



City of Concord
City Council
Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, July 11, 2016

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers
37 Green Street
Concord, NH 03301

Non-public sessions in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3, II (d) to discuss property acquisition and contract negotiations 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. Invocation by Father Constantine Newman, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.
3. Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Roll Call.

Present: 13 - Councilor Candace Bouchard, Mayor Jim Bouley, Councilor Byron Champlin, Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton, Councilor Allan Herschlag, Councilor Fred Keach, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Councilor Gail Matson, Councilor Keith Nyhan, Councilor Dan St. Hilaire, Councilor Stephen Shurtleff, Councilor Brent Todd, and Councilor Robert Werner

Excused: 2 - Councilor Mark Coen, and Councilor Linda Kenison

5. Approval of the Meeting Minutes.

June 6, 2016 City Council Meeting Minutes.

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

June 13, 2016 City Council Meeting Minutes.

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

6. Change Direction New Hampshire Campaign presentation by John Broderick.

Action: Bill Gunn, Concord Hospital Psychologist, noted that they are passionate about the campaign to change direction; they are trying to raise awareness and

recognizing the five signs of emotional distress. (Handout on file at the City Clerk's Office)

Peter Evers, Riverbend CEO, explained that the idea of the signs comes from the idea of knowing the signs of a stroke. He stated that this is a national campaign and New Hampshire is the first state to make this a statewide initiative. He stated that mental illness has been in the shadows and spoken about as if there is an enormous stigma attached. He noted that one in four people across a life span will struggle with issues surrounding mental health; one of the things that isn't discussed a lot is recovery. He explained that mental illness is a chronic disease and has better recovery rates than other chronic diseases. This campaign is beginning a conversation about where does mental health sit in our list of priorities - in the work place, hospitals and homes, and lifting the veil on the issue. He discussed some topics for future forums and the importance of mental health first aid.

Councilor Nyhan noted that many may have questions as to when is a mental illness confused with a teenager/children issues. He feels that the forums will offer a great opportunity to ask these questions.

Councilor Werner asked to what extent is expected that these conversations around the state will result in advocacy around greater funding.

Mr. Evers indicated that their intent is awareness but hopes that as they are putting it out there as an educational/prevention campaign, others may get involved.

Mayor Bouley asked whether emails could be sent to the City Clerk for dates of upcoming forums. He thanked Mr. Evers, Mr. Gunn and the organizations for which they represent for everything that they have done for the community.

7. Agenda overview by the Mayor.

Consent Agenda Items

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Action: Councilor Grady Sexton moved approval of the consent agenda. Item 25 was moved from the consent agenda to be discussed at the end of the meeting. The motion, as amended, was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

Referral to the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee

8. Communication from Alex Vogt, on behalf of Concord Pickleball Players,

requesting that consideration be given to converting three tennis courts at Beaver Meadow Park to eight permanent pickleball courts.

Action: This referrals was received and filed.

Referral to the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee

9. Communication from Councilor Herschlag asking that consideration be given to changing the flashing left turn arrow light at the intersection of Manor, Borough and Route 3 to a red and green arrow.

Action: This referrals was received and filed.

Items Tabled for August 8, 2016 Public Hearings

10. Resolution accepting and appropriating \$193,534 for the purpose of designing the rehabilitation to Taxiway A for Runway 17/35 including \$179,581 in grant funds from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), \$9,977 from the State of New Hampshire and \$3,976 from the City of Concord; together with report from the Associate Engineer.

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

11. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$29,000 from the Conservation Trust Purchase of Land Fund as a supplemental appropriation to the City's Conservation Property Fund for the purposes of acquiring a conservation easement, funding for these purposes shall be entirely from Conservation Trust Purchase of Land Fund; for the acquisition of a conservation easement on property owned by The Lorraine V. Pierce Revocable Trust, at 84 Stickney Hill Road; together with report from the Conservation Commission.

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

12. Resolution accepting and appropriating the sum of \$10,000, retroactive to June 30, 2016, from the Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church of New Hampshire for the purpose of providing fuel and other assistance; together with report from the City Manager.

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

13. 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, EMS Captain, Fire Alarm and Traffic Superintendent, Fire Marshal, Training Captain, Economic Development Director, Building Systems Supervisor, Custodial Supervisor and Public Properties Supervisor; together with

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

14. Positive Citizen Comments.

Action: This positive comments was received and filed.

