

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
October 20, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 PM

COUNCILORS PRESENT

Councilor Bogan
Councilor Collins
Councilor Gates
Councilor Gray
Councilor Hamann
Councilor Keans
Councilor Lachapelle
Councilor Larochelle
Councilor Lauterborn
Councilor Torr
Councilor Varney
Councilor Walker
Mayor Jean

OTHERS PRESENT

Daniel Fitzpatrick, City Manager
Terence O'Rourke, City Attorney
Blaine Cox, Deputy City Manager
Michael Allen, Chief - Rochester Police Dept.
human, Resident
Dion McArthur, Business Watch
International

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Jean called the Workshop to order at 7:00 PM. Deputy City Clerk Marcia Roddy took a silent roll call. All councilors were present.

2. Public Input

Prior to beginning Public Input, Mayor Jean took a minute to announce that he and his wife, Jen, are expecting their third boy in April, 2016. He also welcomed his Jen's aunt who is visiting from Virginia and wished Jen a happy birthday, which would be the next day.

Mayor Jean invited members of the community who wished to speak on City issues to come forward.

human, resident, spoke on the New Hampshire Right-to-Know law. He said he has submitted requests for information and, having been told it was ready for pickup noted that he did not receive all of the information he has requested. He said that by having public input at only one City Council meeting per month means that he has to

wait a month before he can speak before the Council. He said this does not seem fair to the public in that they can only speak before the Council once a month.

Mayor Jean closed Public Input at 7:05 PM.

3. **Presentation: Adopt-a-Spot Awards**

Mayor Jean presented awards for maintaining three of the Adopt-a-Spot locations. The recipients were from Phagin's Restaurant for the Gonic Center Square; Becky Warburton from the Police Department for the walkways at the Police Department; and representatives from the Daughters of the American Revolution for the General Wolfe Tavern barrels.

5.1 **Proclamation: Red Ribbon Week**

Mayor Jean took this item out of order and read the Proclamation regarding the Bridging the Gaps programs for Red Ribbon Week. He presented the Proclamation to Molly Martuscello, Coalition Coordinator of Bridging the Gaps.

Councilor Gates asked if there is a website for people to view that gives the information to the public regarding activities. Chief Allen said there is a link on the Rochester Police Department website. Councilor Gray said that it is bridgingthegaps.org. Councilor Gates added that he thinks it would be helpful to the viewers of the meeting broadcast to provide this information when presentations are given.

4. **Communications from the City Manager**

Mr. Fitzpatrick had follow-up to a question that was raised at the Regular City Council meeting on October 6, 2015 regarding the Homemakers Planned Unit Development that has been included in the packet. He said that going forward he will have answers to questions that are brought up at the Regular City Council meetings at the Workshop meetings.

As a second item, Mr. Fitzpatrick asked for a closed session to discuss a matter that came up the previous day.

Mayor Jean **MOVED** to enter Non-Public session under RSA 91-A:3,II(c) [Reputation] at 7:15 PM. Councilor Walker seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous roll call vote. Councilors Gates, Keans, Lauterborn, Walker, Lachapelle, Gray, Larochele, Torr, Hamann, Bogan, Collins, Varney, and Mayor Jean all voted yes.

Councilor Lachapelle **MOVED** to exit Non-Public session at 7:28 PM and seal the minutes indefinitely. Councilor Walker seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

5. Communications from the Mayor

5.2 Announcement: Supervisor Session - Last Opportunity to Change Party Affiliation in Preparation for the Presidential Primary Election

Mayor Jean announced that the Supervisors of the Checklist will be meeting as follows:

- * October 24, 2015, between 11:00 AM and 11:30 AM
- * October 30, 2015 between 11:00 AM and 11:30 AM. This will be the last opportunity to change party affiliation prior to the Presidential Primary.

Mayor Jean said that the Codes and Ordinances Committee meeting originally scheduled for November 5, 2015, has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held on December 3, 2015, at 7:00 PM.

6. Communications from the Deputy Mayor

6.1 Refer to Committee: Expanding Crossroads Industrial Park

Deputy Mayor/Councilor Varney said that there are a number of small industrial parks in the City that are filling up and he sees a need to expand some of them. He would like to refer this item to committee for further exploration. Mayor Jean said the matter will be referred to Community Development and the REDC.

Councilor Lauterborn asked if the people who own these properties would have any say in the matter [development]. Mayor Jean said yes, and because it would be a land use change any actions would be subject to public hearing(s).

7. Discussion: Name Change of Cocheco River to Cochecho River

Mayor Jean explained that the U.S. Board of Geographic Names is considering a request to change the current name of the "Cocheco" River to its original name of "Cochecho." He said that Dover has already affirmed the decision to go back to the historic name. He said if there were no objections he would have a letter sent from the City supporting the change.

Councilor Lauterborn said she supported the name change, but added that this will be a long process and will take awhile.

