

A regular meeting of the Keene City Council was held Thursday, August 6, 2020. The Honorable Mayor George S. Hansel called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Mayor Hansel read into the record the Emergency Order #12, issued by the Governor of the State of New Hampshire pursuant to Executive Order #2020-04. He continued the members of the City Council would be participating remotely. The Mayor asked that during the roll call for attendance, each Councilor identify their on-line presence and if there are others with them in the room. Roll called: Stephen L. Hooper, Michael J. Remy, Janis O. Manwaring, Michael Giacomo, Randy L. Filiault, Robert C. Williams, Philip M. Jones, Gladys Johnsen, Terry M. Clark, Raleigh C. Ormerod, Catherine I. Workman, Mitchell H. Greenwald, Kate M. Bosley and Thomas F. Powers were present. Councilor Bettina A. Chadbourne was absent. A motion by Councilor Powers to accept the minutes from the July 16, 2020 regular meeting was duly seconded by Councilor Bosley. The motion passed on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Hansel reminded the City Council's summer vacation schedule will start with the cancelation of the Standing Committees for Wednesday, August 12, 2020 and Thursday, August 13, 2020 and the cancelation of City Council meeting on August 20, 2020. The Standing Committees for Wednesday, August 26, 2020 and Thursday, August 27, 2020 will remain as scheduled. Mayor Hansel announced a fiscal policy workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

PRESENTATION – A NEIGHBORHOODS CONCEPT: 21 IN 21

Med Kopczynski, Assistant City Manager and Director of Economic Development and Special Projects, addressed the City Council. He began by explaining that *A Neighborhoods Concept: 21 in 21*, was developed jointly between himself, Rhett Lamb, Assistant City Manager and Community Development Director, Keith Thibeault, Southwestern Community Services Chief Development Officer, and George Hansel, Mayor. Previously, an analysis of housing inventory was presented to the City Council to determine compliance with the State definition of "affordable housing." By definition, Keene has a "solid stock of affordable housing." And, that in Keene, close to downtown, there are what is called "middle neighborhoods." These neighborhoods, while not in deep distress, exist somewhere between growth and decline, where housing is typically affordable, employment, schools, and crime rates are good enough; new homeowners are buying, but the challenge is maintaining stability and fighting decline. These neighborhoods may be on the edge of transition.

In 2019, a second series of plans related to economic development was adopted. The first three goals and recommendations were presented. *21 in 21* presents broad goals for improved communities and opportunities for home ownership. The intention is to renovate block by block, not one by one, thus raising the confidence level of these middle neighborhoods thereby raising values and attracting workforce. Partnerships need to be developed with local and statewide agencies and utilities for funding and project management. Neighborhoods need to be identified. Renovations would be accomplished using local project managers and local contractors.

The project is intended to capitalize on existing initiatives such as Marlboro Street improvements and the proposed Russell Park, with Russell Park being the centerpiece around the building of sustainable neighborhoods. Hopefully, results will be broad scaled improvements promoting renewable energy that draw investment, improved housing, and opportunity for Keene's residents, reinforcing stronger and safer neighborhoods, with more owner occupied homes.

Various partners and funding sources were identified. Next steps are to develop partnerships and funding sources, create an RFP to select a consultant, and contact property owners to assist in the program. Mr. Kopczynski concluded that at this time, *21 in 21*, is a conceptual program and there is currently no role yet for the City Council.

There being no questions from the City Council, the Mayor concluded the presentation.

COMMUNICATION – JASON HORNE – THE SALE OF THE SO CALLED “GREEN HANGAR” AT DILLANT-HOPKINS AIRPORT

A communication was received from Jason Horne expressing his concern about the sell of the so-called Green Hangar at the Dillant-Hopkins Airport without the opportunity for the public to bid or have the hangar appraised. The Mayor explained that this action was authorized by City Council on September 19, 2019. The purchase and sale agreement has been executed. The communication was accepted as informational.

