



**LACONIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 12, 2014
CITY HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 200A
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Edward Engler 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, Bownes, Lipman, Baer, Hamel and Bolduc. Also present City Manager Scott Myers and Finance Director Donna Woodaman.

Mayor Engler noted that all six (6) Councilors are present and a quorum is established.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

1. Regular Meeting and Budget Hearing of April 28, 2014

*Councilor Bolduc moved to approve the regular and budget hearing minutes of April 28, 2014. Seconded by Councilor Hamel. **Motion passed unanimously.***

CONSENT AND ACTION CALENDAR:

1. Request by Laconia Kiwanis Club to use Colby Field on June 8, 2014 to benefit the Laconia Kiwanis Charity Fund and RYVSEF

*Councilor Bolduc moved to approve the request by Laconia Kiwanis Club to use Colby Field on June 8, 2014 to benefit the Kiwanis Charity Fund and RYVSEF. Seconded by Councilor Hamel. **Motion passed unanimously.***

2. Request by the Laconia Slow Pitch Softball to use Memorial Softball Field and concession stand from May 1 through November 30, 2014 for league fundraising

*Councilor Bolduc moved to approve the request by the Laconia Slow Pitch Softball to use Memorial Softball Field and concession stand from May 1 through November 30, 2014 for league fundraising . Seconded by Councilor Lipman. **Motion passed unanimously.***

3. Request by the Armand J Laramie Babe Ruth to use the Memorial Baseball Field and concession stand from May through June 30, 2014 for league fundraising

*Councilor Bolduc moved to approve the request by the Armand J Laramie Babe Ruth to use the Memorial Baseball Field and concession stand from May through June 30, 2014 for league fundraising. Seconded by Councilor Lipman. **Motion passed unanimously.***

4. Request by Laconia Motorcycle Week Association to reduce vendor fees for the 10th Annual City of Laconia Bike Show on June 20, 2014

*Councilor Bolduc moved to approve the request by Laconia Motorcycle Week Association to reduce vendor fees for the 10th Annual City of Laconia Bike Show on June 20, 2014. Seconded by Councilor Doyle. **Motion passed unanimously.***

CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Jay Lewis, Hilliard Road, addressed the Council. Mr. Lewis explained that he was in attendance last year because there was a problem with handicapped parking during Motorcycle Week. The Council had expressed that they would look into options to move the Progressive Insurance trailer and again this year they have approved having the trailer in the same location this year. Mr. Lewis feels that it is a waste of tax payer's money and asked what the Council has against the handicapped that need a place to park. Mr. Lewis expressed that nothing has been looked into and he would like an explanation from each Councilor why they voted to keep the trailer where it is.

Mayor Engler asked if any Councilor would like to reply. No Councilor replied to Mr. Lewis' request.

Councilor Bolduc asked if the concerns that were raised were looked into. City Manager Myers replied that they have been and all State RSA's will be followed.

Mr. Lewis stated that the City will need to make accessible ramps for the handicapped that would like to access the Boardwalk and would be forced into oncoming traffic to access the ramp at the site of the Mt Washington boat and train access. This is not only dangerous for the handicapped but for the motorcyclists that are driving in the direction.

Councilor Hamel asked if the handicapped spaces can be relocated to directly next to the ramp. City Manager Myers replied that the City will look into the locations and the City will try to make the parking spaces as easily accessible as possible, as has been done every year.

Mr. Lewis commented that the City pays the Laconia Motorcycle Weeks Association each year for promotion. Mayor Engler interjected that the City does not pay for promotion but as a member of the Laconia Motorcycle Week Association board, for which Councilor Bolduc represents the City, pays dues as does the Town of Meredith and other enterprises that are members of the board. Mr. Lewis asked what this money is used for. Mayor Engler commented that he is unsure of the exact use but would assume it is placed in the general fund of the association for expenses of the event. Mr. Lewis commented that he has been featured in a promotional video from Charlie St. Clair and he should be paid for promotion of the event as well.

Mayor Engler thanked Mr. Lewis for bringing the concerns forward so the Council is aware.

