



**LACONIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 14, 2010  
CITY HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 200A  
7:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG:**

Councilor Henry Lipman led the Salute to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL:**

City Clerk Cote called the roll with the following Councilors present: Councilor Knytych, Lahey, Lipman, Baer, Hamel and Bolduc. Also present City Manager Eileen Cabanel and Finance Director Pam Reynolds.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

- **Regular and non-public meeting minutes of May 24, 2010**

Councilor Bolduc moved to accept the regular and non-public minutes of May 24, 2010 as presented. Seconded by Councilor Hamel. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**CONSENT AND ACTION CALENDAR:**

1. **Temporary Traffic Order 2010-07 Evangelical Baptist Church Bible School**

Councilor Hamel moved to accept Temporary Traffic Order 2010-07 Evangelical Baptist Church Bible School as presented. Seconded by Councilor Knytych. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: NONE**

**INTERVIEWS:**

1. **William Contardo – requesting reappointment to the Planning Board**

Councilor Hamel thanked Mr. Contardo for his many years of dedicated service to the Planning Board.

No further questions were asked of Mr. Contardo and he was thanked for his attendance.

**2. Don Richards – requesting reappointment to the Planning Board (Because of a scheduling conflict, he will be interviewed on 6/28/10)**

**3. Richard Breton – requesting reappointment to the Water Commission**

Councilor Bolduc thanked Mr. Breton for his 16 years of service on the Water Commission.

No further questions were asked of Mr. Breton and he was thanked for his attendance.

**COMMUNICATIONS: NONE**

**PRESENTATIONS: NONE**

**MAYOR'S REPORT: NONE**

**CITIZEN REQUESTS TO COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS: NONE**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

- **Proposed bonding for renovation and construction of Huot Career & Technical Center**

Mayor Seymour opened the Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m. with the announcement of the posting of this Public Hearing in the May 28, 2010 edition of the Laconia Daily Sun.

Councilor Lipman began by explaining that the Finance Committee has met on two occasions since the last Council Meeting on May 24, to discuss the options available for this project. At this juncture, it was necessary to hear the public opinion on the matter, and he was eager to do so.

**Gary Groleau** represents New Hampshire Ball Bearing, which works closely with the Huot Career & Technical Center through the redesign of the machining center, providing internship experience, and participation in curriculum development. Mr. Groleau read a prepared statement, highlighting the need for new, updated technological equipment for the Center. Mr. Groleau emphasized that the strength of the operation at New Hampshire Ball Bearing depends of the strength of programs of secondary technical programs, such as those offered at the Huot Center. Mr. Groleau encourages the Council to move forward with the opportunity to make advances at the Huot Center.

Councilor Lahey asked Mr. Groleau for his opinion of the short comings in the programs at the Huot Center, and what he thinks can be improved. Mr. Groleau emphasized that the curriculum at the Center does not support the technology of the industries.

**Jeff Pearson** spoke as a parent of three children who have gone through the programs at the Huot Career & Technical Center. Mr. Pearson is also a partner of Stafford Oil Company, noting that the service industry is as important, if not more, than it has ever been. With technology changing, it is important to look at the changes as opportunities and not challenges, not only in the Plumbing and Heating program, but in all of the programs. Mr. Pearson feels there are good opportunities for students exposed to a technical career center, and encouraged the Council to accept the proposal for renovations of the Huot Center so future students can benefit from the programs.

**Ron O'Connor** is a 23 year employee of the Irwin Zone. The Irwin Zone is a supporter of the Huot Center, taking in as many students as they can to start their career and helping place many others. The Huot Center is a great facility, but it needs to be updated and polished. The cost to do upgrades and update equipment is not going to get cheaper as time goes on. Mr. O'Connor has done a walkthrough of the Huot Centers Automotive program, and mentioned various equipment that needs to be updated or replaced simply to allow the students to learn at the correct pace.

**Thomas Gouellette** spoke as a member of the Shaker Regional School Board, as well as of the Lakes Region Community College as the Vice President of Academic Affairs. The Shaker Regional School District sends an average of 45 students to the Huot Center from Belmont High School, utilizing every program the Center offers. The Huot Center has taught these students lifelong learning skills that they have carried with them either to college or directly into the work force. At the last meeting of the Shaker Regional School Board, it was voted unanimously to support the efforts of the City of Laconia should they decide to move forward, noting the recognition of the facility, programs and the faculty.

During Mr. Gouellette's time at Lakes Region Community College, he has seen the quality of students coming out of the Huot Center. With the renovations of the Center, it will lead to growth of the economic development, an example being the employers in the area who are already involved in Center and their success.

