



City of Concord

City Council

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, August 11, 2025

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers
37 Green Street
Concord, NH 03301

Non-meeting in accordance with RSA 91-A:2, I (b) consultation with legal counsel followed by a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3, II (d) to discuss property acquisition to be held at 5:30 p.m.

1. Mayor Champlin called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.
2. Invocation.
3. Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Roll Call.

Present: 14 - Councilor Stacey Brown, Mayor Byron Champlin, Councilor Nathan Fennessy, Councilor Jeff Foote, Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton, Councilor Michele Horne, 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

Excused: 1 - Councilor Fred Keach

5. Approval of the Meeting Minutes.

June 5, 2025 Finance Committee Revised Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: Councilor Grady Sexton moved approval of the June 5, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes. Councilor Todd duly seconded the motion.

Councilor Brown moved to amend the minutes, indicating that she did vote for the Police Social Worker position, and had not recused herself as indicated in the minutes. The motion, as amended, passed with no dissenting votes.

July 7, 2025 City Council Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: Councilor Grady Sexton moved approved of the July 7, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilor Todd duly seconded the motion and passed with no dissenting votes.

July 14, 2025 City Council Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: Councilor Grady Sexton moved approved of the July 14, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilor Todd duly seconded the motion and passed with no dissenting votes.

6. Agenda overview by the Mayor.
7. Update from the Summer 2025 UNH Sustainability Fellow on the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Update and Fleet Electrification Study.

Action: Mayor Champlin welcomed Beth Fenstermacher, Director of Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives, Tim Thompson, Assistant Community Development Director, and Kayla Maggio, UNH Sustainability Institute Fellowship intern and graduate student from Northern Arizona University.

Ms. Maggio presented a greenhouse gas inventory report which outlined several strategies to reduce emissions, including retrofitting, future-proofing, and efficient driving strategies. It also highlighted a case study in which the Douglas Everett Ice Arena's natural gas usage dropped by 34% following a water heater upgrade in 2022.

A conversation ensued around strategies to reduce emissions, methods of data aggregation, and the usage and cost of electricity.

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

Action: Councilor Kurtz moved approval of the consent agenda. Items 14, 18, and 27 were pulled from the consent agenda. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kretovic. Councilor Brown recused herself from item #25 and #26, as her husband is a Police Officer. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Referral to the Parking Committee

8. Communication from Councilor Horne, on behalf of Matt Komisarek, requesting consideration of free parking for vehicles displaying veteran license plates within the City.

Action: Item was referred to the Parking Committee.

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

9. Communication from Suraj Budathoki requesting installation of a crosswalk on Loudon Road between Concord Adult Day Care and Goodwill to improve pedestrian safety for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Action: Item was referred to the Traffic Operations Committee and the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee.

Items Tabled for September 8, 2025 Public Hearings

10. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$859,689, for the Steeplegate Mall Municipal Sewer Pump Replacement within the Sewer Pump Station Improvements Project (CIP #275) and accepting the sum of \$859,689, in grant funds from the New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) Housing Champion Housing Infrastructure Municipal Grant Program for this purpose; together with a report from the Deputy City Manager - Development.

Action: Resolution moved to set for a public hearing.

11. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a project agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT), appropriating the sum of \$3,664,480.97 in the Broadway/West Street Intersection project (CIP #31), accepting the sum of \$3,169,480.97 of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant funds, and authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes in the sum of \$495,000 for this purpose; together with a report from the Associate Engineer and the Deputy City Manager - Development.

Action: Resolution moved to set for a public hearing.

12. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a utility agreement with the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) for the construction of water distribution infrastructure improvements as part of the NHDOT's Bridge Rehabilitation project at the East Side Drive bridge, appropriating the sum of \$300,000 in the Water Main Replacement project (CIP #85), and authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes in the sum of \$300,000 for this purpose; together with a report from the City Engineer.

Action: Resolution moved to set for a public hearing.

13. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement between Kearsarge Old Turnpike Road, LLC and the City of Concord under RSA 72:74; together with a report from the Director of Assessing. (To be submitted under separate cover.)

Action: Resolution moved to set for a public hearing.

Consent Reports

14. Diminimus gifts and donations report from the Library Director requesting authorization to accept gifts and donations totaling \$3,688.08, as provided under the pre-authorization granted by City Council. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Brown.)

Action: Pulled from consent for discussion.

15. Diminimus donation from Human Services Director requesting to accept the monetary donation of \$47.50, as provided under the pre-authorization granted by City Council.

Action: This consent report was approved.

16. Report from the Beaver Meadow Golf Course Director of Operations requesting approval to accept a memorial bench in honor of Joel Mousseau.

Action: This consent report was approved.

17. Quarterly Status Report on the Status of the City Council's 2024-2025 Priorities from the City Manager.

Action: This consent report was approved.

18. Report from Deputy City Manager - Finance recommending approval of the proposed 2026 Beaver Meadow Golf Course rate structures as recommended by the Golf Course Advisory Committee at their July 10, 2025 meeting. (Pulled from consent by Councilors Kretovic and Brown.)

Action: Pulled from consent for discussion.

19. Report to Council from the City Solicitor's Office; Regarding the Tentative Agreement Between the City of Concord and Local 1045 of the International Association of Fire Fighters (Local 1045).

Action: This consent report was approved.

20. Report from the Assistant Finance Director regarding Annual Comprehensive Financial Report award notification.

Action: This consent report was approved.

21. Report from the Parks and Recreation Director regarding a Kiwanis Park Sign.

Action: This consent report was approved.

22. Report from the Assistant Director of Community Development, on behalf of the Parking Committee, in response to a referral from City Council requesting review of Meter Feeding, Loading, and Permit Parking on Main Street.

Action: This consent report was approved.

23. Report from the Assistant Director of Community Development, on behalf of the Parking Committee, in response to a referral from City Council requesting review of accessible parking in the vicinity of UNH Law on Washington & White Streets.

Action: This consent report was approved.

24. Report from the Assistant Director of Community Development, on behalf of the Parking Committee, in response to a referral from City Council requesting consideration of parking changes in the vicinity of Concord High School.

