



City of Concord

City Council

Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 6, 2016

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers
37 Green Street
Concord, NH 03301

*Non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3, II to discuss the City
Manager's Evaluation to be held at 6:00 p.m.*

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call.

Present: 15 - Councilor Candace Bouchard, Mayor Jim Bouley, Councilor Byron Champlin, Councilor Mark Coen, Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton, Councilor Allan Herschlag, Councilor Fred Keach, Councilor Linda Kenison, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Councilor Gail Matson, Councilor Keith Nyhan, Councilor Dan St. Hilaire, Councilor Stephen Shurtleff, Councilor Brent Todd, and Councilor Robert Werner

4. Approval of the Meeting Minutes.

May 23, 2016 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

Action: Councilor St. Hilaire moved approval of the May 23, 2016 Finance Committee meeting minutes. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

5. Agenda overview by the Mayor.

6. Finance Committee Work Session.

Action: Mayor Bouley noted that he feels that the City Manager brought in a reasonable fair tax rate increase based upon the needs of the city at 2.92 percent. The Mayor's goal is to reduce this to 2.5 percent and feels that it can be done: a) reduce interest expense by \$94,000; b) reduce comp adjustment by \$30,000; c) increase payment to Intown Concord Special Programs by \$10,000 taking it out of the economic development reserve; d) increase monument preservation \$14,000; e) increase building permit revenue by \$25,000; e) increase ambulance service charge

revenue by \$20,000. He recommended: eliminating the wastewater rate increase from 2.5 percent to zero and move the Odor Control Capital Project, CIP #89, out one year starting in FY2020; moving the Terrill Park Turf Field Capital Project, CIP #59, from FY2022 to FY2017.

He added that he recommends the following, which are semi-changes to the budget, be put in at least for discussion. He explained that these would be more in the notes/goal section: create a new CIP project that combines CIP #107 Golf Course Club House and Maintenance Buildings, CIP #235 Golf Course Grounds Improvements, CIP #515 Golf Course Winter Recreation Improvements, and CIP #530 Golf Course Equipment (create a goal to have the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee, the Golf Course Advisory Committee and city staff work to create a ten year master plan for the property); create a new CIP project that combines CIP #60 Kiwanis Waterfront Park and CIP #64 Arena Improvements (create a goal to have the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee, the Arena Advisory Committee and city staff create a plan for future operations, investment and management of the property); request the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee review the costs related to lifeguard certification, the staffing of city pools and report back to Council if it is determined that modifications are in order.

A copy of Mayor Bouley's recommendation is on file at the City Clerk's Office.

Mayor Bouley indicated that he thought the budget, overall, was very well thought out and put together but feels that the changes he recommended are what he has either heard from Council discussion and comments from the public and he tried to encapsulate them together.

Councilor St. Hilaire commended and noted the support of the Mayor's suggested changes. He indicated that the one thing that he would like to add, which would not affect the tax rate this year, is a CIP project for sidewalks - to look at putting in a sidewalk by Concord High School on Westbourne Street. He stated that he has been approached by people including a School Board member asking that the city help; the School Board member had indicated that they would be willing to put their share in as well for a portion. He asked that \$33,500 be placed under 2018 for a sidewalk on Westbourne Street. Councilor St. Hilaire stated that the City Manager had indicated that the total cost of the project would be approximately \$50,000; they assume the school would pay for one-third with the city paying two-thirds because one-third is on school property and two-thirds is on city property.

Councilor Champlin added his support for the Mayor's proposal. He thanked the Mayor for consideration of the monument preservation program and the additional funding for Intown Concord to fund more downtown activities.

Councilor Herschlag noted that he is in agreement with most of the items but does have concern with the Terrill Park turf field. He referenced Memorial Field and funding for the parking lot and press box noting that the city hasn't improved the usage for this facility. He feels, that until they address the community's needs and improve Memorial Field, he is not inclined to add funding for another facility.

Councilor Coen inquired whether a consultant or facilitator may be needed in regards to the creation of a ten year master plan for the golf course.

Councilor Bouchard has no objections to the proposals but would like to see an increase in Intown Concord's membership next year. Since they are proposing adding additional dollars, she would like to see more of a buy in from the businesses that are profiting from the city's support.

