



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Thomas J. Aspell, Jr., City Manager
DATE: July 20, 2018
SUBJECT: 2018 – 2019 City Council Priorities

Recommendation

Accept this report as to the current status of the City Council Priorities established on January 29, 2018.

Background

Members of the City Council met on January 29, 2018 to discuss and set priorities for the remainder of Calendar Year 2018, as well as for Calendar Year 2019.

Discussion

Listed below, in ranked order, are the accepted priorities, projects and ongoing initiatives; and their respective statuses as of June 30, 2018.

GOAL 1. BALANCED BUDGET ISSUES: FY 2019 and 2020

a) Collective Bargaining/Contract Negotiations

Status: The City is currently under contract with all six of its labor unions. The City and the Concord Fire Officers Association (CFOA) have finished negotiations and the CFOA has entered into a new collective bargaining agreement that provides a 2.5% COLA for the three years the contract is in place, and a premium share of 10% paid by CFOA members. In other collective bargaining news, the US Supreme Court recently ruled in the Janus case that service/agency fees that were mandatory were not constitutional. Thus, to the extent applicable, we have informed our unions that we would remove language to that effect from the current collective bargaining agreements.

b) Health Insurance Costs

Status: Health insurance costs increased in FY 2019. The City was quoted a 9.9% not to exceed rate from its carrier, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, effective July 1, 2018, and was able to negotiate an 8.9% final increase in rates. Costs continue to rise in health care, overall, and the City competes in a tight market to recruit and retain talent, therefore providing competitive health insurance is a must. All City employees now pay at least 10% of the premium costs for health insurance. The City provides insurance to retirees as well, and, this year, the medical portion of the plan was renewed with a

1.48% increase, and the prescription plan was renewed at a 12.5% increase. This will result in an increase of approximately \$30,000 for the retiree health insurance subsidy.

c) Capital Financing Alternatives/Storm Water Utility

Status: City Administration has scheduled an internal meeting to begin discussions on this utility.

d) Enterprise Fund Approach

Status: The Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee discussed Enterprise Funds at their April 16, 2018 meeting. This discussion will continue in the fall of 2018.

GOAL 2. COMMUNITY-WIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES TO EXPAND TAX BASE

Status: An Economic Development Marketing Tool Kit and a Strategic Plan has been drafted and accepted by City Council. The new Economic Development website is now live. Form-based code consultants have been retained and stakeholder meetings have been held.

City Council accepted the donation of labor and appropriated funds to renovate the terminal lobby and pilots' lounge at the Concord Municipal Airport, to make this entrance into Concord more attractive. As of June 30, 2018, work was in progress. A ribbon cutting is expected in the first quarter of FY 2019.

City Council authorized ArgenTech Solutions, Inc., to apply for an FAA waiver to locate a drone operations training company at the Concord Municipal Airport. The company is now located in Hangar 4.

Upon unanimous recommendation of the Planning Board, the City Council unanimously approved the rezoning of 28.5 acres of property along Whitney Road from Urban Commercial and Industrial to Gateway Performance to encourage the development of said property. The owners of the option on the property in question recently stated that they are continuing to work to secure a supermarket for the site.

The Granite Center development project was introduced to redevelop 6 Dixon Avenue, 14 Dixon Avenue, and 1 Eagle Square.

The Rollins Court housing project that will redevelop the former St. Peter's Church site was approved by the Planning Board. Demolition and construction are anticipated in the first quarter of FY 2019.

GOAL 3. PUBLIC SAFETY WORK / CONTINUED SUPPORT OF SOCIAL SAFETY NETWORK

a) Opioid/Substance Abuse

Status: The Police Department continues to take an aggressive stance in combating the opioid and illegal drug crisis facing the City. The Department has worked closely with other stakeholders on this matter, to include other police agencies, service providers, and other branches of the criminal justice system. The Department is currently working directly with Riverbend's Choices, an initiative designed to provide

comprehensive treatment services for those suffering from substance abuse issues. The Department will continue these efforts and regularly assess personnel assignments and initiatives to most effectively address illegal drug usage in the city.

During the first six months of 2018, the Police Department made 182 arrests of individuals with illegal drug related charges. The Department is using Project Granite Shield grant funds, received last fall, to cover overtime costs in conducting illegal drug investigations in the City of Concord and surrounding towns. The Department also recently received notification that it would be awarded \$65,000 in additional grant funding through Project Granite Shield to continue these investigative efforts through June of 2019.