**Ben Davis** is a graduate of Laconia High School and was a student of the Huot Technical Center, moving on to earn a degree in Radiologic Science from Champlain College. Mr. Davis expressed his support of the Huot Center and the potential that would exist for the students in the programs with updated equipment and supplies.

**Dick Stewart** spoke on behalf of his wife, Ruth, who could not be in attendance and himself. Mr. Stewart noted that Mrs. Stewart is a retired librarian of the Laconia School District and for many years spoke of the need for an updated Huot Center. Mr. Stewart expressed his positive experiences with various programs within the Huot Center, hoping to encourage the Councils consideration.

**Sally McCreery** spoke representing Boulia Gorrell Lumber Company, which has worked with the students of the Building Trades program at the Huot Center. Over the years, the programs offered at the Center have become impressive, including the students coming out of the programs. Ms. McCreery noted some of the needs for improvements at the center, including the need to educate the students on constant changes in the industry such as laws and codes. It would be Ms. McCreery's hope that the Council would take advantage of the opportunity to expand on the programs, as it can only benefit the community in the long run.

**Peggy Selig** is a Laconia resident and the Director of the Adult Education Program. Ms. Selig brought a new perspective of the renovations of the Huot Center; the adults in the community that would benefit. With the expanded programs being offered through Laconia Adult Education could be expanded if the facility itself is expanded. Ms. Selig noted some restrictions on the current program, such as supplies for cooking classes and outdated equipment for the Machine Tool and Welding programs.

**Diane Greenwood** spoke on behalf of Laconia Savings Bank. Throughout the last 14 years, Laconia Savings Bank has worked with the Huot Center to educate students on processing of financial transactions by opening a small branch allowing the students to get hands on experience. Laconia Savings Bank has hired many students, two of which are still employed today. Ms. Greenwood

expressed that the Huot Center provides a working, professional environment for students, and gives them more opportunities for those who may choose not to attend college.

**Bob Luther** stated that this project needs to be done now, because the City cannot afford to do it later. In the future, the money may not be available, and this is the least expensive way.

**Matt Huot** is a Laconia resident and graduate of Laconia High School. Mr. Huot's grandfather served this community for many years, and he believed in the Technical Centers mission to prepare students for the work force. On a more personal note, Mr. Huot recalled memories of his mother being an instructor in the programs of the Technical Center. Mr. Huot acknowledged that this is a "family matter" for him, but after listening to the business members of the community he has come to realize it is a family matter for several families throughout the community. Mr. Huot encouraged the Council to give this proposal every consideration.

With no other members of the public wishing to speak, Mayor Seymour closed the Public Hearing at 8:04 p.m.

Councilor Lipman made the observation from the comments this evening, that the decision to proceed with this project is one of long term economic value, and needs to be looked into further.

Councilor Lipman advised to carry forward any decisions to a subsequent meeting of the Council as a whole to see if they can come to an agreement about what the funding options might be and to also get some clarification about what the technical requirements are to meet the Department of Education standards to be able to qualify for either the 75%, or the 75% plus the building aid component. Councilor Lipman continued by stating that the Council has made well, thought decisions, and they should take the time to get it right and allow time to study financially. The City would not be compelled to spend any funds if the State does not have the funds. If this project is delayed to a time when the State does not have the offer of aid, the City will be responsible for the entire project cost and will cost the tax payers more.

Councilor Lipman moved to carry forward the resolution so it can be refined to come to an agreement around a financing plan and the technical language necessary to address the Department of Education requirements. Seconded by Councilor Lahey.

Councilor Hamel stated that he feels this needs to be done, but his reservations have to do with the timing and the current economy, as well as the outlook for the near future. Councilor Hamel questioned how the School Department would be able to fund this project within their budget; this year they did not have the concern of a new contract, but next year they will. The contract would add \$500,000 a year to the School Budget, and in a year the stimulus grants will be gone leaving no funding for the programs put in place from the grants. Another concern is the potential reduction in State aid given to the School Districts. With all of the potential losses in funding, Councilor Hamel is concerned on the impact of the School District academics if the School Department is forced to make adjustments to be able to fund this project.

Councilor Hamel commented on the willingness of the Shaker Regional School District to support this project, but is this simply a statement of support, or is it financial also. The tax payers of Laconia are going to be paying for this project. Councilor Hamel further commented on the statements made regarding the deplorable condition of the current facility, and questioned why improvements have not been made over the years causing this problem now. Councilor Hamel used the carpet at Woodland

Heights not being replaced for 30 years as an example. The School Department is letting the programs get so far behind with technology that we are now at a critical point.

