



City of Concord

City Council

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, March 10, 2025

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers
37 Green Street
Concord, NH 03301

Non-meeting in accordance with RSA 91-A:2, I (a), strategy and negotiations with respect to collective bargaining followed by a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3, II (d) to discuss property acquisition to begin at 5:30 PM

Present: 14 - Councilor Stacey Brown, Mayor Byron Champlin, Councilor Nathan Fennessy, Councilor Jeff Foote, Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton, Councilor Michele Horne, Councilor Fred Keach, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Councilor Judith Kurtz, , Councilor Karen McNamara, Councilor Jim Schlosser, Councilor Kris Schultz, Councilor Ali Sekou and Councilor Brent Todd

Absent: 1 - Councilor Paula McLaughlin

Mayor Champlin called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Councilor Kretovic moved to enter a non-meeting in accordance with RSA 91-A:2, I (a), strategy and negotiations with respect to collective bargaining followed by a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (d) to discuss property acquisition. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kurtz and passed with no dissenting votes.

Councilor Brown was not present for the non-meeting with respect to collective bargaining.

At 6:03 PM, the non-meeting with respect to collective bargaining ended and the non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(d) began.

Councilor Brown joined the meeting. Councilor Sekou left when the non-public session began.

Staff Present: City Manager Thomas Aspell, Brian LeBrun, Deputy City Manager Finance, Matt Walsh, Deputy City Manager Development, Timothy Thompson, Assistant Community Development Director, Danielle Pacik, City Solicitor, Janice Bonenfant, City Clerk, Deborah Tuite, Deputy City Clerk.

At 6:53 PM, Councilor Schultz moved to exit the non-public meeting. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kurtz and passed with no dissenting votes.

In public session, Councilor Grady Sexton moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Schultz and passed with no dissenting votes.

At 6:54 PM, there being no additional Council business, Councilor Grady Sexton moved to adjourn. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kretovic and passed with no dissenting votes.

1. Mayor Champlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. Invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Roll Call.

Present: 13 - Councilor Stacey Brown, Mayor Byron Champlin, Councilor Nathan Fennessy, Councilor Jeff Foote, Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton, Councilor Michele Horne, Councilor Fred Keach, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Councilor Judith Kurtz, Councilor Karen McNamara, Councilor Jim Schlosser, Councilor Kris Schultz, and Councilor Brent Todd

Excused: 1 - Councilor Paula McLaughlin

Late: 1 - Councilor Ali Sekou

5. Approval of the Meeting Minutes.

February 10, 2025 City Council Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: Councilor Grady Sexton moved approval of the February 10, 2025, Meeting Minutes. Councilor Kurtz seconded the motion.

Councilor Brown moved to correct the spelling of FPAC. The motion as amended was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

6. Agenda overview by the Mayor.

Action: Mayor Champlin offered the Council's sincerest condolences for the passing of Fire Fighter C.J. Girard to his family, the City's Fire Department, and the extended fire community.

7. Presentation regarding Stanton K-9 Foundation Grant Program.

Action: City Manager Aspell invited Chief Osgood, Deputy Chief Smagula and Officer LeBlanc, to give a presentation on the Stanton Patrol K-9 grant program.

Chief Osgood introduced Deputy Chief Smagula and Officer LeBlanc. Officer LeBlanc provided a presentation and explained the CPD K-9 Unit history, as well as benefits to the Police Department, the community, and surrounding towns. He indicated that the Stanton Foundation Grant would total \$50,800, to be used for; the purchase and training of the K-9, cruiser conversion, construction of kennel at handlers residence, vet bills, food, and a bulletproof vest. The grant would be received in three installments to help get the program up and running. The presentation was provided to City Council and the presentation is on file in the City Clerk's Office and digitally by accessing the City Council agenda on the City's website.

General discussion followed regarding the future feasibility of the program.

Consent Agenda Items

Referral to the Parking Committee, the Traffic Operations Committee and the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee

8. Communication from Councilor Brown requesting consideration be given to restricting parking to one side of the street on a section of School Street that is south of Liberty Street. (Pulled from consent by Councilor McNamara.)

Action: Pulled from consent for discussion.

