

**Rochester City Council Workshop  
December 18, 2018  
Council Chambers  
7:03 PM**

**COUNCILORS PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Blaine Cox, City Manager  
Terence O'Rourke, City Attorney  
Robert Benoit, Elks Lodge  
Paul Martin, Resident  
Cliff Newton, Resident  
Gregg DeNobile, Resident  
Ray Barnett, Resident  
Sandy Averill, Resident

**COUNCILORS EXCUSED/ABSENT**

Councilor Hutchinson  
Councilor Lachapelle

**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor McCarley called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Deputy City Clerk Cassie Givara took a silent roll call. All Councilors were present except for Council Lachapelle and Councilor Hutchinson, who were excused.

**2. Public Input**

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

Robert Benoit, Elks Lodge 393, said that the Elks were having an open house on Sunday January 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. 1:00 PM to celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and to bring awareness to what the Elks Lodge does for the community.

Paul Martin, resident, addressed Council in regards to the Neighborhood Compliance Program and Rochester Code Enforcement.

Cliff Newton, spoke to Council regarding the Neighborhood Compliance program.

Gregg DeNobile, resident, spoke to Council in regards to the use of the surplus funds going into the General Fund. Mr. DeNobile also inquired about the codification of the City ordinances which appears on the agenda for approval.

Ray Barnett, resident, inquired about an update on the table of City impact fees. Mr. Barnett also spoke to the Council regarding the upcoming years' school department budget as well as benefits received by City staff.

Sandy Averill, resident, addressed Council in regards to the neighborhood Compliance Program and inquired about the status of the proposed Salvation Army shelter.

### **3. Communications from the City Manager**

City Manager Cox reported that on December 24<sup>th</sup> 2018 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2018, all City offices would be closing at 3:00 PM for the holidays.

City Manager Cox also spoke about the "Christmas On the Common" event which had taken place the previous weekend. He said it was a great event which was well attended.

Councilor Keans inquired if there would be skating rinks opening on the Common and in East Rochester as has happened many years in the past. City Manager Cox reported that he had not heard of any plans to open these skating rinks.

### **4. Communications from the Mayor**

Mayor McCarley asked the Councilors to put some thought in ahead of the next Regular Meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The Mayor stated she would like Council to have a discussion about items they would like to see the City focus on in the upcoming year, separate from budgetary issues; a discussion on where Council sees the direction of Rochester in the next year.

### **5. Presentation: Opera House 5-year Plan**

John McKenna, Opera House Chairman, and Anthony Ejarque, Director of the Opera House, gave a presentation outlining the operations of the Opera House and the Rochester Performance and Arts Center.

Mr. McKenna discussed the budget, spending, income and expenses of the

Opera House as well as their mission and objectives in the community.

Mr. Ejarque spoke about what the Opera House and Performance and Arts Center (RPAC) are trying to bring to Downtown Rochester and the impact they are having on the Community. Mr. Ejarque outlined the type of programming and services they are offering to bring people to the downtown area.

Mr. Ejarque said that the Rochester Opera House is now in a position to be able to purchase the property where the Rochester Performance and Arts Center is located from Holy Rosary Credit Union. They have received \$140,000 in Tax Credits from CDFA to sell for revenue to purchase the property. Mr. Ejarque also highlighted the "Rochester-opoly" board game being sold at locations throughout the City to raise money for the Opera House.

Mr. Ejarque spoke about the continuing restoration of the Opera House. He spoke about the \$50,000 LCHIP grant they were awarded to help restore the Opera House seats. They have also submitted an application for a CDBG grant to update and bring into compliance some of the older systems and equipment being used in the Opera House.

## **6. Department Reports**

No Discussion.

## **7. Other**

Mayor McCarley spoke to clarify some of the confusions regarding the proposed Salvation Army Shelter in Rochester and what had been discussed by the Tri City Mayors' Joint Task Force on Homelessness. The Salvation Army met with the City Manager and other City Staff to express their desire to offer a space or facility as a temporary shelter for the City, but the Salvation Army did not intend to run the facility themselves. The Salvation Army is not prepared with volunteers or staff to oversee a shelter at this time.

## **8. Adjournment**

Mayor McCarley **ADJOURNED** the City Council Workshop at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassie Givara,  
Deputy City Clerk