

City of Concord

City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 12, 2021	7:00 PM	Zoom Meeting Link:
		https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8120417270
		9
		Telephone Dial: US + 1 929 205 6099
		Landline: 877 853 5257
		Webinar ID#: 812 0417 2709

COVID-19 - Public Meeting Procedures Notice

Due to the COVID-19/Corona Virus crisis, and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, City Council is authorized to meet electronically. The City of Concord will be utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04.

All members of City Council have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting by following the link below, or dialing the number below and entering the ID number at the prompt. For those who want to provide public testimony in the Public Hearing portion of the meeting, and you are connected to the Zoom website, you may click on the Raise Hand icon in the Attendees Section of Zoom to make the request. When the time is appropriate, you will be recognized so you can provide your testimony. For those calling in who want to provide public testimony, dial *9 to alert the host that you wish to speak. The host will unmute you at the appropriate time during the public hearing portion of the meeting. All participants please keep your phones and computers on mute unless speaking. Website address: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81204172709.

Telephone Dial: US: +1 929 205 6099. If dialing from a landline, you may call in toll-free at 877 853 5257. Webinar ID#: 812 0417 2709.

Members of the public can also email questions or other public testimony to concordcitycouncilmeeting@gmail.com.

Any member of the public can also call the City of Concord at 603-230-3718 or email: concordcitycouncilmeeting@gmail.com if they are unable to access the meeting and assistance connecting is needed.

Non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (d), to discuss the acquisition, sale or lease of property to be held at 6:00 p.m.

Present: 15 - Councilor Candace Bouchard, Mayor Jim Bouley, Councilor Byron Champlin, Councilor Nathan Fennessy, Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton, Councilor Meredith Hatfield, Councilor Fred Keach, Councilor Linda Kenison, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Councilor Gail Matson, Councilor Keith Nyhan, Councilor Erle Pierce, Councilor Zandra Rice Hawkins, Councilor Brent Todd, and Councilor Robert Werner

Action: At 6:00 p.m. Councilor Grady Sexton moved to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (d) to discuss the acquisition, sale or lease of property. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

Yes: 15 - Councilor Bouchard, Mayor Bouley, Councilor Champlin, Councilor Fennessy, Councilor Grady Sexton, Councilor Hatfield, Councilor Keach, Councilor Kenison, Councilor Kretovic, Councilor Matson, Councilor Nyhan, Councilor Pierce, Councilor Rice Hawkins, Councilor Todd, and Councilor Werner

Action: At 6:52 p.m. Councilor Nyhan moved to exit non-public session. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

- Yes: 15 Councilor Bouchard, Mayor Bouley, Councilor Champlin, Councilor Fennessy, Councilor Grady Sexton, Councilor Hatfield, Councilor Keach, Councilor Kenison, Councilor Kretovic, Councilor Matson, Councilor Nyhan, Councilor Pierce, Councilor Rice Hawkins, Councilor Todd, and Councilor Werner
- 1. Mayor Bouley called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
- 2. Invocation.
- 3. The Pledge of Allegiance was done.
- 4. Roll Call.

Action: In accordance with the Right-to-Know Law, Councilor Grady Sexton and Councilor Kretovic both noted that they were home with family. All other members of City Council indicated they were alone.

- Present: 15 Councilor Candace Bouchard, Mayor Jim Bouley, Councilor Byron Champlin, Councilor Nathan Fennessy, Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton, Councilor Meredith Hatfield, Councilor Fred Keach, Councilor Linda Kenison, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Councilor Gail Matson, Councilor Keith Nyhan, Councilor Erle Pierce, Councilor Zandra Rice Hawkins, Councilor Brent Todd, and Councilor Robert Werner
- 5. Approval of the Meeting Minutes.
 - Present: 15 Councilor Candace Bouchard, Mayor Jim Bouley, Councilor Byron Champlin, Councilor Nathan Fennessy, Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton, Councilor Meredith Hatfield, Councilor Fred Keach, Councilor Linda Kenison, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Councilor Gail Matson, Councilor Keith Nyhan, Councilor Erle Pierce, Councilor Zandra Rice Hawkins, Councilor Brent Todd, and Councilor Robert Werner

March 8, 2021 City Council Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: Councilor Hatfield moved approval of the March 8, 2021 meeting minutes. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

6. Agenda overview by the Mayor.

Consent Agenda Items

Action: Councilor Pierce moved approval of the Consent Agenda, excluding Item 18, as it was pulled from the Consent Agenda and moved for further discussion, at the end of the meeting. The motion was duly seconded. There being no further discussion, the motion to approve the consent agenda passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

Yes: 15 - Councilor Bouchard, Mayor Bouley, Councilor Champlin, Councilor Fennessy, Councilor Grady Sexton, Councilor Hatfield, Councilor Keach, Councilor Kenison, Councilor Kretovic, Councilor Matson, Councilor Nyhan, Councilor Pierce, Councilor Rice Hawkins, Councilor Todd, and Councilor Werner

Referral to the Regional Utility Utilization Committee

7. Communication from Amoskeag Beverages LLC requesting consideration be given to allowing their facilities, including those within their plans for expansion, to connect into the City of Concord municipal water system for fire suppression purposes.

Action: This item was referred to the Regional Utility Utilization Committee.

Items Tabled for May 10, 2021 Public Hearings

8. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code, Chapter 17, Vehicles and Traffic, Article 17-4, Operation of Motor Vehicles, Section 17-4-1(a), Stop Required Before Entering a Through Street, Schedule V and Schedule Va, converting the intersection of Bog Road, Carter Hill Road, Horse Hill Road and River Road from a 2-way stop to a 4-way stop; together with report from the Transportation Engineer. (Public testimony received.) (Additional public testimony received.)