Referral to the Golf Course Advisory Committee and the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee

9. Communication from Marcy Charette, Concord resident, requesting that the Beaver Meadow Golf Course be designated a park and treated as any other park under Parks & Recreation within the City of Concord.

Action: Communication was referred to the Golf Course Advisory Committee and the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee.

Items Tabled for April 14, 2024 Public Hearings

10. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$84,000 to support efforts by Concord's Plan to End Homelessness and authorizing a transfer in from the Community Improvement Reserve in the sum of \$84,000 for this purpose; together with report from Councilor Jim Schlosser.

Action: Resolution moved to set for a public hearing.

11. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$11,500 in the Parks & Recreation Miscellaneous Grants and Donations project for the Free Summer Concert Series and accepting the sum of \$11,500 as a donation from the Walker Lecture Series for this purpose; together with a report from the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee.

Action: Resolution moved to set for a public hearing.

12. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$10,000, in the Annual Highway Improvement Program project (CIP #78) for pavement repairs and accepting the sum of \$10,000, from Main Street American Insurance for this purpose; together with a report from the City Engineer.

Action: Resolution moved to set for a public hearing.

13. Resolution modifying the All Veterans' Tax Credit for the City of Concord pursuant to the provisions of RSA 72:27-a; together with a report from the Director of Real Estate Assessments.

Action: Resolution moved to set for a public hearing.

14. Resolution modifying the Elderly Exemption for the City of Concord pursuant to the provisions of RSA 72:27-a; together with a report from the Director of Real Estate Assessments.

Action: Resolution moved to set for a public hearing.

15. Resolution modifying the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit for the City of Concord pursuant to the provisions of RSA 72:27-a; together with a report from the Director of Real Estate Assessments.

Action: Resolution moved to set for a public hearing.

Consent Reports

16. Diminimus gifts and donations report from the Police Department requesting authorization to accept gifts and donations, from WalMart, totaling \$2,118, as provided by under the pre-authorization granted by City Council.

Action: Consent report approved.

17. Report from the City Manager regarding Fiscal Year 2025 Event Funding. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Brown.)

Action: Pulled from consent for discussion.

18. Report from the General Services Director advising City Council of protocols specific to Residential Irrigation Backflow Testing.

Action: Consent report approved.

19. Library Fines Amnesty Program.

Action: Consent report approved.

20. Report from the Solid Waste Advisory Committee in response to communication from Mr. Andy Duncan, 16 Kimball Street, regarding application of sludge from the City's wastewater plant near the Russell-Shea Community Garden.

Action: Consent report approved.

Consent Resolutions

21. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the Stanton K-9 Foundation Grant Program for up to \$55,000 designated for Law Enforcement K-9 Programs; together with a report from the Police Department.

Action: Consent resolution approved.

22. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit and application to the Jeanne Shaheen Congressional Directed Spending Program for funds designated for Law Enforcement related programs; together with a report from the Police Department.

Action: Consent resolution approved.

Appointments

23. Mayor Champlin's proposed appointment to the Public Safety Board: Kate Lipman.

Action: Appointment approved.

24. Mayor Champlin's appointments to the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee: Joseph M. Kwasnik and Rob Werner.

Action: Appointments approved.

End of Consent Agenda

Public Hearings

- 25A. Resolution expanding the boundary of the Penacook Boscawen Water Precinct. (Supplemental reports from the General Services Director and the City Solicitor submitted.)

Action: City Manager Aspell invited Attorney Thomas Chesnard, from Cleveland, Waters And Bass, and Pembroke Commissioner Bill Murphy to present. Attorney Chesnard explained that the petition is to expand the boundaries of the Penacook Boscawen Water Precinct. This expansion only involves land in Boscawen, however, they were here for Concord's approval out of an abundance of caution.

Manager Aspell indicated that the City's Solicitor and the Water Department has reviewed the petition and the City is in favor, and would recommend approval.

Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing. There being no public testimony, Mayor Champlin declared the hearing closed.

- 25B. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$43,062.71, as reimbursement of personnel costs related to the deployment of Fire Department personnel to areas impacted by natural disasters, and accepting the sum of \$43,062.71, in Federal Emergency Management Agency funds for this purpose; together with report from the Deputy Fire Chief.

Action: City Manager Aspell recommended that Council accept the funds for the stated purpose.

Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing. There being no public testimony, Mayor Champlin declared the hearing closed.

- 25C. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$15,000, in the Community Development Miscellaneous Grants and Donations project for tree planting on City property and within public rights-of-way under the Sustainable Tree Program, and authorizing a transfer in the sum of \$15,000, from the Urban Tree Trust Fund for this purpose;

together with a report from the Tree Subcommittee of the Conservation Commission.

Action: City Manager Aspell recommended approving the transfer of the funds for the stated purpose.

Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing. There being no public testimony, Mayor Champlin declared the hearing closed.

Public Hearing Action

26. Resolution expanding the boundary of the Penacook Boscawen Water Precinct. (Supplemental reports from the General Services Director and the City Solicitor submitted.)

Action: Councilor Todd moved approval. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kurtz and passed with no dissenting votes.

27. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$43,062.71, as reimbursement of personnel costs related to the deployment of Fire Department personnel to areas impacted by natural disasters, and accepting the sum of \$43,062.71, in Federal Emergency Management Agency funds for this purpose; together with report from the Deputy Fire Chief.

Action: Councilor Kretovic moved approval. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Grady Sexton and passed with no dissenting votes.

28. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$15,000, in the Community Development Miscellaneous Grants and Donations project for tree planting on City property and within public rights-of-way under the Sustainable Tree Program, and authorizing a transfer in the sum of \$15,000, from the Urban Tree Trust Fund for this purpose; together with a report from the Tree Subcommittee of the Conservation Commission.

Action: Councilor Todd moved approval. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kurtz and passed with no dissenting votes.

Reports

29. Presentation from the Committee for Concord's Plan to End Homelessness.

Action: City Manager Aspell invited Rosanne Haggerty, Chair of the Committee for Concord's Plan to End Homelessness to present.

Councilor Sekou rejoined the meeting at 7:34 PM.

Ms. Haggerty provided an overview of her presentation on the Committee's work to end homelessness in the City of Concord. The Committee is implementing a five part plan to; reduce homelessness by 25%, increase housing opportunities by 100 units, end Veteran homelessness, create and implement a working model to prevent and reduce homelessness, and to communicate and engage the community at large. The Committee is also working on an automated response to cold weather emergencies. The Committee is actively tracking current data, as well as ensuring the reporting is as accurate as possible. Ms. Haggerty highlighted that the Veteran homeless population has decreased through the coordinated efforts of many agencies, down to six individuals. The Committee recommends hiring a project manager in order to have a coordinated, data driven team, working to course correct and align policies in order to make homelessness rare and brief.

General discussion followed on those individuals who may be missing from the data, on Concord School District and Merrimack School Districts' homeless populations, and whether there is any data of those leaving the State's hospital or prisons and if they are entering the homeless population. Information is available on the City Committee's website, and for those interested in supporting the work please contact the Granite United Way.

30. Recommendation from the Ad-hoc Beaver Meadow Golf Course Building Committee, the Golf Course Advisory Committee and the Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee regarding the Beaver Meadow Facility. (Public comments received.) (Additional public comments received.)

Mayor Champlin indicated that he had received a lot of communication from concerned citizen's about what this evening's presentation entailed. Mayor Champlin explained that a new facility for Beaver Meadow Golf Course is not in any budget, including the Fiscal 2025 budget. He also indicated that the Fiscal 2026 budget has not yet been proposed to the Council. The presentation this evening is a report from the three Advisory Committees. He further explained that there would be no action taken at this meeting to authorize funding for this project, nor will

there be any decision to break ground without a public hearing first, City Council action, or a Council vote.

Mayor Champlin also indicated that there were communications received of whether the Council should hear the presentation in light of the ethics complaint. He indicated that he takes the ethics process very seriously, and that is why he appointed a Board of Ethics Committee. He felt that the report should still go forward, as he did not want to set a precedent that people could use complaints to the Board of Ethics to delay a variety of projects, or hamstring this Council or any future Council.

Deputy City Manager Brian LeBrun introduced Bill Hickey, from the Turner Consulting Group, and Brian Gehris, from Milestone Construction. Mr. LeBrun indicated the Council had referred the project to the Ad-Hoc Building Committee, the Beaver Meadow Golf Course Advisory Committee, and the Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee. The three options were to; 1. Renovate the facility at a cost of \$5,427,000, 2. Renovate with an addition at a cost of \$8,074,327, 3. A new Building at the cost of \$8,054,800. Mr. LeBrun indicated that each advisory committee recommended option #3, to build a new building.