The Police Department continues its involvement with the Merrimack County Drug Court Initiative. As part of this initiative, the Department has a member assigned to the Drug Court Team. The Team meets weekly to discuss the progress of individuals that have been assigned to participate in the Drug Court process. The Team regularly evaluates the status of each individual in the program and makes recommendations based upon the individual's performance. The Department conducts curfew checks on each participant that resides in the City of Concord.

The Fire Department continues to participate in regular meetings with representatives from the Concord Police Department, Concord Hospital, Riverbend Community Mental Health, the Capital Area Public Health Network, and Granite United Way to assure that all stakeholders are aware of addiction recovery resources within the community.

b) Community Policing

Status: Through the first six months of 2018, the Police Department has been involved in a number of initiatives designed to further its relationship with the community. The Department has hosted several community meetings involving the New American community at "Blue and You" events. At these events, officers meet with the New American community and discuss ways to strengthen their relationship with the Department, as well as how to better understand American law enforcement. In turn, Department members learn more about their culture.

The Police Department has participated in several other programs to help promote community interaction with children and adults. The Department conducted "Lunch with a Cop" and "Police Readers" events throughout the schools in the Concord and Merrimack Valley School Districts. The Department also participated in the "Love Your Neighbor" event at Keach Park, and hosted a bicycle rodeo during which children received instruction on safe bicycle operation, as well as the proper use of safety equipment. The Department collaborated with several community agencies and businesses and was able to give away a number of bicycles and bicycle helmets to those who attended the event.

Through the first six months of 2018, the Department sponsored one Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) program. RAD is a comprehensive self-defense course for women and includes situational awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance, and progresses to the basics of hands-on defense training. The RAD system is dedicated to teaching women defensive concepts and techniques against various types of assault by utilizing easy, effective, and proven self-defense tactics. The system of realistic defense provides women with the knowledge to make an educated decision about resistance.

Due to the recent trend of mass shootings occurring in businesses and schools throughout the country, the Department has been offering active shooter training seminars. Through the first six months of 2018, the Department participated in six active shooter trainings with approximately 210 attendees.

Members of the Police Department have presented several internet safety talks in the Concord and Merrimack Valley School Districts to help educate students about the dangers of the internet and how to avoid being victimized.

The Department is committed to participating in these types of initiatives and continuing to foster the relationship between the Department and the community. All officers are encouraged to participate in community engagement activities. The success of the Police Department in providing the safest community possible is dependent upon a cooperative effort between the Department and the community as a whole.

GOAL 4. PUBLIC INFORMATION, MARKETING, AND COMMUNICATIONS

Status:

City Administration: An Economic Development Marketing Tool Kit has been developed, and the Public Information Officer position is now filled.

Fire Department: The Fire Department continues to maintain a very active presence in print and electronic media and social networks. The Department's Facebook page has 3,961 followers and its Twitter account has 1,265 followers. WKXL has a weekly feature that airs on Fridays regarding Fire Department news and activities. Topics have included the Department's participation in the Civics Academy, the annual Fire Department awards ceremony, the retirement of Deputy Chief Jon France, job openings for firefighter-paramedics and dispatchers, community relations work by the fire stations, addiction recovery resources, and a promotion ceremony honoring six officers.

General Services Department: The General Services Department continues to increase communications with the community. The Department disseminates public information via website updates, print media, press releases, the City Manager's newsletter, its monthly General Gazette newsletter, and bill stuffers. Social media is used to improve community engagement, continue branding, and encourage public awareness of services.

During the fourth quarter of FY 2018, the General Services Department promoted its Blue Bag Program, approaching Earth Day, to encourage residents to get involved in cleaning up public areas of Concord. The relevant timing of this promotion led to an increased participation in the program. Water customers were notified of annual hydrant flushing, including notifications from targeted Facebook advertising to directly reach the people located within a one mile radius of the scheduled flushing locations. The Department invited the public to attend the City's Arbor Day Celebration and promoted their Sustainable Tree Program to encourage residents to plant their own trees in celebration of Arbor Day. Road paving returned and weekly updates have been maintained in the City Manager's newsletter, in addition to daily news flash alerts and tweets issued with specific road closure information to keep the public informed. Spring leaf collection also was promoted through Facebook advertising, in addition to the traditional media outlets, and the 2018 Solid Waste brochure was mailed to residents at the start of calendar year 2018.