Action: This consent report was approved.

Consent Resolutions

25. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services Grant Program for funds designated for Law Enforcement State Accreditation; together with a report from the Police Department.

Action: Consent resolution approved. Councilor Brown recused herself as her husband is a Police Officer.

26. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the US Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Community Policing Development Microgrant program; together with report from the Police Department.

Action: Consent resolution approved. Councilor Brown recused herself as her husband is a Police Officer.

27. Resolution rescinding the appropriation of the sum of \$4,041,370.78, in various funds retroactive to June 30, 2025; together with a report from the Assistant Finance Director. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Brown.)

Action: Pulled from consent for discussion.

28. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a Sanitary Sewer Main and associated Sanitary Sewer/Sidewalk Easements from the owners of 69 Shawmut Street, as well as 61 and 65 Cemetery Street; together with a report from the Deputy City Manager - Development.

Action: Consent resolution approved.

Appointments

29. Mayor Champlin's proposed appointment to the Ad-Hoc Concord Semiquincentennial and Tri-Centennial Committee: James P. Bouley.

Action: Appointment approved.

30. Mayor Champlin's proposed reappointments to the Public Safety Board: Andrew Biemer and Ana McKenna.

Action: Appointments approved.

31. Mayor Champlin's proposed appointment to the Steering Committee for Concord's Plan to End Homelessness: Molly Lunn Owen.

Action: Appointment approved.

32. Mayor Champlin's proposed reappointment to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee: Eric Steinhauser.

Action: Appointment approved.

33. Mayor Champlin's proposed appointment to the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee: Erika Rydberg-Hall.

Action: Appointment approved.

34. Mayor Champlin's proposed reappointments to the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee: Gregory Bakos, Ian McGregor, Craig Tufts.

Action: Appointments approved.

35. Mayor Champlin's proposed appointments to the Planning Board: Eaton W. Tarbell III and Amanda Savage.

Action: Appointments approved.

End of Consent Agenda

Public Hearings

- 36A. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title III, Building and Housing Codes; Chapter 26, Building Regulations, Article 26-9 Demolition Review; together with a report from the Chair of the Heritage Commission and Demolition Review Committee and the City Planner.

Action: City Manager Aspell indicated that the Heritage Commission had reviewed the proposed amendment at their June 12, 2025 meeting, and by unanimous vote recommended the City Council change the proposed amendment to the following: (d) The Planning Division shall also prepare a notice for posting at the site that identifies the building proposed for demolition and the date, time, and place of the public hearing. The notice shall be posted on the site by the Planning Division in a location that is visible from the street, at least five calendar days prior to the public hearing. The sign shall be posted continuously as required.

Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing.

Richard Jacques of the Heritage Commission revisited questions that Council had previously regarding the Demolition Review process. He noted that the Commission had reviewed the terms "will and shall" at their meeting and will continue to use them as appropriate. He also addressed a prior question whether the review period would pause if the required signs were inadvertently taken down. He explained that according to RSA 673, signage requirements cannot result in an indefinite time period and would follow the predicted time originally indicated. Mr. Jacques added that the City and the Commission will work with the owners to ensure that signage remains in place during the required posting period.

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

- 36B. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title IV, Zoning Code; Chapter 28, Zoning Ordinance, Article 28-8 Nonconforming Lots, Uses, and Structures, Section 28-8-2 Determination of a Nonconformity; together with a report from the City Planner.

Action: City Manager Aspell indicated that RSA:39-aa was amended by House Bill 284 in 2021 to repeal the deadline of December 31, 2021, and as such he indicated that it is necessary to update the City's zoning ordinance to remove the deadline. City Manager Aspell indicated that the Planning Board had reviewed the proposed amendment at the June 18th meeting, and voted to recommend approval.

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

- 36C. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-7.1, Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours and Months in Designated Places, Schedule IX; to modify parking requirements on School Street between Pine and Liberty Streets; together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development.

Action: City Manager Aspell indicated the Parking Committee discussed the referral on June 30th, where they heard testimony supporting both a return to restricted parking, and a desire to keep parking unrestricted, as well as alternatives to a return to the 2-hour restrictions. He indicated that after reviewing and examining alternatives, the Committee is recommending that the north side of School Street between Liberty and Pine be restricted to no parking between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday from September through June.

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

- 36D. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$90,000 in the Water Plant Improvements Project (CIP #88) to replace a failed boiler and authorizing the issuance of Water General Obligation Bonds and Notes in the sum of \$90,000 for this purpose; together with a report from the Acting General Services Director.

Action: City Manager Aspell indicated the boiler casing failed at the Water Treatment Plant and now requires replacement. He noted that the expense was budgeted for replacement, however, it was anticipated that the casing would be operational until 2030. City Manager Aspell indicated that they are proposing to move the replacement up, and through aggressive pricing the cost would be \$87,120, where they had originally proposed a budget of \$150,000 for FY 2030.

Councilor Brown asked if the \$90,000 bonding would come from the Water fund, and if there would be an impact on rate increases.

City Manager Aspell indicated that the bond will come from the Water fund, and there will be no rate increases until City Council reviews the rates next year.

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

- 36E. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$14,000 for Human Services assistance and accepting a donation in the sum of \$14,000 from the Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church of New Hampshire for this purpose, retroactive to June 30, 2025; together with a report from the Deputy City Manager-Finance.

Action: City Manager Aspell recommended that City Council approve the resolution and allocate the funds to the Human Services Department to be administered by the guidance of the Human Services Director.

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

- 36F. Resolution retroactively appropriating to June 30, 2025, the sum of \$27,500 as a transfer to the Highway Reserve and accepting the sum of \$27,500 from Shaw's Supermarkets for this purpose; together with a report from the Deputy City Manager-Development.

Action: City Manager Aspell indicated that the funds would be put into the Highway Reserve Fund. Then City Council would have to appropriate the funds, and vote to determine how to use them. He indicated that typically these funds are used for street paving, sidewalk improvements, etc.

Councilor Brown asked how the calculation was derived.

City Manager Aspell indicated that the Planning Board had calculated the amount at the time of the site application.