Mr. LeBrun was asked to compare the current FY 2025 tax rate impact of the Parks & Recreation and Library funds to Golf and Arena Funds, as well as the Concord Area Transit, City pools, and the Heights Community Center. He discussed the operating expenses and total debt service for each department, and provided the impact of property taxes on an annual basis based on a \$350,000 home. He then reviewed the estimated operating expenses and debt service for a new facility, with an estimated annual per household cost based on a \$350,000 home to be around \$30.63. He discussed the annual payments for the potential project over a 20 year period, while also reviewing different rate scenarios, depending on grants and donations. Mr. LeBrun discussed the proforma for option 3, including the annual expenses and revenues. Mr. LeBrun then reviewed the same information for option 1 and option 2.

Councilor Brown asked Mr. Hickey and Mr. Gehris why they were recommending to tear the building down to the studs, and not going through their facility assessment from 2021.

Mr. LeBrun indicated that would be a question to the City and not Mr. Hickey or Mr. Gehris. Mr. LeBrun indicated that City Council made the decision to seek out

the pricing for a new building or renovating the existing building. He explained that H.L. Turner did a facility assessment and gave recommendations on what needed to be repaired.

Councilor Brown asked if there have been any repairs to the building since the report was written in 2021.

Mr. LeBrun indicated that there have not been any major changes because City Council had asked for recommendations on what to do with the building going forward, and the decision was made not to put anything further into the building, except for what was needed to keep it going. The City had to install a new furnace due to a lack of heat, and is in the process of replacing the walk in cooler because it's not functioning, and replacing a fan on the vent in the kitchen.

Councilor Brown pointed out that an employee of Milestone was on the Ad-Hoc Committee, who recommended to replace the facility, and she felt that was a conflict of interest.

Councilor Kurtz inquired if Council could hear from a representative of the Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee on their recommendation for option 3.

Councilor Fennessy discussed FPAC's process, with respect to choosing which option the Committee felt was best. He indicated that in discussions around option #2, the only reason to move forward with that option would be to preserve the footprint of the building. However there were challenges with that option, such as additional costs associated with keeping the facility open and operational during construction, and impacts to food and beverage. From a financial standpoint, they did not feel that was an option, therefore option #2 was eliminated. With option #1, keeping the facility open during extensive renovations and addressing underlying issues, such as plumbing, would be difficult. There are space limitations in the current footprint for food and beverage, and in the winter, the space doubles for utilization of the simulator. There is not a great gathering space for people, and there is no space for cross country skiing enthusiasts.

Councilor Fennessy indicated that option #3 seemed to make the most financial sense, because they could keep the facility open during construction. With a new building, there would be benefits with the increased footprint, such as creating a dedicated space for the simulators, outside of the food area, that could attract a greater revenue potential, while also opening up the opportunity for the fitting of

clubs for customers in the same space. The simulators would go from four months of current use, to 12 months. There could be a space for the cross country skiers, with better access to the bathroom facilities, among other potential benefits.

Councilor Grady Sexton mentioned that Councilor Fennessy did portray the conversation accurately, however, she indicated that it was not a unanimous decision, and she did vote in opposition to option #3.

Councilor Sekou questioned the cost to demolish the current building.

Mr. LeBrun indicated that the cost to demolish the building was included in the cost for option #3.

Councilor Sekou asked for clarification as to the benefit of the \$11 difference in the tax rate between option #1 and option #3.

Mr. LeBrun explained that if the City was to pay over \$5 million to renovate a 4500 sq. ft. building, compared to spending \$8 million to increase the size to 10,500 sq. ft., with a brand new building on a brand new footprint, you would be eliminating all of the old problems. Renovation projects often come up with unforeseen issues, which potentially increases the associated costs. There would be additional size capacity and increased future use, and the City would receive more for their money over the next 20, 30, to 50 years.

Councilor Schlosser, asked if there was any consideration for a smaller new building.

