



City of Concord

City Council

Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, July 10, 2023

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers
37 Green Street
Concord, NH 03301

Non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3, II (d) to discuss property acquisition followed by a non-public meeting in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3, II (e), consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation and a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3, II (c) to begin at 5:30 p.m.

Present: 13 - Councilor Candace Bouchard, Mayor Jim Bouley, Councilor Stacey Brown, Councilor Byron Champlin, Councilor Nathan Fennessy, Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton, Councilor Fred Keach, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Councilor Gail Matson, Councilor Paula McLaughlin, Councilor Keith Nyhan, Councilor Erle Pierce, and Councilor Brent Todd

Excused: 2 - Councilor Karen McNamara, and Councilor Zandra Rice Hawkins

Staff members present: City Manager Tom Aspell, Deputy City Manager - Development Matt Walsh, Deputy City Manager - Finance Brian LeBrun, City Solicitor Jim Kennedy, Deputy City Solicitor Danielle Pacik, City Clerk Janice Bonenfant, and Director of Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives Beth Fenstermacher.

Mayor Bouley called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Councilor Kretovic moved to enter non-public session in accordance with accordance with RSA 91-A: 3, II (d) to discuss property acquisition followed by a non-public meeting in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3, II (e), consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation and a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3, II (c) . The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

At 6:36 P.M., Councilor Champlin moved to exit the non-public session. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

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

There being no additional Council business, Councilor Kretovic moved to adjourn. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

1. Call to Order.

Action: Mayor Bouley called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

2. Invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Roll Call.

Present: 13 - Councilor Candace Bouchard, Mayor Jim Bouley, Councilor Stacey Brown, Councilor Byron Champlin, Councilor Nathan Fennessy, Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton, Councilor Fred Keach, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Councilor Gail Matson, Councilor Paula McLaughlin, Councilor Keith Nyhan, Councilor Erle Pierce, and Councilor Brent Todd

Excused: 2 - Councilor Karen McNamara, and Councilor Zandra Rice Hawkins

5. Approval of the Meeting Minutes.

June 5, 2023 City Council Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: Councilor Grady Sexton moved approval of the June 5, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

June 12, 2023 Draft City Council Meeting Minutes

Action: Councilor Kretovic moved approval of the June 12, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

6. Agenda overview by the Mayor.
7. ConcordTV presentation.

Concord TV Executive Director Josh Hardy and IT/Programming Director Michael O'Meara discussed the program change with Comcast as well as the collaboration with the City's Public Information Officer. General discussion followed regarding the variety of tv programming, professionalism, and YouTube channel.

8. Twin State Energy Presentation.

Kaytlynn Monroe, of Hilltop Public Solutions is working with National Grid on the Twin States Clean Energy Link. Ms. Monroe introduced Terron Hill, Project Director of National Grid. Also present were Jess Farrell, Principal Engineer of National Grid, as well as Corey Schutzman, Lead Environmental Scientist of National Grid. An overview of the proposed project was discussed which is a 1200 megawatt transmission power line running from Canada through Concord and ending in Londonderry.

Mr. Hill reviewed the current generation of power which relies largely on natural gas and discussed the proposed project's use of hydropower from Quebec which can serve as backup power when wind and solar outputs are low. The proposed project uses existing pathways from Quebec rather than generating new rights of way, and Mr. Hill reviewed the proposed path on a map of both Vermont and New Hampshire. The existing right of way the proposed project would utilize runs through the northwest corner of Concord and the increasing of tower heights was discussed. Ms. Monroe discussed local presentations and community meetings. She also provided contact information for the public which includes the website of www.twinstatescleanenergylink.com and a phone number which is 1-800-886-8239. The presentation will be available on the City's website.

Discussion followed regarding height of the proposed project and heights of previous projects.

*****Consent Agenda Items*****

Action: Councilor Grady Sexton moved approval of the consent agenda. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes. Councilor Brown recused herself from agenda items number 15 - 16. Agenda item number 26 was pulled from the consent agenda by Councilor Brown for discussion.

Note: Items listed as pulled from the consent agenda will be discussed at the end of the meeting.

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

9. Communication from the SkiTheBeav Inc. requesting collaboration and support from the City in order to develop a project to install snow making equipment and lighting at Beaver Meadow Golf Course.

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

Items Tabled for August 14, 2023 Public Hearings

10. Resolution determining the proposed project has a public benefit and approving an application by First Church Holdings LLC for a seven-year RSA 79-e Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive for the renovation of real estate located at 177 North Main Street City Assessor's Parcel Map 55 Block 3 Lot 14 and 16; together with a report from the Deputy City Manager - Development. (Supplemental resolution and report submitted.)

