report was read, unanimously recommending the presentation outlining the roles of contractors and consultants be accepted as informational. Mayor Kahn filed the report as informational.

Mayor Kahn thanked Councilor Favolise who brought this to the Council's attention and the Mayor thanked the Public Works Department for answering questions as the MSFI Committee presented them.

MSFI REPORT - DOWNTOWN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT UPDATE

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

FOP REPORT - FY25 DOJ BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM AWARD

A Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report was read, unanimously recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to co-apply with the County of Cheshire, NH and to accept and expend the U.S. Department of Justice FY25 Byrne JAG in the amount allocated to the City of \$5,501.00. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the Committee report was duly seconded by Councilor Lake. The motion carried unanimously with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Workman was absent.

FOP REPORT - WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS - PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 2027–2033

A Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report was read, unanimously recommending the written public comments relative to the proposed Capital Improvement Program 2027–2033 be accepted as informational. Mayor Kahn filed the report as informational.

FOP REPORT - PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 2027–2033

A Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report was read, unanimously recommending the adoption of the Capital Improvement Program for fiscal years 2027–2033. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the Committee report was duly seconded by Councilor Lake.

Councilor Powers recalled that this year, the Council went through the six-year Capital Improvement Program for fiscal years (FY) 2027 through 2033. He said the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee (FOP) went through the CIP project-by-project. At this meeting, the Council would act on the CIP, a six-year plan that outlines projects and programs the City needs to address. This CIP exercise is to bring it to the fiscal impact for the Operating Budget, which would be the next project in a few months. This year's CIP review included the full six years, a public hearing (including written comments submitted to the Clerk's office; Councilors received individual comments from constituents), and a Special FOP Committee meeting and a long regular meeting for CIP review that included a considerable amount of discussion. Councilor Powers said funding for the Downtown Infrastructure Project was one of those discussions and reviews to explain once again, so everybody understood how the economics of that project came together in the CIP. The FOP Committee also talked quite a bit about road repairs and downtown bathrooms. He wanted to be clear that the downtown restroom was not proposed to be handled financially in the CIP starting on July 1, 2026; rather, beginning in FY2028 (i.e., July 1, 2027). He said the FOP Committee discussed road conditions due to a tough winter, which is to be understood. Councilor Powers said that ultimately, the Committee

unanimously approved the CIP as presented. He said that it would not necessarily mean the City would be able to accomplish every single thing in the CIP, but those things planned in the near years are the ones that are most important to the City. He said the rest of it would be handled during the Budget process. Councilor Powers thanked everybody who had some part to play in this Plan; a lot of work goes into it other than by the FOP Committee. In an effort to address the concerns about the impact of this winter, Councilor Powers made the following motion.

A motion by Councilor Powers to amend the FY2027 through FY2033 Capital Improvement Program by shifting \$500,000 from the FY2028 Road Preservation and Rehabilitation Program to FY2027 was duly seconded by Councilor Greenwald.

Simplistically, Councilor Powers said it would be shifting that \$500,000 from one page to another. It would not change the economic impact of the CIP that the FOP passed the prior week.

Councilor Lake said he hoped everyone watched the CIP discussion the previous week, when there was a lot of good, constructive discussion around this particular topic. He said it had been a pretty rough winter and with the Downtown Project going on the next couple of years, the City would likely—as the CIP's written—be putting all funding in Road Rehabilitation toward the Downtown Project. That would mean taking a couple of seasons off from actually repaving and rehabbing these roads that need it. Councilor Lake said this motion would help to address that by getting some of that road rehab in FY27, so not going those two full seasons without. He said this would not have a big financial impact if the City Manager would entertain talking about how the City usually actually pays for the road rehab; Councilor Lake believed it was by bonding rather than by the taxes that year. He asked for the City Manager's input. The City Manager said he was correct that the City typically bonds about \$1.4 to \$1.6 million for road work through the City and because of the increased cost of the Downtown Project, those funds were allocated to mitigate some of that impact of the Downtown Project. The City Manager said that shifting \$500,000 from FY28 to FY27 has no impact on the overall cost of the CIP, but it does put additional costs on the Operating Budget coming up for FY27; it is not a \$500,000 impact, it is the impact of a \$500,000 bond payment. The FOP Committee talked about not really knowing until the Operating Budget whether or not a bond payment is something the Council would still want to do at that time because of fiscal constraints. So, the City Manager said this created more of a placeholder to let the Public Works Department know the City may in fact be undertaking road work in FY27. The City Council would make this decision once it is ready to adopt the Operating Budget in June 2026. The City Manager added that typically the bond payment starts in the following year, so once the City bonds a project, the first payment is usually in the next fiscal year.