Mr. Hickey explained that they worked with the Committee to come up with the desired building, and if the square footage was reduced, the revenue would drop.

Mr. LeBrun indicated that if Council would like to request staff look into a smaller new building, they could certainly look into that.

Councilor Kretovic inquired as to the five most significant issues with the current building today, that leads them to believe that they need to make significant changes.

Mr. Hickey indicated that the largest issue is the moisture and water intrusion into the building. The roof has started to leak, the side walls are rotting and water is

penetrating the building. The bathrooms are a significant issue because they backup, causing all sorts of problems. Then there are a lot of mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and equipment issues.

Councilor Kretovic asked if the codes are different today, than when the building was constructed in the 1960's, and if the project is looking at a complete overhaul of all of those items.

Mr. Hickey agreed that it would be a complete overhaul.

Councilor Brown indicated that the proforma assumes income from simulators and rental income, however, currently the City is not seeing that revenue. She indicated that the golf course runs a deficit in the winter. If the golf course were to pick up half of the cost of this, how high would the rates have to be to cover that.

Mr. LeBrun indicated that he has not had a chance to look into that, but would have that prepared for the next meeting.

Councilor Keach mentioned that there appears to be a coordinated effort to torpedo the golf course, in his opinion. He asked without a new golf course clubhouse, can the golf course exist.

Mr. LeBrun explained that if they looked at the business operation of the golf course, it has been a fantastic operation for many people that play on or use Beaver Meadow on an ongoing basis. He indicated that the conditions of the course are phenomenal, and in one way or another, there needs to be something done to the clubhouse as it's in very difficult condition. There was a proposal many years ago to move forward with a renovation, however, Council asked for staff to look at the project for the long haul and see what would be best for the City. As far as Beaver Meadow, there is an enormous group of people who use the property, and have for many years.

Councilor Kurtz asked hypothetically if the proposed option #3 building could be built in phases.

Mr. Hickey indicated that anything could be possible.

Manager Aspell indicated that they have looked at phased approaches, however, when trying to accomplish the needs expressed to City Council, you need a bigger

facility. With a phased approach, he asked at what point and at what threshold does it end up costing more, due to increases in costs in materials and labor, over time. However, if the decision is to move forward with a phased approach because that is what seems most affordable, then, maybe build a \$5 million dollar facility on the new site, and add in the near future.

Councilor Horne asked why Mr. LeBrun used Concord Area Transit, Parks and Recreation, and the Library in comparison to the golf course.

Mr. LeBrun explained that he was specifically asked to compare those items because they are all recreation related.

Manager Aspell indicated that these are the categories that are not required by law to provide to the community. These are the items when the City hits a recession that the community asks to cut first.

Councilor Keach mentioned that these are not required, however, they are important to the values of the community when attracting new residents. While they are not necessary, they add to the quality of life.

Manager Aspell stated that these are the City values.

Councilor Brown asked if Council can get an assessment of all of the recreational offerings, such as how many people use them, and what they cost in order to be able to figure out what is important to the community.

Manager Aspell indicated that report is already available in the budget, and has been for the past three years, and the reports have been presented to the Council.

Mayor Champlin asked what components make for a successful golf course.

Mr. LeBrun indicated that first and foremost you need great staff, which Concord has. You need to have great conditions in a golf course, which Concord's conditions are fantastic. Lastly, you need a great facility, where people can enjoy themselves.

Councilor Horne asked why the City has a facility that fell into such disrepair, and how they would convince a constituent that the Council is going to wisely spend \$8 million dollars.

Mr. LeBrun explained that a recent contractor mentioned that at the time the structure was built, the conditions were less than optimal. There has been ongoing water infiltration issues. Discussions around renovating the facility compared to building a new building ended in consciously not spending money in the interim, and this may have contributed to the accelerated deteriorating conditions.

Manager Aspell indicated that there needed to be a perspective here, in that City Council over the last 30 years has said that these are special revenue fund items, and they will not put any more money than what the facilities generate back into them. They wanted them to be self supporting. Around twenty years ago, the Arena came to the City Council and stated that they couldn't make it work anymore, as they couldn't raise enough funds to be fully self sufficient. This is similar to the parking lot at the Arena, the airport, the golf course, etc. In order to have these values, the general fund will need to step in to pay for these items. If the City does not provide the financial support, there will no longer be youth hockey, girls or boys high school hockey, etc. City Council has tried to squeeze the funds as best they could, until the day has come to finally go to the general fund because this is a value that is important.