Action: Ordinance moved to set for a public hearing.

9. Discretionary Preservation Easement renewal request, per RSA 79-D, for property located at 84 Stickney Hill Road owned by the Pierce Lorraine V Revocable Trust.

Action: Public hearing report moved to set for a public hearing.

10. Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title I, General Code; Chapter 1, Government Organization, Article 1-5, Fees, Fines, and Penalties; together with

non-ordinance fees and a report from the Deputy City Manager - Finance.

Action: Ordinance moved to set for a public hearing.

 Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title I, General Code; Chapter 9, Water, Article 9-4 Water and Sewer Investment Fee, Section 9-4-4 Special Water Investment Fee Calculation and Section 9-4-5 Special Sewer Investment Fee Calculation; together with report from the Deputy City Manager for Development.

Action: Ordinance moved to set for a public hearing.

 Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinance, Title IV, Zoning Code; Chapter 28, Zoning Ordinance; Article 28-2, Zoning Districts and Allowable Uses; Section 28-2-3, The Zoning Map; together with report from the City Planner. (Revised ordinance, revised report and revised map submitted.)

Action: Ordinance moved to set for a public hearing.

 Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, Title V, Administrative Code, Chapter 30, Administrative Code, Article 30-2, Municipal Departments; together with report from the Deputy City Manager for Development.

Action: Ordinance moved to set for a public hearing.

14. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$360,000 for the purpose of supplementing the construction phase of the North Pembroke Road Bridge Replacement Project (CIP #478), and accepting \$288,000 in New Hampshire State Bridge Aid Program funds and \$65,520 in donations from the Town of Pembroke, NH as the local agency match, and appropriating \$6,480 for this project; together with report from the City Engineer.

Action: Resolution moved to set for a public hearing.

From the City Manager

Consent Reports

15. Diminimus gifts and donations report from the Library Director requesting authorization to accept monetary gifts totaling \$180.42, as provided for under the pre-authorization granted by City Council.

Action: Consent report approved.

16. City Council 2020-2021 Quarterly Priorities Report from the City Manager.

Action: Consent report approved.

 Report from the Deputy City Manager for Development recommending the City Manager be authorized to apply for the State of New Hampshire's Economic Revitalization Zone (ERZ) designation for a 55 acre vacant parcel at 15 Integra Drive.

Action: Consent report approved.

- 18. Report from the Deputy City Manager for Development recommending the City Manager be authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Liberty Utilities and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance toward the preservation of the former Gas Holder Building. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Fennessy.)
- 19. Report from Deputy City Manager Finance recommending the FY22 Budget Schedule and Guidelines as recommended but the Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee.

Action: Consent report approved.

20. February 28, 2021 Fiscal Year to Date Financial Statements report from the Deputy City Manager - Finance.

Action: Consent report approved.

21. Fiscal Year 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Award notification from the Deputy City Manager-Finance and the Assistant Finance Director.

Action: Consent report approved.

22. Quarterly Current Use Change Tax Report from Director of Real Estate Assessments.

Action: Consent report approved.

23. Report from the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee recommending acceptance of a sidewalk construction priority list.

Action: Consent report approved.

Consent Resolutions

24. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Concord School District concerning acquisition of real estate located at 111 1/2 Warren Street, Concord; together with report from the City Manager. Action: Consent resolution approved.

Appointments

25. Mayor Bouley's proposed appointments to an Ad-Hoc Beaver Meadow Gold Course Clubhouse Committee: Christopher Mulleavey, Mark Coen, Greg Fournier, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic and Barbara Jobin.

Action: Appointments approved.

26. Mayor Bouley's proposed re-appointments to the Airport Advisory Committee: Richard Bartle and James MacKay.

Action: Appointment approved.

27. Mayor Bouley's proposed re-appointments to the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC): Jeff Bart, Michael Gfroerer and Janet Sprague.

Action: Appointment approved.

End of Consent Agenda

Public Hearings

28A. Resolution approving a Purchase and Sales Agreement for acquisition of real estate located at 10-12 Higgins Place; together with report from the Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, and Special Projects. Action: Council approved combining Items 28A and 28B, for discussion purposes, as they covered the same topic.

City Manager Aspell stated that David A. Kelso, the owner of real estate located at 10-12 Higgins Place, offered to sell his 0.31+/- acre parcel of land to the City, for the assessed value of \$59,000. He noted that the property was located within the City's "Opportunity Corridor," abutting other City owned property, and acquisition of the parcel would assist the City in achieving its long-term redevelopment goals in that area.

It was noted that the agreement had been executed by the Seller and the City Manager, and was contingent upon City Council's approval and appropriation of funds. The agreement included the City's normal and customary terms for these transactions. Closing was scheduled to occur on or before June 30, 2021, and was subject to the results of the City's title and environmental due diligence. City Manager Aspell stated that the total budget for the land transaction would be \$75,000; noting that the price difference was associated with environmental due diligence costs. He stated that City Administration recommended that the appropriation be financed by the Economic Development Reserve (EDR) Fund.

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

28B. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$75,000 to support the acquisition of real estate located at 10-12 Higgins Place (CIP #635) and authorizing the use of \$75,000 in Economic Development Reserve funds for this purpose; together with report from the Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, and Special Projects.

Action: Public testimony taken with item 28A.

