



**LACONIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2013
CITY HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 200A
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Michael Seymour called the meeting to order at the above date and time.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

Councilor Brenda Baer led the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL:

City Clerk Reynolds called the roll with the following Councilors present: Councilor Doyle, Lipman, Baer, Hamel and Bolduc. Also present Finance Director Donna Woodaman.

Councilor Lahey was not in attendance.

City Manager Myers was excused due to circumstances beyond his control.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- Regular Minutes of December 10, 2012

Councilor Bolduc moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 10, 2012. Seconded by Councilor Hamel. **Motion passed unanimously.**

CONSENT AND ACTION CALENDAR:

1. Approval of Boat Agents for 2013

Councilor Hamel moved to authorize the following boat dealers to act as agents for the City for 2013:

Paugus Bay Marina
Thurston's Marina
Channel Marina
Irwin Marine
Lakeport Landing

Seconded by Councilor Bolduc. **Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Request by Wilkins-Smith Post 1 to Raise Funds at Memorial Park on July 5 and 6, 2013 for the Kelley Circus (attached) *This item was tabled from the meeting of December 10, 2012*

This item has been tabled until January 28, 2013 at the request of Wilkins-Smith Post 1.

3. Temporary Traffic Order 2013-01, Community Blood Drive (attached)

Councilor Bolduc moved to approve Temporary Traffic Order 2013-01, Community Blood Drive. Seconded by Councilor Doyle. **Motion passed unanimously.**

CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: NONE

INTERVIEWS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

PUBLIC HEARING: NONE

PRESENTATIONS: NONE

MAYOR'S REPORT: NONE

CITIZEN REQUESTS TO COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **FINANCE: (Lipman, Hamel, Baer)**
 - a) WOW Trail Fund
 - b) Special Item Budget Requests Procedural Review
 - c) Huot Center

No report on any item in committee

2. **PUBLIC SAFETY: (Baer, Doyle, Lahey)**
 - a) Fair St./Court St. traffic problems and accidents

No report on any item in committee

3. **GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ORDINANCES: (Doyle, Bolduc, Lahey)**
 - a) Energy Committee
 - b) Vending and Licensing Fees
 - c) Chapt. 119, Building Construction regarding signed architectural plans for residential units

No report on any item in committee

4. **PUBLIC WORKS: (Bolduc, Baer, Lahey)**
 - a) Ordinance Amending Chapter 221, Vehicles and Traffic/Parking on Sublawns
 - b) Proposed ordinance regarding vehicles over 18,000 lbs. and engines idling between the hours of midnight and 6:00 a.m.
 - c) Proposed ordinance regarding large vehicles parked on City streets and sidewalks

No report on any item in committee

5. LAND & BUILDINGS: (Hamel, Lipman ,Bolduc)

- a) Repair & maintenance of City Buildings
- b) Former Laconia Police Department Building

No report on any item in committee

LIAISON REPORTS: NONE

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Finance Director Woodaman presented the Recycling Report (see Attachment #1) and the Monthly Economic Development Report (see Attachment #2). Additionally, Finance Director Woodaman reported that 160 recycling totes have been sold with positive participation from the owners of multifamily homes. A route audit has also been conducted which will result in reaching out to several residents.

Councilor Baer clarified some of the recycling figures. Councilor Lipman noted that this cycle marks the highest percentage of recycled material to date at 16.9%.

The City Clerk's Office is actively pursuing boat registrations and has completed 10 in the first two days of 2013. This is more than they were able to solicit for the entire 2012 registration year. Councilor Hamel asked if there has been press on the subject. City Clerk Reynolds replied that there has, with articles being published in the Laconia Daily Sun and the Citizen last week as well as the Laconia Links. Councilor Hamel requested additional solicitation be made on a continuing basis.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Parking Committee Recommendations

Mayor Seymour reviewed the Parking Committee Recommendations. These recommendations would prohibit on street parking on Harvard St from N. Main St. to Dartmouth St., all parking directly behind the train station on New Salem St would convert to full day parking with the exception of four spaces on the center of the parking area which would remain two hour parking for patrons of the businesses in the train station to enter the rear entrance. If approved these changes would become effective as soon as proper signage could be posted and would be temporary in nature and would expire at the end of the Winter Parking Ban in 2013.

Councilor Baer commented that although the recommendations are intended to solve a small part of the parking issue there will need to be continued meetings and discussion regarding the other parking issues.

Councilor Bolduc noted that other changes to parking in Downtown should be held off until after the Main Street Bridge construction project is completed. Councilor Lipman agreed but acknowledged that the changes being recommended are temporary.

Andy Patterson, representing the Laconia Clinic, expressed that they are in support of the Committee's findings. Chris Santaniello, Director of Lakes Region Community Services (LRCS), added that the

Committee has agreed to meet again and the businesses represented will be conducting surveys of their employees regarding parking and the parking garage.

John Moriarty, representing Laconia Main Street, commented that they have nothing to add.

Councilor Hamel asked if LRCS would be willing to investigate the possibility of adding parking spaces at their facility. Ms. Santaniello replied that they have already begun the process and they are awaiting final approval from the Planning Board.

