

CITY OF KEENE
PLANNING, LICENSES, AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

7:00 PM

Council Chambers A

Members Present:

David R. Meader, Vice-Chair
Emily P. Hague
Bettina Chadbourne
Carl B. Jacobs

Staff Present:

Medard Kopczynski, Asst. City Manager
Patty Little, City Clerk
John MacLean, City Manager

Members Not Present:

David Richards, Chair

Others:

Councilors Present:

James Duffy
Terry Clark

Vice-Chair Meader called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM welcoming the viewers of Cheshire TV, Channel 10.

1. More Time Report: Good Fortune - Request to Use City Property - Filming

The City Clerk reported a protocol meeting was held earlier this week. Referring to the prepared motion the City Clerk pointed out the motion is not date specific, and reviewed the details worked out during the protocol meeting.

There being no questions or comments from the Committee or members of the public, Vice-Chair Meader asked for a motion.

Councilor Jacobs made the following motion which was seconded by Councilor Chadbourne.

On a vote of 4-0, the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee recommends that the City Council grant permission to Good Fortune to use the City sidewalk directly in front of their storefront and three parking spaces for the filming of an internet commercial. Said filming is permitted to occur on a Sunday morning between the hours of 7:00 AM and 11:00 AM with the specific date to be coordinated with City staff. Said permission is conditional upon the following: compliance with the customary licensing requirements of the City Council, that the Petitioner pay the standard daily rental rate for use of the parking spaces, that the Petitioner absorb the charges for any City services provided, and compliance with any recommendations of City staff.

Roger Weinreich, of 114 Main Street addressed the motion noting that what was read states two parking spaces are needed, and pointed out three parking spaces were discussed at the protocol meeting. Mr. Weinreich noted the Police Department made the suggestion of three spaces.

Vice-Chair Meader addressed the Committee regarding the change from two to three spaces in the motion. It was the consensus of the Committee that the change be made reflecting three spaces as recommended by staff.

2. Report Out: John Hayes - Disorderly Parties

Vice-Chair Meader noted this communication concerning the 2013 Pumpkin Festival came to the Mayor and City Council on September 28, 2014. This Committee placed it on “more time” on October 8, 2014, which was before the last Pumpkin Festival. Vice-Chair Meader noted a discussion with Chair Richards who felt as this communication is specific to Pumpkin Festival, and Keene will not be holding Pumpkin Festival this year, it was Chair Richards’ recommendation that this be reported out as informational.

Vice-Chair Meader asked for questions or comments from the Committee or the public.

Councilor Hague commented it was helpful to receive this communication with some ideas. She noted the College/City Commission has looked at suggestions such as this as well as suggestions from other institutions while it considers recommendations that will come out later this summer. Councilor Hague added this information was helpful and did not go unnoticed.

Councilor Jacobs noted discussions with college officials pointing out there is still concern over some of the properties and the behaviors that occur at them. Councilor Jacobs continued this communication may be specific to the Pumpkin Festival, but he wants to make sure we continue to encourage better behavior in some of these houses.

Vice-Chair Meader referred to the College/City Commission and asked Councilor Hague if these houses would be an item for discussion. Councilor Hague noted the College/City Commission has four issue areas and one is housing, along with citizenship or behavior. Councilor Hague made note of the input received from members of the community at the April 14, 2015 forum; adding NH Listens has compiled this into a summary report. She also noted housing would be discussed at the next meeting in July. Vice-Chair Meader commented the issue is not being swept under the rug; it is being discussed in a different forum. Councilor Hague agreed.

Referring to the College/City Commission Councilor James Duffy asked Councilor Hague if any landlords had been making comments during this process that could also be shared. The City Manager replied when the issue came to us there was no time for the City to do any work prior to the 2014 Pumpkin Festival; this was acknowledged and is in the record. After the events of last year’s Pumpkin Festival the City was actively engaged in whether or not the Pumpkin Festival would move forward, and did set up the College/City Commission. With this in mind, the City Manager reported staff has not produced any work, but he expects that they would. Councilor Hague noted the efforts to involve landlords (stakeholders); pointing out the input received at the March Stakeholder Forum.

Councilor Hague also noted that landlords will be invited to the College/City Commission meeting on July 6, 2015. Councilor Hague also indicated she can make the NH Listens Summary available.

Councilor Terry Clark reported that Swanzey is having a Pumpkin Festival around the same time as ours used to be. Noting Swanzey's proximity to Keene, Councilor Clark recommended the City continue to think about its efforts to protect itself during this timeframe.

There being no further questions or comments from the Committee or the public, Vice-Chair Meader asked for a motion.

Councilor Hague made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Chadbourne.

On a vote of 4-0, the Planning, Licenses and Development Committee recommends that based upon the decision of the City Council at their April 2, 2015 meeting relative to the Pumpkin Festival license, the communication from John Hayes regarding disorderly parties during the event be reported out as informational.

There being no further business Vice-Chair Meader adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:
Mary Lou Sheats-Hall, Minute-taker
June 11, 2015