COMMUNICATION – PETITION – DETERIORATING CONDITIONS ON THE THOMPSON RD

A petition was receive from the residents on Thompson Road requesting immediate action to correct the rapidly deteriorating conditions on their road. The petition was referred to the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

COMMUNICATION – PETITION – OBJECTING TO LAND USE CODE DISCUSSIONS OVER THE ZOOM PLATFORM

A petition was receive from Peter Espiefs and 11 property owners who are objecting to the Land Development Code process being conducted over the Zoom platform. The petition is requesting that any further review be postponed indefinitely until such time as the threats of COVID-19 pandemic are over and municipal government has returned back to its normal face-to-face meetings. The petition was referred to the Joint Planning Board/Planning, Licenses and Development Committee.

FOP REPORT – ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS – PARKS, RECREATION AND FACILITIES

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept a donation of \$280.00 from Bulldog Design's Great Grey Tee campaign and that the money is used for the Recreation Department scholarship fund. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Council Hooper. The motion passed on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor.

FOP REPORT – BJA CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING GRANT – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept a Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding grant in the amount of \$41,418. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Council Hooper. The motion passed on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor.

FOP REPORT – SALE OF TAX DEEDED PROPERTY – 198 BAKER STREET - ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to sell the following tax deeded property by sealed bid: 198 Baker Street, Map 595 - Lot 71. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Council Hooper. The motion passed on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor.

FOP REPORT – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR WASTEWATER PERMITTING ASSISTANCE – PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to execute a contract amendment with Weston and Sampson Engineers for \$25,000 for National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting services. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Council Hooper. The motion passed on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor.

FOP REPORT – FLOWBIRD PAY STATION COLOR TOUCH SCREENS – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INITIATIVES AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Council that \$34,045.00 be allocated from parking fund balance to purchase and install 11 Pay stations from CWT (Calle Web Terminal) S2 (our present system) to CWT Color Touch Screens. This upgrade includes all necessary hardware and software to convert a CWTS2 meter to CWT Color Touch Screen. Mayor Hansel expressed that this issue is the subject of a Resolution which is further on the agenda. The report was filed as informational.

FOP REPORT – REBATE FROM EVERSOURCE ENERGY – PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to accept a rebate check in the amount of \$18,124.65 from Eversource Energy for the energy saving equipment installed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and to use the rebate to perform a sole source LED lighting project with Hamblett Electric at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry

out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Council Hooper. The motion passed on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor.

FOP REPORT – RADIO COMMUNICATION – PLC UPGRADE AND SCADA PROGRAMMING – PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to reallocate \$29,449.09 in remaining funds from the Water/Sewer Rate Study Project and \$2,922.48 in remaining funds from the Water Treatment Facility PLC Replacement Project to the Radio & PLC Upgrade Project, 05038-21. The Committee further recommends that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to sole source purchase technical services from LCS Controls, Inc., for SCADA & PLC installation and programming for an amount not to exceed \$41,100.00. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Council Hooper. The motion passed on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor.

FOP REPORT – CITY COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR MAST 2020 COMPLETE STREETS GRANT SUBMISSDION – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to support Staff's submission of a Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) Complete Streets Grant proposal by signing a letter of support. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Council Hooper. The motion passed on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor.

FOP REPORT – MARLBORO STREET REHABILITATION PROJECT – BUDGET ADJUSTMENT – PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary to reallocate \$78,000 from the project balance of the Sewer Main Improvement Capital Project (08055) to the Marlboro Street Utility Improvement Project. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Council Hooper. The motion passed on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor.

FOP REPORT – ACCEPTANCE OF CARES ACT, FEMA, HOMELAND SECURITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee report read recommending that the City Manager be authorized to do all things necessary accept receipt of funds from the CARES Act, such as, FEMA, Homeland Security Emergency Management, and other funding sources pertaining to the COVID19 pandemic under RSA 21-P:43 which states that gifts, grants or loans for emergency management purposes may be accepted by the City Council. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Council Hooper. The motion passed on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Elizabeth Fox, Acting City Manager, addressed the City Council. Ms. Fox announced that the City Clerk's office is reopened after renovations to its customer service area to allow for more social distancing and protection to the public and City staff.

