



# City of Concord

## City Council

### Meeting Minutes - Draft

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Monday, March 11, 2024

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers  
37 Green Street  
Concord, NH 03301

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*Non meeting to discuss collective bargaining negotiations in accordance with RSA 91-A:2, I (a) 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:** 11 - Mayor Byron Champlin, Councilor Nathan Fennessy, Councilor Jeff Foote, Councilor Michele Horne, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Councilor Judith Kurtz, Councilor Paula McLaughlin, Councilor Karen McNamara, Councilor Jim Schlosser, Councilor Kris Schultz, and Councilor Brent Todd

**Excused:** 1 - Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton

**Late:** 3 - Councilor Stacey Brown, Councilor Fred Keach, and Councilor Ali Sekou

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

Councilor Fennessy moved to enter a non-meeting to discuss collective bargaining negotiations in accordance with RSA 91-A:2, I (a) followed by a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3, II (d) to discuss property acquisition. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes. Councilor Stacey Brown was not present during collective bargaining discussions.

**Staff members present:** City Manager Tom Aspell, Deputy City Manager - Development Matt Walsh, Acting City Solicitor Danielle Pacik, City Clerk Janice Bonenfant, Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations Jennifer Johnston as well as three members from the Retention and Recruitment Committee, Wastewater Treatment Plant Maintenance Supervisor Joe Mulleavey, Water Systems Supervisor Marc Moore and Cemetery Specialist Mike Andosca.

The non-meeting to discuss collective bargaining negotiations ended at 6:16 PM.

**Staff members present:** City Manager Tom Aspell, Deputy City Manager - Development Matt Walsh, City Clerk Janice Bonenfant, Acting City Solicitor Danielle Pacik, Assistant Community Development Director Tim Thompson, Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations Jennifer Johnston, Police Chief Brad Osgood and Director of Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives Beth Fenstermacher.

At 6:59 PM, Councilor Kretovic moved to exit the non-public session. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

In public session, Councilor Fennessy 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 Champlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Mayor Champlin noted that devices are available to help those who have difficulty hearing. These devices use a transmitter and headphones, and allow for an individual to personally adjust the volume to their needs. A device can be obtained at the ConcordTV booth in the back of Council Chambers.

2. Invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Roll Call.

**Present:** 15 - 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 Paula McLaughlin, Councilor Karen McNamara, Councilor Jim Schlosser, Councilor Kris Schultz, Councilor Ali Sekou, and Councilor Brent Todd

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes.

February 12, 2024 City Council Draft Meeting Minutes

**Action:** Councilor Grady Sexton moved approval to accept the February 12, 2024 City Council meeting minutes. The motion was duly seconded.

Councilor Brown requested an amendment to agenda item number 44 in the February meeting minutes to note that Councilor Fennessy opposed the motion.

The motion to accept the meeting minutes with the amendment passed unanimously.

6. Agenda overview by the Mayor.
7. Presentation by the Friends Program Emergency Housing Program.

Friends Program Development Director Laura Miller and Director of Emergency Housing Glenda Leon discussed the need for housing as well as the continuum of care the Friends Program provides.

General discussion followed regarding statistics, services, and Merrimack County's only low-barrier family shelter which is operated by the Friends Program on Thompson Street in Concord.

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

**Action:** Agenda item number 23 was pulled from the consent agenda by Mayor Champlin for discussion.

Councilor Todd recused from agenda item number 27.

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

**Referral to the Planning Board**

8. Communication from Ari Pollack on behalf of Ciborowski Associates, LLC requesting consideration be given to zoning amendments within portions of Main Street, State Street and Storrs Street and the commercial and mixed-use corridors within the downtown.

**Action:** This communication was referred to the Planning Board.

**Items Tabled for April 8, 2024 Public Hearings**

9. 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. (Public testimony submitted.)

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

10. 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. (Public testimony submitted.)

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

11. Resolution modifying the All Veterans' Tax Credit for the City of Concord pursuant to the provisions of RSA 72:28-a; together with a report from the Director of Real Estate Assessments. (Public testimony submitted.)

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

12. Resolution modifying the Blind 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. (Public testimony submitted.)

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

13. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$35,000 in the Solid Waste fund to modify the entrance to the transfer station located on Old Turnpike Road and authorizing the use of \$35,000 in the Solid Waste fund balance for this purpose; together with a report from the General Services Director.