INTERVIEWS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

PUBLIC HEARING: NONE

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Sign Ordinance Update – Suzanne Perley

Mrs. Perley, Chair of the Zoning Taskforce, reviewed the proposed amendment to the signs ordinance (Article IX, Section 235) for the Council.

Planning Director Shanna Saunders advised the Council that the Planning Board has held an appropriately noticed public hearing and the Council can choose to hold their own public hearing or accept the public hearing held by the Planning Board and the Council can choose to accept these changes.

Councilor Bownes commented that it may be helpful to review how the proposal has come to the Council because there was input from various sources on this ordinance and several drafts. Director Saunders reviewed the process for the Council.

Councilor Lipman thanked the Zoning Taskforce for all of the work they have done and asked if the seven (7) criteria include the impact on business community. Director Saunders replied that community character was taken into consideration. Councilor Lipman commented that there needs to be consideration for the business people that are competing with online retailers to keep their business open. Mrs. Perley added that the business people were in attendance for the public hearings and they are in support of the ordinance because it will enable the electronic messaging centers and benefit them.

Mrs. Perley explained that electronic message centers will also be permitted in the professional zone of Union Avenue because they will now be able to have their signs. Director Saunders added that there are members of the Zoning Taskforce in attendance, including Joe Driscoll whom brought this proposal to the Weirs Action Committee. The input from the business owners was to make it a special exception to have the animated signs because they felt it was too much for the community feel to have the flashing signs.

Councilor Bolduc asked what has been done for those in residential areas that want a sign on their property. Director Saunders replied that in most residential areas business uses are not permitted but an at-home business is. As part of the at-home business there are several criteria that have to be met that basically speak to the fact that the at-home business stays residential in nature. One of the criteria is that they cannot have a sign identifying the business, as well as not being permitted to have more than one employee or to service more than one customer at a time. This is done to keep the residential character of the neighborhoods.

Councilor Bolduc asked if Mr. Weeks could come forward and explain his situation with the sign ordinance. Mr. Weeks obliged and addressed the Council. In his business there is dependence on signs and the business climate is competitive with the internet and larger shopping areas. The only way to get the customers to the business is with an electronic message center that can change to show various products frequently, as much as every 30 seconds or at the most each minute. Currently the ordinance proposed allows for a change every five minutes and this is not frequent enough for a business to properly advertise their products to attract business. The signs are very expensive and will not be placed at every business because of this.

Mr. Weeks also explained that the ordinance previously read that a “digital copy sign” was permitted and that would have been inclusive of the electronic messaging centers in all zones other than

professional. With the proposed changes every electronic sign is a special exception and needs to be approved by the Planning Board. Mr. Weeks sees this as a step backwards and does not feel this is an effective change to the ordinance because it makes it more difficult and there is no guarantee that the special exception is going to be approved.

Mayor Engler confirmed that Mr. Weeks would like to see the current standard for changing of an electronic sign from five minutes to 30 seconds. Mr. Weeks confirmed this is correct.

Councilor Lipman replied that he has received similar feedback on this particular provision but understands that there is a balance that needs to be met. Director Saunders replied that this item was discussed on a few occasions among the Zoning Taskforce and the decision was to remain with the five minute changing. The decision was made to keep the recommendation at five minutes to avoid the effect of have multiple changing signs in one area that would result in a flashing "Las Vegas look" to the community. The sense was that the flashy signs are okay for the Weirs area because it is the resort area of the City but the remainder needed to maintain the community character. Additionally, in the Master Plan the Land Use chapter was renamed the Community Character chapter because the City felt so strongly about preserving it.

Director Saunders advised that in discussion with legal counsel, if the change was made to allow for signs to change every minute then every sign owner that had a current electronic sign would be grandfathered into the ordinance; if in six months the City realized a minute was too short they could change it back but it would only effect new applications. The thought process was to leave the time as is and allow the signs to be placed. If after the signs are in place there is a feeling that the five minutes isn't enough and more messages need to be scrolling it would be possible to look at this item again.