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

- 36G. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Boston and Maine Corporation, a subsidiary of CSX Transportation, Inc., concerning the acquisition of portions of the Boston and Maine Northern Main Line Railroad for the purpose of facilitating the Merrimack River Greenway Trail project (CIP #543), appropriating the sum of \$143,000 in the

Merrimack River Greenway Trail project (CIP #543), authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes in the sum of \$105,000, and authorizing the transfer and use of \$38,000 from the Recreation Impact Fee fund for this purpose; together with report from the Director of Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives. (Public testimony received.)

Action: City Manager Aspell indicated that on June 14, 2021, the City Council approved Resolution #9379, which authorized the City Manager to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement to acquire a 5.7-mile segment of the Northern Main Line located between Horseshoe Pond Lane and the Contoocook River from Pan Am for the sum of \$431,500 for the purposes of extending the MRGT. The Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Northern Main Line, which was signed on July 7, 2021 by the City and Pan Am, was expressly subject to the State of New Hampshire's Right of First Refusal (ROFR) for the property, in accordance with RSA 228:60-a. On October 18, 2021, the NH Department of Transportation, in accordance with RSA 228:60-a, invoked its ROFR to acquire the 5.7-mile segment.

City Manager Aspell further indicated that prior to the execution of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOA) of the Purchase and Sale Agreement, CSX Transportation acquired all of the Pan Am Systems, Inc. New England holdings, which ultimately halted all pending real estate transactions related to the rail corridor. The updated appraisal increased the purchase price by \$103,500 from \$431,500 to \$535,000. In addition, the City incurred additional expenses for the CSX negotiations, including an expedited appraisal, complicated title work and survey. As a result, a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$143,000 is required to complete this purchase. Staff recommends the supplemental appropriation be supported using a combination of General Obligation Bonds and Recreational Impact Fees.

City Manager Aspell indicated that the only reason the resolution is before City Council is due to the CSX price increase.

Councilor Brown asked if the balance in the Economic Reserve Fund could be utilized.

Deputy City Manager of Finance Brian LeBrun indicated that the Economic Reserve Fund 2025 figures would be available next month and that he would provide those to the City Council.

Councilor Kretovic inquired if the City of Concord was requesting the removal of

the rail line or if it was the request of CSX.

City Manager Aspell indicated that it was CSX's request.

Mayor Champlin opened the public hearing.

Mr. Dick Lemieux, President of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (MRGT), and Kelly Ovitt Puc, Chair of the Board of Trustees for MRGT, testified the project has been in the works for over 16 years, which includes the time spent on a feasibility study for the trail. Phase one was completed in 2020, with no City funds. Phase two was built with 17% federal funds, as well as Federal grant funds. Currently, \$909,000 has been spent by MRGT on phases one and two, of which the City of Concord contributed \$124,700. Mr. Lemieux indicated that in partnership with the City, MRGT has raised \$2,000,000, of which \$1,000,000 is from a TAP grant. He mentioned concerns that if the City changes the scope of the project, the City runs the risk of losing the grant because the project they applied for was very specific.

Kelly Ovitt Puc reiterated how long the process has been, and highlighted the extensive work on both MRGT's part as well as the City. She further stated that the project was derailed in 2021, and MRGT was here this evening to request that the City Council confirm the choice that they made in 2021 to support the project. Ms. Ovitt Puc indicated that in 2017 and 2021 they had a petition with over 2,774 signatures in support of the project, which were overwhelmingly Concord and Penacook residents. She indicated that the residents are passionate about this project.

Mr. Lemieux confirmed that MRGT is in favor of City Council approving the resolution. He expressed his disappointment that the agreement with CSX had changed. He discussed the additional work that would be involved if the project were expanded to include the rail line, including the work required to build the additional sections, the added materials, additional costs, and the disturbance to a larger section of the surrounding area. He indicated that the cost for the trail alone has gone from 1.34 million dollars to 2.14 million. Mr. Lemieux invited Greg Bakos to testify.

Greg Bakos, MRGT Board member, testified that building a parallel trail would have environmental impacts, indicating that the concept would not be as easy as it sounds. He explained that grants typically place great emphasis on projects having

the least amount of impact feasible, noting that the trail option would have the least environmental impact and be the most feasible.

Mr. Lemieux indicated that another suggestion mentioned that the Greenway Trail could be built between the rails, however, the width would not allow as it is typically only 4' 8-1/2" wide. The Cotton Valley Rail Trail in NH was mentioned as an example of a trail with co-existing rails, however, Mr. Lemieux explained the downfalls of the trail, such as passing others, crossing over rail sections, and injuries to due hazards. He noted that this could expose the City to unnecessary liability, and unnecessary dangers to the residents.

Mr. Lemieux mentioned another suggestion was for the City to renegotiate with CSX to leave the rails in place, however, MRGT learned that the salvage worth of the rails could be worth between 2.4 and 4.5 million dollars, with the estimate of 3.1 million dollars, which the rail line would want to recover. Mr. Lemieux indicated the rails associated with the RailRiders section could come out to around 1.5 million dollars. Lastly, Mr. Lemieux mentioned that Gary LeBlanc, of Scenic RailRiders had indicated his displeasure that he was not consulted by the City with regard to the purchase, however, he indicated that MRGT was not consulted either. Mr. Lemieux requested the City move forward with the proposed project.

Councilor Brown asked Mr. Lemieux to explain how much the City would need to match on the Tap Grant.

Mr. Lemieux explained that originally in 2021 the estimate was 1.337 million dollars, and the maximum size of the grant was one million dollars. The grant requires 20 cents for every dollar to be matched, for a total of \$250,000 required in fundraising. Currently, with the rising costs, the estimate would be 1.2 million dollars to completely fund the project. Mr. Lemieux noted that the Tap grant is four years old, and that if the resolution was approved tonight, MRGT would start fundraising tomorrow.

Mr. Bakos and Mr. Lemieux explained that it is a reimbursement grant program.

Councilor Brown asked if fundraising continues even during the reimbursement phases.

Mr. Lemieux explained that they have been fundraising for years, however, they will actively fundraise for this phase once the resolution is approved.