28C. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$130,000 to offset personnel costs for the Police Department to assign an officer to the Drug Task Force and accepting the sum of \$130,000 from the State of New Hampshire Department of Justice -Attorney General's Drug Task Force for this purpose; together with report from the Deputy Police Chief. Action: City Manager Aspell stated that over the last year, the Police Department and Command Staff, from the NH Attorney General's Drug Task Force engaged in discussions regarding the assignment of Concord Police Department staff to the Drug Task Force. He noted that the arrangement was determined to be in the best interest of both the Police Department and Drug Task Force, as it served as a force multiplier in combating illegal drug activity in the community and also allowed for extensive investigative resources throughout NH.

City Manager Aspell noted that working collaboratively with the Drug Task Force was one of the most efficient ways of addressing illegal drug activity, in the City. He added that, through the Attorney General's Office, beginning in July of 2020, a grant award in the amount of \$60,000 was provided to offset personnel costs of the Police Department assigning a member to the Drug Task Force, through June of 2021. Additional funding of \$130,000, if approved, would allow the Police Department to continue the assignment of a member to the Drug Task Force. The requested funding would cover the time frame of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

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

Public Hearing Action

Action: Matt Walsh, Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services & Special Projects, summarized several items that Council would vote on, and offered follow up comments to previous public hearing feedback. He noted that the first item was to authorize a Development Agreement with Interchange Development L.L.C. concerning a public- private partnership relative to CIP #30 Hoit Road / Whitney Road Intersection Improvements, to support development of a commercial / industrial real estate project to be built on 43+/- acres on Whitney Road. He added that in relation to the project, authorization to accept a Corporate Guaranty from Demoulas Super Markets, Inc. would guarantee the development of a Market Basket grocery store at that site within two years. Mr. Walsh added that Council would vote on the proposed expansion of the Penacook Village Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District, including amending the Development Program and Finance Plan, appropriating the sum of \$4,780,000, in addition to accepting \$449,250 from the development in relation to the Interchange Development L.L.C project.

Action: Mr. Walsh also addressed several comments and questions raised in the public hearings and offered Council additional information. He stated that the Merrimack Valley School District sent a letter, requesting to engage in discussions with the City to release a portion of the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District's captured assessed value and revenue associated with the Interchange Development project. He pointed out that, in accordance with RSA 162-K:9. III., the City may, but has no obligation to, enter into any type of agreement with any School District or Merrimack County, regarding the captured revenues by the TIF District. He noted that the City had been involved with TIF Districts for four decades, and never entered into any agreements with any School District or Merrimack County regarding how revenue was captured or used. He expressed his concerns about setting a precedent and recommended the City maintain the established TIF District processes and models that have been ongoing. Mr. Walsh did note that the provisions existed in the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District's Development Program and Financing Plan to allow the City to entertain entering into an agreement, with the Merrimack Valley School District. He referenced that a mechanism to do so was in Section 5.6 of that document, and added that Section 6.8 further explained why revenue was captured in the TIF District.

As a follow up to various questions and concerns, on whether the agreement was beneficial to the City, Mr. Walsh stated that in the City Administrations opinion, it was. He highlighted the improved safety functions and economic development opportunities provided by the intersection improvements, and noted that job creation, permit and tax revenues for the City, along with increased livability, for residents, were all added benefits.

Mr. Walsh stated that City staff did look into public suggestions on restructuring how the TIF could be put together, but found alterations were not economically viable. He noted that when not all new tax revenues were captured, it limited the amount of investments that could be made, as the TIF could only support so much debt service. He noted that altering the debt payoff and TIF term would charge the community more overtime and was not consistent with current City financial practices or debt strategies. He noted that if City General Funds were used to pay for the proposed project, the City's overall tax rate would increase and would directly impact non-Merrimack Valley School District residents.

Mr. Walsh also spoke to assertions raised during the public hearing about the riverfront park at Penacook Landing. He stated that TIF District funds have been used to develop parks, and he referenced Eagle Square and several other City

projects. He noted that the park's estimated cost was budgeted in the CIP, but was based on a preliminary concept, and would ultimately be decided by input from the community and Council.

Councilor Hatfield commended Mr. Walsh on his thorough presentation, and asked what the City's response was to the Merrimack Valley School District's written letter, and if a meeting was held. Mr. Walsh stated that a series of email communications were had with the Superintendent and some members of the School Board about the ongoing plans and past practices. He acknowledged that a drafted response would be sent out in response to any Council action taken.

Councilor Hatfield asked for clarification on whether the Merrimack Valley School District's request was received before or after the previously scheduled public hearings. Mr. Walsh stated that the letter was dated March 5th and noted its inclusion with other Council materials.

Councilor Hatfield also asked if another way around this would be for someone else to take on the debt so the City didn't have to finance the entire project. Mr. Walsh noted that the difference between the overall project cost and TIF fund amounts would likely come from impact fees and contractor contributions. He confirmed that without the TIF, yes, someone else, or some other form of public financing, would be needed, unless the General Fund picked up the cost. As a follow up, Councilor Hatfield asked if additional funds could be contributed from the developer. Mr. Walsh stated, yes, the developer could be asked for more money, but noted that they may not have the funds available to provide in that context.

Councilor Pierce thanked Mr. Walsh for his time and attention to answering all his questions and for looking into alternate funding sources. He asked Mr. Walsh to clarify if the longer the TIF payoff took the longer it would take to realize the full benefit of the TIF. Mr. Walsh confirmed and noted that by delaying the construction debt, it would delay any further developments in the TIF District and would deprive residents in those areas from receiving the tax revenue benefits.

Councilor Pierce also thanked Mr. Walsh for speaking to the current conditions of the intersection. He noted that regardless of what happens with Interchange Development, the intersection needs safety improvements.