Councilor Lipman stated that he understands that the community character is important but the business aspect is equally as important and that is what Mr. Weeks is trying to point out. There appears to be a demand to move this forward and asked what the process would be to move some of these items forward because it would be desired to allow the businesses to get the signs they need but to calibrate the timing as needed. Director Saunders replied that she would be happy to discuss with legal counsel the grandfathering in of the time change, or to have them attend a meeting with the Council, but it one of the changes that once you make it less strict you can't make it stricter when people have already made the investment.

Councilor Bownes commented that he did not understand that Mr. Weeks had an objection related to the special exception when he spoke at the public hearing before the Planning Board on May 6, but rather more about the time allowed for sign changing. Mr. Weeks replied that at the end of his presentation at that time he did comment that he doesn't feel the special exception is fair and that it should be permitted or not permitted. Councilor Bownes commented that he thinks that if there is a variance there is much more difficulty to have approval but to get a special exception is an easier process to go through, as well as getting approval. Councilor Bownes feels that this is one of the considerations that was taken between the two public hearings that were held on this ordinance amendment.

Councilor Bownes stated that he really feels a public hearing needs to be held at the Council level.

Mayor Engler advised that there are two options for the process to be followed. The first would be to accept the Planning Board public hearings and to schedule a vote at the next Council meeting. Councilor Bownes commented that he doesn't feel this is the best course of action because the Council would not have an opportunity to make amendments to the given amendment and would only have the opportunity to vote up or down.

Councilor Lipman asked if moving this along and then calibrating a little further as time progresses would be more beneficial to the business community because this process was started over a year ago and needs resolve. Mayor Engler advised that he feels Councilor Bownes is suggesting to move this along to a public hearing and based on input at that time a course of action can be determined. Councilor Lipman suggested to waive the public hearing to have the amendment adopted and to refine the sections further to continue and work out some concerns.

Councilor Bownes replied that he is not opposed to the concept but has concerns that if a public hearing is waived the ability to make further amendments would be waived and it may have to go back to the Planning Board for review. Mayor Engler commented that Councilor Lipman would like to adopt this as submitted and encourage the Zoning Taskforce to consider amendments.

Councilor Bolduc commented that the Weirs businesses are permitted to have the signs that are animated and flash all of the time and all Mr. Weeks is asking for is to have the same ability. This doesn't seem to be a distraction and there is not enough time to view the signs if you are traveling down Union Avenue.

Councilor Hamel commented that he understands the process Councilor Lipman is suggesting and asked if the amendment is passed as presented, with the five minutes change time, could the Council go down later. Director Saunders confirmed it could and you can't start with a lesser time and go up. Councilor Hamel added that he is supportive of the requirement to have automatic dimming of any new signs because there has been an issue with some signs that are too bright and they are now going to be grandfathered in and not be required to dim. Councilor Hamel also commented that he does see the faster changing signs as a distraction to motorists at a time when there are already sufficient distractions. The change time for the signs was previously longer and there are concerns with having it set to low and not being able to go back.

Councilor Baer agreed with Councilor Lipman and noted that there have been two (2) public hearings already and there was sufficient representation from the public at the first public hearing based on her personal observation. This would be a third public hearing and the formula suggested by Councilor Lipman is a good course of action.

Mrs. Perley commented that there was public input and other members of the business community attended the hearings and they were satisfied with the five (5) minute change as proposed. Respecting Mr. Week's position, Mrs. Perley noted that these signs are getting flashier and we need to be careful how we approach this because it does have an impact on the community.

Mr. Weeks noted that to be in a competitive community to attract business and customers you should not be moving backwards, as with the special exception requirement, because it was permitted in some zones prior. It is time and money to have a special exception and it is not guaranteed that it will be approved. Larger, competitive companies are going to go to a community that is less restrictive and allows for them to have a sign that would benefit their business. Mr. Weeks added that he would rather be a successful "Las Vegas" than a dead Laconia.

Councilor Lipman commented that he supports the general direction Mr. Weeks is referring to but feels that advancing the proposal at this time is beneficial and further amendments can be made in the future that may be deemed necessary. There has also been concerns about the special exception process but it is suggested to see how it works and if it's not working reasonably it can be amended.