Councilor Hamel further stated that two years ago when this proposal was presented, all that was needed from the Council was a letter stating approval of the project and getting the place marker; this year it's a bond commitment. Councilor Hamel questioned what RSA was changed allowing for the change in the process requiring the funding be in place prior. If it wasn't for the requirement of the bond, he would vote to place the City in line.

Councilor Lipman acknowledged Councilor Hamel's concerns, but reiterated the purpose of carrying forward any vote this evening would be to allow for time to answer questions and make sure the process is done the best way possible. Councilor Lipman expressed the need to try and get the funding now to avoid the taxpayers taking on the full burden in the future, or the project would not be done at all. After hearing from the local business community, it is clear that the local economy depends on the successes of the Huot Center.

Councilor Baer reiterated that everyone knows the value of the Technical School, and no one is against it; this is all a matter of timing. This year, the City side of the proposed budget is less than last year with \$523,000 in reductions in revenue, and the fixed cost has increased for the health insurance and retirement fund \$450,000. Councilor Baer does not understand how the School Department is spending money they don't have; there is the willingness to look at options, but the funding can't come from the City side of the budget.

Councilor Bolduc expressed his concern with the impact on the tax payers. People are losing their jobs and homes, and they cannot afford any additional increases. Councilor Bolduc is not opposed to the Huot Center, but does not see where the funding will come from; the State can pull the funding at any time.

Councilor Lipman clarified that if the State does not come up with the promised funding the City will not spend any money. It was further noted that the statements made with regard to saving the tax payers money are false; if this is not done with the 75% aid from the State, the tax payers will be paying 100% of the cost for the project by postponing and the tax payers will have to give up other items to maintain the Tax Cap.

Councilor Knytych agreed that there are many questions that need to be answered. There are limitations with space for expansion, which would make it more conservative to use an existing structure and make this project more affordable. Councilor Knytych praised the motion to carry this forward to allow for all questions to be answered. The upgrades are necessary to allow the students to have the most advanced skills for the occupations they are expanding upon.

Mayor Seymour noted that there was a motion on the floor with regard to carrying forward this resolution to another meeting.

Councilor Lahey asked Superintendent Champlin if they would have an outlook for future year's budget proposals for the proposed meeting. It was confirmed that they will.

City Manager Cabanel advised that the proposed meeting be more of a work shop for the Council to look at the numbers, with some input of the School Board members.

Councilor Lipman amended his motion to hold the meeting on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Lahey. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **FINANCE:** (Lipman, Hamel, Baer) (No report on any item in committee)
  - a) WOW Trail Fund
  - b) Special Item Budget Requests Procedural Review
  
2. **PUBLIC SAFETY:** ( Baer, Knytych, Lahey) (No report on any item in committee)
  - a) Fair St./Court St. traffic problems and accidents
  
3. **GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ORDINANCES:** (Knytych, Bolduc, Lahey) (No report on any item in committee)
  - a) Energy Committee
  - b) Amendment to Zoning ordinance re Drug Treatment Facilities
  - e) Proposed Amendments to City Charter
  
4. **PUBLIC WORKS:** (Bolduc, Baer, Lahey) (No report on any item in committee)
  - a) Ordinance Amending Chapter 221, Vehicles and Traffic/Parking on Sublawns
  - b) Oak & North Main St. Intersection
  - c) No parking on Messer St.
  
5. **LAND & BUILDINGS:** (Hamel, Lipman ,Bolduc) (No report on any item in Committee)
  - a) Repair & maintenance of City Buildings
  - b) Repairs to apron at Weirs Beach Fire Station

**LIAISON REPORTS: NONE**

**MANAGER’S REPORT:**

City Manager Cabanel advised the Council that a limb of the Perley Oak had fallen, and was cut into 18 inch pieces which are being stored at the Public Works garage. It is the hope to gather information as to how people would like to see the pieces used, both from the Council and public.

It had been brought to the Manager’s attention that there was a property on Manchester Street that was in poor condition and was going to be foreclosed on by Citizen’s Bank. The location of this property would be in an ideal location to offer parking for Sanborn Park, which is not existent at this time. City Manager Cabanel reached out to Citizen’s Bank to turn the property over to the City, and an expressed agreement was made to allow the City to purchase the property for \$5,000.

Councilor Hamel made the motion to allow the City Manager to sign a purchase and sales agreement for the property located at 23 Manchester Street not to exceed \$5,000. Seconded by Councilor Bolduc. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The City Manager brought to the Councils attention that the property may carry additional costs for asbestos removal, but that will be brought to the Council’s attention as time moves forward.

City Manager Cabanel reported that the State has passed their budget with no additional cuts to the City. In lieu of this, there is an additional \$127,000 that has been cut from the Departments that can now be used. It would be her request to have discussion regarding this at the June 21, 2010 Special Meeting.