Councilor Fennessy asked Mr. Walsh to clarify that Council's vote would only be to the extent of the TIF District for the area that the park is located and not taking action to appropriate funds toward its development. Mr. Walsh confirmed, but noted that the park was already in the TIF District, and that the request is to expand the geography of it, to include Exit 17, while updating the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District's Development Program and Financing Plan for future development and expenditures.

29. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Development Agreement with Interchange Development L.L.C., concerning CIP #30 Hoit Road / Whitney Road Intersection Improvement Project; together with report from the Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, and Special Projects. (March public hearing with final action at the April 12, 2021 City Council meeting in accordance with RSA 162-K.)

Action: Councilor Todd moved approval. The motion was duly seconded and passed with a unanimous roll call vote. Councilor Bouchard experienced brief computer audio difficulty during her vote, but her thumbs up gesture was accepted by Council when she confirmed it was done to signify a yes vote.

Yes: 14 - Mayor Bouley, Councilor Champlin, Councilor Fennessy, Councilor Grady Sexton, Councilor Hatfield, Councilor Keach, Councilor Kenison, Councilor Kretovic, Councilor Matson, Councilor Nyhan, Councilor Pierce, Councilor Rice Hawkins, Councilor Todd, and Councilor Werner

Abstain: 1 - Councilor Bouchard

30. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a corporate guaranty from Demoulas Super Markets, Inc. concerning construction of a grocery store at property located on Whitney Road; together with report from the Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, and Special Projects. (March public hearing with final action at the April 12, 2021 City Council meeting in accordance with RSA 162-K.)

Action: Councilor Fennessy moved approval. The motion was duly seconded and passed with a roll call vote, excluding Councilor Bouchard due to technical difficulties.

Abstain: 1 - Councilor Bouchard

31. Resolution adopting an amended and restated Development Program and Finance Plan for the Penacook Village Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District; together with report from the Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, and Special Projects. (March public hearing with final action at the April 12, 2021 City Council meeting in accordance with RSA 162-K.) (Supplemental report submitted.)

Action: Councilor Fennessy moved approval. The motion was duly seconded and passed with a unanimous roll call vote. Councilor Bouchard gave a thumbs up gesture and was accepted by Council when she confirmed it was done to signify a yes vote.

- Yes: 15 Councilor Bouchard, Mayor Bouley, Councilor Champlin, Councilor Fennessy, Councilor Grady Sexton, Councilor Hatfield, Councilor Keach, Councilor Kenison, Councilor Kretovic, Councilor Matson, Councilor Nyhan, Councilor Pierce, Councilor Rice Hawkins, Councilor Todd, and Councilor Werner
- 32. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$4,780,000 for the Hoit Road / Whitney Road Intersection Improvement project (CIP #30), authorizing the issuance of Penacook Village TIF District supported bonds and notes in the sum of \$4,240,000 for this purpose, authorizing the use of \$90,750 in impact fees for this purpose, accepting \$449,250 in donations for this purpose, transferring \$193,456 in expenses from the General Capital Projects fund to the Penacook Village TIF District Capital fund for this purpose, rescinding the appropriation of \$456,000 for the Hoit Road / Whitney Road Intersection Improvement project (CIP #30), and de-authorizing the issuance of general fund supported bonds and notes in the sum of \$456,000; together with report from the Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services & Special Projects. (March public hearing with final action at the April 12, 2021 City Council meeting in accordance with RSA 162-K.) (Public testimony submitted.) (Additional public testimony received.) (Revised resolution submitted)

Action: Councilor Champlin moved approval on the revised resolution presented. The motion was duly seconded and passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

33. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Maintenance Agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation concerning certain infrastructure improvements associated with CIP #30 Hoit Road / Whitney Road Intersection Improvement Project located within the U.S. Route 4 Rights-of-Way; together with report from the Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, and Special Projects. (March public hearing with final action at the April 12, 2021 City Council meeting in accordance with RSA 162-K.)

Action: Councilor Bouchard moved approval. The motion was duly seconded and passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

Councilor Kretovic noted that Council received a letter from Mr. Baker regarding bicycle access and multimodal access at the intersection, and asked for confirmation that the new intersection design would accommodate. Deputy City Manager - Development Carlos Baia confirmed.

Councilor Kretovic emphasized that the forward planning and development of this area signifies progress towards the City's goal of connecting the area with the Merrimack Valley Greenway Trail.

Councilor Hatfield asked to clarify if the vehicle speed limits would be lowered once the new intersection design was implemented. Deputy City Manager -Development Baia confirmed.

- Yes: 15 Councilor Bouchard, Mayor Bouley, Councilor Champlin, Councilor Fennessy, Councilor Grady Sexton, Councilor Hatfield, Councilor Keach, Councilor Kenison, Councilor Kretovic, Councilor Matson, Councilor Nyhan, Councilor Pierce, Councilor Rice Hawkins, Councilor Todd, and Councilor Werner
- Resolution authorizing the Annual Appraisal of Real Estate at Market Value per RSA 75:8-b; together with report from the Director of Real Estate Assessments.
 (Public hearings to be held in February and March with action taken in April.)

Action: Councilor Nyhan moved approval. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

35. Resolution approving a Purchase and Sales Agreement for acquisition of real estate located at 10-12 Higgins Place; together with report from the Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, and Special Projects.

