

**Rochester City Council Workshop
July 16, 2019
Council Chambers
7:06 PM**

COUNCILORS PRESENT

Councilor Bogan
Councilor Gates
Councilor Gray
Councilor Hamann
Councilor Hutchinson
Councilor Keans
Councilor Lachapelle
Councilor Lauterborn
Councilor Torr
Deputy Mayor Varney
Mayor McCarley

OTHERS PRESENT

Blaine Cox, City Manager
Terence O'Rourke, City Attorney
Tom Kaczynski, Resident
Dr. Jocelyn Caple, Frisbie CEO

COUNCILORS EXCUSED/ABSENT

Councilor Abbott
Councilor Walker

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor McCarley called the City Council Workshop to order at 7:06 PM. Deputy City Clerk Cassie Givara took a silent roll call. All Councilors were presents except for Councilor Abbott and Councilor Walker, who were excused.

2. Public Input

Mayor McCarley invited members of the public to come forward and address the Council.

Tom Kaczynski, resident, spoke to Council in regards to tax exemptions which had been recently discussed at the Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Kaczynski also spoke about proposed amendments to City ordinances.

3. Communications from the City Manager

No discussion.

4. Communications from the Mayor

Mayor McCarley spoke about the success which the Farmer's Market at the Rochester Common has been having.

Mayor McCarley announced the Annual Gonic vs East Side softball game which will take place on Saturday August 10, 2019 at 10:00 am at Riverside Park on Old Dover Road. The game is for ages 12-99 and everyone plays.

5. Update: Frisbie Hospital – HCA Merger

Mayor McCarley introduced Dr. Jocelyn Caple, Frisbie Hospital President and CEO. Dr. Caple gave an overview of the history of Frisbie's merger with HCA and outlined the ongoing process. Dr. Caple indicated the process is nearing completion and they hoped to have the final documents signed by the end of this year or early next year.

Councilor Gates stated that currently the City of Rochester received a certain amount of money from Frisbie Hospital in lieu of taxes due to its status as a non-profit. He asked Dr. Caple what the effect of Frisbie merging with a for-profit organization would have on this money. Dr. Caple answered that all Frisbie properties will become taxable after this merger. City Manager Cox confirmed this would financially benefit the City.

Councilor Keans inquired about the Department of Health and Human Services involvement in the merger process. Dr. Caple stated that this would happen through the Attorney Generals review, which will happen after the definitive agreement is signed. Councilor Keans asked whether the Insurance Commissioner had been involved. Dr. Caple stated she was not certain where in the process the Insurance Commissioner would come into play.

Mayor McCarley spoke regarding the foundation which will be set up by the for-profit agency. This foundation will have a board of directors and there will be monies put into this foundation which the community can use for healthcare related issues as well as assisting with things such as recovery programs. Dr. Caple stated that there is no way to determine exactly how much money would go into the foundation until the agreement is settled due to the multiple pieces involved in the process.

Councilor Varney asked how the board of trustees for the foundation would

be appointed. Dr. Caple stated that the initial appointment would be by the hospital board and from then on it would be a self-selecting board.

Councilor Keans referenced the innumerable amount of volunteer hours which have been offered by citizens to the hospital over the years and noted that the community should be compensated. Dr. Caple stated it was a top priority of the Board to ensure that the financial gains of the foundation are maximized.

6. Department Reports

Councilor Varney asked about an item in the Economic Development report about a CAP emergency shelter. Councilor Lauterborn stated that there were not yet details, but CAP had asked to take a portion of the funds allocated to them by the City of Rochester for the weatherization program and to instead use \$5000 to help fund a winter shelter.

Mayor McCarley stated that she would be meeting with Mayor Weston of Dover and Mayor Hilliard of Somersworth on July 22 to discuss the Master Plan which had been established by the Mayors' joint Task Force. Part of the focus of this meeting is to sit down with the county and the emergency management from all three communities to determine how to proceed with a warming shelter for the upcoming season.

Councilor Varney inquired about another item in the Economic Development report regarding the Recreation Trails Grant funds for a footbridge. Councilor Varney said his understanding was the plan for this footbridge was no longer going forward. Mayor McCarley clarified that the plan for a footbridge had been revised and they were intending to erect a smaller bridge.

Councilor Varney asked about the item in the Economic Development report referencing the Charles Street permanent supportive Housing Project. The report seemed to indicate that there would be requested changes to zoning and density in the area. Councilor Lauterborn answered that there would likely be a request for rezoning which would first go to the Planning Board, but there is nothing actionable happening with the project currently.

Councilor Keans expressed concern regarding an item in the Planning Department report which referenced a member of the Riverwalk Committee declining to meet with the Conservation Commission and instead telling them to get the requested information from the Economic Development Committee minutes. Councilor Keans cautioned against taking away the Conservation Commission's function and their statutory authority.

Councilor Keans requested more information on the item in the Police

Department report which noted the hundreds of pieces of old evidence which had been destroyed. Councilor Keans wanted to verify that the items being destroyed were not useful items which could be donated. Chief Toussaint clarified that the term "destroy" means that the items are being removed from the inventory, but the Police Department does with these items what they deem appropriate including donation. There was a discussion regarding previous sales which the City has hosted.

Councilor Varney referenced the mention of the fitness court in the Economic Development report. He suggested that this fitness court be integrated into the planned renovation of the playground at the Common to ensure that the design is cohesive and the court is well utilized.

Councilor Keans asked if the Online Citizen self-service report from the Tax Collector's office includes both tax and auto registration. City Manager Cox indicated that he believed it was both, but would confirm this with the tax collector.

7. Other

Councilor Keans referenced the welfare report which stated that requests for temporary housing assistance had doubled from the previous year and how it reflected on the need for affordable housing.

8. Non-Public/Non-Meeting

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

Councilor Lauterborn **MOVED** to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (d) "land" at 7:35 PM. Councilor Lachapelle seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a 9 to 1 roll call vote with Councilors Torr, Varney, Hutchinson, Gray, Bogan, Hamann, Gates, Lauterborn and Mayor McCarley voting in favor and Councilor Keans opposed.

Councilor Lauterborn **MOVED** to exit the Non-Public Session and return to Public Session at 8:10 PM. Councilor Lachapelle seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Councilor Lauterborn **MOVED** to seal the minutes because it is determined that divulgence would likely render a proposed action ineffective. Councilor Lachapelle seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a 9 to 1 roll call vote with Councilors Torr, Varney, Hutchinson, Gray, Bogan, Hamann, Gates, Lauterborn and Mayor McCarley voting in favor and Councilor Keans opposed.

9. Adjournment

Councilor Lachapelle **MOVED** to **ADJOURN** the City Council Workshop meeting at 8:11 PM. Councilor Bogan seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassie Givara
Deputy City Clerk