It was reported that Motorcycle Week is doing well financially.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Resolutions authorizing the School Board to apply for funding of a capital project in the amount of \$10,000,000**

**#1 – Non-binding for 75% funding (good faith effort)**

**#1-A – Non-binding for 75% funding (good faith effort with paragraphs 3 & 4)**

**#2 - Binding for 75% funding and 40% funding and includes paragraphs 3 & 4**

This item has been carried to a Special Meeting to be held on June 21, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Confirmation of design and construction of intersection improvements at Oak & North Main Sts.**

City Manager Cabanel explained the contract is ready to be signed for this project and it was the thought to review it with the Council before signing.

Public Works Director Paul Moynihan reviewed the status of the proposal. It is the request to have final approval of the City Manager and Council to precede with the final design improvements for that intersection and to pursue the presented alternative at this time.

It was the agreement of the Council to take the recommendation of the Public Works Director.

**3. Consideration of expanded “No Parking” zone on Messer St.**

Public Works Director Paul Moynihan explained the request to have two parking spaces added to Messer Street and the moving of the center yellow line to accommodate the spaces.

Councilor Lahey expressed his displeasure with the proposal and the special accommodations being made.

Councilor Bolduc moved to accept the proposal of the Public Works Department to add two parallel parking spaces in front of 242 Messer Street and modify the prior proposal to include both sides of Messer Street from the railroad crossing near the Lyford Street intersection to the intersection of Union Avenue excepting the two parallel parking spaces noted. Seconded by Councilor Knytych. **Motion passed with a 5-1 vote with Councilor Lahey opposed.**

**4. Transfer Requests**

City Manager Cabanel explained the transfers requested.

Councilor Knytych motioned to transfer from account 01-502 Public Works-Winter Maintenance \$100,000 and 01-503 Public Works-Winter O/S \$8,000 to 01-419 City Hall Maintenance \$3,000, 01-437 Police

\$55,000, and 01-401 Theater Dir O/S \$50,000 for a total of \$108,000. Seconded by Councilor Bolduc. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**5. Council vote to accept \$101,000 in NH Office of Energy and Planning Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant money and to ratify City Manager's authority to sign on behalf of the City to accept the grant money**

Councilor Hamel moved to accept \$101,000 in NH Office of Energy and Planning Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant money. Seconded by Councilor Bolduc. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Councilor Bolduc moved to authorize the City Manager to sign on behalf of the City to accept the above noted grant money. Seconded by Councilor Knytych. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**6. Schedule public hearing on June 28<sup>th</sup> for FY 2010-2011 municipal and school budgets**

Councilor Knytych moved to schedule a Public Hearing for a first reading of the 2010-2011 municipal and school budgets for June 28, 2010 during the regular Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Lahey. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**7. Schedule Airport Appointive Agency meeting on Monday, June 28, 2010 at 7:15 p.m.**

Councilor Lipman moved to schedule a meeting of the Airport Appointive Agency for June 28, 2010 at 7:15 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Hamel. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**8. Proposal for storm windows for Goss Reading Room/Councilor Bolduc**

Councilor Bolduc explained his inspection of the storm windows at the Goss Reading Room and his request to allocate funds to make the improvements.

Bob Selig, Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees, indicated that the Library Board of Trustees is the only body permitted by RSA to submit proposals of this nature, and they do not feel the upgrade is needed.

Councilor Bolduc clarified that he was attempting to help and he does feel the windows need to be replaced.

**9. Acceptance of resignation of Councilor Greg Knytych as Councilor for Ward 1**

Councilor Lipman moved to accept the resignation of Councilor Knytych effective June 28, 2010. Seconded by Councilor Lahey. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**10. Establishing application deadline and scheduling meeting to interview candidates for appointment as Ward 1 City Councilor**

Councilor Lipman moved to accept requests for appointment to the vacancy of Councilor in Ward 1 until June 28, 2010 and interview all candidates on July 12. Seconded by Councilor Bolduc. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. WOW Trail
2. Master Plan
3. EPA Update
4. Sewer & Water Master Plan
5. Single Stream Recycling/Concord Co-Op

**NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS & ELECTIONS: NONE**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilor Hamel noted that the walls have been done for the storage shed at Memorial Park. It was also noted that Councilor Knytych will be missed as a member of the Council and was thanked for his service.

**NON - PUBLIC SESSION: NONE**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 9:22 p.m. Councilor Bolduc moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Knytych. **Motion passed unanimously.**

A True Record Attest:

Mary A. Cote  
City Clerk