Gary LeBlanc, owner of Scenic RailRiders, testified, prefacing his testimony that they are not trying to stop the trail project, rather co-exist. He explained in 2019, the City was very welcoming, and that they have brought in a lot of business. He noted that NH has two trails with rails and a third possibly opening in the Madison area. He indicated that in recent conversations with CSX, he had proposed for CSX to possibly maintain ownership of the section of rail that RailRiders uses, allowing them to lease the rails, while on City owned property. CSX indicated that they would need to have discussions with the City. Mr. LeBlanc also indicated that 3/4 of the trail near Sewalls Falls Road originally had two rail lines, so the width would accommodate both in that section. For the section between Sewalls Falls Road and Second Street, there is a sewer line easement that could be upgraded. Mr. LeBlanc indicated that their business brings in around 11,000 to 13,000 tourists a year, with 94% being from outside of the Concord area, and 50% from outside of NH. He implored the City Council to work with RailRiders to find a solution to coexist with the trail.

Councilor Kretovic thanked Mr. LeBlanc for coming and sharing his passion for his business and the tourism that they bring to the City of Concord. She explained that the City Council was not the entity that approved the business, rather, it was the Planning Board, further explaining that at that time the Planning Department made him aware of the trail project.

Mayor Champlin asked how many days a year RailRiders is open and how much they charge.

Mr. LeBlanc indicated that they are open 128 days a year. The cost is \$95 for a two-seat bike, and \$175 for a four-seat bike, round-trip.

Roy Schweiker, resident, testified that he feels the City Council should vote down the resolution. He indicated that the State could help pay for the rail trails, and instead take the additional funds the City has allocated to help reduce taxes. He indicated that many people walk the trails, and it is possible to accommodate both if the City did the research. He noted that the trail could be gravel instead of being paved.

Don Moyer, Vice-President of the Northern Rail Trail, testified, indicating that they are ready to connect. He mentioned that the TAP grant is dependent on the trails connecting, and encouraged City Council to approve the purchase.

Brennan Bourque, resident of Penacook testified in support of the rail trail, and his hope that the City becomes a micro-mobile city, unlocking the potential to connect the rest of the state through the trail.

Rob Morrill, from the Morrill Farm in Penacook, testified that Scenic RailRiders has become an asset to the City and it would be a shame to lose the business. However, he noted that his farm has livestock and borderline fences against the corridor, and emphasized safety issues and health concerns when humans interact with livestock. He indicated that he has never been contacted as an abutter by MRGT for open discussion on safety measures. He shared his concerns about opening the corridor and the problems that he has seen with homeless encampments in the area, as the rail line goes through his property.

Councilor Sekou asked Mr. Morrill what a partnership looks like for him.

Mr. Morrill explained that in the past the City Council explained to MRGT that they need to work with the abutters, however, they have not. He mentioned that Scenic RailRiders has worked with Mr. Morrill on crossings, providing signs for the right of way. He would not want to see an accident. He wants to know if MRGT is liable if there is an issue with his livestock due to the human interaction. Mr. Morrill noted that he is the owner of the last dairy farm in Concord.

Matt LeBlanc, son of Gary and Caroline LeBlanc, testified that he is a Plymouth State graduate, and has helped to build and maintain Scenic RailRiders with his family. He shared his family's passion, and offered the suggestion to have the Purchase and Sale agreement amended to include rail with trail. He asked the City Council to work with their family to open communication and find solutions for the trail and rail to coexist.

Tim Sink, Greater Chamber of Commerce, testified sharing his support of the MRGT project, explaining that the Chamber has been in support of the project from the start. He also emphasized the positive economic impact Scenic Railriders has been for the City of Concord, noting that they are members of the Chamber. Mr. Sink indicated his support for a rail with trail and asked the City Council to explore avenues to have both.

Caroline LeBlanc, from Scenic RailRiders, testified that since their inception, they have brought over 62,000 riders to the City, with an estimated 10,000 more by the

end of this season. She shared the hard work and vision their family has put into Scenic RailRiders, the economic boost to the City, and the joy brought to those who have had the pleasure of riding the rails. Mrs. LeBlanc noted that they have built a five-star reputation, and have been featured on NH Chronicle and countless newspapers and publications, and highlighted that the NH Tourism Board and the Chamber recently visited Scenic RailRiders to promote NH. She explained that the agreement would put them out of business and asked the City Council to amend the Purchase and Sale Agreement.

Councilor Brown asked how difficult it would be to retrofit the bikes for use on a trail.

Mrs. LeBlanc explained that there is no suspension on the bikes. She further noted that they have no steering capability.

Daniel Day, resident of Durham and owner of Awakening Rails LLC, testified noting that he does not work for Scenic RailRiders, however, he was here to provide his support. He encouraged the City Council to work on solutions to have the rail and trail coexist.

City Manager Aspell asked Mr. Day to share the difficulties in finding rail locations for these types of businesses.

Mr. Day explained that there are very few railroads that are not actively being used, further stating the ideal rails need to be in scenic areas where tourist would want to visit.

Chris Miller, East Concord resident, testified that he is an avid biker, and emphasized that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to bridge a statewide trail connection, as well as a New England connection. He shared his experiences with trails with rails and the issues they present. He supports the City Council and the Purchase and Sale Agreement.

Councilor Grady Sexton asked Mr. Miller to explain how he uses the trails and if he stops along the way to explore the towns and cities.

Mr. Miller explained that the nature of trail riding is to stop in the adjoining towns and cities to explore, dine, and shop.

Olivia Smith, Hillsboro resident and employee of Scenic RailRiders, testified in support of Scenic RailRiders, sharing how they have supported her throughout her six years as an employee. She hopes that the City Council can explore ways to support Scenic RailRiders with a rail and trail option.

Aaron Fracht-Monroe, resident and avid biker, testified in support of the purchase of the CSX rail line to connect the statewide trail system. He voiced his concerns around safety with trails that also have rails.