Councilor Kretovic acknowledged a comment from Councilor Keach, that there seems to be some in the general public who are trying to undermine this project. There has been targeted negatively to H.L. Turner and Milestone, and this goes back to 2019. City Council put the breaks on back in 2019, and Milestone Construction and H.L. Turner were already performing facility assessments on the Police Station, the Library, the Fire Department facilities, and City Council asked them to put the golf course project on the list, and do a review because of the condition of the building. H.L. Turner and Milestone are not at fault for this being added to the facilities study.

Manager Aspell indicated that the City asked H.L. Turner and Milestone not to move forward with the renovations because it was good money after bad at the time.

Councilor Shultz mentioned that she would be inclined to support the golf course, however, people do have a right to question any project and to judge any large expense.

Councilor Todd asked if there are any options to sell the golf course.

Mr. LeBrun explained that if the City were to sell the golf course, the City would have to deal with land water conservation fund issues that encumber the entire property. The City would then have to go out and secure 165 acres of land for other recreation purposes in order to offset what the City would be giving up in Beaver Meadow. Currently, there are land water conservation easements on the property.

Councilor Todd asked if the Council wanted to sell, they would have to petition the government, and find 165+ acres somewhere else.

Mr. LeBrun agreed and mentioned that it would probably be more acreage than that.

Councilor Todd asked about leasing the property.

Mr. LeBrun indicated that there have been other golf courses that have attempted to lease their properties, but have had issues over the years. Either way, something would need to be done to the building in order to lease the property.

Councilor Todd followed up, asking if they were to build a smaller scale facility, eliminated the golf pro, the simulators, the restaurant and bar, what would the overall impact be. Would this be more costly, than if you had those amenities to defer some of the costs.

Mr. LeBrun mentioned that revenue projections would be vastly different. This year the revenue projection is around \$2 million dollars. There would need to be someone to maintain the fairways, landscape and greens. It would change the character of Beaver Meadow, as there are many beginners who learn how to play at Beaver Meadow and rely on the golf pro. The fabric of Beaver Meadow would change, and the City would lose a lot of revenue from non-profit organizations who raise funds for their charities, without someone to facilitate those functions.

Councilor Horne mentioned that the golf course typically is self sufficient, however, it is not making money.

Manager Aspell indicated that there are two types of debts for the golf course. There are operating costs paid for by the golf course revenues, and there are debts paid for by the general fund, which are the irrigation costs, and some other small

improvements. Then, there are still dollars left over, which are given to the general fund to cover other operating, general overhead costs (of around \$125,000). The general fund is paying the bonds. Manager Aspell indicated the goal is not to make money. There is also a fund balance. The goal is the keep the costs low for the residents and children.

Councilor Brown mentioned that the City is trying to keep the costs low, however, while offering a premier experience. The City Parks and Recreation does not have a golf offering. The City has very well paid staff at Beaver Meadow. She mentioned she feels something has to give, and possibly to go back to a seasonal facility.

Manager Aspell explained that they could, however, if you decrease the quality, you will decrease the experience, and you will decrease the revenues made through events etc. He indicated that when the course wasn't kept up as it is now, the participation saw a drop.

Councilor Foote asked if the existing facility is compliant with the Americans with Disability Act.

Mr. Hickey indicated that it is not compliant.

New Business

Unfinished Business

31. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$10,308,000, in the Beaver Meadow Golf Course Club House & Buildings Project (CIP #107) for the construction of a new facility and related improvements, and authorizing the issuance of bonds and notes in the sum of \$10,308,000, for this purpose; together with a report from the Deputy City Manager - Finance. (Presentation and proforma submitted.) (Public testimony received.) (Revised presentation submitted.) (Additional public testimony received.)

Consideration of Items pulled from Consent Agenda

Referral to the Parking Committee, the Traffic Operations Committee and the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee

8. Communication from Councilor Brown requesting consideration be given to restricting parking to one side of the street on a section of School Street that is south of Liberty Street. (Pulled from consent by Councilor McNamara.)