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

14. Resolution accepting the sum of \$9,660.75 in residential granite curb cost sharing and reimbursement from developers and appropriating the sum of \$9,660.75 in the Annual Roadway Surface Improvements project (CIP #78) for this purpose; together with a report from the General Services Director.

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

15. Resolution amending and restating resolution #9573 which determined that the proposed project has a public benefit and approved an application by First Church Holdings L.L.C. 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 Assistant Director of Community Development.

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

16. 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, reorganization of the General Services Administration Division; together with a report from the General Services Director.

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

#### **Item Previously Tabled for a July 8, 2024 Public Hearing**

17. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title IV, Zoning Code; Chapter 28, Article 28-2-4 Allowable Principal and Accessory Uses in Zoning Districts, Article 28-5, Supplemental Standards and Glossary; together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development.

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

#### **Consent Reports**

18. Diminimus gifts and donations report from the Library Director requesting authorization to accept monetary gifts totaling \$1,558.97, as provided under the pre-authorization granted by City Council.

**Action:** This consent report was approved.

19. Diminimus gifts and donations report from the Parks and Recreation Director requesting authorization to accept monetary gifts totaling \$5,431.00 as provided for under the pre-authorization granted by City Council.

**Action:** This consent report was approved.

20. Report from the Director of Real Estate Assessments requesting the City Manager be Authorized to renew the voluntary Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement between Fellowship Housing Opportunities, Inc. and Affiliates and the City of Concord.

**Action:** This consent report was approved.

21. Report from the City Treasurer/Tax Collector regarding tax deeded properties.

**Action:** This consent report was approved.

22. Report from the Human Resources Director and the Parks and Recreation Director to combine two existing part time custodians to create one permanent part time custodian position.

**Action:** This consent report was approved.

23. Report from the Transportation Engineer, on behalf of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee, in response to a referral from City Council regarding a communication from Ari Pollack requesting consideration be made to relocate the Concord Area Transit (CAT) bus stop now located between 214 and 220 North Main Street in Concord. (Pulled from consent by Mayor Champlin.)

**Action:** This consent report was pulled by Mayor Champlin for discussion.

24. Report from the Transportation Engineer, on behalf of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee, in response to a referral from City Council regarding a communication from Mark Coen, Thayer Pond Road, asking that consideration be given to implementing a "service modification" to the Penacook Bus Route to provide a stop at the Beaver Meadow Golf Course.

**Action:** This consent report was approved.

25. Report from the City Engineer recommending the City Manager be authorized to submit a letter to the NHDOT in regards to project "Concord 41468," in the Ten Year Plan, requesting consideration be given to improve and expand the existing pedestrian walkway on the I-93 Northbound Bridge (136/117) over the Merrimack River, that connects East Concord (Exit 16) to New Hampshire Technical Institute.

**Action:** This consent report was approved.

### **Appointments**

26. City Manager's Appointment to the Conservation Commission: Tracey Lesser.

**Action:** This appointment was approved.

27. City Manager's Appointment to the Heritage Commission: Althea Barton

**Action:** This appointment was approved. Councilor Todd recused.

*\*\*End of Consent Agenda\*\**

### **Public Hearings**

- 28A. Resolution adopting a Community Power Program for electricity supply in Concord and authorizing the City to join the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire; together with a report from the Director of Special Projects & Strategic Initiatives. (Public testimony submitted.) (Additional public testimony submitted.)

**Action:** City Manager Aspell provided a brief overview of this item in which would authorize the City to join the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire.

Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing.

Robert Werner, Joe Kwasnik, and Chuck Willing, all representatives of the Concord Energy & Environment Advisory Committee, presented further information regarding community power and its benefits. The benefits presented include cost savings, contribution towards energy goals, control over energy supply, and management of energy demand.

The Concord Energy & Environment Advisory Committee recommend that the program be one that users opt out of using rather than opt into using. It is also recommend that Concord join the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire which is a non-profit organization subject to the Right to Know Law whose meetings are open to the public. The Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire's length of service and user rates were discussed. The Concord Energy & Environment Advisory Committee also recommends that the default service provided be Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire's power source with 33% renewable energy.

Brian Callnan, Chief Executive Officer of Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire, provided an overview of the organization's current members. Mr. Callnan provided more overview of the organization's financial reserves. General discussion followed regarding said financial reserves, net metering, and the difference between energy sourcing and energy distribution.

