

**City Council Workshop
April 19, 2016
Council Chambers
7:03 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

City Manager Daniel Fitzpatrick
Deputy City Manager Blaine Cox
City Attorney Terence O'Rourke
Chief Michael Allen
human, resident
Gregg DeNobile, resident

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor McCarley called the City Council Workshop meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Deputy City Clerk took a silent roll call. All Council members were present.

2. Public Input

human, resident, spoke about having Public Input at all City Council meetings and not just Workshops. He believes the public should be able to contribute to the functions of the government at all meetings.

Gregg DeNobile, resident, urged the City Council to not consider any tax cap override this year.

Mayor McCarley closed public input at 7:11 PM.

3. Communications from the City Manager

3.1 Employee of the Month

City Manager Fitzpatrick presented Karen Bonneau of the Public Works Department (Utility Billing) with the Employee of the Month award.

3.2 Mid-Month City Manager's Report

The City Manager presented citations to several employees for special recognition:

City Attorney Terrence O'Rourke was cited by Chief Michael Allen for successfully defending the City of Rochester at the NH Supreme Court regarding an officer who was put on the Laurie list. The case was giving proper due process and set the standard for due process in similar situations throughout the state.

- The Assessing Department for having a commendable Audit by the DRA.

Kelly Walters, City Clerk, who has achieved her Certified Municipal Clerk designation.

Diane Hoyt, Human Resources Director, who received IPMA-HR certification.

Councilor Lauterborn had questioned the rates assessed by the Arena at a prior meeting and commented on the memo regarding rate comparisons to other communities.

City Manager Fitzpatrick cited the memorandum from the Veterans Council concerning the use of the broadcast facility use at MetroCast. Councilor Lachapelle recommended asking a representative from the Veterans Council to attend the meeting of the Government Channel that was scheduled for the next night.

3.3 Introduction of the 2017 City Budget

City Manager Fitzpatrick gave a PowerPoint presentation with a summary of the FY 2017 City Budget. The items summarized were the General Funds, Enterprise and Special Revenue Funds, All Funds, City Operations, County Tax and Debt Service, Capital Improvements, School Budget, and Tax Cap Calculation (Budget Philosophy and FY2016 Proposed Budget).

The City Manager concluded his presentation by thanking all of the staff involved with the work on the proposed budget.

The Finance Department distributed the FY2017 Budget books to the City Council.

4. Communications from the Mayor

Mayor McCarley mentioned that the microphones in front of the members of the City Council are all on during the meetings and any talking during the meetings comes through as "chatter" on the broadcast. She cautioned the councilors to be careful about side talking during the meetings.

Mayor McCarley said she will be bringing forward a resolution at the May City Council meeting concerning establishing a recovery center in Rochester in conjunction with Frisbie Memorial Hospital. She explained that the facility would be staffed by trained professionals who would be available at any hour of the day to meet with and counsel individuals who are suffering from addiction.

Mayor McCarley said that Frisbie Memorial Hospital is eager to get this program started and utilize the trained coaches before other communities obtain their services.

Councilor Lauterborn asked if this is the same SOS program sponsored by the Avis Goodwin Center with the same funding. Mayor McCarley said no, it will not be part of the Avis Goodwin program, but rather a Frisbie Memorial Hospital and City of Rochester program.

5. Department Reports

Councilor Lauterborn commented on the Economic Development report concerning "First Impressions." She said that the Community Development Committee is recommending the support of this program and their report will be included in the May 3, 2016, City Council packet for discussion at that meeting.

Councilor Varney questioned the Planning Department's report concerning discussions with DES regarding mitigation of Phase II of the Granite Ridge Development project. He said he thought this had been settled. City Manager said he believes it has been settled, but they do have thirty days to comment. He said he would get back to the City Council with more information.

Councilor Torr said there is more to the Phase II development than that. He said a road is being built under the power lines without the necessary permission from Eversource.

6. Other

Councilor Keans requested a Non-Meeting with legal counsel. This will be delayed until after the Special Meeting to be held immediately following the Workshop.

Councilor Gates has submitted a proposal to have all municipal buildings under the direction of Building and Grounds/Department of Public Works to include all of the

school buildings. He said he is presenting this to the City Council for discussion and consideration. He pointed out that the function of the schools is to educate children, not to maintain buildings.

Councilor Keans said this makes sense to her, but questioned whether this is governed somehow by State statutes.

Councilor Lachapelle pointed out that this is a Charter change and would have to be on a ballot, something that cannot happen this year. He suggested that the subject should be brought to the Codes and Ordinances Committee for review.

Councilor Lauterborn asked the City Attorney if this proposal is compatible with the RSAs. City Attorney O'Rourke said he will check once again with the State Department of Education and believes that because Rochester is a unified school district that the City can do this.

Councilor Lauterborn asked Deputy City Manager Cox if he could research the financial implications of this proposal. It would be a large increase for the City Budget, but a decrease in the School Budget.

Councilor Bogan asked if the personnel who work on the school buildings would be transferred to the Buildings and Grounds Department and would some personnel positions be cut.

Councilor Varney pointed out that the collective bargaining agreements would have to be looked at should this proposal be considered.

Mayor McCarley recessed the Workshop at 7:48 PM in order to convene the Special Meeting.

The Workshop reconvened at 7:55 PM.

6. Other (continued)

Councilor Torr questioned Chapter 43 under "manufactured housing." He said that people who apply for a permit for a manufactured home under 28' wide are denied. He said that HUD allows for manufactured homes from 14' wide and up. He argued that a constructed home has not restrictions on width, so why are there restrictions on manufactured homes. He believes this is unfair.

Mayor McCarley said the City Attorney could look into this matter. She suggested that the Codes and Ordinances Committee discuss it, as well.

Councilor Varney said that there has been a lot of development that seems to have had a negative impact on the community in terms of cost. He said the City is

getting very little impact fees and little in exactions. He suggested taking another look at this and refer the matter to the Planning Board.

Councilor Torr said he would like an answer to his comments (above) by the next City Council meeting.

Councilor Lauterborn asked why the City Councilors were notified to meet on short notice on Monday night, not a regular meeting night. She said that last time this happened she arranged her schedule to attend the meeting, but that this time she will not be able to do that.

Mayor McCarley said that she supported the meeting in order for the City Council and the School Department to meet prior to the School budget meeting. She thought this would be the most effective way to have this discussion and apologized for the short notice.

7. **Adjournment**

Councilor Lachapelle **MOVED** to adjourn the Workshop at 8:00 PM. Councilor Bogan seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by majority voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia H. Roddy, NHCDCC
Deputy City Clerk