Action: Councilor McNamara indicated that back in June of 2023, this issue was addressed by the Parking Committee. She felt it would be a waste of staff's time as well as another Committee's time to refer as noted. There were two Parking Committee meetings on this specific issue, and in June it was decided to discuss the issue with the School Board. She also indicated that the Parking Committee had made a request that several community members attend the meetings to discuss the issue and provide feedback. Councilor McNamara indicated that a week ago, there was a meeting and only one family came to address the issue of going to two hour parking instead of all day parking. She indicated that at this point, the Parking Committee does not feel that they should be changing the metered parking.

Councilor McNamara made a motion to leave the issue with the Parking Committee, who will continue work to bring the School Board to the table to discuss the issue, and not send it to any other Committee. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Keach.

Councilor Brown stated that she too is on the Parking Committee and felt that bringing in another Committees could help bring in additional information. She indicated that there is one block with cars parked on both sides, and independent plow trucks have difficult time to access private driveways. She indicated that there have been multiple family's that have given feedback about the issue, especially during the winter.

Councilor Fennessy indicated that parking used to be banned on School Street between Liberty Street and Pine Street going south. Three or four years ago, there was a request to change the parking requirements by a nearby property owner due to a lack of parking. Councilor Fennessy indicated that at the time, Councilor Brown and himself both agreed that it was a bad idea to allow the change, however, City Council voted to do so. He also indicated that he lives on School Street and understands the issue, and that he shares Councilor Brown's concerns about the issue, however, he feels it is a parking issue for the Parking Committee to make a recommendation.

Councilor Sekou asked if there could be consideration for safety reasons to allow parking on one side of the street.

Councilor Fennessy indicated that the Parking Committee could look into that concept.

Councilor Brown mentioned that she was not on the Council at the time the decision was made to allow the parking, however, she was concerned that if they allowed it, the high school student's would take up the parking during the day. The individual who requested the parking in the first place has since said that they regret making that request.

Councilor McNamara mentioned that typically when items are referred to the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee, it is because of traffic problems, accidents, and pedestrians. She indicated that this neighborhood has not had any accidents. She did not feel that TPAC was the right avenue, and sticking with the Parking Committee was the right course.

Councilor Todd indicated that he is the Chair of the Parking Committee and confirmed that the Parking Committee is actively working on this issue. They want to have a comprehensive view of the issue with feedback from the School Board as well as the neighborhood.

The motion passed by a majority vote.

17. Report from the City Manager regarding Fiscal Year 2025 Event Funding. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Brown.)

Action: Councilor Brown mentioned that the Event Arts Grant Program is in it's second year. She wanted to recognize the City Manager's work and inquired if the reports could be hyperlinked on the website so that citizens could see the great outcomes.

City Manager Aspell indicated that he could include the reports on the website when they become available.

Councilor Brown made a motion to accept the report. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kretovic, passing with no dissenting votes.

Comments, Requests by Mayor, City Councilors

Councilor Foote wished all those that celebrate to have a blessed Lent, as well as all those who celebrate Ramadan. He also indicated that he had a great discussion with the Deputy City Manager of Development, Matt Walsh, around impact fees, and looks forward to a report being brought to the Council soon. Lastly, he mentioned that he is working on a clean up program for Earth Day, on April 19th, from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM, from the beginning of 393 to exit 13. He welcomed interested volunteers. He indicated that the Rowley Agency, Gary Stevens and Rob Simpson donated their parking lot as a staging area, and also donated \$1,000 towards the efforts.

Councilor Schultz took a moment to highlight the work of the City's service personnel with the recent passing of Firefighter Girard, and that any service to the City is well regarded and respected, and to take a moment to recognize him as well as all of the members of the Fire Department.

Councilor Sekou seconded Councilor Schultz sentiments, and agreed that it was a great time to recognize all of the hard work in the community. He also mentioned that it has been 10 days since the start of Ramadan, and that there is a big event coming up on the 21st of March. He also took the opportunity to thank General Services for their work during the last snow storm.

Councilor Schlosser mentioned that on Tuesday, March 18th, there will be a Ward 7 resident meeting at the West Street Ward House, which he will be hosting. He also mentioned that Andy Duncan and Laurel Horne, Ward 7 residents, are organizing garbage pick up on Bow Brook on Earth Day, April 22nd.