Action: Councilor Bouchard moved approval. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

- Yes: 15 Councilor Bouchard, Mayor Bouley, Councilor Champlin, Councilor Fennessy, Councilor Grady Sexton, Councilor Hatfield, Councilor Keach, Councilor Kenison, Councilor Kretovic, Councilor Matson, Councilor Nyhan, Councilor Pierce, Councilor Rice Hawkins, Councilor Todd, and Councilor Werner
- 36. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$75,000 to support the acquisition of real estate located at 10-12 Higgins Place (CIP #635) and authorizing the use of \$75,000 in Economic Development Reserve funds for this purpose; together with report from the Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, and Special Projects.

Action: Councilor Champlin moved approval. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

- Yes: 15 Councilor Bouchard, Mayor Bouley, Councilor Champlin, Councilor Fennessy, Councilor Grady Sexton, Councilor Hatfield, Councilor Keach, Councilor Kenison, Councilor Kretovic, Councilor Matson, Councilor Nyhan, Councilor Pierce, Councilor Rice Hawkins, Councilor Todd, and Councilor Werner
- 37. Resolution appropriating the sum of \$130,000 to offset personnel costs for the Police Department to assign an officer to the Drug Task Force and accepting the sum of \$130,000 from the State of New Hampshire Department of Justice -Attorney General's Drug Task Force for this purpose; together with report from the Deputy Police Chief.

Action: Councilor Kenison moved approval. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

Reports

New Business

Mayor Bouley motioned to send a referral to the Community Development Department, to evaluate zoning ordinance amendments, relative to the institutional zoning in Concord, in the vicinity of Penacook Street and Rumford Street.

Action: Councilor Kretovic moved approval. The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

Mayor Bouley thanked Council for their consideration for further evaluation.

- Yes: 14 Councilor Bouchard, Mayor Bouley, Councilor Champlin, Councilor Grady Sexton, Councilor Hatfield, Councilor Keach, Councilor Kenison, Councilor Kretovic, Councilor Matson, Councilor Nyhan, Councilor Pierce, Councilor Rice Hawkins, Councilor Todd, and Councilor Werner
- **No:** 1 Councilor Fennessy
- 38. Report from the City Manager; together with request from Intown Concord for disbursement of FY 2021 appropriated funds.

Action: City Manager Aspell noted that Jessica Martin, Executive Director of Intown Concord, submitted a request, for funds in the amount of \$30,000, which were appropriated in the approved FY 2021 budget. He noted that Council wanted to hold onto the funds until it was determined how they would be first allocated.

Councilor Nyhan asked for clarification on what the requested funds would be used for since the budgeted activities did not occur in the fiscal year. Ms. Martin noted that her organization ran on a calendar year and the requested funds were retroactive. She noted that the funds were for the large community events held in the Downtown area. Market Days was one of the larger events mentioned. She also noted that some funds were allocated to their facade program.

City Manager Aspell clarified that City funds would continue to be appropriated per the City's calendar. He noted that in the City's 2021 fiscal year, the Market Days event did not occur, nor did the Midnight Merriment or Halloween Howl events. Ms. Martin stated that in lieu of hosting the referenced events in 2020, they held a month-long Market Month event along with several others detailed in her 2021 Grant Report. Councilor Pierce asked for clarification on the timing of the requested event funds. He stated that his goal would be to put some of the requested money toward the Parking Fund, to offset lost parking revenue, resulting from parking spaces being provided to Downtown restaurants for outdoor dining.

Councilor Hatfield asked for information on the overall annual budget for Intown Concord. She also asked for clarification on other funding sources the organization received, other than the referenced City grant. Ms. Martin stated that her annual budget was \$221,000 and other sources of revenue were from Downtown Business and Corporate supporters who paid annual dues. She noted that each event also received various sponsorships that offset expenses.

Councilor Hatfield asked what events would be tabled, between April and June, if the City didn't make the requested disbursement during this fiscal year. Ms. Martin responded that the \$30,000 was in her budget and they would have a hardship without it.

Mayor Bouley asked to clarify if the \$30,000 being requested was for events taking place in the City's June budget. Ms. Martin stated yes.

Councilor Nyhan asked again to clarify that if the 2020 funding being requested was for events that were cancelled in 2020, where was the money going. He also asked if the funds went toward salaries. Ms Martin stated that there was a report provided to the City that detailed the 2020 events that Intown did have and that City money only covered events.

Councilor Kretovic helped clarify that Intown's grant funding requests were typically received in March, and were for police details and other related expenses incurred by their organization. She noted that due to COVID-19, since the events initially approved last year were not held, it appeared that the supplemental report submitted showed alternative events that were held instead. Councilor Kretovic also clarified that it appeared that the funding request was submitted, for event expenses that were run during the pandemic. She also asked to clarify if additional funding was being requested for the upcoming Market Days event in August. Ms. Martin confirmed.

Councilor Champlin thanked Councilor Kretovic for assisting in clarifying things. He noted that he believed the grant offered to Intown Concord acted as a stimulus for Downtown businesses, to generate foot traffic and economic activity. He acknowledged and listed several modified events which were held in the City's 2021 Fiscal Year. He noted that it was possible that he and some of his colleagues felt there was a quid pro quo relationship between the funding and events approved. He asked if it would be fair to consider prorating the funds to be more in line with the actual expenses of the events held, as some were on a smaller scale than the larger ones previously budgeted for. Ms. Martin agreed and noted that she had considered having the City exclude the police detail expenses from the grant.

Councilor Rice Hawkins asked if there had been any overall changes made to the Intown budget, due to fluctuations with COVID and budgeted income. Ms. Martin noted that her organization was eligible for PPP, so there were no significant changes to report.

Councilor Hatfield asked to clarify if the incurred City fees of \$12,000, as shown in the grant request, was the amount Intown was considering taking out of the fund request. Ms. Martin confirmed.