In May, the General Services Department marketed National Drinking Water Week, National Infrastructure Week, and National Public Works Week. During Drinking Water Week, the public was encouraged to learn more about their drinking water and the importance of protecting the community's water source. National Infrastructure Week included information on how the City has been investing in infrastructure to maintain and improve resources for the community. The Communications Coordinator wrote a second article that was published in the American Public Works Association's *Reporter* magazine. The article featured ways the City of Concord celebrates National Public Works Week, which included a #NPWW Twitter Party to have an online discussion about public works; a Public Works celebration at Memorial Field that was attended by approximately 270 guests; and a Public Works luncheon to recognize Department employees for their dedicated service to the City. Concord TV filmed a new video at the Public Works celebration that captured the community involvement, which will be used for promotion of next year's Public Works celebration.

Roller skating returned to the Everett Arena, with promotions including radio ads and a Facebook event page that reached over 27,000 people. Various outreach methods were used to send updates on the construction of the pool at Keach Park, along with an invitation to the public to attend the ribbon cutting and grand unveiling ceremony. A video of the event was filmed by Concord TV, in addition to a construction time lapse video filmed and promoted by the General Services Department. General Services had a presence at Intown Concord's Market Days Festival to engage the community about public works, which included Touch-a-Truck displays, a toilet paper toss, free giveaway items, informational brochures, the "Public Works Pup" mascot, and a Pay-As-You-Throw trash bag raffle.

As of June 30, 2018, the Department had 1,877 Facebook likes, 492 Twitter followers, 25 Google+ followers, and 138 YouTube subscribers. In addition, the Department had 8,741 total subscriptions to the Alert Center, Notify Me, and News Flash modules of the City website. Approximately 56 press releases featuring the Department have been published by the local media during this quarter.

Human Resources Department: During the fourth quarter of FY 2018, the Department posted nine new full-time, two permanent part-time, and two part-time position vacancies; as well as one temporary and three roster positions. This totaled 17 new postings combined with the 11 that were carried forward from the previous quarter.

In the fourth quarter of FY 2018, 25 job vacancies (FT, PPT, and PT) were filled, of which 11 were internal promotions and 14 were new hires. There was an average of 64 days from posting to hiring. This statistic does not include temporary hires, roster development postings, or intern postings. There were four recruitments (over 100 days) that totaled 499 days. Additionally, there were five Police Officers hired from an existing roster and 103 seasonal/temporary/intern positions filled. This has been a very busy recruiting and hiring season for the Human Resources Department.

The Human Resources Department continues to use its standard free resources (the City website, Primex, NHMA, Chamber of Commerce, and NH Community College Consortium), as well as paid sources (Union Leader, Indeed, Facebook, LinkedIn, Craig's List, and industry specific job boards) for promoting job postings. These sources typically generate an adequate response for most positions. The Department continues to look for new and affordable ways to promote our talent acquisition needs.

Information Technology: Outstanding growth of the City website has shown to be an excellent investment in communication technology. The IT staff has been working for the past 10 months with several department staff representatives, in conjunction with the City's website vendor, CivicPlus, on a redesign of the current website. Current development incorporates the newly designed City seal, a new color scheme, and has also redeveloped the leisure services sites, as well as expanded the design on the General Services pages. The new design successfully debuted on June 28, 2018, in support of the new community center informational campaign. IT has also been working with the new Public Information Officer in preparation of marketing through social media and the current structure across the departments.

Parks & Recreation: The Parks & Recreation Department's annual winter/ spring brochure was delivered to the community in early February. This brochure advertises all programs and events from March 1st to mid-June 2018. In March, the Summer Camp brochure was delivered to the community. The Summer Camp brochure advertises all regular summer camps and many new camps that will be held in the new citywide community center. In April, the Department created two seasonal brochures to advertise all the summer and fall programs the Department is coordinating. The summer/fall brochure advertises all regular summer/fall programs being held between June 1st and early October, and the new Adult Activities Guide highlights all the new adult programs to be held at the new citywide community center. The Department continues to maintain very active Facebook (over 3,700 followers) and Instagram pages. Staff was active on the City's website development team and also upgraded the Department's scheduling software to allow users of the Audi to request dates and pay online for rentals. In June 2018, the Department created several videos highlighting the new citywide community center. Department staff will continue to send out news releases and will work with the City's Public Information Officer and Concord TV for assistance with marketing needs.

Police Department: The Police Department utilizes a number of social media sites, as well as the City website, to present information about the Department to the public and to keep the public informed of events occurring in the City. The Department's website includes many pages with valuable information, including guidance on how to obtain reports and other services that the Department provides. The site also provides notification about upcoming hiring processes, drug take-back days, upcoming citizen police academies, and other events. In addition, Police Department press releases are placed on its web page.

