

**City Council Public Hearing
March 16, 2021
Meeting Conducted Remotely
6:30 PM**

COUNCILORS PRESENT

Councilor Abbott
Councilor Belken
Councilor Bogan
Councilor Gray
Councilor Hainey
Councilor Hamann
Councilor Hutchinson
Councilor Lachapelle
Councilor Lachance
Councilor Rice
Councilor Walker
Deputy Mayor Lauterborn
Mayor McCarley

OTHERS PRESENT

Blaine Cox, City Manager
Katie Ambrose, Deputy City Manager
Terence O'Rourke, City Attorney
Mark Sullivan, Deputy Finance Director

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor McCarley called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 PM and read the following preamble:

Good Evening, as Chairperson of the City Council, I am declaring that an emergency exists and I am invoking the provisions of RSA 91-A:2, III (b). Federal, state, and local officials have determined that gatherings of 10 or more people pose a substantial risk to our community in its continuing efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. In concurring with their determination, I also find that this meeting is imperative to the continued operation of City government and services, which are vital to public safety and confidence

during this emergency. As such, this meeting will be conducted without a quorum of this body physically present in the same location.

a.) **Providing public access to the meeting by telephone:** At this time, I also welcome members of the public accessing this meeting remotely. Even though this meeting is being conducted in a unique manner under unusual circumstances, the usual rules of conduct and decorum apply. Any person found to be disrupting this meeting will be asked to cease the disruption. Should the disruptive behavior continue thereafter, that person will be removed from this meeting. The public can call-in to the below number using the conference code. Some meetings will allow live public input, however you must have pre-registered online, otherwise, the meeting will be set to allow the public to "listen-in" only, and there will be no public comment taken during the meeting. [Public Input Registration](#) (Please note: In order to notify the meeting host that you would like to speak, press 5* to be recognized and unmuted)

Phone number: 857-444-0744

Conference code: 843095

b.) **Public Access Troubleshooting:** If any member of the public has difficulty accessing the meeting by phone, please email PublicInput@RochesterNH.net or call 603-332-1167.

c.) **Public Input:** Due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19, the City of Rochester will be taking extra steps to allow for public input, while still ensuring participant safety and social distancing. In lieu of attending the meeting, those wishing to share comments, when permitted, with the City Council (Public Hearing and/or Workshop settings) are encouraged to do so by the following methods:

- **Mail:** City Clerk/Public Input, 31 Wakefield Street, Rochester, NH 03867 (*must be received at least three full days prior to the anticipated meeting date*)
- **email** PublicInput@rochesternh.net (*must be received no later than 4:00 pm of meeting date*)
- **Voicemail** 603-330-7107 (*must be received no later than 12:00 pm on said meeting date in order to be transcribed*)

Please include with your correspondence the intended meeting date for which you are submitting. *All correspondence will be included with the corresponding meeting packet (Addendum).*

d.) **Roll Call:** Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their name (and/or ward), also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law. (Additionally, Council members are required to state their name and ward each time they wish to speak.)

2. Roll Call

Deputy City Clerk Cassie Givara took the roll call. All Councilors indicated that they were present and alone in the location from which they were connecting except for Councilors Abbott and Lachapelle, and Mayor McCarley who indicated there would be others occasionally present in their locations.

3. Resolution Adopting a FY 2022 Rochester CDBG "Action Plan For The City Of Rochester, N.H." and Approving And Appropriating the FY 2022 Community Development Budget For The City Of Rochester [CDBG Draft Action Plan](#)

Julian Long, Economic Development, read email correspondences received from Amy Malone, Waypoint case manager, speaking in support of funding for a youth drop-in center for vulnerable populations. Mr. Long also read email received from Melena Lugo in support of financial allocation for a youth drop-in center to assist homeless youth.

4. Amendment to the Granite Ridge Development District (GRDD) Tax Increment Development Program & Financing Plan ("TIF Plan") Pursuant to RSA 162-K:9, IV (*Addendum A*)

Mayor McCarley clarified that this amendment is an attempt by the governing body to determine whether residential housing could be allowed in the Granite Ridge area. The amendment would not actually approve the development of residential properties, zoning changes, or planning board functions. She stated that the amendment would allow the governing body to consider the option of residential development in this area.

5. Amendment to Chapter 275 of the General Ordinances of the City of Rochester Regarding the Location and Boundaries of Zoning Districts (*Addendum B*)

There were no comments received regarding the amendments to Chapter 275 and there was no Council discussion on the matter.

6. Adjournment

Mayor McCarley **ADJOURNED** the Public Hearing at 6:39 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassie Givara
Deputy City Clerk

ADDENDUM A

**Amendment to the Granite Ridge Development District (GRDD) Tax Increment
Development Program & Financing Plan (“TIF Plan”) Pursuant to RSA 162-K:9,**

IV

THE CITY OF ROCHESTER ORDAINS:

WHEREAS, the 2014 Adopted GRDD TIF Plan was crafted to rely on retail and office space development to generate tax increment for the GRDD;

WHEREAS, the original GRDD TIF concept planned for the development of retail and office space as the main drivers for incremental assessment within the TIF, but market trends over the last several years has seen the demand for office and retail rental space decline at an accelerated rate;

WHEREAS, these economic shifts, amid other more recent influences, are reshaping the traditional approach to retail and office space development; and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that increasing diversity is necessary to assure tax incremental revenues remain at adequate levels in order to carry out the development plans of the GRDD.

THEREFORE, the Mayor and City Council of Rochester ordain that mixed use commercial and residential developments, and associated public parks, parking lots, open spaces, and recreational opportunities is recognized as allowable development activities within the GRDD TIF Plan and the GRDD TIF Plan is hereby amended to allow the same.

The effective date of these amendments shall be upon passage.

ADDENDUM B

Amendment to Chapter 275 of the General Ordinances of the City of Rochester Regarding the Location and Boundaries of Zoning Districts

THE CITY OF ROCHESTER ORDAINS:

WHEREAS, Chapter 275-1.10 establishes that the location and boundaries of zoning districts within the City of Rochester are established as shown on a map titled, "City of Rochester Zoning Map."

WHEREAS, Chapter 275-1.10 further declares that the City of Rochester Zoning Map is incorporated by reference as party of Chapter 275 of the General Ordinances of Rochester regarding zoning.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Rochester desire to amend the City of Rochester Zoning Map to convert the property located at 13 Sawyer Avenue to the Downtown Commercial Zone.

THEREFORE, the Mayor and City Council of Rochester ordain that the property located at 13 Sawyer Avenue shall be converted to Downtown Commercial Zone in accordance with the Attached Exhibit. (Exhibit A).

The effective date of these amendments shall be upon passage.