Councilor Kretovic asked Ms. Martin to clarify if the PPP loan also covered salary replacement and business costs and not event costs. Ms. Martin confirmed.

Councilor Nyhan motioned to amend the appropriation and release only \$20,000 of the requested funds to cover Intown's event costs incurred. Councilor Hatfield seconded the motion.

Councilor Hatfield thanked Ms. Martin and her organization for their work done during COVID. She noted that since the City's percentage was only a small part of Intown's budget, it emphasized the local community support for the organization, which is why she supported the motion. She thanked Councilor Nyhan for making the motion.

Councilor Champlin also thanked Councilor Nyhan for making the motion and agreed that it was an equitable response to the request from Intown Concord. He confirmed he would be voting in favor of it.

Councilor Pierce motioned to appropriate \$5,000 of the remaining \$10,000, to replenish the City's Parking Fund, for expanded Downtown's restaurant outdoor seating during COVID.

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

Mayor Bouley asked if City Manager Aspell had any comments, to which he responded that, given the condition of the fund, it couldn't hurt.

Councilor Fennessy suggested making the amendment to appropriate the full \$10,000 instead of the \$5,000.

Councilor Pierce supported the friendly amendment. Councilor Kenison also confirmed her support.

Councilor Nyhan asked for City Manager Aspell to comment on the impact of \$10,000 relative to the projected lost revenue to the Parking Fund from those lost parking spots. City Manager Aspell noted that he didn't have a solid figure, but thought it was a significant amount that the parking fund forgoes in order to have Downtown events in Concord. He noted that prior Council discussions determined that the loss of parking revenue was worth the benefits of hosting events.

As a follow up, Councilor Nyhan asked to clarify that if the annual budget and pro forma's projected revenues and losses over events each year included the lost parking, would the \$10,000 be better spent elsewhere. He noted that perhaps the money would be better spent, to help businesses improve their outdoor dining situations, thereby being more of an economic stimulant than just on parking.

Councilor Champlin noted his appreciation for Councilor Pierce's concerns over the parking fund. He suggested that, by surrendering the parking spaces during the COVID pandemic, it probably contributed to filling the other parking space, more than denied revenue to the City. He noted that surrendering those parking spaces for outdoor dining actually attracted more people to Concord, increasing Downtown traffic and parking. He supported Councilor Nyhan's thoughts and respectfully suggested other uses to put the \$10,000 towards, including making improvements to the safety and attractiveness of the designated outdoor dining spaces for the coming summer.

Mayor Bouley commended the City for cooperating and being flexible with local restaurants to use the parking spaces and sidewalks, but expressed his concerns over the simple barricades being used. He noted that saw horses are nice and visible, but they do not provide safety to diners. He stated that it would only take

one distracted driver to create a very bad situation, and could cause an insurance liability issue for the City. He suggested appropriating the funds toward City Administration finding an alternative safety barrier option for outdoor dining areas, instead of putting it in the parking fund. He did recognize the need of the parking fund, and agreed that Councilor Pierce was right, but stated that the greater need was for the safety of diners Downtown. He suggested maybe setting up a grant program or a grant match program, but supported the flexibility of City Administration using those funds.

Councilor Fennessy stated that in his perspective, the \$10,000 would be more of a recognition, of the contribution being made in the summer, by providing those parking spaces to businesses Downtown, while not charging the regular fee. He noted that this appropriation would be a way to recognize reimbursement for the contribution of the parking spaces. He acknowledged the Mayor's concerns for safety, but noted that last summer went smoothly, and he had serious concerns over setting up jersey barriers, all over the Downtown area, and the effects they would have on Main Street's aesthetics.

Councilor Keach noted that safety is his biggest concern, and noted that regarding aesthetics, there could be some creative solutions to make it look better. He reiterated that outdoor dining is important, and noted that it might even continue after the pandemic.

Councilor Kenison asked for clarification on future plans, specifically if the City was anticipating giving up the parking spaces post COVID, permanently, for outdoor dining. She noted that she thought it was a temporary solution to help during COVID. She stated that although expensive, build outs could be done to enhance the outdoor dining areas long term.

Mayor Bouley commented that Councilor Kenison raised an important point for future discussion, to determine the wants and needs moving forward.

Councilor Kretovic thanked the Mayor for mentioning the jersey barriers as she was aware of how Nashua was using them. She noted that this could be a great idea for a place making grant, and an opportunity to match funds, to do something cool in the Downtown area. She strongly suggested that everyone look at Nashua's progress, because it could add vibrancy and uniqueness in Concord.

Councilor Todd thanked Councilor Pierce for starting this discussion, his motion and the sentiment behind it. He noted that he did want to first see the full calculations done up, clearly showing the lost revenue, before putting any money into the parking fund. He suggested that, while he was not opposed to putting money into the parking fund, Council's discussions brought up other needs that were more prominent. He stated that safety is paramount and supported the funds being allocated toward that instead.

Councilor Pierce noted that there had been some great discussion, but noted that at the risk of vote, he felt the group consensus was to look into things further. He withdrew his motion and Councilor Kenison and Councilor Fennessy both withdrew their seconded responses.

Mayor Bouley motioned to have City Administration look into alternative safety methods of protecting outdoor diners, and report findings back to Council for further discussion.

Action: Councilor Pierce moved approval. The motion was duly seconded and passed with a roll call vote.

Councilor Fennessy noted that a prior report from Finance showed that the status of the Parking Fund was approximately \$500,000 behind. He suggested that Council look into efforts to help fix that issue.