Action: This resolution was moved to set for a public hearing.

11. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title V, Administrative Code; Chapter 35, Classification and Compensation Plan, Schedule D of Article 35-2, Class Specification Index; together with a report from the Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations.

Action: This ordinance was moved to set for a public hearing.

From the City Manager

12. Positive Citizen Comments.

Action: This positive comments were received and filed.

Consent Reports

13. Diminimus gifts and donations report from the Library Director requesting authorization to accept monetary gifts totaling \$5,508.09, as provided under the pre-authorization granted by City Council, retroactive to June 30, 2023.

Action: This consent report was approved.

14. Diminimus gifts and donation report from the Deputy City Manager Finance requesting the authorization to accept monetary settlement in the amount of \$4,971.12 from the State of New Hampshire as part of the opioid settlement lawsuit, and transfer to the Opioid Reserve, as provided under the pre-authorization of diminimus funds granted by the City Council.

Action: This consent report was approved.

15. Report from the Police Department recommending, through the City Manager, the Police Department be authorized to apply for grant funding through the New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency for roadway safety initiatives and equipment in 2023 and 2024.

Action: This consent report was approved. Councilor Brown recused.

16. Report from the Police Department recommending through the City Manager, the Police Department be authorized to apply for grant funding through the New Hampshire Department of Safety - Law Enforcement Opioid Abuse Reduction Initiative. Funds from this grant will be used by the Department to pay for overtime expenses incurred by the Department as it implements enhanced strategies in combating the illegal drug/opioid crisis facing the City and surrounding communities.

Action: This consent report was approved. Councilor Brown recused.

17. Quarterly Current Use Change Tax Report from the Director of Real Estate Assessments.

Action: This consent report was approved.

18. Report from the Assistant City Planner recommending the City Manager be authorized to accept 24.103 acres of land for conservation purposes related to the conditionally approved Major Subdivision Application of Signature Homes, LLC on Curtisville Road.

Action: This consent report was approved.

19. Report from the Solicitor's Office regarding a tentative agreement between the City of Concord and the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 1045 ("IAFF").

Action: This consent report was approved.

20. Report from the Deputy City Solicitor recommending the City Manager be authorized to terminate a Water Reservoir/Fire Pond Easement dated June 5, 1935.

Action: This consent report was approved.

Consent Resolutions

21. Resolution authorizing the City Manager by way of the Police Department to submit an application to the United States Department of Justice Bulleproof Vest Partnership Grant Program to receive funding for the purchase of Ballistic Vests; together with a report from the Deputy Police Chief.

Action: This consent resolution was approved.

22. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the United States Department of Justice Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program for funds designated for Law Enforcement related programs; together with a report from the Deputy Police Chief.

Action: This consent resolution was approved.

23. Resolution relative to the public highway discontinuance of a portion of Canal Street in the Village of Penacook, City of Concord, New Hampshire; together with a report from the Deputy City Manager - Development.

Action: This consent resolution was approved.

24. Resolution relative to the acceptance of a dedicated right-of-way to widen a portion of the public highway known as Canal Street; together with a report from the Deputy City Manager - Development.

Action: This consent resolution was approved.

Appointments

25. Mayor Bouley's proposed reappointment to the Airport Advisory Committee: Rita Castonguay Hunt.

Action: This appointment was approved.

26. Mayor Bouley's proposed appointments to the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee: Robert M. Kleiner and Cuong D. Ngo. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Brown.)

Action: This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Councilor Brown for discussion.

27. Mayor Bouley's proposed appointments to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee: Reagan Bissonnette and Judith Kurtz.

Action: This appointment was approved.

28. Mayor Bouley's proposed appointment to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee: Carol Foss.

Action: This appointment was approved.

29. Mayor Bouley's proposed appointment to the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee: Nicole Fox.

Action: This appointment was approved.

End of Consent Agenda

Public Hearings

- 30A. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-8, Parking Time Limited in Designated Places, Schedule III (Two Hours between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday), by removing time limited parking on Washington Street (Penacook) located between 75' and 150' of Village Street (formerly South Main Street); together with a report from the Deputy City Manager - Development.

Action: City Manager Aspell provided an overview of this proposed ordinance. A brief history of the proposed amendment to the ordinance was covered including its origin as a request from a resident and the Parking Committee's review of the request. The Parking Committee voted unanimously to recommend elimination of the two hour parking limit on the specified section of Washington Street in Penacook. Upon removal of the time zone, on-street parking at this location will become an unregulated parking zone and subject to the City's 48-hour parking limit and parking ban ordinances. As revitalization of Penacook Village continues and associated demand for parking increases, competition for these non-time limited parking spaces may intensify and could result in additional parking issues for the neighborhood.

