



**LACONIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 200A  
JUNE 28, 2010  
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 Brenda Baer led the Salute to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Councilor Knytych joined the meeting at

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

- **Minutes of June 14, 2010 council meeting and special meeting of June 21, 2010**

Councilor Hamel moved to accept the minutes of June 14, 2010 council meeting and special meeting of June 21, 2010. Seconded by Councilor Baer. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**CONSENT AND ACTION CALENDAR: NONE**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

**Barry Stacy Laughton** noted that the "No Parking" signs have been placed on Messer Street, but it is not being enforced by the Police Department. City Manager Cabanel will communicate with the Police Department to ensure they are aware of the newly instituted "No Parking" area.

**Ralph Alexander** is the owner of Curbside Treasures on Elm Street. Mr. Alexander inquired as to why his sign permit and encumbrance permit had been revoked by the City Manager.

City Manager Cabanel has spoken to Mr. Alexander in the past and has explained the reasoning pertains to the condition of the area in front of the store and its appearance. The City does have the ability to revoke the permit when it feels the need is there.

Mayor Seymour offered to have a separate meeting with Mr. Alexander and the City Manager at another time. All parties were in agreement.

## **INTERVIEWS:**

### **1. Don Richards – requesting reappointment to the Planning Board**

No Councilors had questions for Mr. Richards.

Councilor Hamel thanked Mr. Richards for all of the time he has donated to the City over the years.

### **2. Candidates to fill vacancy for Ward 1 City Councilor**

With the resignation of Councilor Knytych, two residents have come forward to fill the vacancy.

**Ava Doyle** is a business owner in the Weirs. Mrs. Doyle is familiar with the tourism industry of the City, and feels she could provide representation well. Mrs. Doyle is also a member of the CIP Committee, as well as being a founding incorporator of the Weirs Action Committee.

Councilor Lipman asked how Mrs. Doyle would represent Ward 1 with respect to the entire City. Mrs. Doyle believes she would look at the needs of the City, provided that it did not conflict with her moral feelings on a given issue.

Councilor Lipman asked if Mrs. Doyle planned to only fill the term of the vacancy or to run for election for the next term. Mrs. Doyle cannot predict farther than a year and a half, but would like to think they could have continuity.

City Manager Cabanel asked Mrs. Doyle if she had a particular reason that peaked her interest in the position. Mrs. Doyle would like to give something back to the City, which is at a crossroads with the current economy.

Councilor Baer noted that Mrs. Doyle had run for office before.

Councilor Lipman asked Mrs. Doyle how she feels she can complement the current sitting Council, as well as what some priorities may be. Mrs. Doyle has a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting, so she has a strong understanding of numbers. There is always room for improvement. To her knowledge, she has not personality conflicts with anyone on the Council. It is not her opinion that she is contentious, and life experience has shown her to pick her battles. In regards to priorities, Mrs. Doyle stated she is open minded and doesn't have an agenda.

Councilor Knytych thanked Mrs. Doyle for stepping forward, and noted that she is a good candidate as they have a similar outlook on many issues.

**Mark Condodemetraky** is a licensed professional engineer, insurance broker, and gas fitter. He considers himself a "blue collar" guy, with beliefs in diversity. Mr. Condodemetraky feels he could bring experience, energy and vigor to the Council, and make good decisions. Mr. Condodemetraky chose Laconia to raise his family because he loves the community and all of the amenities it offers the residents.

Mr. Condodemetraky has prior experience from the Town of Belmont, where he previously served on the Budget Committee and Conservation Committee. He has an understanding of how budgets work and how you need to think outside of the box and keep your mind open.

Councilor Lipman asked if Mr. Condodemetraky planned to only fill the term of the vacancy or to run for election for the next term. It would be the intention would be to run for a full term, with the feelings that one term would not be enough time. Beyond an additional term, he can't make any long term commitments.

Councilor Knytych noted he has had conversations with Mr. Condodemetraky and they were productive. Councilor Knytych thanked Mr. Condodemetraky for applying.

Councilor Lipman asked Mr. Condodemetraky to offer his perspective on issues he feels strongly towards as well as how he could compliment the current Council. Mr. Condodemetraky stated he does not have a specific agenda, and his goal would be to keep the City moving in a positive direction. He feels his experience brings a great deal of beneficial knowledge in a variety of ways that can only be positive.

Mayor Seymour asked if there is a particular issue that Mr. Condodemetraky feels strongly towards, and his feelings are in contrast with those of the residents in his ward, how he would address it. Mr. Condodemetraky stated that the "job" of a Councilor is to represent the constituents, and put your own personal feelings to the side to be the voice of the community.

City Manager Cabanel asked Mr. Condodemetraky why he chose to apply for this position. Mr. Condodemetraky stated that he feels every citizen of a community should serve their community and lead a good example for the next generation.