The Police Department's Twitter page has approximately 1,645 followers, and its Facebook page has approximately 3,850 followers. Both of these venues are used to disseminate information regarding Department/City events and provide emergency information as necessary.

The Police Department also administers the Concord Regional Crimeline, which allows individuals to anonymously provide tips regarding ongoing investigations in Concord and surrounding towns. Tips can be submitted by phone, online, or by text message. During the first six months of 2018, over 102 tips were received leading to the arrest of 12 individuals.

The Police Chief participates in a weekly radio show on WKXL, where different topics are addressed based upon events occurring in the city, state, and, on occasion, the nation.

Another initiative of the Police Department is "Coffee with a Cop". This program is designed to promote interaction between the community and the Department by sharing

coffee and fostering discussion in a relaxed atmosphere. Recently, the Department held a “Coffee with a Cop” event at Starbucks on Loudon Road. Since its inception, the Department has held ten “Coffee with a Cop” events at different locations throughout the city. All of these events have been well received by the public and business owners.

GOAL 5. PARKING MASTER PLAN / IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

Status: The City embarked upon a strategic planning process in 2014 for the purpose of making the Parking Fund financially solvent, while simultaneously promoting economic development goals tied to parking, as well as improving customer service and the quality of the City’s parking facilities. The Parking Committee presented its final Strategic Plan to the City Council on November 13, 2017. The Strategic Plan included a variety of short and long-term recommendations to be implemented over the next several years. In December 2017, the City Council approved several ordinances to begin implementation of parking reforms. Ordinances included changes to parking rates, hours of enforcement, citations, and resident permit parking near the UNH Law School. All ordinances were set to take effect on July 1, 2018. On April 9, 2018, the City Council approved \$35,000 to re-program meters and install updated signage in order to implement the above-mentioned ordinance changes. Other financial components of the Strategic Plan were implemented as part of the FY 2019 budget, which was adopted on June 14, 2018.

On March 16, 2018, the City received proposals from vendors for the purchase of smart meters and future upgrade of parking kiosks. Vendor interviews were completed in May. Pending additional due diligence, an award will be made this summer, followed by a nine month demonstration period for new smart meters and kiosks so that the City may fully vet new equipment before purchasing.

Also in March, the City secured the domain name “ParkConcordNH.com” for the forthcoming independent parking website. The website will be implemented in the coming year.

On May 14, 2018, the City Council adopted Ordinance #3010, which gave the City Manager the authority to establish permit parking in certain parking garages and surface parking lots.

GOAL 6. FOSTER/ENHANCE DIALOGUE WITH LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

Status: Working with Senator Feltes, the City put forward a bill (SB 587) to amend certain State statutes concerning motor vehicle registration surcharges to support construction and maintenance of parking infrastructure. The proposal was determined inexpedient to legislate by the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

GOAL 7. ENHANCED COMMUNITY EVENT OPPORTUNITIES

Status: City Council has approved a partnership with the League of NH Craftsmen to hold an event in September 2018 on South Main Street. City Council also approved the sponsorship of the 2018 Governor’s Conference on Tourism, which was held in Concord in May. The City’s banner program continues.

This year’s successful Market Days event included a slackline event that was featured prominently in the Concord Monitor.

The Parks & Recreation Department continues to work with many organizations to offer community events. This past winter, the Department worked with the Black Ice Pond Hockey Association for its annual event. Also, the Department created a partnership with Concord Crew for a summer “Learn to Row” program for first time rowers; and worked with Red River Theatres to co-sponsor two “Movies in the Park” events for this summer.

GOAL 8. SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

Status: Form Based Code – Concord Next - In early February, key members of the Code Studio consultant team traveled to Concord for a three-day visit to explore the community, meet with key stakeholders, and conduct an initial public kick-off meeting. The purpose of the stakeholder interviews was to hear from people familiar with the city, local development, and existing regulations.