Consent Reports

15. Diminimus gifts and donations report from the Library Director requesting authorization to accept monetary gifts totaling \$1,736.70 as provided for under the pre-authorization granted by City Council.

Action: This consent report was approved.

16. Diminimus gifts and donations report from the Police Department requesting authorization to accept funds in the amount of \$6,782.00, included as part of a dispositon issued by the Merrimack County Superior Court as voluntary forfeiture, to be turned over to the Concord Police Department Drug Enforcement Unit, as provided under preauthorization granted by the City Council.

Action: This consent report was approved.

17. Diminimus gifts and donations report from the Parks and Recreation Director requesting authorization to accept monetary gifts totaling \$11,024.81 as provided for under the pre-authorization granted by City Council.

Action: This consent report was approved.

18. Report from the City Engineer on the status of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail Project (CIP543).

Action: This consent report was approved.

19. Report from the Associate Engineer recommending the City Manager be authorized to accept a Public Utility Easement Deed from Capitol Place Condominium Owners Association - North State Street and Court Street.

Action: This consent report was approved.

20. Report from the General Services Director recommending the City Manager be authorized to apply for a free leak detection grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES).

Action: This consent report was approved.

21. Report from Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, and Special Projects on behalf of the Parking Committee regarding Merrimack County's request for interim on-street parking during construction of the new Superior Courthouse Project.

Action: This consent report was approved.

22. City of Concord's compliance with the Affordable Health Care Act report from the Director of Human Resources and Labor Relations.

Action: This consent report was approved.

23. Report from the City Planner in response to a communication from Jere and Carol Ericson asking that consideration be given to permanently removing the gate at the southern end of Shenandoah Drive. (Additional communication from Chris Brown submitted)

Action: This consent report was approved.

Consent Resolutions

24. Resolution in recognition of the services of Lieutenant John F. Brown. (For presentation in August)

Action: This consent resolution was approved.

25. Resolution affirming Concord, New Hampshire as a welcoming city and joining the Welcoming America Initiative, to help unite our community and ensure that all are welcome in Concord; together with report from the Economic Development Advisory Council (EDAC).

Action: This item removed to the end of the agenda for discussion.

26. Resolution adopting a Cash Management Policy; together with report from the City Treasurer.

Action: This consent resolution was approved.

27. Resolution relative to short term investment of excess funds.

Action: This consent resolution was approved.

28. Resolution designating depositories for the City of Concord, New Hampshire for the Fiscal Year 2017.

Action: This consent resolution was approved.

29. Resolution authorizing prepayment of 2016 taxes in accordance with RSA 80:52-a; together with report from the City Treasurer.

Action: This consent resolution was approved.

30. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept and enter into a Grant Agreement for up to \$199,534 with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT), Bureau of Aeronautics for the purpose of designing the rehabilitation to Taxiway A for Runway 17/35; together with report from the Associate Engineer.

Action: This consent resolution was approved.

31. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a secondary executory interest in a conservation easement for property owned by The Lorraine V. Pierce Revocable Trust, located at 84 Stickney Hill Road; together with report from the Conservation Commission.

Action: This consent resolution was approved.

32. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Purchase and Sales Agreement with Neil E. Burt, Jr. for the sale of +/- 4,600 square feet of land located in Deer Park (MBL 9/2/8), said land to be incorporated into a residential lot at 10 Bow Street identified by MBL 9/1/1; together with a report from the Deputy City Manager -Development.

Action: This consent resolution was approved.

End of Consent Agenda

Public Hearings

- 33A. Resolution accepting and appropriating the sum of \$22,157 in unmatched grant funds from the United States Department of Justice, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, funds designated for law enforcement related programs; together with report from the Police Department.

Action: City Manager Tom Aspell provided a brief overview.

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

33B. Resolution establishing a new Recreation Reserve Fund and appropriating and transferring \$650,000 for the purposes of future expenses related to the new city wide community center project, CIP #443, funding for these purposes shall be entirely from the Fiscal Year 2016 General Fund Unanticipated Revenues of \$530,000 and a transfer of unexpended snow and ice control expenses of \$120,000; together with report from the Deputy City Manager - Finance

Action: City Manager Tom Aspell provided a brief overview.