Councilor Bownes asked what further delay there would be to hold a public hearing rather than voting on the amendment at the next session. City Manager Myers replied that the difference could be two weeks but that per the Council Rules the Council has the liberty to vote on an ordinance, as long as there

are no fines or fees included, on the evening it is introduced should they choose. If a public hearing were held at the next meeting they could vote on it at that meeting.

Councilor Lipman again advocated that he does not wish to have a public hearing because this ordinance amendment has been a long process and public hearings can be held on how to amend it later. By working with the business owners we can adjust as needed and make incremental changes as needed but if we keep delaying this it will be several more months before it is resolved.

Councilor Bownes commented that he fully supports the desire to get this moving but with a public hearing you gather public input and if you feel that it is time after the public hearing you can do so. This will not delay the ordinance to a significant degree and there have been several speaking at prior public hearings before the Planning Board.

Councilor Bownes moved to except draft seven (7), Signs, from the Zoning Taskforce, as approved by the Planning Board on May 6, 2014 and to schedule a public hearing on May 27, 2014 during the regular Council meeting and to place the ordinance amendment as an agenda item for that same evening. Seconded by Councilor Bolduc.

Councilor Lipman commented that this was delegated to be a Planning Board assignment and they have done so, therefore going directly to the approval is warranted before the busy business season begins.

Councilor Baer added that if this were to be placed on the agenda as an item and someone wanted to speak on it they could without having a formal public hearing.

Mayor Engler asked, procedurally, if when something comes to the Council from a board is the Council free to make amendments before passing it, or does it need to go back to the Planning Board if it is not accepted as presented. City Manager Myers replied that it is dependent on the nature of the changes; minor changes could be made but something substantial, such as changing the time interval for sign changing, would need to go back to the Planning Board or Zoning Taskforce for review.

Mayor Engler called the question. Motion passed with four (4) in favor and two (2) opposed.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Engler advised that he has been alerted by Senator Hosmer and Senator Forrester that House Bill 1203 will repeal the special legislation passed several years ago regarding the disposal of the State School property. The special legislative act gave the City first rights to purchase the property for \$10 million, among other conditions, and is still in effect. HB 1203 would place this property back into the State surplus and it would be sold as any other State owned property would. In the Senate, there was an amendment added to change the timeline from this taking effect for an additional year or more; the current act would remain in effect until the end of June, 2015. With the amendment it will need to go back to the House of Representatives and the sense is that it will be agreed upon which leaves the option to take action on this property until June, 2015.

Mayor Engler commented that the Laconia Airport Authority has been approached regarding an easement, owned by the City and currently in a conservation trust with the Town of Gilford, would like to make it a park. The Gilford Conservation Commission has indicated that they are not opposed with a park and are willing to amend the conservation easement and it will need to be sent to the Town of Gilford Board of Selectman for approval. The person that has approached the Laconia Airport regarding this property is intending to build use of the pond and to disburse the traffic that tends to congregate on the edge of Lily Pond Road. A big obstacle anticipated is with the Department of Environmental Services (DES) regarding the wetlands and if both communities show a united front it is more likely to be

declined. Mayor Engler asked for Council consensus noting it is unknown who will develop or maintain the park but some local businesses have offered some funding. No Councilors commented an objection to the proposal.

CITIZEN REQUESTS TO COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. FINANCE: (Lipman, Hamel, Baer)

- a) WOW Trail Fund
- b) Downtown TIF Financing

No report on any item in committee.

2. PUBLIC SAFETY: (Baer, Doyle, Bownes)

- a) Fair St./Court St. traffic problems and accidents

No report on any item in committee.

3. GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ORDINANCES: (Doyle, Bolduc, Bownes) (Report on the meeting of May 5 regarding item e)

- a) Energy Committee
- b) Vending and Licensing Fees
- c) Chapt. 119, Building Construction regarding signed architectural plans for residential units
- d) Proposed Ordinance Governing the Discarding of Furniture and Other Personal Items Curbside
- e) Proposed Charter amendments regarding the Municipal Primary Election

Councilor Doyle reviewed the second option for the amendment of the City Charter and advised that the committee has moved to place it on this evening's agenda for Council acceptance. By request of Mayor Engler there has been a provision added to require a minimum of 35 votes by a write-in candidate to be declared a primary or election winner. The acceptance will be voted on under New Business.