Councilor Fennessy wished everyone an early Happy St. Patrick's Day. He also congratulated the Barley House on their 25th Anniversary.

Councilor Keach mentioned to Councilor Schlosser, with regard to the Homeless Committee, that there are a lot of surrounding community's that have lessons learned as to what works and what doesn't work that Concord can garner important information from.

Councilor Grady Sexton reminded the community that Parks and Recreation has posted their summer schedule, which typically fills up quickly.

Councilor Kurtz mentioned that there are scholarships available for some of the

Parks and Recreation summer offerings. She also gave a shout out to Parks and Recreation for all of their hard work this winter on all of the City skating rinks, with around 34 skating days.

Councilor Brown mentioned that lifeguards are the hero's of summer, pointing out that there are job openings on the City website. Family's are very grateful for all of the summer offerings. There are also free swim lessons available through Concord Housing & Redevelopment. She also mentioned that the Women's Club is doing a St. Patty's Day fundraiser party on March 15th, where they hope to raise \$6,000 for higher education scholarships for local high school students.

Councilor McNamara mentioned that on March 11th, at 7:00 PM, there will be a meeting in Council Chambers to deal with safety of City streets and pedestrians. Councilor McNamara also shared that she feels privileged and humbled to serve as a City Councilor in the best interest of the public. She went on to say, that when privilege is misused, it undermines the foundation of good governance. She stated that she has been disheartened to see this privilege used to target colleagues, City staff, and especially dedicated volunteers, who contribute their time to the community. She mentioned that when questions are asked not out of genuine concern, but for personal gain to create division, or mislead, trust can be eroded. At that point, civic participation is discouraged, and the distraction breaks the work flow, and can hurt morale. She mentioned that transparency means to be open and honest, and that Councilors are not to be issuing directions to staff or boards, or misusing staff time or resources to create the illusion of oversight for personal gains. When Councilors have concerns, they should be asking the City Manager or the heads of departments. She finished by stating that Councilors should remain focused on real problems and safety issues, and not fall into or create manufactured crises for political gains. Continue to ask what our purpose and goals are, and kindness and compassion goes a long way. She stated that Councilors are elected to serve the community with integrity, and she finds that to be a privilege.

Councilor Kretovic mentioned that there would be another celestial event this coming Friday, at 2:30 AM, with a full lunar eclipse.

Councilor Horne mentioned that on April 10th, there will be a public input in session on the Tanner Street River Front Park, 6:00 PM at Penacook Elementary School.

Councilor Todd mentioned that on March 11th, at 6:00 PM, at the Merrimack Valley High School Auditorium, there will be a meeting to discuss Rolfe Park safety issues, and vehicular traffic issues, with representatives from Parks and Recreation and the Concord Police Department.

Mayor Champlin thanked Councilor Fennessy for mentioning the 25th Anniversary of the Barley House, congratulating them on this milestone, and thanking Brian and Deb Shea for inviting him to participate. The Concord Library is holding their Concord Read Event, and the 2025 book is "Where You'll Find Me." There will be a number of activities at the Library, kicking off on April 5th, 10:00 AM, at the Army Aviation Support Facility, with a tour of a Black Hawk Helicopter, as well as other activities through April 24th. There is also an event for children on April 12th, at 10:00 AM at the Concord Library Auditorium. These events are free and open to the public.

Comments, Requests by the City Manager

Adjournment

Action: At 9:34 PM, with there being no additional business, Councilor Keach moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fennessy and passed with no dissenting votes.

Information

Inf1 December 5, 2024 Transportation Policy Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf2 January 7, 2025 Architectural Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf3 January 7, 2025 Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf4 January 8, 2025 Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf5 January 15, 2025 Planning Board Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf6 January 21, 2025 Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf7 January 31, 2024 Tax Exemption Policy Committee Approved Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf8 February 3, 2025 Rules Committee Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf9 February 5, 2025 Tax Exemption Policy Committee Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf10 February 20, 2025 Golf Course Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf11 Concord Parks and Recreation Spring Brochure.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf12 Correspondence from Xfinity regarding Programming Changes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf13 Parks and Recreation Employment Information

Action: Information item received and filed.

A true copy, I attest:

Deborah Tuite

Deputy City Clerk