- Yes: 12 Councilor Bouchard, Mayor Bouley, Councilor Champlin, Councilor Grady Sexton, Councilor Hatfield, Councilor Kenison, Councilor Kretovic, Councilor Matson, Councilor Nyhan, Councilor Rice Hawkins, Councilor Todd, and Councilor Werner
- **No:** 3 Councilor Fennessy, Councilor Keach, and Councilor Pierce

Unfinished Business

Comments, Requests by Mayor, City Councilors

Action: Councilor Bouchard thanked the Concord Fire Department for responding to a major house fire in her neighborhood on Saturday night. She stated that the family got out safely and raved about the excellence of the Concord firefighters and EMT's. She extended sincere appreciation received from the family and the neighborhood for the tremendous professional response to the fire.

Councilor Todd thanked Matt Walsh, Carlos Baia, Heather Shank and other City staff for their work on the newly approved Exit 17 plan for improvements on Whitney Road. He acknowledged that it was a lot of work, and is a huge project, noting that it would be an important asset to the Penacook community and Concord as a whole. He noted that it's great having an A-Team working for Concord. He also thanked the developers, Laurie and David Rauseo, for their thoughtfulness in planning the development, and their consistent and extensive engagement with the community throughout the process.

Comments, Requests by the City Manager

Consideration of Items pulled from the Consent Agenda

18. Report from the Deputy City Manager for Development recommending the City Manager be authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Liberty Utilities and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance toward the preservation of the former Gas Holder Building. (Pulled from consent by Councilor Fennessy.)

Action: Mayor Bouley stated that Councilor Champlin used rule 6A, to which Councilor Champlin recused himself.

Councilor Fennessy asked Deputy City Manager - Development Baia to clarify whether there had been any discussion with the other parties on the Memorandum of Understanding, with respect to the level of involvement being requested by the City, and the nature of it.

Deputy City Manager - Development Baia stated that progress was being made by Liberty Utilities and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance. He recalled that in January, Council accepted a report from their consultant, and one of the first recommendations was to work toward a Memorandum of Understanding. It was noted that City staff have been actively working on this project and have a considerable amount of time invested, to ensure that enough information was compiled. He noted that staff have been productive and haven't reached a point of being overburdened with requests yet, and noted that good discussions have taken place so far. He stated that the proposed staff time recommended is something that could be managed effectively.

Councilor Fennessy also asked Deputy City Manager - Development Baia what the expectation would be moving forward, regarding the contribution of City staff, and if the City had the bandwidth to maintain the requested level of involvement.

Deputy City Manager - Development Baia stated that, currently, Liberty Utilities and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance were working on a Phase I agreement. He noted that City staff time was minimal in this phase and required only weekly meeting set ups. He added that he did have a second weekly meeting with the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, to debrief and ensure all issues were understood. It was noted that the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance was doing the bulk of the work in Phase I because they had a donor contributing up to \$500,000. Liberty Utilities agreed to match that donation up to a point, to ensure the stabilization of the building. Deputy City Manager Baia stated that City staff time was manageable in Phase I, but would be reconsidered in Phase II, as discussions evolve and time requests are defined.

Councilor Fennessy asked who would make the determination, of providing staff time, expertise, and involvement under the Memorandum of Understanding. Would it be sent for Council to make the determination or would the City Manager exercise discretion as needed?

City Manager Aspell stated that as long as City staff weren't overburdened with responsibilities, he would use his discretion. He noted that if it became too much or interfered with other important City initiatives, he would bring it to Council to confirm priorities, and or request additional resources.

Councilor Fennessy asked the City Solicitor if an analysis had been done, and to what extent possible could Liberty Utilities limit the potential exposure of on site contamination for future property owners. He also asked what potential exposure liability could the City have if involved in the Chain of Title.

City Solicitor Kennedy stated that an analysis was conducted and it was determined that City Administration was not considering involvement with the Chain of Title.

Councilor Kretovic moved approval. The motion was duly seconded and passed with a roll call vote. Councilor Champlin recused himself during the vote with rule

6A and Councilor Keach was not present during the vote.

Councilor Kretovic noted that since attending numerous Committee meetings, Liberty Utilities became more approachable and understanding to the significance of saving such a building for the community. She applauded Liberty Utilities for stepping up and congratulated City staff for having the wherewithal to see that this is what the community wanted.

Councilor Fennessy said that he supported the motion from Councilor Kretovic, but emphasized the importance of remaining vigilant during the process, to ensure that Liberty Utilities meets their commitment and obligations in the future, beyond Phase I. He reiterated the importance of the City not taking on any of the responsibilities associated with the contamination or pollution done previously.

Councilor Hatfiled acknowledged the important points raised by Councilor Fennessy. She also thanked Councilor Kretovic and the Committee for getting things to this point and encouraged them to keep their progress and momentum going.

Councilor Todd gave a shout out to the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance for their time and expertise in making things happen.

Action: . The motion was duly seconded and passed by the following vote:

Yes: 13 - Councilor Bouchard, Mayor Bouley, Councilor Fennessy, Councilor Grady Sexton, Councilor Hatfield, Councilor Kenison, Councilor Kretovic, Councilor Matson, Councilor Nyhan, Councilor Pierce, Councilor Rice Hawkins, Councilor Todd, and Councilor Werner

Abstain: 1 - Councilor Keach

Recused: 1 - Councilor Champlin

Consideration of Suspense Items

Action: Councilor Todd moved approval to take up discussions on Suspense Items 1 through 4. The motion was duly seconded and passed with a roll call vote. Councilor Keach was not present for this vote.