Councilor Nyhan indicated that he shares Councilor Bouchard's concerns regarding membership. He noted that maybe Intown Concord could survey those that are not members to find out why and whether it could be easily addressed.

Councilor Kretovic sees the Mayor's recommendation for the \$10,000 to Intown Concord as really covering to pay for the city's own staff to help out at the events.

Referencing the Terrill Park turf field, City Manager Tom Aspell asked for clarification in moving up the design dollars to FY2017 to whether Council wants him to follow it up with the other pieces behind this.

Mayor Bouley feels that the assumption is that everything would move forward.

Mayor Bouley pointed out that he had omitted but would also like to include \$2,900 for a speed trailer for the Police Department which would be a fifty percent match to \$5,800.

Councilor Todd echoed his support for the Mayor's recommendations.

The Council ended their work session meeting as the Finance Committee to begin the June 6, 2016 Council meeting as members of City Council.

Public Hearings

- 7A. Resolution fixing and determining the amount of money to be appropriated by the City of Concord for the fiscal year 2017 ending June 30, 2017.

Action: There being no Council objection, City Clerk Janice Bonenfant read public hearing titles for items A through F.

Mayor Bouley opened the public hearings for items A through F.

Public Testimony

Lena Shyer, immigration attorney and New American Africans board member, thanked Council for the \$5,000 funding which helps to cover services for their constituents.

Peggy Field, New American Africans board member, thanked Council for their support for a second year in a row.

Roy Schweiker, resident, spoke in opposition to the additional \$10,000 funding for Intown Concord. He also spoke in opposition to the city hiring a person to attract new businesses to Concord. He spoke in opposition to a city staff person for downtown being paid for with tax dollars.

Elyssa Alfieri, Intown Concord, addressed comments in regards to membership clarifying that they do not have members they have supporters. As part of their strategic plan they have addressed this issue and formed subcommittees that are going to pursue how to bolster this. She thanked the Council on behalf of Intown Concord.

There being no further public testimony on items A through F, the Mayor closed the hearings.

- 7B. Resolution amending the amount of money to be appropriated by the City of Concord for the fiscal year 2017 ending June 30, 2017. (To be submitted under separate cover)

Action: Public hearing for this item taken with item A.

- 7C. Resolution for the bonded projects within the Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 hereby authorizing and approving the expenditure of \$14,504,000 and authorizing

the issuance of \$14,504,000 in bonds and notes for various capital projects.

Action: Public hearing for this item taken with item A.

- 7D. Resolution for annual capital closeout and repurposing of capital project funds; together with a report from the Assistant Finance Director.

Action: Public hearing for this item taken with item A.

- 7E. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title I, General Code; Chapter 1, Government Organization, by amending Schedule I of Article 1-5, Fees, Fines and Penalties, Water Rates.

Action: Public hearing for this item taken with item A.

- 7F. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances. Title I, General Code; Chapter 1, Government Organization, amending Schedule I of Article 1-5, Fees, Fines and Penalties, Sewer Rates.

Action: Public hearing for this item taken with item A.

Public Hearing Action

8. Resolution fixing and determining the amount of money to be appropriated by the City of Concord for the fiscal year 2017 ending June 30, 2017.

Action: Councilor Shurtleff moved approval to amend the general fund operating budget resolution in the amount of \$59,578,112 decreasing it to \$59,478,112 with the City Manager making the associated revenue changes discussed earlier. The motion was duly seconded.

Councilor Herschlag moved that in the resolution for fixing and determining the amount of money to be appropriated by the City of Concord for the fiscal year 2017 ending June 30, 2017, under Section 1; General Fund; Appropriations, \$135,422 for the position of Economic Development Director be removed from the appropriation for Community Development and that the line item for Community Development be reduced from \$3,085,762 to \$2,950,340. That in the resolution for fixing and determining the amount of money to be appropriated by the City of Concord for the fiscal year 2017 ending June 30, 2017, under Section 1; General Fund; Appropriations, a separate line item be added for the position of Economic Development Director under Section 1; General Fund; Appropriations, with an appropriation of \$135,422. The motion failed to receive a second.

Mayor Bouley appreciates that Council is willing to join him to reduce the tax rate

from 2.9 percent to 2.5 percent. He recognized that this budget does some really good things in regards to public safety. He added that this budget reflects an enhanced position within the city for economic development; he feels that this position will be the liason between the city, the departments within the city, as well as the community.