Councilor Bownes asked if there is a population correlation to the number of write-in votes you would need to receive. City Clerk Reynolds replied that this is the number for a State election and there is no correlation to the population.

4. PUBLIC WORKS: (Bolduc, Baer, Bownes)

- 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

Mayor Engler asked if there was any progress b Councilor Bolduc regarding the status of the above items. Councilor Bolduc indicated he has not but is still working on this.

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

- a) Repair & maintenance of City Buildings

No report on any item in committee.

LIAISON REPORTS: NONE

MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Myers reviewed the Recycling Report, Project Updates and Financial & Operation Trends Report.

City Manager Myers commented that there was a question brought forward at a recent meeting regarding leasing large equipment rather than purchasing. There has been research and it looks like smaller towns are doing lease programs through automobile dealers. No one has been able to get a maintenance agreement rolled into the lease agreements that have been used but there has been an indication that the State has been looking into this aspect with the thought process is to have a known fixed cost for budgeting purposes.

Councilor Baer requested to have the school budget to the Council prior to the next meeting. City Manager Myers replied that he has passed this information along and was informed the School Board will be meeting on May 20 and the budget should be available on May 21.

Mayor Engler further asked to have the School Board and/or Superintendent update the Council on enrollment figures in a historical context. City Manager Myers replied that he will ask for this information.

City Manager Myers updated the Council on the status of SB 333. Amendments have been made in favor of the City's position and it is anticipated that the Senate will vote to approve the amendment.

Councilor Hamel asked to also have a capital outlay and repair costs from the School Board with a short scenario for the School District.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Proposed agreement with PSNH for Stewart Park

City Manager Myers reviewed the proposed agreement. The Parks & Recreation Commission has reviewed the license agreement and has approved it pending Council approval. City Manager Myers noted that this license agreement does have a clause that would allow for the City to revoke the license and the equipment would be relocated at the expense of PSNH.

Director Dunleavy and John King, Project Coordinator for PSNH, were in attendance to answer any questions.

Councilor Hamel asked why they are looking at this location for a utility license when they know it could be moved at a later time and noted that if PSNH would like to have the City work with them they should return the gesture by upholding their abandoned pole removal. Mr. King replied that he will look into the issue of the abandoned poles and have the issue taken care of. In regards to the appeal and look of the utility service unit, Mr. King would like to make the area appealing and the look is going to be that of a park setting and not unpleasant.

Councilor Bolduc asked why people are permitted to place signs on the poles. Mr. King replied that he does take them down and at times it is very difficult to monitor. Mr. King will try to start a trend for removal and see what he can do. City Manager Myers advised that the City is a big offender of having signs on telephone poles so we should be careful how we approach this.

Councilor Bownes asked why this location was chosen. Mr. King replied that the original location did not seem like a safe or attractive area. Councilor Bownes asked if this needs to be placed in proximity to a

specific location. Mr. King replied that it cannot be moved to a distance further away because there are connections to the location.

Councilor Bownes moved to approve the license agreement with PSNH with the specific requirements outlined in paragraph two (2) of the agreement which states “PSNH agrees it shall install and maintain planted screening around the Licensee’s Facilities to create a visual screening using evergreen shrubs (yew, arborvitae or rhododendron), with an initial installed minimum height of 42 inches; provided however, that a sufficient 10 foot area in the front and rear of the aboveground switchgear, and otherwise sufficient clearance around the sides thereof, must be maintained for the safe work clearance and space”; and to authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the City. Seconded by Councilor Hamel.

Councilor Lipman commented that although not in the agreement he would like to note the expectation of follow through with the concerns raised relative to abandoned poles throughout the City. Mr. King acknowledge the commitment.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Proposed name change for Blackstone Square to Blackstone Circle

Joe Driscoll, Vice President of the Weirs Action Committee, explained that the circle place in the Weirs was originally known as Blackstone Square and there is a plaque on the bridge notating this. The request is to make it clear that this is a circle and rename it Blackstone Circle, and to more specifically deter the use of the name “malfunction junction” by taking the time to make an official name change and holding a ceremony to do so.