PROJECT 1. BUILDINGS AND PARKS

a) White Park Skate House

Status: Milestone Engineering and Construction was selected for this project on February 27, 2018. A preliminary estimate was prepared for the project in April. On June 11, 2018, the City Council approved Resolution #9097, which appropriates \$1.15 million to construct the project. The Mayor has formed a committee to raise half of the total project cost. On June 28, 2018, a project coordination meeting was held with City staff, Milestone, and the HL Turner Group. Per that meeting, the HL Turner Group will complete all plans and specifications for the project on or about July 13, 2018. HL Turner is providing these items at no cost to the City. Once final plans and specifications are available, Milestone will bid the project and subsequently provide a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) to the City, as well as a final project schedule and associated bonds and insurance. Following receipt of these items, the City will execute the construction contract with Milestone. Demolition of the existing Skate House will likely commence in late summer.

b) Athletic Fields

Status: The Parks & Recreation Department continues to work with leagues to review and increase the usage of its athletic fields. This spring, there will be over 230 scheduled youth and adult baseball games played on the City’s four baseball fields, an increase from last year, and an increase of almost 70 games over FY 2012, when the Department was re-organized. The Department has also created a new youth lacrosse field at Memorial Field that will be useable for weekend use by the Concord Crush Youth Lacrosse League. NH Wild, a new semi-professional baseball team, is having their inaugural season, playing their home games at Memorial Field.

c) Terrill Park:

Status: The Parks & Recreation Department continues to work with VHB, Planning and Engineering staff on the final design and permitting for the new Terrill Park. All local and State permits will be filed and permits should be reviewed and returned to the City this summer. These permits will be valid for five years, which should be ample time for the City to complete the project.

d) Penacook Branch Library

Status: Library staff will be meeting with the Penacook Village Association in May to discuss the future of the Penacook Branch Library. Staff has contacted other libraries that have recently launched new bookmobile services to obtain some usage statistics. The Library Director has begun visiting potential library spaces around the Penacook community to evaluate viability.

PROJECT 2. FUTURE CIP PROJECTS

Status: The final portion of the Manchester Street project design has begun. Construction on the Abbott Road/Sewalls Falls Road roundabout began in June 2018.

ONGOING INITIATIVE 1. OPPORTUNITY CORRIDOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**a) Former NH Employment Security Property**

Status: In October 2017, the City Council held a public hearing and approved an agreement to sell the former NH Employment Security property to Dol-Soul Properties for \$1.075 million. Dol-Soul plans to redevelop the property into a 180,000 square foot mixed use project, featuring approximately 125 market rate apartments, 5,000 square feet of commercial space, and 125 parking spaces. To support the project, the City will demolish the former Employment Security building at a cost of approximately \$300,000. The City may also provide a quantity of permit parking spaces to augment on-site parking provided by the developer. The developer's due diligence period for the project has been extended to August 31, 2018, to provide additional time to complete market studies, as well as secure construction estimates and to further study utility issues for the project.

b) Elm Grove Properties

Status: In September 2017, the Elm Grove Companies acquired four properties in Downtown Concord for redevelopment. Elm Grove plans to renovate all four properties and will add 31 new market rate apartments, combined, at 5 South State Street and 15 Pleasant Street. On December 11, 2017, the City Council granted RSA 79-E Community Tax Relief Incentives with six year terms to support renovation of the two above-mentioned properties. Building permits for the renovations were issued in March 2018. Construction is well underway and it is anticipated that both projects will be completed this summer.

c) Hotel Concord

Status: During the fall of 2017, Capital Commons, LLC, began renovating approximately 20,000 square feet of its office building located at 11 South Main Street into an independent, 38-room boutique hotel. The hotel will be located on the 3rd, 4th, and 6th floors of the building. The initial phase of the project will be completed in August 2018. The second phase of the project will be completed in early 2019. To support the project, on June 11, 2018, the City Council approved Resolution #9103, which authorized the City Manager to enter into a license agreement for certain private improvements on City property.

d) New Concord Theatre

Status: On December 27, 2017, local developer Steve Duprey, doing business as New Concord Theatre, LLC, acquired the former Concord Theatre located at 16-18 South Main Street for the sum of \$483,500. Mr. Duprey is working in partnership with the Capitol Center for the Arts (CCA). Together, they plan to undertake a \$5,457,102 renovation of the property to create a new performing arts venue. The new venue will be a second location which will be owned and operated by the CCA. This new venue will feature an auditorium with capacity to hold between 270 guests (seated) to 450 patrons (standing), and will be capable of hosting a variety of performances, including small plays, concerts, lectures, and movies. The auditorium will be equipped with retractable stadium seating for easy configuration of the space, depending upon the event. The Theatre will also have banquet capabilities for meetings, parties, weddings, and other special events. On January 24, 2018, the City's Community Development Advisory Committee approved a loan participation agreement with the Capitol Regional Development Council in the amount of \$250,000 to support the project. However, due to changes to the project's financing plan, the developers will not be using the City's Revolving Loan Fund Program. A closing on the financing package is scheduled for July 17, 2018. Construction is scheduled to begin in August and will take approximately one year to complete.