Kate West, a Concord resident, discussed Community Power and used it as an analogy for her desire for members of City Council to pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the 2023 Israel-Hamas war.

Roy Schweiker, a Concord resident, asked how the model of the coalition works.

Emily Manns, of Standard Power, suggested changes for the proposed resolution including a change in service provider to her employer. Ms. Manns stated that City customers will forego stable rates by selecting Community Power whereas Standard Power provides stable rates. She also discussed legal documents regarding Community Power and the structure of Standard Power.

John Gaudet, a Concord resident, discussed the default renewable energy option recommended by the Concord Energy & Environment Advisory Committee.

Sam Evans-Brown, a Concord resident, asked members of City Council to consider rate payers.

Ian McGregor, a Concord resident, discussed the structure of Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. He also used his personal experience of choosing an internet provider as an analogy for selecting an energy source.

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

- 28B. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$880,000 in the Traffic Signals and Traffic Operations Improvements project (CIP #283) for the design and construction of traffic signal upgrades and associated improvements at the intersections of North State/Centre Streets and North Main/Washington/Ferry streets, authorizing the issuance of bonds and notes in the sum of \$880,000, and repurposing the sum of \$101,221.97 from the State/Pleasant Intersection subproject (CIP #283) for this purpose; together with a report from the City Engineer.

**Action:** City Manager Aspell provided an overview of this item. The City maintains traffic signals at 54 intersections. Some of the traffic signals are approximately 40 years old which is the life span of a traffic signal mast arms. Other components have a shorter life. In the past year, the vehicle detection system for the traffic signal at the North Main/Ferry/Washington Street intersection failed, and one of the traffic signal mast arms located at the Centre and North State Street intersection failed. Temporary emergency repairs were made to keep both intersections operational.

Permanent repairs will include replacement of all poles and mast arms at each location. Traffic signal mast arms take approximately eight months to receive after placing an order. These repairs will necessitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, so a sidewalk ramp and other improvements will be required. This is being requested prior to the upcoming Fiscal Year 2025 budget due to the time needed to procure signal mast arms.

Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing.

Roy Schweiker, a Concord resident, asked about the necessity of traffic signals at certain intersections.

Carl Sargent, a landscape consultant, asked that a light without a sequence be considered and not a circle.

Donelle Thomas, a Concord resident, used the emergency repairs made to the discussed traffic signals as an analogy for the resident's desire for members of City Council to pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the 2023 Israel-Hamas war.

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

- 28C. Public Hearing regarding the status of the following: \$750,000 in Public Facilities & Covid-19 Pandemic Relief Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds subgranted to the Boys and Girls Club of Central New Hampshire; \$500,000 in Public Facilities CDBG funds subgranted to Crisis Center of Central NH; and \$500,000 in Housing CDBG funds subgranted to Concord Coalition to End Homelessness, together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development.

**Action:** City Manager Aspell introduced Assistant Community Development Director Timothy Thompson who provided an update on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds sub-granted to the Boys and Girls Club of Central New Hampshire, Crisis Center of Central New Hampshire (CCCNH), and the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness.

Assistant Community Development Director Timothy Thompson noted that grant recipients are required to conduct a public hearing over the course of the aforementioned projects for the purpose of updating the community about said grant funded projects.

The Boys and Girls Club of Central New Hampshire merged with the Penacook Community Center in 2022. The club then embarked on a project to replace the former Penacook Community Center. Construction of the new facility on High Street in Penacook began in July 2023 and is scheduled for completion in June 2024. Construction is approximately 80% complete. Of the total \$750,000 in CDBG funds secured by the City for this project, \$725,000 are being applied toward construction and \$25,000 are being retained by the City for administrative costs. The majority of beneficiaries will be of low and moderate income.

Of the total \$500,000 in CDBG funds secured by the City for the purchase of 27 Warren Street in Concord for the CCCNH, \$475,000 were applied to the property purchase price, and the City retained the remaining \$25,000 of grant funds for administrative costs. This property will serve as the new headquarters and primary support facility for the CCCNH's clientele of which the majority are low and moderate income. The renovations were completed and CCCNH began operating out of the facility in November 2023.

Lastly, \$475,000 is sub-granted to the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness, or a related entity to be determined, for the purchase of 6 South State Street in Concord. The City will retain the remaining \$25,000 of grant funds for administrative costs. This purchase is expected to take place Spring 2024, and the rehab of the property into eight one-bedroom units is expected to be completed Summer 2025.

Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing.

Caroline Schiavoni, a resident of Cary, Maine, used the CDBG funding of the Boys and Girls Club, CCCNH, and Concord Coalition to End Homelessness as an analogy for her desire for members of City Council to pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the 2023 Israel-Hamas war.

Roy Schweiker, a Concord resident, discussed his happiness with seeing progress on these projects but noted that he wished more appropriate projects were selected.

Sarah Mosca, a Concord resident, discussed her desire for members of City Council to pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the 2023 Israel-Hamas war.

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

- 28D. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$561,074 in the new airport terminal building project (CIP #383) for the design, permitting, and bidding of a new airport terminal building and accepting the sum of \$365,754 in grant funds from the Federal Aviation Administration, the sum of \$20,320 from the State of New Hampshire, and authorizing the issuance of bonds and notes in the sum of \$175,000 for this purpose, together with a report from the Associate Engineer.

**Action:** The public hearings for agenda items number 28D and 28E were held in conjunction.

City Manager Aspell provided a brief overview of these items. The current airport terminal building was constructed in 1938 and renovated in 1961. Due to the age of the building, there are a variety of building code violations, structural deficiencies, and inadequate security measures. The 2006 Master Plan strongly recommended the construction of a new terminal building and parking facilities. In 2019, City Council appropriated funds to complete an Airport Terminal Study to review alternatives for a new terminal building. This study was completed in 2021 with the final recommendation being the design and construction of a new terminal building. In February 2021, City Council approved proceeding with the design and construction of a new terminal building. The new terminal building is proposed to be 5,450 square feet, of which approximately 27% is allocated for private use (administration, car rental, tenant and a small eatery). These are considered non-eligible for Federal Aviation Administration or State funding and to be funded through the Airport Fund. The City is responsible for funding of 5% of the terminal building and 5% of the parking lot. Both of these responsibilities will be funded through the Airport Fund rather than funded by the taxpayer.

Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing.

Bradley Conway used the proposed resolutions regarding the airport as an analogy for his desire for members of City Council to pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the 2023 Israel-Hamas war.

Roy Schweiker, a Concord resident, discussed the current terminal building and his hope that a new terminal building will be accessible to the public.

Paul McCain, a former Concord resident and current Manchester resident, used the proposed resolutions regarding the airport as an analogy for his desire for members of City Council to pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the 2023 Israel-Hamas war.

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

28E. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$5,792 in the Airport fund as a transfer out to capital and authorizing the use of airport fund balance for this purpose, and appropriating the sum of \$115,830 in the New Airport Terminal Building project (CIP #383) for the design and permitting of a new parking lot and related improvements, accepting the sum of \$104,246 in grant funds from the Federal Aviation Administration, accepting the sum of \$5,792 from the State of new Hampshire, and accepting the sum of \$5,792 as a transfer from the Airport fund for this purpose; together with a report from the Associate Engineer.

**Action:** The public hearing for agenda item number 28E was held in conjunction with agenda item number 28D.

28F. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$305,000 in the general fund as a transfer out to capital for the purchase of PFAS-free structural firefighting gear, authorizing the use of \$305,000 in unassigned fund balance, and appropriating the sum of three hundred five thousand dollars (\$305,000.00) in the Fire Department Personnel Protective Equipment Project (CIP #573) for this purpose.

**Action:** City Manager Aspell provided a brief overview of this item. To protect from water vapor burns, firefighting structural gear contains a vapor barrier that is impregnated with PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). PFAS are a group of chemical compounds that are carcinogens. These chemicals absorb into the skin of the firefighter wearing the gear, and the rate of absorption accelerates in hot environments. This is strongly thought to be responsible for some of the well-documented increased rates of cancer suffered by firefighters.

Traditionally, all structural gear has contained PFAS. The Concord Fire Department has been tracking the development of new materials, and one will be available soon that will allow a fully PFAS-free gear ensemble. These materials have passed National Fire Protection Association standards and are expected to last for the same 10 year service life. Fire Administration met with staff from two gear manufacturers, Bergeron Protective Clothing and Globe Manufacturing. Through the strong relationship with these companies, Concord Fire has the opportunity to be on the leading-edge to purchase and receive new PFAS-free gear. It is thought that once this gear is made widely available, it will have a long lead time due to demand.

The requested funding will be used to replace the primary set of structural gear for each member of Concord Fire Department for a total of 92 new sets.