Councilor Herschlag wondered why the money for the snow and ice control won't be rolled over into this coming years' budget to mitigate any overruns that may potentially occur this coming winter. Mr. Aspell responded that if it was a capital expense the dollars would remain available but since it's an operating expense, it expires at the end of the fiscal year.

Councilor Herschlag inquired whether the \$650,000 is only going to be used to pay off the bond or whether it would be used for operating and maintenance expenses. Mr. Aspell responded that it would be up to Council; his thought is primarily or all of it would be used to pay off the bond.

Councilor Champlin indicated that they have received communications from citizens relative to utilizing \$100,000 of the surplus to help match grant requests for the Merrimack River Greenway. He asked if there is any consideration to this. Mr. Aspell feels that it's prudent to set aside these dollars for the community center project; traditionally staff comes in early fall with the full surplus dollars and Council would make a decision on how they would like to allocate these dollars. They wouldn't be spending them - they would be most likely allocating them into reserve accounts for the future.

Councilor Herschlag indicated that the \$650,000 came after the budget was approved and additional potential funding that was spent might not come for a month or two. He noted that when they look at the total it may have been enough to mitigate any increase in taxes this year. He questioned whether there was any way to apply this to the 2 1/2 percent tax increase or would there be a way to apply that in future years. Mr. Aspell that they could if they knew the dollars they had in advance, before the end of the fiscal year; it could be done but if they take a chance and allocate those dollars for that, something could happen before the end of the fiscal year creating a shortfall, staff would be back with a supplemental appropriation to increase taxes.

Mayor Bouley stated that he is going to be asking for an amendment to this that will increase the \$650,000 to \$950,000. He explained that the city's Unassigned Fund Balance goal is 18.5 percent, the Finance Director reported that their current balance is at 19.1 percent. He would like to take the \$300,000 out of Unassigned Fund Balance and transfer this to the Economic Development Reserve account. He indicated that the number one priority of the Council is economic development and if they are serious about they are going to need some money to put their efforts forward. He stated eventually someone will come on board to coordinate the effort both internally and externally; this will be money that will be in the reserve so if opportunities came about, they could bring ideas to them. They would have a public hearing, public discussions of those ideas and appropriate dollars to things that may present themselves to them.

Councilor St. Hilaire noted that he likes the idea but wants clarification on the recommended amendment that the \$300,000 is not going to the Recreation Reserve Fund but a totally separate fund, the Economic Reserve Fund.

Mayor Bouley responded that to be correct.

Councilor St. Hilaire believes that the Parking Fund pays into or is charged for snow removal downtown. He indicated that they are taking some of these reserves that they charge Parking for and moving them. He doesn't feel that they should be charging Parking and have them run a deficit if they are going to be moving money into a different fund when there is a surplus. He feels that the Parking Committee should look at whether the Parking Fund should be charged for snow removal.

Councilor Herschlag asked if there was any urgency to move this money in regards to the amendment this evening or whether it could wait until the next Council meeting.

Mayor Bouley responded that he felt it was appropriate since they were dealing with reserve funds. He noted that he did check with Legal and was informed that it's appropriate to do so. He is offering it this evening for Council's consideration.

Councilor Herschlag noted that he would be comfortable moving forward with this but would be more comfortable going forward knowing that the public had an opportunity to look at this and testify in regards to this next month.

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

- 33C. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title IV, Zoning Code; Chapter 28, Zoning Ordinance; Article 28-9, Administration and Enforcement; Section 28-9-4, Decisions by the Planning Board; Subsection 28-9-4(f), Architectural Design Review; together with report from the Assistant City Planner.

Action: City Manager Tom Aspell provided a brief overview.

Councilor Herschlag wants reassurance that this in no way impacts the public's ability to testify on these items. Mr. Aspell confirmed that to be correct.

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

- 33D. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title IV, Zoning Code; Chapter 28, Zoning Ordinance; Article 28-2, Zoning Districts and Allowable Uses; Section 28-2-3, the Zoning Map, proposal to amend Zoning Map to change the zoning district of a portion of property located at 175 Manchester Street from Single-Family Residential (RS) District to Highway Commercial (CH) District; together with report from the City Planner. (Communication from Daval Reality Associates submitted)

Action: City Manager Tom Aspell provided a brief overview.