**COMMUNICATIONS: NONE**

**PRESENTATIONS: NONE**

**MAYOR'S REPORT: NONE**

**CITIZEN REQUESTS TO COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

Barry "Stacy" Laughton commented that the two candidates for Ward 1 are great. He also commented that the residents of other wards are going to miss Councilor Knytych as well.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

- **Municipal and School Budgets 2010-2011**

Mayor Seymour opened the public hearing at 7:57 p.m. with the reading of the notice posted in the June 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the Laconia Daily Sun.

City Manager Cabanel made note that the proposed budget that has been presented in the newspapers, as well as posted, is different from the current proposal because of necessary changes. City Manager Cabanel noted that the revenue and expenses have netted to no increase in taxes for the property owners.

**Ed McFarland** is a Board Member for Genesis Behavioral Health. Currently, there are 10 mental health centers in New Hampshire, each having a contract with the State of New Hampshire. This contract has an unfunded mandate for the health center to provide emergency services. In the last fiscal year, there were 261 Laconia residents using these emergency services. The State has made additional cuts causing the budget to be strained farther, causing an operating deficit of \$70,000 for the first 11 months of the fiscal year.

Councilor Lahey asked for the specific requested amount as well as what they have been appropriated. City Manager Cabanel stated they have requested \$25,740 and have been appropriated \$8,000, which is the exact same amount as last year.

**Bob Adams** spoke on behalf of the Community Action Program. Mr. Adams thanked the Council for their support, and noted that the program appreciates it.

Councilor Baer thanked Mr. Adams for all they due.

Councilor Knytych thanked Mr. Adams for the work done at the program.

Mayor Seymour closed the public hearing at 8:05 p.m.

#### **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 informed the Council of a railway crossing on Fair Street and Bay Street in need of repair. The State of New Hampshire is offering to pay 80% of the cost. The City portion would come from the Road Improvement Fund.

Councilor Hamel asked where the location of the crossings. They are located in the area of Hebert Foundry. There was repaving done recently, however the under laying construction needs to be repaired.

Councilor Lipman asked if the proposal would be using funds from the current fiscal year and the status of available funds. City Manager Cabanel stated they would be coming out of the proposed budget, which consists of \$1,075,000. This will not eliminate any projects or push anything aside. The maximum amount of this project would be \$44,000.

The Council is in agreement of this project.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Request to transfer \$20,000 for the purchase and demolition of 23 Manchester St.**

City Manager Cabanel noted the funds for this purchase would be carried forward from the current fiscal year. The \$20,000 will be for asbestos and abatement also.

Councilor Lahey moved to transfer \$20,000 to account 01-497-479-0006 Purchase and Demolition 23 Manchester St from account 01-431-343-0000 Contingency. Seconded by Councilor Hamel. **Motion passed unanimously.**

City Manager Cabanel noted they will see this item again with the carry forward requests.

**2. Request for no parking zone between Crescent St. and Gilford Ave.**

A letter was received from Thomas and Michelle Walsh.

Councilor Baer moved to have this item assigned to the Public Works Committee. Seconded by Councilor Lipman. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**3. Schedule public hearing on July 12, 2010 for transfers into Capital Reserve Funds**

Councilor Lahey moved to schedule a public hearing to be held on July 12, 2010 during the regular Council Meeting for transfers into the Capital Reserve Funds. Seconded by Councilor Lipman. **Motion passed unanimously.**

City Manager Cabanel explained the School Department will have a sum of money left over at the end of the fiscal year. This money is going to be transferred into funds for Special Education and to offset some costs associated with the building project associated with the Huot Center.

**4. Resolution Authorizing the School Board to Apply for Funding of a Capital Project in the Amount of \$10,000,000 (Second Reading)**

Councilor Lipman moved the second reading of the Resolution Authorizing the School Board to Apply for Funding of a Capital Project in the Amount of \$10,000,000, which is dependent on the State of New Hampshire coming forward with their portion of the funding. Seconded by Councilor Lahey. **Motion passed on a 4-1 vote with Councilor Baer opposed.**

**5. Budget Resolutions: (First Reading)**

**a) Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for the General Fund for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 and Terminating June 30, 2011**

Councilor Lipman moved the Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for the General Fund for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 and Terminating June 30, 2011 with the following change:

GRAND TOTAL: 2010-2011 APPROPRIATION.....	\$58,720,621	58,620,621
LESS: TOTAL REVENUES .....	\$25,365,510	
BALANCE TO BE RAISED BY TAXES .....	\$33,255,111	33,255,111

The \$100,000 reduction is intended to reduce the tax rate and offset the Police Department budget. Seconded by Councilor Lahey.

Councilor Baer requested the motion be read again, which Councilor Lipman obliged.

Councilor Lipman explained the proposal is being made with hopes of recognition that the Council has worked very hard to bring in a budget within the Tax Cap, and it has been made clear for some time that the Council does not wish to have “step” increases implemented, along with other pay increases. The cost associated with being put in the position to honor “steps” in one area, the contracts for other areas would require these “steps” as well.