A purchase of this size would typically be requested in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget, but due to the relationship between the manufacturer and Concord Fire Department, it is possible that the gear will be received in a more timely manner. This is believed to help not only the health of the firefighters, but also with recruitment.

The testing of this gear was discussed as well as cancer rates amongst firefighters and Concord Fire Department.

Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing.

Brian Ryll, President of Professional Firefighters of New Hampshire, provided testimony in support of purchasing PFAS-free structural gear.

Chris Andrews, a retired member of Concord Fire Department, discussed his battle with cancer and provided testimony in support of purchasing PFAS-free structural gear.

Lisa Beaudoin, a Concord resident, provided testimony in support of purchasing PFAS-free structural gear.

Kate West, a Concord resident, asked that an amendment be considered to instead purchase two sets of PFAS-free structural gear so that the back-up set can also be PFAS-free.

Fisto Ndayishimiye, a Concord resident, discussed his support of purchasing PFAS-free structural gear.

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

- 28G. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$50,000 as a transfer in from trust in the Abbott Road/Sewalls Falls Road Intersection project (CIP #520) and authorizing the use of \$50,000 in Highway Reserve funds for this purpose; together with a report from the City Engineer.

**Action:** City Manager Aspell provided a brief overview of this item. The Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Improvement Program included \$110,000 to reconstruct/realign the Abbott Road/Sewalls Falls Road intersection.

Construction bids were received in December 2023 with the low bid for the project being \$157,027. City staff recommends that City Council approve a supplemental appropriation from the Highway Reserve Fund in the amount of \$50,000 to fund and facilitate the Abbott Road/Sewalls Falls Road intersection work for construction during this upcoming construction season. Additionally, a new crosswalk will be installed in conjunction with the intersection improvements. City staff also recommends that City Council authorize the installation of a new streetlight at this location to properly illuminate the crosswalk.

Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing.

Carl Sargent, a Concord resident, discussed a section of Portsmouth Street.

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

- 28H. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$42,000 in the ERP Needs Analysis project (CIP #302) for replacement of the City Prosecutor's Office software (CIP #302) and authorizing the use of \$42,000 in technology reserve funds for this purpose; together with a report from the Deputy City Solicitor.

**Action:** City Manager Aspell provided a brief overview of this item which seeks to replace a 20 year old case management software system for the City Solicitor and Prosecutor's offices. A new system would make it more efficient to access case files and histories, prepare criminal complaints, provide discovery, and track the work flow of cases through the office. An updated and efficient software program is needed to efficiently and competently handle the workload.

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

- 28I. Resolution establishing a Sidewalk Reserve, appropriating the sum of \$22,023.18 in the General fund as a transfer out to trust, and accepting the sum of \$22,023.18 from Amoskeag Beverages LLC/Amoskeag Realty LLC for this purpose; together with a report from the Deputy City Manager - Development.

**Action:** General discussion was held regarding the determination of sidewalk costs as well as the purpose of the establishment of the Sidewalk Reserve Fund.

Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing.

Caroline Schiavoni used the proposed Sidewalk Reserve Fund contribution as an analogy for her desire for members of City Council to pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the 2023 Israel-Hamas war.

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

- 28J. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title V, Administrative Code; Chapter 30, Administrative Code, Article 30-3, Boards and Commissions, Economic Development Advisory Committee; together with a report from Mayor Champlin.

**Action:** Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing.

Allan Herschlag expressed his desire to see all sectors of economic development represented on the proposed Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Kate West, a Concord resident, expressed her desire to limit membership of the proposed Economic Development Advisory Committee to only residents rather than residents as well as non-residents with economic interests. Ms. West also used the proposed inclusion of non-residents with economic interests as an analogy for her desire for members of City Council to pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the 2023 Israel-Hamas war.

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

### **Public Hearing Action**

29. Resolution adopting a Community Power Program for electricity supply in Concord and authorizing the City to join the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire; together with a report from the Director of Special Projects & Strategic Initiatives. (Public testimony submitted.) (Additional public testimony submitted.)

**Action:** Councilor Kretovic moved approval. The motion was duly seconded.

Discussion followed regarding clearly communicating options and information to rate payers. Discussion also touched upon the diligence of the Energy & Environment Committee.

Councilor Kretovic's motion passed with no dissenting votes.

30. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$880,000 in the Traffic Signals and Traffic Operations Improvements project (CIP #283) for the design and construction of traffic signal upgrades and associated improvements at the intersections of North State/Centre Streets and North Main/Washington/Ferry streets, authorizing the issuance of bonds and notes in the sum of \$880,000, and repurposing the sum of \$101,221.97 from the State/Pleasant Intersection subproject (CIP #283) for this purpose; together with a report from the City Engineer.

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

31. Public Hearing regarding the status of the following: \$750,000 in Public Facilities & Covid-19 Pandemic Relief Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds subgranted to the Boys and Girls Club of Central New Hampshire; \$500,000 in Public Facilities CDBG funds subgranted to Crisis Center of Central NH; and \$500,000 in Housing CDBG funds subgranted to Concord Coalition to End Homelessness, together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development.

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

32. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$561,074 in the new airport terminal building project (CIP #383) for the design, permitting, and bidding of a new airport terminal building and accepting the sum of \$365,754 in grant funds from the Federal Aviation Administration, the sum of \$20,320 from the State of New Hampshire, and authorizing the issuance of bonds and notes in the sum of \$175,000 for this purpose, together with a report from the Associate Engineer.

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

33. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$5,792 in the Airport fund as a transfer out to capital and authorizing the use of airport fund balance for this purpose, and appropriating the sum of \$115,830 in the New Airport Terminal Building project (CIP #383) for the design and permitting of a new parking lot and related improvements, accepting the sum of \$104,246 in grant funds from the Federal Aviation Administration, accepting the sum of \$5,792 from the State of new Hampshire, and accepting the sum of \$5,792 as a transfer from the Airport fund for this purpose; together with a report from the Associate Engineer.

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

34. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$305,000 in the general fund as a transfer out to capital for the purchase of PFAS-free structural firefighting gear, authorizing the use of \$305,000 in unassigned fund balance, and appropriating the sum of three hundred five thousand dollars (\$305,000.00) in the Fire Department Personnel Protective Equipment Project (CIP #573) for this purpose.

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

35. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$50,000 as a transfer in from trust in the Abbott Road/Sewalls Falls Road Intersection project (CIP #520) and authorizing the use of \$50,000 in Highway Reserve funds for this purpose; together with a report from the City Engineer.

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

36. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$42,000 in the ERP Needs Analysis project (CIP #302) for replacement of the City Prosecutor's Office software (CIP #302) and authorizing the use of \$42,000 in technology reserve funds for this purpose; together with a report from the Deputy City Solicitor.

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

37. Resolution establishing a Sidewalk Reserve, appropriating the sum of \$22,023.18 in the General fund as a transfer out to trust, and accepting the sum of \$22,023.18 from Amoskeag Beverages LLC/Amoskeag Realty LLC for this purpose; together with a report from the Deputy City Manager - Development.

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

38. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title V, Administrative Code; Chapter 30, Administrative Code, Article 30-3, Boards and Commissions, Economic Development Advisory Committee; together with a report from Mayor Champlin.

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

**Consideration of items pulled from the Consent Agenda**

39. Report from the General Services Director regarding a Screw Pump Lower Bearing Replacement.

**Action:** General Services Director Chesley provided an update on the Screw Pump lower bearing replacement. At the September 2023 City Council meeting, City Council provided \$620,000 of emergency funds to immediately procure a temporary pump and set a public hearing in October 2023 to authorize bonding of \$820,000 for a contractor to replace the lower bearing plate of Screw Pump A. The combination of Screw Pump C being out of service and Screw Pump A having a compromised lower bearing placed the Hall Street Wastewater Plant in a position of high risk for service interruptions.

Although the replacement of large wastewater components has not historically been completed by in-house wastewater staff, a team of employees comprised of both operational and maintenance personnel reviewed the project. The team utilized their relationships with equipment vendors to locate and acquire an in-kind replacement bearing for the project. In November 2023, a team of six wastewater maintenance and operations staff executed their plan for the removal and replacement of the lower bearing. The team completed the bearing replacement in less time than anticipated and saved the City over \$800,000.

Councilor Kretovic moved to accept the report. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

40. City Council 2024-2025 Priorities Report from the City Manager. (Revised report submitted.)

**Action:** Councilor Todd moved approval to accept the report. The motion was duly seconded.

General discussion followed regarding the changes made to the City Council priorities.

Councilor Todd's motion passed with no dissenting votes.