Councilor Bouchard inquired whether there were any objections by any of the other homeowners. Mr. Aspell responded that there was not any objections.

Councilor Nyhan questioned whether there was any input in support. Mayor Bouley indicated that Council received a communication today from one of the abutters in favor of this.

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

- 33E. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title IV, Zoning Code; Chapter 28, Zoning Ordinance; Article 28-4, Development Design Standards, Section 28-4-6, Manufactured Housing Parks and Subdivisions and Glossary, Proposed Zoning Amendments to Reduce Minimum Front Yard Setback for Carports within Manufactured Housing Parks; together with report from the City Planner.

Action: City Manager Tom Aspell provided a brief overview.

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

Public Hearing Action

34. Resolution accepting and appropriating the sum of \$22,157 in unmatched grant funds from the United States Department of Justice, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, funds designated for law enforcement related programs; together with report from the Police Department.

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

35. Resolution establishing a new Recreation Reserve Fund and appropriating and transferring \$650,000 for the purposes of future expenses related to the new city wide community center project, CIP #443, funding for these purposes shall be entirely from the Fiscal Year 2016 General Fund Unanticipated Revenues of \$530,000 and a transfer of unexpended snow and ice control expenses of \$120,000; together with report from the Deputy City Manager - Finance

Action: Councilor Nyhan moved approval. The motion was duly seconded.

Councilor St. Hilaire moved to amend the resolution amount to \$950,000; \$300,000 to be designated specifically for an economic development reserve fund. The motion was duly seconded.

Councilor Nyhan noted that the city has enjoyed a tremendous bond rating because of the work of the Council. He indicated that either next month or the month after, FPAC will have an opportunity to hear from the rating agency to talk about what exactly goes into a bond rating. He stated that he feels that this is a good thing for the city.

Councilor Champlin concurred with Councilor Nyhan; they are poised to take an intentional approach towards economic development. He noted that they are doing a very responsible thing in terms of softening the impact on their tax base and tax rate through these actions. He supports this.

Councilor Herschlag noted that while he would have preferred to see this given the opportunity to be presented next month with additional notice, he too concurs with his fellow Councilors. He feels that the Finance Department and Mr. LeBrun has done an excellent job of balancing what makes sense for the city and the recommendations of the bonding agencies. He's glad to see that they are able to

reduce that reserve to the 18.5 percent that's recommended and that it will help to mitigate taxes in the future.

Mayor Bouley clarified that they are not appropriating any dollars this evening; there would be public hearings before any dollars are appropriated. He noted that it's moving these dollars to reserve accounts.

Councilor St. Hilaire's motion to amend passed with no dissenting votes.

Councilor Herschlag moved to amend the resolution to restrict the \$650,000 for the transfer to the community center to be utilized only for paying down the bond debt. There being no second to the motion, the motion failed.

The motion to approve, as amended, passed with one dissenting vote.

36. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title IV, Zoning Code; Chapter 28, Zoning Ordinance; Article 28-9, Administration and Enforcement; Section 28-9-4, Decisions by the Planning Board; Subsection 28-9-4(f), Architectural Design Review; together with report from the Assistant City Planner.

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

37. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title IV, Zoning Code; Chapter 28, Zoning Ordinance; Article 28-2, Zoning Districts and Allowable Uses; Section 28-2-3, the Zoning Map, proposal to amend Zoning Map to change the zoning district of a portion of property located at 175 Manchester Street from Single-Family Residential (RS) District to Highway Commercial (CH) District; together with report from the City Planner. (Communication from Daval Reality Associates submitted)

Action: Councilor Nyhan moved approval. The motion was duly seconded.

Mayor Bouley took rule six and did not vote.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

38. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title IV, Zoning Code; Chapter 28, Zoning Ordinance; Article 28-4, Development Design Standards, Section 28-4-6, Manufactured Housing Parks and Subdivisions and Glossary, Proposed Zoning Amendments to Reduce Minimum Front Yard Setback for Carports within

Manufactured Housing Parks; together with report from the City Planner.

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

Reports

New Business

39. Communication from New Hampshire Municipal Association regarding their upcoming 2017-2018 Legislative Policy Conference to be held on September 23, 2016.