Councilor Doyle asked for the reasoning why the area is named “Blackstone”. Mr. Driscoll replied that it was named for two (2) brothers that lost their lives in World War I, Guy and Herbert. Mayor Engler added that his belief was that their father was a very prominent member of the community in the 19th century and their father’s second wife started a café in the Weirs known as Blackstone’s; the café was later sold in the 1980’s and was renamed Happy Landing.

*Councilor Doyle moved to officially change the name of Blackstone Square to Blackstone Circle. Seconded by Councilor Bolduc. **Motion passed unanimously.***

A ceremony for the renaming will be taking place on May 22 at the site.

3. Special Events Related to Motorcycle Week

City Manager Myers explained that this is an odd year by which Motorcycle Week begins on Father’s Day rather than ending on this day. A year-round business owner has indicated that there has been confusion in past years and he has been contracted to operate a beer tent and vendors inside the drive-in property; this has prompted a request to allow the beer tent to be open on Thursday rather than beginning to open on Friday. The additional request is to have vendors available in the area. The reasoning behind the request is that there will be no organized activity for those who were not aware that the week was later this year. In discussions with City staff it was decided that this should be opened to all properties having a beer tent and not limited to the one requestor. City Manager Myers cautioned the Council that this would be a one-time approval and would not be a recurring event in future years.

Also, the fee to open early on Thursday would be the same as those opening on Friday for the early vending opportunity that is offered.

Mayor Engler asked if liquor control issues would remain between the beer tent and the State. City Manager Myers confirmed this is correct and the City does not get involved with liquor licensing.

Councilor Hamel asked if this also allows them to fully operate, such as bands. City Manager Myers replied that they would have to apply for the entertainment license and the same controls and stipulations of approval would be permitted.

Councilor Hamel asked if this one night would increase the need for City staff. City Manager Myers replied that he feels it would be minimal but a paid detail could be required and would be the responsibility of the applicant.

Councilor Bolduc commented that this is going to open this up to people asking in subsequent years. City Manager Myers replied that he feels the only time this will be brought up is when the calendar forces it to happen with Father's Day being earlier. Councilor Bolduc commented that this should be part of the ordinance if that is the case. City Manager Myers reiterated that the ordinance is very clear that activity doesn't start this early each year and the intent is to not have this be reoccurring.

Councilor Hamel asked if traffic patterns will remain as outlined in the temporary traffic order. City Manager Myers replied that they will.

*Councilor Bolduc moved to allow properties that plan to host beers tents for the 2014 Motorcycle Week to submit applications for Special Event permits for Thursday, June 12, and Friday, June 13, 2014 for review by the Motorcycle Technical Review Committee and Special Events Review Committee. Seconded by Councilor Doyle. **Motion passed unanimously.***

There was general discussion regarding the future dates of Motorcycle Week in comparison to the Americade Motorcycle Rally end dates.

4. Discussion on Laconia Airport Authority Composition

Mayor Engler explained that the Council is being asked to make comment on their feelings regarding a potential proposal to change the board member structure of the Laconia Airport Authority (LAA) from its current makeup, which has been established since 1999. The current requirement is that four (4) of the LAA members must be residents of the City and two (2) must be residents of Gilford.

Mayor Engler suggested that there are many alternatives, with none being proposed at this time, but it can be hypothetically proposed that the structure could revert back to the makeup prior to 1999, which was that all six (6) appointed members needed to be residents of Belknap County, regardless of the municipality. Another possibility could be to reduce the required members from the City and Gilford by one (1) each and free up two (2) positions which could be filled with people living elsewhere. If Gilford were unwilling to give up a seat the City could also give up one (1) or two (2) seats. Mayor Engler requested comment from the Council.

Councilor Hamel asked why the change is being looked into. Mayor Engler replied that it has become, at times, increasingly more difficult to have qualified, competent, engaged people to serve on the board. This was not an issue this year but it has been in the past and could be in the future and by limiting the residency area it makes it even more difficult.