John Corrigan, Penacook resident, testified noting his background formerly working for the State of NH DOT in bicycle and pedestrian projects. He stated that he was here speaking as a resident in support of the resolution, urging the City Council not to delay the project. He explained he worked on the TAP program and that the Federal government pushes hard to get these projects built as quickly as possible, and if the project is delayed too long they will pull the funding. He spoke to a comment made earlier about State funding, explaining that the State spends almost no money on these projects as they come from Federal grants. He stated that he is not sure if it is practical to have a rail with trail.

Councilor Schultz asked if a dual rail and trail would delay a TAP Grant.

Mr. Corrigan explained that typically there is an engineering study, however, with the delay currently facing this project, he is concerned that the funding could be pulled and urged the Council to move forward with the resolution to get the project started.

Andy Gould, Concord resident, testified in support of the project as an avid rider. He noted that with the side-by-side option, there is the potential consideration that in the future RailRiders could go out of business and then the City would need to figure out what to do with the rails.

Tim Chevalier, business owner in Penacook, testified in support of the agreement. He shared his positive experiences using the rail trails and his hope to have the trails connect through Concord.

Lisa Beaudoin, Concord resident, testified emphasizing Rob Morrill's concerns for the current and potential impacts on his farm.

Tim Blagdon, Friends of the Sunapee Rail Trail, testified in support of the project.

Summer Shifflett, employee of Scenic RailRiders, testified on the importance of the business in the Concord area, speaking in support of a rail and trail option.

Kayla Bowdoin, Concord resident and employee of Scenic RailRiders, testified that she feels it would be a large loss to the City of Concord if Scenic RailRiders were to shut down. She also spoke to the concerns brought forward by Rob Morrill. She was in favor of a rail and trail option.

Roland Berube, Ward 5 resident, testified that he has always been in support of the MRGT, however, he mentioned that if City Council votes to move towards a rail and trail option to please consider that people with mobility or disability issues would be using the trails, young children, hikers, and walkers, as well as cross-country skiers and people who snowshoe. He indicated that MRGT has been a concept for many years, and has met many roadblocks. He indicated that the MRGT is an organization that is set up to help the landowners to bring the trails to fruition, and once the City were to take ownership, then they will work with the City and the abutters to address their concerns.

Peter Minor, East Concord resident, testified that collaboration should be paramount, and supporting small businesses should be supported in the City. He recommended looking for ways to have the two coexist.

Ian McGregor, resident, testified in support of the resolution, stating that this trail is a crucial commuting corridor, and taking traffic off of the highway and local streets would be beneficial. He noted many ways that the corridor would be helpful to him and his family, given that they own only one vehicle.

Tobias Minor, East Concord resident, testified on the environmental and financial impacts that the City could incur with the project. He mentioned that it was more important to have a safer system in place for those using the trails.

Councilor Kurtz commended Mr. Minor for sharing his thoughts and concerns.

David Toomey, Concord resident, testified in support of the resolution. He explained that he is an avid bike rider and trail user, and noted the vibrant economic benefit of the trail system.

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

City Council recessed the meeting for five minutes.

Public Hearing Action

37. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title III, Building and Housing Codes; Chapter 26, Building Regulations, Article 26-9 Demolition Review; together with a report from the Chair of the Heritage Commission and Demolition Review Committee and the City Planner.

Action: Councilor Kretovic moved approved. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Fennessy.

Councilor Kretovic indicated that the Heritage Commission fully supports the amendment.

The motion passed unanimously.

38. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title IV, Zoning Code; Chapter 28, Zoning Ordinance, Article 28-8 Nonconforming Lots, Uses, and Structures, Section 28-8-2 Determination of a Nonconformity; together with a report from the City Planner.

Action: Councilor Fennessy moved approval. Councilor Grady Sexton duly seconded the motion and passed with no dissenting votes.

39. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-7.1, Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours and Months in Designated Places, Schedule IX; to modify parking requirements on School Street between Pine and Liberty Streets; together with a report from the Assistant Director of Community Development.

Action: Councilor McNamara moved to table the item until a comprehensive discussion could be held with representatives of the Concord School District, the Parking Committee, and City staff. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Schultz.

A lengthy discussion ensued around parking issues that are plaguing School Street, which allows parking on both sides of the street in an area where many streets have parking restrictions. It was noted that two residents had attended the last Parking Committee meeting and discussed a compromise to restrict parking to one side of the street, where many Concord High School students park. Councilor Brown was concerned that it would be a mistake to delay the item, as there were ample

opportunities for collaborative discussions in the past and the School District had not attended the meetings. She felt the City Council should move forward.

Councilor Horne moved the question. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kretovic. A roll call vote was taken:

Yes: Councilor Stacey Brown, Mayor Byron Champlin, Councilor Nathan Fennessy, Councilor Jeff Foote, Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton, Councilor Michele Horne, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Councilor Judith Kurtz, Councilor Paula McLaughlin, Councilor Karen McNamara, Councilor Jim Schlosser, Councilor Kris Schultz, Councilor Ali Sekou, Councilor Brent Todd

The motion to move the question passed unanimously.

Mayor Champlin indicated that the motion before the Council was to table item #39, until such time that the School District can be involved in a conversation about overflow parking.

Councilor Brown requested a roll call vote.

Yes: Mayor Byron Champlin, Councilor Jeff Foote, Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Councilor Judith Kurtz, Councilor Paula McLaughlin, Councilor Karen McNamara, Councilor Ali Sekou,

No: Councilor Stacey Brown, Councilor Nathan Fennessy, Councilor Michele Horne, Councilor Jim Schlosser, Councilor Kris Schultz, Councilor Brent Todd

The motion passed.

40. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$90,000 in the Water Plant Improvements Project (CIP #88) to replace a failed boiler and authorizing the issuance of Water General Obligation Bonds and Notes in the sum of \$90,000 for this purpose; together with a report from the Acting General Services Director.

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

41. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$14,000 for Human Services assistance and accepting a donation in the sum of \$14,000 from the Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church of New Hampshire for this purpose, retroactive to June 30, 2025; together with a report from the Deputy City Manager-Finance.

Action: Councilor Fennessy moved approval. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Grady Sexton.