Councilor Hamel moved the Parking Committee Recommendations as presented and described above. Seconded by Councilor Bolduc. **Motion passed unanimously.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Funding for Landscape and Engineering Design Services for Laconia Downtown TIF District Improvements
2. Milfoil Treatment Funding Request
3. WOW Trail
4. Master Plan
5. EPA Update
6. Sewer & Water Master Plan
7. Single Stream Recycling/Concord Co-Op/Solid Waste Disposal Cost Reduction
8. Strategic Planning/Goal Setting

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS & ELECTIONS: **NONE**

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilor Bolduc shared a large tote bag that was made by a resident in Lakeport out of plastic grocery bags. This was displayed as an inventive way to use the bags as a form of recycling.

Councilor Lipman commented that the City is facing substantial financial challenges in the upcoming budget process and the cost of rubbish disposal should be considered as a challenge. There has been approximately \$127,000 in lost opportunity from July to December 2012 and has a significant impact on the taxes. We do not have many options and the Council needs to think about other methods of saving with rubbish disposal, such as pay-as-you-throw and changing the collection schedule in the winter as was suggested by a resident.

Councilor Lipman also encouraged the Council to think about the issues that were brought to the Belknap County Delegation last year and reflect on what was accomplished and what is still waiting to be resolved or has been brought forward again for this session of legislation. There will be a meeting with the Belknap County Commission as the next Council meeting and the Council needs to be prepared.

Councilor Hamel added that it has been brought up to the delegation that with the pension being paid 100% from the City they should have some input regarding the employee contribution and other aspects of the program and how it is regulated. This needs to be addressed.

Councilor Hamel also noted that the communities in Belknap County need to take a look at the plans for the proposed County jail because the estimated cost of \$42 million is unreasonable. Councilor Hamel noted the projects that the City has accomplished, such as the Laconia Middle School, for much less and

the buildings are of substantial size. The City shares 22% of the cost and some input and they need to understand where the process is for a timeline and how it will move forward. Councilor Lipman commented that he has made some calls to members of the Delegation regarding his concerns about them not being deliberative with this process or the budget process. In the past the County has been responsible with the increases they have passed on to the municipalities and this needs to continue.

Councilor Hamel added that there needs to be public input on the County jail process. The County Commissioners have been using \$4 million a year from their reserve to cover these shortfalls and have decreased this amount to \$1 million this year and will be passing off a 9% increase in taxes. Councilor Lipman rationalized that, without speaking on behalf of the Commission, some reasoning may be that there is concern with credit ratings and what they will need to borrow in the future and he is hopeful that they will be open to input.

Councilor Bolduc commented that the pricing should be lower with the economic conditions and he has stated before that he doesn't want to see "fancy" accommodations at the County jail and it sounds like they are trying to get the best of everything. Councilor Lipman reminded that the Laconia Middle School project started out very high and in the end the cost was lowered and the product was quality. Councilor Hamel stated that this was because of back and forth conversations and it is unsure how much that will happen with this project.

Councilor Baer asked if the CPI for the year was 2.1%. Finance Director Woodaman replied that according to the Economic Development Report this is the figure but as of the end of December it is unknown. Councilor Baer noted that the City Manager believes this will equate to an increase of \$340,000 in the budget and we have additional expenses of \$350,000 for the NH Retirement System and \$250,000 increase in the County budget. It was noted new construction will be lower this year as well.

Councilor Hamel asked when the delegation votes on their budget. Councilor Lipman replied that it is his understanding that they have a series of meetings this month and some deliberative action will be taken.

Mayor Seymour asked Finance Director Woodaman to make sure the City Manager is aware of the request to distribute the listing form from the last legislative session.

Councilor Baer commented that the public doesn't realize how important the County budget is to them and the effect it will have and that it is important for the Council to keep the public informed. Councilor Lipman noted that all of the County meetings are posted and noticed as required and that we need to educate the public.

Mayor Seymour commented that the Council has always maintained a frugal perspective and they will continue to do so. Additionally, the recycling efforts need to be put on the forefront because there are only so many other options to decrease the cost of rubbish disposal.

Councilor Hamel asked if there was a status on the single stream recycling facility project. Mayor Seymour replied that he knows that the City Manager has had some contact but he is not sure of the extent.

Councilor Lipman requested to have another update from the Police Chief and Planning Director at an upcoming meeting in February or March.

NON - PUBLIC SESSION:

Councilor Bolduc moved to entered into non-public session according to RSA 91-A:3, II: (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. Seconded by Councilor Hamel.

Mayor Seymour advised that there will be no action taken after the non-public session.

On a roll call vote of the Council it was entered into non-public session at 7:38 p.m.

On a motion by Councilor Bolduc and seconded by Councilor Hamel, the Council came out of non-public session at 8:41 p.m. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Councilor Bolduc moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session for two years. Seconded by Councilor Hamel. **Motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Doyle moved to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Bolduc. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary A. Reynolds
City Clerk