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

- 30B. Resolution establishing an Assessing Reserve fund for the purposes of funding Assessing Department projects, appropriating the sum of \$385,000 as a transfer to the Assessing Reserve, and authorizing the use of \$385,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance for this purpose, retroactive to June 30, 2023; together with a report from the Deputy City Manager - Finance.

Action: City Manager Aspell provided an overview of the proposed resolution. The Full Measure and List Project will involve the City of Concord contracting with an outside appraisal firm to inspect and verify the physical data collected for each City property. This project is also intended to include a full assessment revaluation of all City properties. This project is expected to span over two years with funding projected in the Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 CIP. The total cost of the project is expected to be approximately \$770,000. Funding for this project is planned from the Assessing Reserve proposed in the attached resolution. This plan will necessitate transfers into the reserve account from unassigned fund balance, year end surplus or other funding sources as deemed appropriate by the City Council.

Mayor Bouley opened the public hearing.

Roy Schweiker, a Concord resident, discussed amenities on properties in addition to dwellings on properties and how amenities may relate to assessed value. Mr. Schweiker stated his opinion that the proposed resolution be increased in cost so that the outside appraisal firm may appraise amenities.

There being no further public testimony, Mayor Bouley declared the hearing closed.

Public Hearing Action

31. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-8, Parking Time Limited in Designated Places, Schedule III (Two Hours between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday), by removing time limited parking on Washington Street (Penacook) located between 75' and 150' of Village Street (formerly South Main Street); together with a report from the Deputy City Manager - Development.

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

32. Resolution establishing an Assessing Reserve fund for the purposes of funding Assessing Department projects, appropriating the sum of \$385,000 as a transfer to the Assessing Reserve, and authorizing the use of \$385,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance for this purpose, retroactive to June 30, 2023; together with a report from the Deputy City Manager - Finance.

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

Reports

New Business

Unfinished Business

Comments, Requests by Mayor, City Councilors

Councilor Champlin announced an event hosted by Change for Concord and Project S.T.O.R.Y. to celebrate the decision to install lights in Keach Park. The event will be July 22 in Keach Park from 2:00PM - 5:00PM. Councilor Champlin provided condolences regarding the passing of community member and documentarian John Gfoerer.

Councilor Todd offered his condolences regarding the passing of Mr. Gfoerer. Councilor Todd announced the Penacook Historical Society's Old Fashioned Family Fun Day on July 29 from 1:00PM - 4:00PM at their Penacook Street facility.

Councilor Pierce requested that Councilors pulling consent agenda items for discussion abide by Council rules and request agenda items be pulled by noon of the meeting day, which he acknowledged is not always possible, so that members of Council have time to research and verse themselves on the items for discussion.

Councilor Kretovic offered her condolences on the passing of John Gfoerer who was a Ward 3 Supervisor of the Checklist.

Councilor Brown discussed the library's summer reading theme and new return bin in Concord Heights. Councilor Brown announced a community meeting at Beaver Meadow Golf Course on July 12 at 8:00AM and National Night Out on August 1 from 5:00PM - 8:00PM in Rollins Park where she will disperse bicycle helmets.

Mayor Bouley spoke about the passing of John Gfoerer and shared a personal story.

Comments, Requests by the City Manager**Consideration of items pulled from the Consent Agenda**

26. Mayor Bouley's proposed appointments to the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee: Robert M. Kleiner and Cuong D. Ngo. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Brown.)

Action: These appointments were pulled from the consent agenda by Councilor Brown for discussion.

Councilor Brown discussed her feelings regarding the process of appointments to boards and committees.

Councilor Nyhan moved approval. The motion was duly seconded and passed with one dissenting vote.

Adjournment

Action: At 8:10PM, there being no additional Council business, Councilor Kretovic moved approval to adjourn. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

Information

- Inf1 June 5, 2023 Finance Committee Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: This Information item was received and filed.

- Inf2 June 8, 2023 Golf Course Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: This Information item was received and filed.

- Inf3 June 13, 2023 Community Power Committee Meeting Minutes.

Action: This Information item was received and filed.

- Inf4 June 14, 2023 Ad-Hoc Beaver Meadow Building Committee Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: This Information item was received and filed.

- Inf5 Communication from Comcast regarding Xfinity TV rate change.

Action: This Information item was received and filed.

A true copy, I attest:

*Elisabeth Harrington
Deputy City Clerk*