Councilor Fennessy thanked the Episcopal Church for the donation.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

42. Resolution retroactively appropriating to June 30, 2025, the sum of \$27,500 as a transfer to the Highway Reserve and accepting the sum of \$27,500 from Shaw's Supermarkets for this purpose; together with a report from the Deputy City Manager-Development.

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

43. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Boston and Maine Corporation, a subsidiary of CSX Transportation, Inc., concerning the acquisition of portions of the Boston and Maine Northern Main Line Railroad for the purpose of facilitating the Merrimack River Greenway Trail project (CIP #543), appropriating the sum of \$143,000 in the Merrimack River Greenway Trail project (CIP #543), authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes in the sum of \$105,000, and authorizing the transfer and use of \$38,000 from the Recreation Impact Fee fund for this purpose; together with report from the Director of Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives. (Public testimony received.)

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

Councilor Fennessy indicated that he would be recusing himself because he works for a subsidiary firm that represents CSX.

Councilor Horne emphasized her support for the MRGT, however, she also implored City staff to have a conversation with Scenic RailRiders as they have been a member in good standing in the City and have met the goals of City Council in economic development.

Councilor Schultz asked if the Council were to approve the purchase, would there still be conversations moving forward.

Mayor Champlin indicated that the Purchase and Sale does provide for the removal of the rails.

Councilor Kretovic discussed the 1983 National Trail Act which was a national initiative to get people outside in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. She indicated that there had been one corporate sponsor of the act, which was CSX Rail Lines. She indicated that this project has been in the works for a long time. She shared that Concord 2020 included the feasibility study and at the time the largest hurdle was the wetlands along the river between Manchester Street and Loudon Road. Once it was approved, the Friends of the MRGT was formed.

Councilor Kurtz echoed Councilor Horne and Councilor Kretovic's sentiments, emphasizing that as a City it is important to have a dialogue with business owners. Councilor Kurtz indicated that she will move forward in support of the purchase due to the length of time that the MRGT project has been in the works. She also said that her support comes with a heavy heart not being able to keep Scenic RailRiders in business, and she did implore City staff to work to see if a trail and rail could coexist with appropriate respect for the engineering and safety of a functioning rail trail.

Councilor Todd echoed Councilor Kurtz's remarks, adding that the benefits to Penacook when this trail is completed will be numerous. He indicated that this was a forward-moving plan, and that he would be supporting the project, not wanting to delay. He felt that there should be more information provided as to the financial aspects of the rail removal that are part of this deal. He added that there should be discussions with Scenic RailRiders to see what their financial contributions would be to see if it were possible for a coexistence.

Councilor Grady Sexton thanked the participants for sharing their perspectives.

Councilor Brown indicated that she was a member of the MRGT for three years from 2013-2016, and that she is an enthusiastic supporter of the project. However, she noted Scenic RailRiders ingenuity, passion, loyalty to their employees and customers, and felt that their business is important. She indicated that possibly they could reinvent their business and work with Councilor Brown on alternatives as she

feels it is not possible to have both a rail and trail.

Councilor Brown made a motion to appropriate the sum of \$150,000 from the Economic Development Reserve for this purpose.

Mayor Champlin indicated that there was no second, and the motion failed.

Councilor Sekou echoed his fellow Councilors thoughts, and thanked all those who participated. He stated that he is aware of how important it is to attract people to the City and indicated that City staff should work with Scenic RailRiders to see if a compromise can be made. He will be supporting the purchase.

Councilor Schlosser indicated that he will be supporting the motion, however, he also wanted to let Mr. Morrill know that he was committing that both the MRGT organization and City staff will be working with him to ensure his farm and livestock and safe. He stated that he regrets that there weren't more collaborative conversations prior to the crafting of the purchase and sale. He felt that a dual-use trail will substantially increase the costs and concerned how those costs would be funded.

Councilor Schultz indicated that she is inclined to vote no even though she knows the motion will most likely pass, since the rails will be removed and it would leave Scenic RailRiders out.

Mayor Champlin stated that he will be voting in support of the motion, however, he too was appreciative of all of the testimony that was received. He appreciated the LeBlanc's meeting with him to discuss the issue. Mayor Champlin indicated that he is in support of the project as time is of the essence, and is concerned that further delay may jeopardize the acquired funding. He regrets the impact on Scenic RailRiders and deeply appreciates their operation in the City. There is great economic value to the City in moving forward.

The motion passed with the required two-thirds majority, with one dissenting vote.

City Manager Aspell indicated that the vote this evening brought the project back to the same point as it was on October 18, 2021, with the State of NH having the right of first refusal and the process starting all over again, hoping that the grant does not disappear. He noted that he hopes that the process will move forward and there could be a closing by February of 2026.

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

44. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title III, Building and Housing Codes; Chapter 26, Building Regulations, Article 26-9 Demolition Review; together with a report from the Code Administrator and the Deputy City Manager - Development. (Referred to the Heritage Commission at the May 12, 2025 City Council meeting.)

Action: Councilor Kretovic indicated that item #44 was an Ordinance that was left on the table in prior business from the Heritage Commission, and since the City Council made the motion to accept the revision in item #37 of the Agenda, she moved to close this item. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Todd and passed with no dissenting votes.

45. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$84,000 to support efforts by Concord's Plan to End Homelessness and authorizing a transfer in from the Community Improvement Reserve in the sum of \$84,000 for this purpose; together with report from Councilor Jim Schlosser. (Action on this item tabled at the April 14, 2025 City Council meeting.)

Consideration of Items pulled from the Consent Agenda

14. Diminimus gifts and donations report from the Library Director requesting authorization to accept gifts and donations totaling \$3,688.08, as provided under the pre-authorization granted by City Council. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Brown.)

Action: Councilor Brown indicated that she pulled the item to discuss the donation by the Catherine L. Pappas Revocable Trust, indicating that the trust currently has no funds and hasn't since 2017, and inquired as to how that would be handled.

Deputy City Manager Brian LeBrun indicated that the City received the donation which will be deposited into the trust based on City Council's approval, and then the \$1,000 will remain in the trust until further action is taken to appropriate the funds. The other donations in the report would be deposited in a separate grants and donation account.