e) Former Allied Leather Tannery

Status: On May 8, 2017, the City Council approved a purchase and sales agreement to sell approximately 2.5 acres of the site to the Caleb Development Corporation for the sum of \$540,000 (a full price offer). Caleb plans to redevelop the property into a 54-unit affordable housing project. The remaining 1.5 +/- acres of the site will be retained by the City for a potential future riverfront park, currently scheduled in CIP #567 in FY 2020 for \$1.2 million, as added by the City Council during the FY 2018 budget adoption process. The project has secured all required approvals from the Planning and Zoning Boards. In November 2017, Caleb applied for certain federal tax credits to support development of the project. Their application was not funded and Caleb plans to reapply for said credits in August. Awards will be announced in October 2018. In July 2018, the City will apply for \$500,000 in CDBG funds to support this project. CDBG awards will also be announced in October.

f) Storrs Street Extension

Status: The City is awaiting further determination from the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) concerning preferred alternatives for I-93 Exits 14 and 15. The State's ultimate route will impact circulation in the area of Stickney Avenue. The City and the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) expressed concerns regarding what was deemed to be the latest iteration of the State's plan, particularly its impact on pedestrian and cyclist connectivity across the river. In June, the NHDOT project consultants revised the latest version of the plan to incorporate wider more protected bicycle paths on Loudon Road. They also addressed concerns regarding the intersection of Loudon and Ft. Eddy Roads. The NHDOT team met with TPAC to review these changes, which seemed largely acceptable to TPAC. NHDOT has still, however, not committed to the demolition of its warehouse facilities on Stickney Avenue, which is a long-standing concern of the City.

ON-GOING INITIATIVE 2. CITYWIDE MULTI-GENERATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER

Status: This project secured a temporary Certificate of Occupancy on June 1, 2018. The facility opened to the public on June 12th, and a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on June 21st. A final Certificate of Occupancy was issued on June 28, 2018. The project is now complete and is in the final process of being closed out.

ON-GOING INITIATIVE 3. CREATE AND EXPAND PARTNERSHIPS

Status: The City is partnering with the League of NH Craftsmen to hold an event on South Main Street in September 2018.

Mayor Bouley announced the kickoff of the public portion of the fundraising effort for the White Park Multi-Use Facility, with the co-chairs of this campaign being Jennifer Frizzell and Chris Brown. In addition, Tom Champagne, Councilor Champlin, Kristyn Van Ostern, Laura Simoes, and Luke Bonner have agreed to volunteer their time and effort to see this project through. The HL Turner Group has donated over \$40,000 of free labor to put the designs and planning together to this point.

Granite Center Project: On April 25, 2018, local developers Jon Chorlian and Steve Duprey, d/b/a Granite Center, LLC, confirmed that they had secured purchase and sales agreements, as well as financing commitments, to redevelop 4-6 Dixon Avenue, 8-14 Dixon Avenue, and 1 Eagle Square; and to surface two parking lots. To move forward, the developers desired to secure a variety of items from the City. These included acquisition of the City's seven-space Dixon Avenue parking lot, RSA 79-E Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentives for three of the properties, and permissions to construct certain improvements on public property. In order to accommodate deadlines associated with the developer's use of New Markets Tax Credits, a purchase and sales / development agreement, and related items required to support the project, had to be negotiated, drafted, and approved by the City Council by mid-July. Typically, these projects take a minimum of six months to complete; however, the City met this aggressive schedule and approved all related items on July 9, 2018.

The Parks and Recreation Department is once again holding a Summer Concert Series, thanks to the generous sponsorship from the Walker Lecture Fund and Coca-Cola. In total, the Department is offering 14 summer concerts. The Tuesday night Never's Band concerts are held throughout the City in many of the neighborhood parks, while the Thursday night concerts are held in Eagle Square.

ON-GOING INITIATIVE 4. CONTINUE EXPANDED NEIGHBORHOOD STREET IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Status: The FY 2018 paving project was awarded to GMI Paving and work is underway. In March 2018, the City Council approved the addition of \$1,601,622 in Senate Bill 38 and Excavation Permit lawsuit funds to the FY 2018 Paving Project, bringing the total funding for this summer's paving project to \$3,276,622. As of June 30, 2018, the contractor is approximately one-third of the way done. The entire project should be completed by the end of October.