Councilor Ruttle-Miller said that being new to this process and being new to budget cycles within the City, she saw how our focus could latch onto one thing, noting that one would think that this CIP was a 200-page book about a downtown bathroom. Councilor Ruttle-Miller encouraged the public to ask additional questions, stating that there were a lot of other budget items in the CIP beyond the bathroom. She understood how the news could latch onto one exciting thing, then people latch on, and there is a lot of conversation. She was not saying that bad conversation had taken place. She was glad that it meant people were paying attention, but there is so much more to pay attention to, and a lot of other interesting and really beneficial

things for the City in the CIP. Councilor Ruttle-Miller knows the news cannot cover everything but said the CIP is available for free, without a paywall, on the City of Keene website. So, if members of the public have any questions about the CIP, she encouraged them to reach out to any City Councilor and ask them.

The motion to amend the FY2027 through FY2033 Capital Improvement Program by shifting \$500,000 from FY2028 Road Preservation and Rehabilitation Program to FY2027 carried unanimously with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Workman was absent.

Councilor Jones spoke about the Liquid Brine Pre-Treatment System on page 97, calling it wonderful program. He thought the City should have done this years ago. He is glad the City is using magnesium chloride instead of calcium chloride or all the other typical things out there. However, he wondered whether this needed to be in the CIP: the City is not paying for the equipment, it is getting the equipment, and it would only be paying for the brine. He asked if that would not just be a line item right where salt is on the Operating Budget, not in the CIP. The City Manager said there are items in the CIP that are programmed—ongoing programs like replacement of radios for police and fire. The City Manager checked whether the brine treatment was a project or program. Councilor Jones said he was asking if it was not just like buying salt and would be in the Operating Budget. The City Manager did not think so, she thought there was more to it. When the Public Works Department presented this initiative, they noted some additional work that would be needed for vehicles in order to make this happen. Councilor Jones said he understood.

Mayor Kahn thanked the departments for bringing these Capital Plans forward. He respected the way that departments are looking towards the future and wanting to plan the kinds of improvements that are necessary to stay ahead of where they are today: anticipating where they need to be six years from now thanks to departmental creativity and forward looking. He said the City Manager preparing this final CIP and working with each of the departments to try to focus and narrow it down really addressed all the issues anticipated in the near-term future; he respects that part of the process before the CIP ever gets to the Council. He said it is a voluminous book but it would be more so without all this work. Mayor Kahn appreciated Councilor Powers' and the FOP Committee's leadership during the CIP workshops and hearings, when all the City Councilors and public had an opportunity to raise questions. As the Manager said, this is a Plan, all projects in the future need to come back before the Council for approval and further conversation. Mayor Kahn appreciated the amendment offered tonight because he thought it reassured the public that the Public Works Department could exercise good judgment to get necessary things done around the City beyond just the Downtown Project.

The motion to carry out the intent of the FOP Committee report to adopt the Capital Improvement Program for fiscal years 2027 through 2033, as amended, carried unanimously with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Workman was absent.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Elizabeth Ferland recognized Finance Director Kari Chamberlain, noting it was definitely a team effort to create the CIP. However, Ms. Chamberlain single handedly managed a

lot of it in the Finance Department and had done a fabulous job, so the City Manager thanked her. The City Manager called it a really important effort that the City makes every other year to go through the entire document and then during the off year, the City updates that one year of the Operating Budget (i.e., changes, grants, anything for urgent attention). The CIP is a financial plan, but it also helps to plan for grant applications and how the City times its projects to be coordinated across the organization together across multiple funds. The City Manager said she looks forward to the Budget process next.