Abstain: 1 - Councilor Keach

Sus1 Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for a grant for up to \$8,425 with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT), Bureau of Aeronautics, for the purpose of updating the storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) at the Concord Municipal Airport; together with report from the Associate City Engineer.

Action: Councilor Kenison moved approval. The motion was duly seconded and passed with a roll call vote. Councilor Keach was not present for this vote.

Yes: 14 - Councilor Bouchard, Mayor Bouley, Councilor Champlin, Councilor Fennessy, Councilor Grady Sexton, Councilor Hatfield, Councilor Kenison, Councilor Kretovic, Councilor Matson, Councilor Nyhan, Councilor Pierce, Councilor Rice Hawkins, Councilor Todd, and Councilor Werner

Abstain: 1 - Councilor Keach

Item tabled for a May 10, 2021 Public Hearing

Sus2 Resolution appropriating the sum of \$13,000 for operations and maintenance of the Concord Municipal Airport and accepting the sum of \$13,000 in Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSA) funding as administered by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation Bureau of Aeronautics for this purpose; together with report from the Deputy City Manager Development.

Action: Councilor Matson moved approval to table this resolution for a public hearing on May 10, 2021. The motion was duly seconded and passed with a roll call vote. Councilor Keach was not present during this vote.

The Resolution was moved to set for a public hearing.

Abstain: 1 - Councilor Keach

Sus3 Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the John J. Flatley Company concerning the sale and redevelopment of City owned real estate located at #32-34 South Main Street and #33 South State Street known as the former New Hampshire Employment Security property; together with a report from the Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, and Special Projects.

Action: Councilor Bouchard moved approval to table this resolution for a public hearing on May 10, 2021. The motion was duly seconded and passed with a roll call vote. Councilor Keach was not present during this vote.

The Resolution was moved to set for a public hearing.

Yes: 14 - Councilor Bouchard, Mayor Bouley, Councilor Champlin, Councilor Fennessy, Councilor Grady Sexton, Councilor Hatfield, Councilor Kenison, Councilor Kretovic, Councilor Matson, Councilor Nyhan, Councilor Pierce, Councilor Rice Hawkins, Councilor Todd, and Councilor Werner

Abstain: 1 - Councilor Keach

Sus4 Resolution appropriating the sum of \$372,500 for hazardous building materials abatement at the former New Hampshire Employment Security property located 32-34 South Main Street (CIP #578), authorizing the City Manager to apply for and accept the sum of \$172,500 from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Brownfields Program, and authorizing the use of \$200,000 in Economic Development Reserve funds for this purpose; together with a report from the Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, and Special Projects.

Action: Councilor Bouchard moved approval to table this resolution for a public hearing on May 10, 2021. The motion was duly seconded and passed with a roll call vote. Councilor Keach was not present during this vote.

The Resolution was moved to set for a public hearing.

Abstain: 1 - Councilor Keach

Councilor Meredith Hatfield notified City Council that she was resigning as the Ward Four City Councilor due to relocation, out of the City of Concord. She thanked everyone for their kindness, and noted her appreciation for the honor and privilege to serve Ward 4.

Council extended their well wishes and appreciation for serving with her.

Mayor Bouley noted that Section 16 (a) of the City Charter stated that if the office of Ward Councilor became vacant at or before the regular August meeting of the City Council, in the year of a municipal election, the vacancy would be filled by special election. He noted that in accordance with this section of the City Charter, it was recommended that City Council set a date of July 13, 2021, to hold a Special Election to fill the vacant Ward Four Council seat. He added that the candidate elected to fill this vacancy would fill a term expiring on December 31, 2021.

Action: Councilor Fennessy motioned approval to set a date of July 13, 2021, to hold a Special Election, to fill the vacant Ward Four Council seat. The motion was duly seconded and passed with a roll call vote. Councilor Keach was not present for this vote.

Yes: 14 - Councilor Bouchard, Mayor Bouley, Councilor Champlin, Councilor Fennessy, Councilor Grady Sexton, Councilor Hatfield, Councilor Kenison, Councilor Kretovic, Councilor Matson, Councilor Nyhan, Councilor Pierce, Councilor Rice Hawkins, Councilor Todd, and Councilor Werner

Abstain: 1 - Councilor Keach

Action: Councilor Pierce moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session held prior to the meeting. The motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes. Councilor Keach was not present for this vote.

Abstain: 1 - Councilor Keach

Adjournment at 9:09 P.M.

Action: Councilor Hatfield moved approval to adjourn. The motion was duly seconded and passed with a roll call vote. Councilor Keach was not present for this vote.

Yes: 14 - Councilor Bouchard, Mayor Bouley, Councilor Champlin, Councilor Fennessy, Councilor Grady Sexton, Councilor Hatfield, Councilor Kenison, Councilor Kretovic, Councilor Matson, Councilor Nyhan, Councilor Pierce, Councilor Rice Hawkins, Councilor Todd, and Councilor Werner

Abstain: 1 - Councilor Keach

A true copy: I attest:

Ashley Hamilton Deputy City Clerk

Information

Inf1 February 23, 2021 Penacook Village Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District Advisory Board Draft Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

- Inf2 March 15, 2021 Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Minutes.Action: Information item received and filed.
- Inf3 March 1, 2021 Concord Public Library Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes.Action: Information item received and filed.
- Inf4 Society for Industrial Archeology Newsletter.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf5 June 23, 2020, July 28, 2020, August 25, 2020, September 22, 2020, October 27, 2020, November 24, 2020, December 22, 2020, January 26, 2021 Traffic Operations Committee Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.

Inf6 January 7, 2021, January 27, 2021 and February 24, 2021 Energy and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

Action: Information item received and filed.