Councilor Baer noted that all departments of the City are different when it comes to setting salaries. The Police Department budget, while it still comes under the City, it is governed by the Police Commission. It is the duty of the Police Commission to set compensation, as is stated in Article 10, Section 10:2 of the City Charter; this means the Chief of Police doesn’t set the increase, nor the Unions, nor the City Council. We also have the Water Department which is also run by a Commission, and it has not been confirmed that they have given up “step” increases. City Manager Cabanel advised that she is in contact with the other departments, and they will generally follow suit with what the others do. Councilor Baer countered that she had spoken to Superintendent Nuttelman who had indicated some of the Water Commission members were not in favor of removing the “step” increases. In addition, Councilor Baer asked if the money is going to be taken out of every other City department, which currently has the funds for the “step” increases built in. City Manager Cabanel explained that she was going to take the funds from each budget, but it was made clear after the City Manager had made the existing cuts that the intention of the Council was to withhold the “step” increases. At a future meeting, it was planned to propose the moving of the funds into Contingency.

Councilor Baer continued that that Police Department “steps” are merit increases, unlike other departments which give them automatically. A majority of the employees at the Police Department that are eligible for the increases are at the lowest part of the pay scale; they are new and young. Most officers have already received the maximum scale level and will not receive more. The funds for these “steps” are already in the current budget, and represents \$44,000.

Recently, the City Manager asked each department to make cuts from their requested budgets. The Police Department responded with \$35,000 in reductions, however the State of NH did not make the anticipated cuts which caused the need for the reductions. Rather than returning the funds to the budgets they were cut from, the Council chose to appropriate them elsewhere.

Councilor Hamel reiterated that the Council has been working hard, as well as the City Manager and Finance Director, to get the budget to have no increased effect on the taxpayers. In the past few years, the fund for the roads has been reduced to below \$1 million to try and balance. All of the departments have been asked to consider no cost of living or "step" increases, and most have stepped forward to accept. The total cost of the Police Department taking the "step" increases does not amount to \$44,000 because if they are given the increases, every other department will be also. The \$100,000 reduction is the total impact of giving everyone the "step" increases. In addition, there are increases to retirement and healthcare that need to be honored also.

Councilor Knytych added that the Council was in agreement that pay increases were not going to be funded, and it was made clear to the employees and the public that the City cannot fund. The commitment should be to reduce the burden on the taxpayers, and an action that has a domino effect on the City and is going to cost more in the long term is not cooperative.

**Motion passed with a 4-1 vote with Councilor Baer opposed.**

**b) Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for the Internal Services Fund for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 and Terminating June 30, 2011**

Councilor Knytych moved the Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for the Internal Services Fund for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 and Terminating June 30, 2011 as read. Seconded by Councilor Hamel. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**c) Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for the Water Fund for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 and Terminating June 30, 2011**

Councilor Knytych moved the Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for the Water Fund for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 and Terminating June 30, 2011 as read. Seconded by Councilor Lahey. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**d) Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for the Sewer Fund for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 and Terminating June 30, 2011**

Councilor Knytych moved the Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for the Sewer Fund for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 and Terminating June 30, 2011 as read. Seconded by Councilor Lahey. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**e) Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for the Special Revenue Fund – Motorcycle Week for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 and Terminating June 30, 2011**

Councilor Knytych moved the Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for the Special Revenue Fund – Motorcycle Week for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 and Terminating June 30, 2011 as read. Seconded by Councilor Hamel. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**f) Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for the Tax Increment Finance District-Downtown for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 and Terminating June 30, 2011**

Councilor Knytych moved the Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for the Tax Increment Finance District-Downtown for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 and Terminating June 30, 2011 as read. Seconded by Councilor Hamel. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**g) Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for Anticipated Grants the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 and Terminating June 30, 2011**

Councilor Knytych moved the Resolution Relative to Making Itemized Appropriations for Anticipated Grants the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 and Terminating June 30, 2011 as read. Seconded by Councilor Hamel. **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:**

1. **William Contardo – requesting reappointment to the Planning Board**
2. **Don Richards – requesting reappointment to the Planning Board**
3. **Richard Breton – requesting reappointment to the Water Commission**

Councilor Lipman moved the make the above requested appointments as presented. Seconded by Councilor Lahey. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilor Hamel noted that the work on the new storage building at Memorial Park is moving forward well. Councilor Hamel also reviewed an article he came across regarding the economic condition of the Nation and State of New Hampshire and the grim outlook for the upcoming fiscal years. This is due in large part to the retirement systems. City Manager Cabanel reviewed the Retirement Board make up and the possibilities of the potential impact on municipalities if the ratio continues to increase.

Mayor Seymour acknowledged this as Councilor Knytych's last meeting. Councilor Knytych was commended for his service to the Council and the City.

**NON - PUBLIC SESSION: NONE**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilor Hamel moved to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Knytych. **Motion passed unanimously.**

A True Record Attest:

Mary A. Cote  
City Clerk