Action: Councilor Nyhan nominated Councilor Coen to attend on behalf of the Council. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

Unfinished Business

40. Report from the Rules Committee recommending revisions to the current Rules of the City Council. (Item tabled, no action taken, at the June 8, 2015 City Council meeting).

Action: This item remains on the table.

41. Supplemental report from the City Engineer outlining lighting alternatives for the Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project (CIP460).

Action: Councilor St. Hilaire questioned when they may be revisiting the lighting alternatives. Mr. Aspell responded that when they get closer to closing out the project staff will come back with all the options.

This item remains on the table.

42. Street closure request from Millennium Running for the 3rd Annual New England Half Marathon to be held on Sunday, October 23, 2016. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Nyhan at the March 2016 City Council meeting) (Revised request with new route submitted) (Route comparison submitted)

Action: Councilor Nyhan pointed out that a revised map has been submitted and still doesn't feel that they have enough information to take this off of unfinished business. He is looking for some sort of confirmation or understanding that the impacted businesses, in this case the churches, had their concerns addressed.

Mayor Bouley noted that he understands why this was tabled the first time. He stated that Council approves lots of road closures for many events within the city

and he feels that it appears they are holding this group to a different standard than others and haven't required other entities and organizations to get approval of all their neighbors. He questioned what he is missing that something is different with this request.

Councilor Nyhan explained that during the past two years this race has been run, the race organizers had reported that they had spoken with the impacted businesses and that everything had been resolved when it hadn't been. He feels that they haven't done what they are supposed to and doesn't want to revisit that again next year. He noted that when he tabled this item, it was with a request that staff validate that the impacted parties had been contacted and issues resolved; this has not happened yet.

City Manager Tom Aspell indicated that Gene Blake, Licensing Officer, spoke to the managing director Kristin Dunklee from St. Paul's Church and asked her how this would best work out for her. Ms. Dunklee had responded to not have the race go by on Centre Street. Mr. Blake met with organizers to remove it from Centre Street and spoke to Ms. Dunklee again who was happy with that removal. He noted that Council could just leave it on the table or he could make sure that Mr. Blake ties again back to Ms. Dunklee to make sure she is still satisfied; if so, staff will release the license.

Mr. Aspell pointed out that he doesn't have the staff to go out and verify, along the routes, that somebody did what they said they were going to do.

Councilor Nyhan indicated that he is comforted that Ms. Dunklee is satisfied. He wondered if they should wait until next month so that staff could receive a letter from Ms. Dunklee or whether to accept based on staff's verbal representation; he was not sure of the planning time for events.

Mayor Bouley restated that he is worried that they are treating different entities differently and is ready to move on to approve this request. He noted that if they want to revisit the policy of how they approve these in the future, that is fair game and they should have that discussion. In terms of this item, he is comfortable with moving this along so that they can move ahead to plan the event.

Following brief discussion, Councilor Nyhan moved to take this off the table. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

Councilor Nyhan moved acceptance to approve the street closure subject to receipt of a letter from St. Paul's Church that their concerns relative to race day traffic are addressed. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

Comments, Requests by Mayor, City Councilors

Councilor Todd indicated that the Penacook Community Center summer camp children have been working on their acting scenes, prop making and stage managing; the result is two performances of Androcles and the Lion at the Merrimack Valley High School on July 15th at 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Councilor Todd announced that the Penacook Farmers Market will continue every Monday until August 29th at the Rolfe House on Penacook Street in Penacook from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be musical performances at the market.

Councilor Champlin reminded everyone of the Rock On Fest taking place in White Park on August 13th. It's a free concert in the park along with other activities for the family.

Comments, Requests by the City Manager

Consideration of items pulled from the consent agenda for discussion

25. Resolution affirming Concord, New Hampshire as a welcoming city and joining the Welcoming America Initiative, to help unite our community and ensure that all are welcome in Concord; together with report from the Economic Development Advisory Council (EDAC).

Action: Mayor Bouley questioned why this was on the Council agenda as a resolution to be approved and not just drafted as a proclamation that he would sign. He referenced the report which states: "it would not create any new obligations for the city" and stated that he is not familiar with the Welcome America initiative. He stated that he feels that Concord has been a very welcoming community.