Councilor Lipman commented that expanding the pool of applicants, with the LAA being a regional resource, could potentially increase the use and is a benefit to all involved.

Councilor Bownes commented that he would like to see both communities, the City and Gilford, to come together with a solution to this.

Councilor Hamel asked if the four (4) members from the City include the Mayor sitting as the Chair. Mayor Engler replied that he is the fifth member and can vote if he chooses unlike with his role on the Council.

Mayor Engler also noted that those sitting on the LAA are there because they have an interest and not because they are supporting the interests of their municipality so there is no concern about this.

There was no further Council input on this item.

5. Request to place proposed Charter amendment to Article II on the November 4, 2014 Municipal Election Ballot and to schedule a public hearing on such amendment on May 27, 2014 during the regular Council Meeting

City Clerk Reynolds reviewed the timeline given by legal counsel with Council. A public hearing would be posted for May 27 and the language would be sent, via certified mailing, to the Secretary of State, Attorney General and Department of Revenue for review; each agency has 30 days to respond. If no response is received it is considered approved and the process continues. If there are changes requested after the public hearing they will be reviewed by legal counsel and resubmitted.

Mayor Engler confirmed that this requires two (2) readings and a public hearing. City Clerk Reynolds explained that a second vote is only required if changes are requested.

*Councilor Doyle moved to move place a Charter amendment to Article II, known as Option #2, with the inclusion that write-in candidates would need to receive a minimum of 35 votes to be placed on a municipal election ballot or to be declared as nominated for any elected office, on the November 4, 2014 Municipal Election Ballot and to schedule a public hearing for May 27, 2014 during the regular Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilor Bolduc. **Motion passed unanimously.***

6. First Reading of a Resolution Relative to the Dissolution of the Wyatt Park Special Revenue Fund and Appropriating the remaining funds to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2014 and terminating June 30, 2015 and request to schedule a public hearing on May 27, 2014 during the regular Council meeting

City Manager Myers explained that a Special Revenue Fund was established for the Wyatt Park Association for the maintenance of the park house. The intent is to use these funds for a Wyatt Park purpose by moving it to the General Fund.

Councilor Hamel asked how the funds are going to be accounted for if they go into the General Fund. Finance Director Woodaman replied that a line item will be added to the Parks & Recreation budget to account for the funds.

Councilor Bolduc asked if this means there will no longer be an association for this park. City Clerk Reynolds, as a member of the Wyatt Park Community Volunteers, explained that there will be a community association but not a park house association.

Parks & Recreation Director Kevin Dunleavy addressed the Council. Director Dunleavy explained that this Special Revenue Fund was established specifically for the maintenance and operation of the park house and with this no longer being in place the funds cannot be used for another purpose unless they are re-designated and the fund dissolved.

Councilor Hamel asked if these were funds raised from association. Director Dunleavy replied that these are funds generated from the use of the park house when it existed.

Councilor Bolduc asked who would have control of the funds. Director Dunleavy replied that the Parks & Recreation Director would be working with the group. City Manager Myers added that the funds being appropriated would make it the discretion of the combined efforts.

*Councilor Bolduc moved a first reading of a Resolution Relative to the Dissolution of the Wyatt Park Special Revenue Fund and Appropriating the remaining funds to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2014 and terminating June 30, 2015. Seconded by Councilor Baer. **Motion passed unanimously.***

*Councilor Bownes moved to schedule a public hearing on May 27, 2014 during the regular Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Bolduc. **Motion passed unanimously.***

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Milfoil Treatment Funding Request
2. WOW Trail
3. Master Plan
4. EPA Update
5. Sewer & Water Master Plan
6. Single Stream Recycling/Concord Co-Op/Solid Waste Disposal Cost Reduction
7. Strategic Planning/Goal Setting

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS & ELECTIONS: **NONE**

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilor Hamel commented that the Community Center floors have progressed well and will be completed very soon. Also, the Union Avenue waterline project is nearing the end as well.

NON - PUBLIC SESSION: **NONE**

Mayor Engler noted that a non-meeting will be held regarding collective bargaining.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Bolduc moved to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Lipman. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary A. Reynolds
City Clerk