Councilor Brown moved approval. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kurtz and passed unanimously.

18. Report from Deputy City Manager - Finance recommending approval of the proposed 2026 Beaver Meadow Golf Course rate structures as recommended by the Golf Course Advisory Committee at their July 10, 2025 meeting. (Pulled from consent by Councilors Kretovic and Brown.)

Action: Councilor Kretovic moved approval of the report and rate restructure for 2026. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Fennessy.

Councilor Kretovic indicated that Beaver Meadow Golf Course reached an extraordinary milestone by exceeding \$2,000,000 in revenues for the first time in the history of the course, which is the direct result of years of intentional work to increase play, members, and sound operation practices. She indicated that the Golf Course Advisory Committee has recommended modest rate adjustments that will generate more than \$189,000 in additional revenue for the 2026 season. Councilor Kretovic explained that the funds go directly to support the operational expenses of the course, which ensures financial independence from the General Fund, thereby protecting taxpayer resources.

Councilor Kretovic elaborated that all City departments and facilities receive taxpayer support, and while the golf course does cover all of its operational expenses, some of the CIP projects are funded by the taxpayers. She noted that every department in the City is touched by the CIP and funded by taxpayers. She went into detail on City expenses covered by the taxpayers. She reviewed the City Council's recent commitment to ensure that the new clubhouse would have no financial impact for two years, indicating that this rate adjustment builds on that goal. She went on to discuss the ongoing scrutiny the golf course has seen since 2022, which no other facility has seen, emphasizing that the disproportionate attention is fostering division instead of collaboration and goes against the values of the City. She urged City Council to support the recommendations.

Councilor Horne offered an amendment to accept the report to pass all the rates as they are, except amending to have the NH Golf Association pay the normal tournament rates in their proposal.

Mayor Champlin indicated that for a lack of a second to the motion, the motion failed.

Councilor Brown indicated that she does not feel the City Council should accept the rates because they don't meet the budget the City Council approved, explaining that the City Council needs to ensure that the rates meet and support expectations.

She questioned why the NH Golf Association is allowed to use the course for free, while profiting from their tournaments, which blocks off opportunities for residents to use the course. Councilor Brown mentioned that the Golf Course Advisory Committee has not received any reports from T-Snap which could make scheduling more efficient. She indicated that memberships and rates are far below other courses, and there are decreases in rounds and services.

Councilor Fennessy respectfully stated that he did not understand where the math was coming from that Councilor Brown referred to. He stated that he was at the meeting where the Committee came up with the recommendations for rates. He disagreed that the rounds are down, and stated that it does not match with what he has seen over the five years he has served on the Committee. He explained the Committee worked on increasing rates while still making them affordable. One item that was added was a capital fee for non-resident users. He added that revenues have increased over the last five years. Councilor Fennessy stated that it would be in the best interest of the City Council to approve the recommendations by the Committee.

Mayor Champlin stated that the Chair would entertain a motion to allow the City Council to continue working after 11:00 p.m.

Councilor Schlosser moved to allow City Council to continue working after 11:00 p.m. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Schultz, and passed with one dissenting vote.

Councilor Kurtz questioned why rates are stipulated by NH Golf Association proposals and why the City is not setting the terms.

Councilor Kretovic indicated that while she does not set the rates, she explained that NH Golf Association tournament entry fee covers a portion of the green fees as well as a secondary portion that is a duplicate fee that goes towards a pro-shop credit for the winner. This guarantees a purchase in the clubhouse pro shop.

Councilor Kurtz clarified that she was trying to understand what the NH Golf Association pays to host a tournament.

Deputy City Manager of Finance Brian LeBrun, along with Pat Lanman, Director of Operations for the Beaver Meadow Golf Course, explained that the NH Golf Association does not pay a lot of money to play at Beaver Meadow, which has

been the case for years, due to the amount of positive exposure they have brought to the course, as well as the industry throughout the State of NH. He indicated that City Council can change the arrangement, however, the NH Golf Association would determine what they are willing to pay or go elsewhere.

Councilor Kurtz asked if the NH Golf Association has the same relationship with all of the courses in NH.

Deputy City Manager LeBrun explained that was the case.

Mayor Champlin asked Mr. LeBrun to explain the advantage to Beaver Meadow.

Deputy City Manager LeBrun explained that the events through the NH Golf Association bring exposure and business to Beaver Meadow. He indicated that at times when memberships were lower, green fees saw a measured increase, and while both are important the course sees the largest impact through the green fees on a daily basis.

Councilor Horne stated that she is concerned with the language in the recommendation that states they are growing the game of golf in NH. She reviewed the assets of the NH Golf Association between 2014 and 2023. She explained that she is concerned with the decrease in participation in youth sports and the best way to increase participation is through community-based programs, and that a focus should be made on reducing those fees to encourage youth participation.

Councilor Brown indicated that there has been no investment in Parks and Recreation for the youth of Concord. She stated that the NH Golf Association should have to pay for their tournaments.

Councilor Kurtz asked Mr. LeBrun to confirm that if the City did not accept what the NH Golf Association offered that they would simply choose to not hold events at Beaver Meadow.

Deputy City Manager LeBrun confirmed that would be the case.

Councilor Brown made a motion to table the item until the rates are brought to meet the budget.

Mayor Champlin indicated that the motion failed due to a lack of a second.

Councilor Brown asked for a roll call.

Yes: Mayor Byron Champlin, Councilor Nathan Fennessy, Councilor Jeff Foote, Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Councilor Judith Kurtz, Councilor Paula McLaughlin, Councilor Karen McNamara, Councilor Jim Schlosser, Councilor Kris Schultz, Councilor Ali Sekou, Councilor Brent Todd

No: Councilor Stacey Brown, Councilor Michele Horne

The motion passed.

27. Resolution rescinding the appropriation of the sum of \$4,041,370.78, in various funds retroactive to June 30, 2025; together with a report from the Assistant Finance Director. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Brown.)

Action: Councilor Brown indicated that she pulled the item as she did not understand the language in the report. She asked for further clarification on the funds.