Carlos Baia, Deputy City Manager-Development, explained that it is in this form is because it was broached to EDAC during the Mayor's initiative on economic development. He noted that unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts, they were not able to have the welcoming piece addressed in time to get the recommendations to City Council. He pointed out that there is a reference within the report that this is a supplemental add on to that report from EDAC several months ago. He stated that everyone on EDAC agreed that the community is a welcoming community; this

was proposed as an initiative to further reinforce that message that they are a community that embraces new Americans and embraces the economic impact that new Americans can have.

Mayor Bouley questioned the purpose of this resolution. He asked if this would enable a group to apply for grants or help the city apply for grants.

Jim Snodgrass, advocate for the welcoming resolution and the welcoming Concord initiative, explained that they, a group of non-profits and citizens, thought it was an economic issue to create a welcoming community. He explained that the idea is to make the communities aware of the demographic changes, the impacts that immigrants are having on the community, and to try to create an atmosphere that further encouraged that development. He noted that Welcoming America is a non-profit organization that is promoting this initiative nationally; this resolution is tailored after their language.

Mayor Bouley stated that there is nothing within this that he doesn't agree with but is trying to understand how this got here. He asked whether Mr. Snodgrass' organization has received any grants from the Charitable Foundation and Endowment for Health. Mr. Snodgrass responded yes. Mayor Bouley asked, in terms of receiving those dollars, do they have certain things that they must accomplish to be in compliance with the grant. He asked if Council is being asked to approve this resolution so that the organization can comply with the grant. Mr. Snodgrass responded that it's a yes and no question. He feels that it's an important step in getting the city behind creating a welcoming community; reaffirming it's leadership.

Councilor Shurtleff inquired whether this is a boiler plate resolution from a national organization. Mr. Snodgrass responded that to be correct - a variation of it.

Councilor Kretovic questioned whether the national welcoming initiative has a set of criteria that the city meets that makes it so they are a designated friendly community. Mr. Snodgrass responded that there aren't any that he is aware of.

Councilor Champlin inquired whether there are resources in which adopting this resolution would make available. Mr. Snodgrass responded that there could potentially be some grants through Welcoming America resources that would be easier to secure being a welcoming community. Councilor Champlin asked what kind of grants these would be. Mr. Snodgrass responded that there may be

planning grants for events or economic conferences.

Councilor Herschlag indicated that he was looking at Welcoming America's website pointing out that there are certified welcoming communities. He asked for an explanation on this organization and what the certified welcoming communities is all about. Mr. Snodgrass responded that he is unsure as to what a certified welcoming community is. He indicated that they are not trying to become a certified welcoming community at this point; the first step in joining is for the city to become a welcoming community with the possibility of other options at that point.

Councilor Herschlag inquired whether there would be some implication that, by joining the Welcoming America initiative, they would be obligated to follow through on some of their programs. Mr. Snodgrass replied not that he is aware of.

Councilor Nyhan stated that he feels that there is no harm or financial benefit in adopting this. He indicated that actions speak louder than words - they should show people that they are a good community rather than telling them. He feels uncomfortable voting for this because of all the unanswered questions.

Councilor Herschlag noted his concern because he is not sure who this Welcoming America is and what this welcoming initiative is. He indicated that they are being asked to approve a resolution that says they will be joining this initiative of this organization. He asked for reassurance that their philosophies are in line with the city's. Mr. Snodgrass responded that the Welcoming America initiative is a non-profit that's promoting the immigration of immigrants into the community. He explained that they try to help that process along however they can; there are not a set of obligations that need to be met.

Mayor Bouley moved to approve the resolution. He feels that this reaffirms that Concord is a welcoming community; he is proud of the fact that they have as many new Americans as they do and that they put their money where their mouth is by supporting the new Americans.

The motion was duly seconded.

Councilor St. Hilaire noted his concern with not having a presentation or direction from the organization itself.

Councilor St. Hilaire moved to table this resolution. The motion was duly seconded and failed on a roll call vote with Councilors Nyhan, St. Hilaire, Shurtleff, Todd, Bouchard and Herschlag voting yes. Councilor Werner, Mayor Bouley, Councilors Champlin, Grady Sexton, Keach, Kretovic and Matson voted no.

The motion to approve the resolution passed on a voice vote.

Consideration of Suspense Items

Adjournment

The time being 8:15 p.m., Councilor Keach moved to enter into non-public session in accordance with 91-A: 3, II (d). The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

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