8. Presentation: Business Watch International

Chief Allen introduced Mr. Dion McArthur, a vendor who provides electronic tracking software for pawn brokers and second hand dealers. He said that the Codes and Ordinances Committee had asked him to contact a vendor who provides this software to present information regarding the product to the City Council.

Mr. McArthur gave a PowerPoint presentation, showing the capabilities of the software and explaining its benefits for the pawn brokers and second hand dealers, as well as how it can assist the Police Department in tracking stolen goods.

Following the presentation, the councilors were invited to ask questions about the program.

Councilor Varney asked how long the process is for inputting a customer's information. Mr. McArthur demonstrated how quickly it is.

Councilor Varney asked Chief Allen who would be responsible for monitoring the database searches. Chief Allen said that would be the detectives, or the detective assigned to the case.

Councilor Keans asked how much the system would cost. Mr. McArthur said the pricing is based on how many stores would be involved and their policy is typically \$250 per store. For Rochester, he said that would normally be \$7,500, but Chief Allen had asked for a discount to do a year demo with that and Mr. McArthur agreed to \$5,000 for all 30 stores in Rochester for the first year.

Councilor Keans asked if the cost is borne by the store owners. Mayor Jean said it would be up to the City Council to budget for the amount (probably within the Police Department's budget), or charge the dealers for the service.

Councilor Keans questioned the security of the database, citing the number of "hackings" that have occurred lately. Mr. McArthur said that our area would be served by a government server in Washington D.C.. He said that the level of security is extremely high, but agreed that nothing is immune from hacking.

Councilor Lachapelle said that this topic will be discussed at the next Codes and Ordinances meeting on December 3, 2015.

Councilor Gates asked Brian LaBranche, a business owner in the audience, to give his opinion on this system. He had attended the meeting earlier in the evening with other second hand dealers and Mr. McArthur and saw the presentation.

Mr. LaBranche said he thought the software was a lot easier to move through than he had originally thought it would be. He sees this as a positive approach to tracking items, but all businesses are different and have different opinions on the benefits or downside of the program. He said that the dealers all agreed that the cost of the system was not something they would like to incur. There are also some owners who do not use or have a computer. He said that it is a good thing that this is being addressed and a dialogue has been established.

Councilor Keans was concerned about the competitive advantage this would give the City of Rochester over surrounding communities. She says there seems to be misinformation regarding crime, whether it is up or down.

Councilor Varney was concerned about the implementation period and wondered if the program could be tried by one shop to see how it goes. He said that if it proves to be a successful tool then he thinks the City could fund the first year.

Councilor Keans said there is a big difference between pawn shops and second hand dealers and the Council needs to study those differences before making any decision.

Councilor Gates asked Chief Allen if the City of Rochester implemented this system how would it interact with the surrounding communities. Chief Allen said it would not help other communities who would not share the database, but police departments do contact each other to search their databases when searching for lost or stolen goods.

Councilor Gray calculated that if the system costs a shop \$300 a year and are open 6 days a week, the cost would be only \$1 a day. Of course, the average goes up and down considering the amount of activity of the business.

9. Department Reports

Councilor Varney questioned the report from Buildings and Grounds in which large containers had been requested for removal of discarded computer equipment and parts from the City Hall basement. He wanted to know where they were taken for recycling. City Manager Fitzpatrick said he will get that information for the Council.

Councilor Varney said he had asked the Deputy City Manager to get a copy of the MS1 report to the councilors so they can see how the assessed valuation had changed. He said it went up a little so there should be not surprise with the tax increase over what was passed in the budget.

10. Non-Meeting, Non-Public

10.1 Non-Meeting, Consultation with Legal Council, RSA 91-A:2,I(b)

10.2 Non-Public Session, RSA 91-A:3,II (a) Personnel

10.3 Non-Public, Land, RSA 91-A:3 II (d)

Councilor Lachapelle **MOVED** to enter the Non-Meeting, Consultation with Legal Council, RSA 91-A:2, I(b), Non-Public, RSA 91-A: 3,II(a), Personnel, and Non-Public, RSA 91-A:3, II(d), Land, at 8:20 PM. Councilor Walker seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote. Councilors Walker, Collins, Varney,

Bogan, Lachapelle, Gray, Larochele, Torr, Hamann, Gates, Keans, Lauterborn, and Mayor Jean all voted yes.

Councilor Torr exited the meeting prior to the Non-Meeting/Non-Public session.

Councilor Lachapelle **MOVED** to exit the Non-Public session and to seal the minutes indefinitely. Councilor Walker seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

Mayor Jean informed the City Council that the November meeting would be held on Wednesday, November 4, 2015, because of the municipal election on November 3, 2015.

11. Adjournment

Councilor Walker **MOVED** to **ADJOURN** the Workshop Meeting at 8:55 PM. Councilor Lachapelle seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia H. Roddy, NHCDCC
Deputy City Clerk