Next, the City Manager talked about the winter warming shelter. She recognized the partners who helped to make this winter's overnight warming shelter possible. Through collaboration with Hundred Nights, Southwestern Community Services, and the United Church of Christ, the community was able to provide a safe, warm place for individuals during the coldest months of the year. The shelter operated overnight throughout the winter and had recently closed for the season. This effort required a great deal of coordination and commitment. The City Manager thanked the staff and volunteers from these organizations, as well as the City's Human Services Department, who helped make this work possible. The City supported the effort this year with \$50,000 from the Human Services budget to assist Hundred Nights with staffing the overnight shelter. That investment helped ensure that individuals in the community (both visitors and residents) had a safe option during severe winter conditions. Later this month, the City Manager would be convening a meeting with all of the partners involved to begin discussing plans for the next winter. The goal is to continue improving coordination and develop a predictable approach to the community's cold-weather emergency response moving forward. She said the Mayor had been very helpful in that effort.

City Manager Ferland met with all departments and reviewed their budget submissions. The Finance Department at this time was entering that information into the system to begin the next step—making the necessary adjustments to develop a Budget proposal that complies with the City's Fiscal Policy. The City Manager's budget proposal is due to the Council by May 1, 2026, and the next Council meeting is May 7, so Budget books will be placed in Councilors' mailboxes on Friday, May 1. The Budget review process will begin at the FOP Committee meeting on May 12, 2026 with an early start time (for several FOP meetings) at 5:30 PM. The City Manager provided a copy of the full Budget review schedule throughout May 2026 to the Council. The FOP Committee's May 28 meeting will include the Committee's Budget recommendation. The Budget Public Hearing will take place on June 4, 2026 at 7:00 PM before the full City Council. The City Council is scheduled to vote on the Budget on June 18, 2026. The new fiscal year begins July 1, 2026.

The City Manager shared an update from Parks and Recreation Director, Carrah Fisk-Hennessey: Parks and Recreation Department hosting a Dinsmoor Woods walk with Alex Barrett, forester with Long View Forest on Saturday April 11, 2026 at 3:00 PM. The City Manager encouraged all to attend this very informative onsite opportunity.

Lastly, the City Manager announced a Public Works overnight parking ban from 11:00 PM on April 2 to 7:00 AM on April 3, 2026 for leaf blowing maintenance and street cleaning. The City Manager noted that in addition to the red pine scale information on the website that the Mayor mentioned, there is other information as well: keep an eye on the Fire Department's Strategic

Plan and additional Parks and Recreation information. Red pine scale information was moved to the home page. Mayor Kahn said it was great to see the departments adding these recent reports for public access.

MSFI REPORT - MORE TIME - TERRY BISHOP - CONCERNS WITH PARKING ON MARLBORO STREET AND ENFORCEMENT MEASURES

A Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report was read, unanimously recommending placing Concerns with Parking on Marlboro Street and Enforcement Measures on more time, making a note for there to be some enhanced enforcement over the next month. The Mayor granted more time.

ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING - RELATING TO PERSONNEL - ORDINANCE O-2026-06

A memorandum was received from Human Resources Director Darcy Newport, recommending the City Council refer Ordinance O-2026-06 to the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee. Mayor Kahn referred Ordinance O-2026-06 to the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee meeting.

ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING - RELATING TO UPDATES TO SECTION 94-321, "STOP SIGNS" IN THE CITY CODE - ORDINANCE O-2026-03

A Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee report was read, unanimously recommending the adoption of Ordinance O-2026-03. Mayor Kahn filed the report. A motion by Councilor Greenwald to adopt Ordinance O-2026-03 was duly seconded by Councilor Tobin.

Councilor Lake thought the MSFI Committee said that the Winter Street–School Street sign was for northbound traffic but the background minutes stated for westbound traffic. He wanted to ensure there would be a stop sign for the traffic that is coming from Winter Street that wants to merge onto School Street. The City Manager said that is correct.

Councilor Williams thought he had some different opinions as far as the visibility of the stop sign at Roxbury and Lincoln Streets. He understood that it was not accepted. He appreciated that the City put up signs on the existing two way stop signs that say, "traffic on Roxbury St. does not stop," because he said they do go fast, and Councilor Williams hoped that would make the difference the Council is looking for. Mayor Kahn said it was a good point.


Councilor Tobin mentioned that it came up during this discussion how the Roadway Safety Action Plan would be chipping away at those things. She said the Public Works Director mentioned that he was working on making those updates available to the public and Council.

The motion to adopt Ordinance O-2026-03 carried unanimously on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Councilor Workman was absent.

04/02/2026

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Kahn adjourned the meeting at 8:06 PM.

A true record, attest: 
City Clerk