

**City Council Public Hearing
August 4, 2015
Council Chambers
7:10 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

City Manager Fitzpatrick
Deputy City Manager Cox
Attorney O'Rourke
Tom Kaczynski, State Representative
Peter Bruckner, Resident
Ric Perreault
Fred Leonard,
Mac Kittredge, Resident
Gregg DeNobile, Resident
Molly Muelenbrook, Resident

Agenda

1. Call to Order

Mayor Jean called the City Council Public Hearing to order at 7:10 PM. Kelly Walters, City Clerk, took a silent roll call. All Councilors were present.

2. AB 12 Resolution Authorizing Supplemental Appropriation to the FY 2016 Public Buildings Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Fund for the So-Called Annex Project and Borrowing Authority Pursuant to RSA 33:9 Resolution 8

Mayor Jean gave a brief overview of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE FY 2016 PUBLIC BUILDINGS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) FUND FOR THE SO-CALLED ANNEX PROJECT AND BORROWING AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO RSA 33:9

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER, AS FOLLOWS:

That the sum of Three Million Seven Hundred Thirty Four Thousand Dollars (\$3,734,000.00) be, and hereby is, appropriated as a supplemental appropriation to the FY 2016 Public Buildings Capital Improvement Project

(CIP) fund for the purpose of providing funds necessary to pay costs and/or expenditures with respect to reconstruction and rehabilitation of the City Hall Annex, the so-called Annex Project.

Further, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Rochester hereby resolve that, in accordance with the provisions of RSA 33:9, the City Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, be, and hereby are authorized to borrow the sum of Three Million Seven Hundred Thirty Four Thousand Dollars (\$3,734,000.00), through the issuance of bonds and/or notes, and/or through other legal form(s), for the purposes of funding the expenditures incident to the implementation of the Project outlined, and referred to, in the preceding paragraph, such borrowing to be on such terms and conditions as the said Treasurer and City Manager may deem to be in the best interest of the City of Rochester. Such borrowing is authorized subject to compliance with the provisions of RSA 33:9 and Section 45 of the Rochester City Charter to the extent required, necessary and/or appropriate

To the extent not otherwise provided for in this Resolution, the Finance Director is hereby authorized to designate and/or establish such accounts and/or account numbers as necessary to implement the transactions contemplated by this Resolution. **CC FY16 RESOLUTION 8 07-07 AB 12**

3. AB 16 Resolution Authorizing Supplemental Appropriation for the Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Project and Borrowing Authority Pursuant to RSA 33:9 Resolution 14

Mayor Jean gave a brief overview of the resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE PROJECT AND BORROWING AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO RSA 33:9

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER, AS FOLLOWS:

That the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) be, and hereby is, appropriated as a supplemental appropriation to the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) fund of the City of Rochester Department of Public Works, Water Works for the purpose of providing funds necessary to pay costs and/or expenditures with respect to the so-called Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Upgrade Project.

Further, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Rochester hereby resolve that, in accordance with the provisions of RSA 33:9, the City Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, be, and hereby are

authorized to borrow the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00), from New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), through the issuance of bonds and/or notes, and/or through other legal form(s), for the purposes of funding the expenditures incident to the implementation of the Project outlined, and referred to, in the preceding paragraph, such borrowing to be on such terms and conditions as the said Treasurer and City Manager may deem to be in the best interest of the City of Rochester. Such borrowing is authorized subject to compliance with the provisions of RSA 33:9 and Section 45 of the Rochester City Charter to the extent required, necessary and/or appropriate

To the extent not otherwise provided for in this Resolution, the Finance Director is hereby authorized to designate and/or establish such accounts and/or account numbers as necessary to implement the transactions contemplated by this Resolution. **CC FY16 RESOLUTION 14 08-04 AB 16**

Mayor Jean invited the Public to address the City Council on the above matters at 7:11 PM.

Tom Kaczynski, resident and State Representative, spoke against the City Hall Annex Project. He questioned if this additional office space is really needed. He gave figures about the government spending in the City of Rochester. He said the spending in the City of Rochester is out of portion with relation to that of the private sector. He said the City has not grown enough to justify such an expansion. The population growth in the City of Rochester does not justify investing in a City Hall Annex and a New Department of Public Works Facility. He gave other ideas of how to resolve space issues without spending so much money.

Peter Bruckner, resident, addressed the City Council. He provided a photograph of what the new City Hall Annex would look like. He spoke in favor of the City of Rochester investing in the renovation of this historical building and said it would be a part of the City Hall Campus. This would resolve some of the space needs for the City staff. He urged the City Council to vote in favor of this project.

Ric Perreault, resident, addressed the City Council. He said this is an opportunity to save three million dollars. He suggested if the building were to be torn down that the bricks could be worth money. He strongly urged the City Council to tear down this old building and construct a much-needed parking lot.

Fred Leonard, resident, addressed the City Council. He supported the idea of providing more space for the City staff; however, he pointed out that there is still space available on the third floor of the new Police Station. He

said there are other locations within the City that could accommodate additional space for employees. He agreed with Mr. Kaczynski that there does not seem to be enough growth to justify spending three million dollars renovating the City Hall Annex. He understood that the Planning Department space would be handed over to the Opera House once the Planning Department offices are vacated. He said the City could save money now and spend the savings on extra police control in the downtown area, which is needed, especially with the heroin epidemic. Mr. Leonard spoke about other wasteful spending in the City.

Mac Kittredge, resident, addressed the City Council. He shared a story about preserving the USS Constitution. He said the City Council still has time to seek grant funding or private donations to decrease the cost of this project. He urged the City Council to review its options prior to spending this money on this project.

Gregg DeNobile, resident, addressed the City Council. He asked the following questions:

- Are there are any blueprint plans for the Annex project?
- How will this project be paid for?
- Has anyone resolved the issue of using heavy equipment in order to work on the front of the building without destroying the existing entrance?
- What is the justification for the space needs?

Mr. DeNobile said there is an existing building for sale with 53,000 Square feet of space. He said other options should be sought out prior to spending any money on rehabbing the Annex. He urged the City Council to vote against spending more money and to be frugal with taxpayer money.

Molly Muelenbrook, resident, addressed the City Council. She spoke in favor of maintaining the historical structure of the so-called Annex. She said this would be a good example of preserving historical structures for New Hampshire and the citizens of Rochester. She applauded the efforts of past City Council to preserve the historical library building as well.

4. **Adjournment**

Mayor Jean adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:59 PM.

Councilor Walker **MOVED** to Adjourn the City Council Public Hearing at 7:59 PM. Councilor Lachapelle seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

City of Rochester

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Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Walters
City Clerk