Councilor Herschlag indicated that he is impressed with the effort and energy put within this budget but noted that there are elements that he has concerns with: he feels that the Economic Development Director position should be a separate department and not part of Community Development; he feels that that enterprise funds wouldn't be able to meet/pay for capital improvements without general fund assistance. Councilor Herschlag doesn't want to diminish how many important and positive things are within this budget but because of some concerns he is going to have to vote not to support the budget this year.

Councilor Bouchard supports having an Economic Development Director and hopes they are directed to also look at the airport. She feels that city needs to start marketing the airport because they are fortunate to have this.

Councilor St. Hilaire inquired whether the speed trailer is reflected within this. City Manager Aspell responded that it's not seen within this because he's going to do it within the budget; nothing has to be done with the tax rate to accomplish this.

The motion to approve the resolution, as amended, passed with one dissenting vote. Councilor Herschlag voted no. Mayor Bouley, Councilors Kretovic, Grady Sexton and Bouchard did not vote on the Crisis Center. Councilor Todd did not vote on the Penacook Community Center.

9. Resolution amending the amount of money to be appropriated by the City of Concord for the fiscal year 2017 ending June 30, 2017. (To be submitted under separate cover)

Action: Councilor Nyhan moved approval to amend the general fund operating budget resolution in the amount of \$59,578,112 decreasing it to \$59,478,112 with the City Manager making the associated revenue changes discussed earlier. The motion was duly seconded and passed with one dissenting vote. Councilor Herschlag voted no. Mayor Bouley, Councilors Kretovic, Grady Sexton and Bouchard did not vote on the Crisis Center. Councilor Todd did not vote on the Penacook Community Center.

10. Resolution for the bonded projects within the Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2017

hereby authorizing and approving the expenditure of \$14,504,000 and authorizing the issuance of \$14,504,000 in bonds and notes for various capital projects.

Action: Councilor St. Hilaire moved to amend the resolution increasing it from \$14,504,000 to \$14,629,000 to include the Terrill Park turf field design. The motion was duly seconded and passed on a roll call vote.

Yes: 14 - Councilor Bouchard, Mayor Bouley, Councilor Champlin, Councilor Coen, Councilor Grady Sexton, Councilor Keach, Councilor Kenison, Councilor Kretovic, Councilor Matson, Councilor Nyhan, Councilor St. Hilaire, Councilor Shurtleff, Councilor Todd, and Councilor Werner

No: 1 - Councilor Herschlag

11. Resolution for annual capital closeout and repurposing of capital project funds; together with a report from the Assistant Finance Director.

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

12. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title I, General Code; Chapter 1, Government Organization, by amending Schedule I of Article 1-5, Fees, Fines and Penalties, Water Rates.

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

13. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances. Title I, General Code; Chapter 1, Government Organization, amending Schedule I of Article 1-5, Fees, Fines and Penalties, Sewer Rates.

Action: Councilor Nyhan moved to reject the ordinance. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

New Business

Comments, Requests by Mayor, City Councilors

Councilor Keach recognized Jill McDaniel for spending the holiday weekend in the office helping people with cemetery questions.

Councilor Todd announced that the Annual Penacook/Boscawen Firefighters Parade begins at 9:00 a.m. on June 12th beginning at the Boscawen Fire Station located on Village and Oak Streets.

Councilor Shurtleff indicated that Thursday, June 16th is the rededication of the pool at Rolfe Park in memory of Joseph Guyette. He thanked Althea Barton and city staff for all their work for this event.

Councilor Champlin urged members of Council to watch a program on autonomous vehicles on NBC's On Assignment. He further urged the Council and city staff to keep an eye on this movement and see how it develops because it could have a significant impact on the city in regards to vehicle registration fees.

Councilor Herschlag announced that the Abbot-Downing Historical Society will be hosting an open house on June 11th at Johnny Prescott Oil on Airport Road.

Mayor Bouley thanked the City Manager, the Finance Department and city staff for all their time and effort into putting the budget together.

Comments, Requests by the City Manager

Action: City Manager Aspell thanked staff for helping to put the budget together pointing out all the work that the the Finance Department has done.

Adjournment

The time being 8:20 p.m., Councilor Keach moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

*A true copy; I attest:
Michelle Mulholland
Deputy City Clerk*