

**City Council Workshop
December 20, 2016
R.W. Creteau Technology Center
7:00 PM**

COUNCILORS PRESENT

Councilor Abbott
Councilor Barnett
Councilor Bogan
Councilor Gates
Councilor Gray
Councilor Hamann
Councilor Keans
Councilor Lachapelle
Councilor Lauterborn
Councilor Torr
Councilor Varney
Councilor Willis
Mayor McCarley

OTHERS PRESENT

Daniel Fitzpatrick, City Manager
Blaine Cox, Deputy City Manager
Terence O'Rourke, City Attorney
Gregg DeNobile, Resident
David Yasenchock, Resident
Amanda Yasenchock, Resident
Michael Hopkins, Superintendent of Schools
Karen Pollard, Economic Development
Manager
Emily Gagnon, owner, Talent Better
George Dykstra, NH Automotive
Education Foundation Board Director
Zach Lancey, Resident

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The City Councilors toured the R.W. Creteau Technology Center, starting at 6:50 PM and returning at 7:45 PM. Deputy City Clerk Marcia Roddy took a silent roll call. All councilors were present.

2. Public Input

Mayor McCarley called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM. She invited anyone from the public to come forward and speak on City issues.

Gregg DeNobile, resident, commented on his recent tax bill and the fact that his taxes had gone up. He asked the City Council to consider giving people an extended due date for paying their tax bill if their taxes went up significantly and paying by January 9, 2017, would cause a hardship.

David Yasenchock and his daughter, Amanda, residents of Capitol Circle, voiced their concerns about a neighbor who is parking a school bus near their property and driveway. It is causing safety issues, among other issues.

Mayor McCarley closed Public Input at 7:55 PM.

3. Discussion: R. W. Creteau Technology Center

Michael Hopkins, Superintendent of Schools, spoke briefly about the R.W. Creteau Center ("Center") and the need to have the school renovated and expanded.

Karen Pollard, Manager of Economic Development, gave an overview of how the programs at the Center prepare the students for lifetime careers. She said that there are over 100 businesses that help students with job shadowing.

Ms. Pollard said that technology prepares students for good careers and that businesses want to see students studying at the technology center. She said that her department (Economic Development) has brought many groups in to tour the Center

Emily Gagnon, owner of Talent Better, a hiring and recruiting firm. spoke on recruiting for jobs and the lack of skilled workers. She said that New Hampshire does not have enough worker to fill all of the jobs available.

George Dykstra, a Board Director for the New Hampshire Automotive Education Foundation, said that the auto industry is in need of employees and, in particular, technicians. He said that compared to other technical schools in the area, Rochester's facility is too small and needs renovations to bring it up to more modern day standards.

Superintendent Hopkins asked the Council if they had any questions or comments.

Councilor Gray asked Mr. Hopkins if there has been a study done on the number of students who attend the programs at the school. He also questioned the projected debt, as well as the inefficiency of the modular classrooms located at some of the elementary schools that are deteriorating.

Mr. Hopkins said the School Board is reviewing options for the projected project, as well as how the debt will be serviced. He said that the cost of the project goes up year after year and the longer it is put off the more expensive it will be.

Mayor McCarley said that this renovation project is in the capital budget. She said that it is important to look at the Center and its needs. She pointed out that the State will pay 75% of the renovation costs, but would pay nothing for modular classrooms.

Councilor Willis questioned whether the funding would be through bonding and if the cost should increase would the 75% State funding go up, as well. Mayor McCarley said yes, it would.

Councilor Varney said the School Department should not have made a budget without a fund balance. Mr. Hopkins said that is a common issue with a tax cap. Councilor Varney said the City will still have a problem with debt service.

Zach Lancey, a resident and graduate of Spaulding High School, spoke in support of the automotive program at the Creteau Center. He said he had completed the program and had been employed at a car dealership. He added that due to his training at the Center he was able to find employment. However, he said that the new technology at most dealerships requires advanced training that is not available in some school programs and Rochester would need to update its program.

4. Department Reports

There was no discussion.

5. Other

There was no discussion.

6. Non-Meeting per RSA 91-A:2 (b) - Consultation with Legal Counsel

7. Non-Public Meeting per RSA 91-A:3, II(d) - Land

8. Non-Public Meeting per RSA 91-A:3, II(a) - Personnel

Councilor Lauterborn **MOVED** to enter a Non-Meeting per RSA 91-A:2 (b) - Consultation with Legal Counsel; Non-Public Meeting per RSA 91-A:3, II(d) - Land; and Non-Public Meeting per RSA 91-A:3, II(a) - Personnel, at 8:26 PM. Councilor Lachapelle seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote. Councilors Barnett, Keans, Lauterborn, Willis, Lachapelle, Gray, Abbott, Torr, Hamann, Bogan, Gates, Varney, and Mayor McCarley all voted yes.

Councilor Bogan **MOVED** to exit Non-Public Session at 8:55 PM. Councilor Lauterborn seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

Councilor Lauterborn **MOVED** to seal the Non-Public minutes indefinitely because it was determined that divulgence of this information likely would render a proposed action ineffective. Councilor Lachapelle seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous roll call vote. Councilors Abbott, Barnett, Bogan, Gates, Gray, Hamann, Keans, Lachapelle, Lauterborn, Torr, Willis, Varney, and Mayor McCarley all voted yes.

9. Adjournment

Councilor Bogan **MOVED** to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 8:56 PM. Councilor Lauterborn seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Marcia H. Roddy

Marcia H. Roddy, CNHDCC
Deputy City Clerk