In July, the City was recognized in by The Green Electronic's Council as a leader in sustainable electronic procurement thanks to the efforts by two IT Department employees, Deb McLaughlin and Harry McKelvey, and the City's Green Team. The City received a 2020 EPEAT Purchaser Award, celebrating the City's sustainable electronic procurement that considers life cycle impacts of electronics purchased including computers, display monitors, copiers, mobile phones, and servers. This award demonstrates the City's continued commitment to sustainability and how it may be accomplished through procurement.

Lastly, Ms. Fox shared some recent promotions: T.J. O'Brien was promoted to Commercial Inspector in the Community Development Department; Beth Butler was promoted to the position of Account Clerk II in the Finance Department; and in the City's Public Works Department, Highway Division, Michael Warner was promoted to Motor Equipment Operator I.

This concluded City Manager's comments.

MEMORANDUM – FY 19 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) AWARD – FIRE DEPARTMENT

A memorandum from the Mark Howard, Fire Chief, recommending that the City Council Suspend Section 35 of the City Council Rules of Order to act upon the request to authorize the City Manager to apply for, accept, and expend a FY19 Assistance to Firefighters Grant. A motion by Councilor Powers to Suspend the Rules of Order was duly seconded by Councilor Bosley. The motion passed on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. A motion by Councilor Powers to recommend the City Council to authorize the City Manager to do all things necessary to apply for, accept, and expend a FY 19 Assistance to Firefighters Grant totaling \$369,090.91 in accordance with the terms, conditions, and limitations of the grant was duly seconded by Councilor Bosley. The motion passed on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor.

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE RESIGNATION – AARON SHIELDS

A memorandum from William Schoefmann reported that Aaron Shields had resigned from his membership on the Bicycle Pedestrian Path Advisory Committee. A motion by Councilor Powers to accept the resignation with regret was seconded by Councilor Bosley. On roll call vote, 14 Councilors were present and voting in favor.

MORE TIME

More time was granted by the Mayor for the following item in Committee: Councilors Remy, Bosley and Giacomo – Continued Remote Participation. The Mayor noted that the Relating to

the Wearing of Face Coverings was filed into the record as informational. The final recommendation of the Committee on the Ordinance is the next item of business.

PLD REPORT AND ORDINANCE O-2020-09-A: RELATING TO THE WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS

Planning, Licenses and Development Committee report read recommending the adoption of Ordinance O-2020-09-A: Relating to the Wearing of Face Coverings. Ordinance O-2020-09-A was read for the second time. A motion by Councilor Bosley to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Greenwald. A brief discussion took place. An amendment motion from Councilor Giacomo 9089808098098 was duly seconded by Councilor Remy. The amendment failed. On roll call vote, with 12 Councilors present and voting in favor the motion passed. Councilors Manwaring and Powers were opposed. The Ordinance O-2020-09-A declared adopted.

RESOLUTION R-2020-30: IN APPRECIATION OF DOROTHY FARRAR UPON HER RETIREMENT

Resolution R-2020-30: In Appreciation of Dorothy Farrar Upon Her Retirement was read in its entirety. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Bosley. The motion passed on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Resolution R-2020-30 declared adopted.

RESOLUTION R-2020-31: IN APPRECIATION OF CHRISTOPHER THOMAS MILTON UPON HIS RETIREMENT

Resolution R-2020-31: In Appreciation of Timothy I. Read Upon His Retirement was read in its entirety. A motion by Councilor Powers to carry out the intent of the report was duly seconded by Councilor Bosley. The motion passed on a roll call vote with 14 Councilors present and voting in favor. Resolution R-2020-31 declared adopted.

RESOLUTION R-2020-29: RELATING TO FUNDING FOR THE FLOWBIRD PAY STATION COLOR TOUCH SCREENS

Resolution R-2020-29: Relating to Funding for the Flowbird Pay Station Color Touch Screens was read by title only. Resolution R-2020-29 was referred to the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee.

RESOLUTION R-2020-33: RELATING TO THE REFUNDING OF BONDS

Resolution R-2020-33: Relating to the Refunding of Bonds was read by title only. Resolution R-2020-33 was referred to the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

A true record, attest:


City Clerk