

**Rochester City Council Special Meeting
October 16, 2018
Council Chambers
7:00 PM**

COUNCILORS PRESENT

Councilor Abbott
Councilor Bogan
Councilor Gates
Councilor Gray
Councilor Hamann
Councilor Keans
Councilor Lachapelle
Councilor Lauterborn
Councilor Torr
Councilor Walker
Councilor Varney
Mayor McCarley

OTHERS PRESENT

Blaine Cox, City Manager
Terence O'Rourke, City Attorney
Gregg DeNobile, Resident
Paul Martin, Resident
Larry Cocarus, Resident
Sandy Averill, Resident
Ray Barnett, Resident

COUNCILORS EXCUSED / ABSENT

Councilor Hutchinson

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor McCarley called the City Council Special Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

Deputy City Clerk Cassie Givara took the roll call. All Councilors were present except for Councilor Hutchinson, who was excused.

3. Resolution Authorizing Acceptance and Appropriation of NH Recreational Trails Program Grant Funds *first reading, consideration for second reading and adoption*

Councilor Lachapelle **MOVED** to read the resolution for the first time by title only. Councilor Walker seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote. Mayor McCarley read the resolution for the first time by title only as follows:

**Resolution Authorizing Acceptance and Appropriation of NH
Recreational Trails Program Grant Funds**

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

WHEREAS, that a New Hampshire Recreational Trails Program grant in the amount of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000.00) awarded to the City of Rochester's Riverwalk Committee is hereby accepted by the City of Rochester;

WHEREAS, the aforesaid grant requires a 20% in-kind match by the City of Rochester of Twenty Thousand 88/100 Dollars (\$20,000.88), to be provided by Riverwalk Committee members, City staff time, and volunteers organized by the Riverwalk Committee;

FURTHER, that the sum of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000.00) be, and hereby is, appropriated to a non-lapsing Special Revenue Fund to be created for the purpose of carrying out the purposes of the New Hampshire Recreational Trail Program grant;

FURTHER, that the City Manager is authorized to enter into a grant agreement and any other contracts with the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails that are necessary to receive and administer the grant funds detailed above; and

FURTHER, 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.

Councilor Lachapelle **MOVED** to suspend the rules and read the resolution for a second time by title only. Councilor Walker seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a majority voice vote. Mayor McCarley read the resolution for a second time by title only.

Councilor Lachapelle **MOVED** to **ADOPT**. Councilor Lauterborn seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Stacey Marchionni, Riverwalk Committee, stated that the Committee had received a revised estimate for the bridge project from engineering firm Hoyle Tanner. It came in significantly higher than the estimate which had been in the Fuss & O'Neill master plan. The estimate is approximately \$233,000 with a 20% contingency and additional engineering for a 70-foot span across Heath Brook. The Riverwalk Committee had originally planned for \$120,000 - \$150,000.

Ms. Marchionni stated that the \$80,000 grant will not be enough to complete the bridge for the amount quoted. Per Ms. Marchionni, Alexis Rudko, Manager of the Recreational Trails Program grants, conveyed that she felt the Hoyle Tanner estimate is inflated based on similar estimates she has approved.

The Riverwalk Committee is currently looking at options. They can either find a way to complete the project for the amount included in the Fuss & O'Neill Plan, or they can revise the project narrative to forgo the footbridge over Heath Brook and instead move the project further up the river to the Rail Trail. They would build a handicap-accessible ramp along with a set of stairs down the embankment which would allow access to the other side of the brook and come up to the Riverwalk Trail.

Councilor Varney requested that any plan the Riverwalk Committee develops come back to Council for approval and inquired if the \$80,000 could be used for something other than a bridge.

Ms. Marchionni stated that the grant money cannot be used for other projects. The location of the bridge can be moved and the Committee can build handicap accessible ramps, but they cannot abandon the original project and still qualify for the grant.

4. Amendments to the Non-Union Employment Policy Handbook *consideration for acceptance*

Councilor Lachapelle **MOVED** to accept the amendments to the Non-Union Employment Policy Handbook. Councilor Walker seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

5. Atlantic Broadband Dark Fiber IRU Agreement

consideration for approval

Councilor Walker **MOVED** to approve the Atlantic Broadband Dark Fiber IRU Agreement. Councilor Lachapelle seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

6. Resolution Authorizing Increase in the Disabled Tax Exemption Asset Limitation from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and Increase in the Income Limitations, and Authorizing Increase in the Blind and Disabled Tax Exemption Amounts Taken off Assessments. *First reading, consideration for second reading and adoption*

Councilor Lachapelle **MOVED** to read the resolution for a first time by title only. Councilor Walker seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote. Mayor McCarley read the resolution for the first time by title only as follows:

Resolution Authorizing Increase in the Disabled Tax Exemption Asset Limitation from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and Increase in the Income Limitations, and Authorizing Increase in the Blind and Disabled Tax Exemption Amounts Taken Off Assessments

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

That the Disabled Tax Exemption Asset Limitation, previously authorized by the City Council pursuant to RSA 72:39-a, be increased from \$50,000.00 to \$100,000.00.

Further, that the Income Limitations be established as follows:

Single: \$35,000.00 (previously \$31,400.00)

Married: \$50,000.00 (previously \$41,500.00)

Still further, the Blind and Disabled Tax Exemption Amounts taken off Assessments be established as follows:

Blind: \$75,000.00 (previously \$48,000.00)

Disabled: \$75,000.00 (previously \$48,000.00)

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.

Councilor Lachapelle **MOVED** to suspend the rules and read the resolution for a second time by title only. Councilor Walker seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a majority voice vote. Mayor McCarley read the resolution for a second time by title only.

Councilor Lachapelle **MOVED** to **ADOPT** the resolution. Councilor Walker seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Councilor Keans inquired where this resolution had originated from. City Manager Cox reported that it had been referred to Council from the Finance Committee.

Mayor McCarley stated that the conversation had centered on the veteran's tax exemption. The NH Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) requested clarification if the exemption was for the disabled and blind as well.

Councilor Lachapelle requested a discussion regarding the November regular City Council meeting. Currently it is scheduled for November 6, which is the same day as the State General Election.

There was a brief discussion regarding City Council meetings following elections. After Municipal elections, the Council will meet the following evening to certify the results. This is not necessary following a State election as it will be the State which does the certification.

Mayor McCarley said the meeting could take place one week later than normal, on Tuesday November 13. Alternately, if Council prefers, they could meet Wednesday November 7 following the election.

It was decided that the best date for the Regular City Council Meeting would be Tuesday November 13, 2018.

7. Adjournment

Councilor Lachapelle **MOVED** to **ADJOURN** the City Council

City of Rochester

Special City Council
October 16, 2018

Special meeting at 7:10 PM. Councilor Walker seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassie Givara
Deputy City Clerk