**New Business****Unfinished Business**

41. 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 the Consent Agenda**

23. Report from the Transportation Engineer, on behalf of the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee, in response to a referral from City Council regarding a communication from Ari Pollack requesting consideration be made to relocate the Concord Area Transit (CAT) bus stop now located between 214 and 220 North Main Street in Concord. (Pulled from consent by Mayor Champlin.)

**Action:** Councilor Todd moved to accept the report and refer the report to both the Public Safety Board and Transportation Policy Advisory Committee. The motion was duly seconded.

General discussion followed regarding the opportunity for the requestor to attend said meetings.

Councilor Brown moved to accept the report and refer the report to the Public Safety Board only. The motion was duly seconded and failed in a voice vote.

Councilor Todd's motion passed with one dissenting vote.

**Consideration of Suspense Items**

**Action:** Councilor Kretovic moved to suspend the rules to discuss items not previously advertised. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

- Sus1 Report from the City Manager regarding Fiscal Year 2024 Event Funding.

**Action:** Councilor Kretovic moved to accept the report. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

Sus2 Resolution appropriating the sum of \$66,190 for City overtime payments to cover shifts when earned leave is used and using fund balance in the amount of \$66,190 for this purpose; together with a report from the Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations.

**Action:** Councilor Fennessy moved to set the item for a public hearing at the April 8, 2024 City Council meeting. The motion was duly seconded and passed with one dissenting vote.

### **Comments, Requests by Mayor, City Councilors**

Councilor Todd announced a groundbreaking ceremony for the Canal Street Riverfront Park on April 3 at 10:30 AM followed by an 11:00 AM ribbon cutting ceremony for phase two of Penacook Landing apartments.

Councilor Kretovic announced that the driving range is open at Beaver Meadow Golf Course.

Councilor Brown discussed Fix a Leak Week and Women's History Month.

Councilor Kurtz provided a joint statement with Councilor Ali Sekou. The statement reads, "We are writing this to join millions of people around the United States and the world to stand for long lasting peace for Palestinians and Israelis. We are united in our commitment to the citizens of Concord whom we were elected to represent. We condemn intolerance, discrimination, hatred, and violence in all forms. We will work tirelessly to keep Concord a community where ALL peace-loving individuals feel safe, welcomed and valued; hate has no home here. In the face of great tragedies internationally, we hold firm to our desire to foster relationships and conversations within Concord that help all residents thrive with a sense of safety and belonging. To all residents of Concord, we ask you to look out for one another, care for each other as neighbors, and, please, do not hesitate to report any form of hate or discrimination. We share our prayers for all those in need of healing and most urgently for a meaningful and lasting peace in the Middle East and across the globe."

Councilor Schultz discussed a study released by the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute which reviewed the tax burden on lower income individuals.

Councilor Sekou discussed working with Councilor Kurtz on their joint statement and hope for peace around the world. Councilor Sekou also discussed the holiday of Ramadan.

Councilor Foote noted there are some solar eclipse glasses remaining at the library and wished a Happy Easter.

Mayor Champlin wished a Happy Passover. Mayor Champlin also discussed Concord Reads which is a city-wide literary event hosted by Concord Public Library and Concord Public Library Foundation. This year's book is *Unlikely Animals* by Annie Hartnett.

City Manager Aspell announced the Garrison Pool community meeting is Tuesday, March 19 at 6:00 PM at Beaver Meadow Elementary.

### **Comments by the City Manager**

#### **Adjournment**

**Action:** At 10:58 PM, there being no additional Council business, Councilor Sekou moved approval to adjourn. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

#### **Information**

Inf1 January 25, 2024 Airport Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Minutes.

**Action:** Information item received and filed.

Inf2 January 25, 2024 Community Development Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Minutes.

**Action:** Information item received and filed.

Inf3 January 29, 2024 Parking Committee Draft Meeting Minutes.

**Action:** Information item received and filed.

Inf4 January 31, 2024 Tax Exemption Policy Committee Draft Meeting Minutes.

**Action:** Information item received and filed.

Inf5 February 2, 2023 Tax Exemption Policy Committee Approved Meeting Minutes.

**Action:** Information item received and filed.

Inf6 February 5, 2024 Concord Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes.

**Action:** Information item received and filed.

Inf7 February 20, 2024 Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Minutes.

**Action:** Information item received and filed.

Inf8 Parks and Recreation Departments Spring Brochure.

**Action:** Information item received and filed.

*A true copy, I attest:*

*Elisabeth Harrington  
Deputy City Clerk*