Deputy City Manager of Finance Brian LeBrun invited Assistant Director of Finance Audrey Masters to expound on the information in the report. Ms. Masters indicated that the report was a long overdue grant project housekeeping effort. She explained that the vast number of grants that they are de-authorizing are on a reimbursement basis and the report encompasses the amount of funds left over in the grants after completion. She indicated that going forward they hope to provide this report and resolution on an annual basis.

Councilor Kretovic moved approval of the report. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Grady Sexton and passed unanimously.

Consideration of Suspense Items

Sus1 Report to Council from the City Solicitor's Office regarding House Bill (HB) 467.

Action: Councilor Fennessy made a motion to suspend the rules to consider items not previously advertised. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Kretovic and passed by the required two-thirds majority, with one dissenting vote.

City Manager Aspell indicated that House Bill 467, which was recently signed into law, provides the ability to define an outdoor area where alcoholic beverages could be sold and consumed, and that if City Council wanted to keep the option available it would need to be included on the November ballot.

Deputy City Solicitor Jon Conforti elaborated that the NH Legislature passed a bill that authorizes social districts on a local level at the option of each municipality. In order to move forward with a social district, it would need to be on the next ballot in November. He further indicated that as a legislative body, City Council could decide to place the item on the ballot, not needing a public hearing to do so.

Councilor Kretovic stated that she would be supporting the action, and that it is important for the community to look at the organizations the City supports, such as In-town Concord for Market Days and other organizations, which would allow for a more expansive social district for their events.

Councilor Sekou explained that he had safety concerns for who would be managing the consumption.

Deputy City Solicitor Conforti explained that by putting the item on the ballot it simply allows the City the option in the future to set up social districts. The municipality would then need to determine the location of the district and setup a maintenance plan, subject to the approval of the Liquor Commission, along with meeting other requirements and having policies put in place.

A brief conversation around licensing was held.

Councilor Fennessy moved to set the item down for public hearing in September. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Schultz, passing unanimously.

Comments, Requests by Mayor, City Councilors

Action: Councilor Foote expressed his appreciation for City staff including the Police, Fire, and General Services Departments for their efforts for the National Night Out event. He also expressed appreciation for the volunteers who cleaned up the Colonel Jon Pecker Park.

Councilor Schultz expressed her appreciation for Chief Chisholm's efforts the night of a recent fire in Ward 8, commending his communication in conveying difficult information, and commending the work of the City's Fire Fighters. She also expressed her appreciation of the efforts by the City Police Department and first responders after a fatal car accident in Ward 9. Councilor Schultz then shared her concerns about a recent incident in which a group arrived in the Capital City without a permit to protest alongside a permitted group, which turned violent. She noted that she was informed that the FBI had preemptively informed the Concord Police Department, and she expressed hope that, in the future, communication would be improved to ensure the safety of all protesters and residents, and was concerned that did not happen in this case.

Councilor Sekou also expressed his concerns about the protest incident indicating that he recently spoke with the City Manager and the Police Department about the situation. He also shared his appreciation for the first responders' efforts with the recent fire. Councilor Sekou and Councilor Schultz will be holding a community conversation on August 19th at the Community Wide Center from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Lastly, Councilor Sekou indicated that he had the privilege of representing the City of Concord at the Disability Pride Parade on July 26th.

Councilor Kurtz shared that on September 7th, at the Everett Arena the Boston Bruin's Fan Fest will be in town, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., which is a free event. The Sunflower Festival at Sun Fox Farm is currently running until August 17th, open from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Councilor Brown reiterated Councilor Kurtz's comments on the Sunflower Festival. She also invited residents to enjoy the amenities at the golf course, including the Upland Trail, as well as enjoy the sights on the patio.

Councilor McNamara expressed her appreciation to Helen and Greg Fitzgerald who started the flower garden on the corner of Washington and North State Streets many years ago. She also thanked Lucy Gentilhomme, who has stepped in to help with the gardens, along with Kevin Gray and Milly LaFontaine.

Councilor Kretovic thanked her fellow Council members that reached out after a recent article in the Concord Monitor regarding the discussion at the DEIJB Committee, especially to those that understood that there was an error in the article. Councilor Kretovic stated that the newspaper has since issued a retraction, however, she was concerned with the negative harm the first article induced, especially to the immigrant community. She indicated that she was sure the outcome was deeply regrettable and avoidable. Councilor Kretovic ended stating that the Council does in fact support the DEIJB Committee and there is a positive, strong and steadfast commitment for those efforts.

Councilor Horne reminded residents that fall sports registration is open through Parks and Recreation.

Councilor Todd mentioned that the official grand opening of the Canal Street River Front Park would be held on Wednesday, August 13th, at 5:30 p.m. He thanked Matt Walsh for his efforts over the years to make this happen.

Councilor Fennessy mentioned that there is a Memorial Field meeting on Wednesday, at the Community Center at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Champlin shared that for the 13th year in row, the City of Concord Finance Department has received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association, congratulating Deputy City Manager of Finance Brian LeBrun and the Finance Department for earning this award from their peers.

Deputy City Manager of Finance Brian LeBrun recognized the Finance team's hard work and dedication.

Mayor Champlin also announced the creation of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Impact Fees, stating that members will include Councilors' Todd, Kurtz, and Foote, along with a designee from the Economic Development Advisory Committee and a designee from Concord Chamber of Commerce, with the Mayor serving as an ex-officio member and Councilor Todd as Chair. Mayor Champlin also announced the appointment of Councilor Sekou on the Parking Committee. Lastly, he recognized Tobias Minor for hanging in until the very end of the City Council meeting.

Comments, Requests by the City Manager**Adjournment**

Action: Councilor Foote moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 p.m. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Todd and passed unanimously.

Information

Inf1 June 3, 2025 Architectural Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf2 June 4, 2025 Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf3 June 10, 2025 Joint Memorial Field Planning Committee Approved Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf4 June 11, 2025 Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf5 June 16, 2025 Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee Approved Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf6 June 18, 2025 Planning Board Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf7 June 24, 2025 Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf8 June 30, 2025 Parking Committee Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf9 July 10, 2025 Golf Course Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

A true copy, I attest:

Deborah Tuite

Deputy City Clerk