



LACONIA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 8, 2013
CITY HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 200A
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Pro Tem Robert Hamel called the meeting to order at the above date and time.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG:

Councilor Armand Bolduc led the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL:

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

Mayor Seymour and Councilor Lahey were excused.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

1. Regular Minutes of June 24, 2013

Councilor Bolduc moved to approve the regular minutes of June 24, 2013. Seconded by Councilor Baer. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AND ACTION CALENDAR:

1. Multicultural Market Day

Councilor Lipman commented that it appears the date is much earlier than in prior years and requested confirmation on this. City Manager Myers replied that there was a conflict and the date has been moved up.

- a. Temporary Traffic Order 2013-11 for Multicultural Market Day on August 3, 2013

Councilor Lipman moved to approve Temporary Traffic Order 2013-11, Multicultural Market Day. Seconded by Councilor Doyle. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Request to Waive Vendor Fees for Multicultural Market Day

Councilor Baer moved to waive vendor fees for Multicultural Market Day. Seconded by Councilor Doyle. Motion passed unanimously.

- c. Request to use Electricity from City Light Poles

*Councilor Lipman moved to approve the use of electricity from City light poles for Multicultural Market Day. Seconded by Councilor Baer. **Motion passed unanimously.***

CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Clay Dunn addressed the Council. Mr. Dunn asked if recycling is going to be collected every week or every other week. Mayor Pro Tem Hamel replied that it will be collected every other week. Mr. Dunn asked if the Council realizes that this is not going to work. Mayor Pro Tem Hamel replied that this has just begun and collecting each week would cost an additional \$90,000.

Mr. Dunn expressed that he feels recycling needs to be collected more often. Mr. Dunn has 40 apartments and does not understand how he is expected to have compliance. Mayor Pro Tem Hamel stated that the Council has been discussing options for two years and this is the choice that was made. Mr. Dunn replied that he is frustrated because he would think after two years the Council would have a solution and asked if the Council is setting this up to fail to force purchasing bags. Mayor Pro Tem Hamel replied that this is absolutely not the case.

Councilor Bolduc advised Mr. Dunn that when taking public input it was expressed that every other week collection would be sufficient. Mayor Pro Tem Hamel added that there have been many public hearings on the topic as well as educational forums for the public to ensure it is successful.

Councilor Lipman explained that this is a trial time period and the Council is looking for input and would welcome constructive suggestions. For a lot of the public it has been manageable but for the unique circumstances the Department of Public Works has been working with people, including landlords, to accommodate the needs of their residents.

Mr. Dunn stated that there should be a size available between the 18 gallon and 64 gallon containers being made available. The 18 gallon are not large enough and the 64 gallon are too large.

Councilor Bolduc recommended that Mr. Dunn contact Ann Saltmarsh at Public Works to come up with a solution.

Mr. Dunn commented that half of the City is scared they are not going to have trash collected and asked if the photograph in the Laconia Daily Sun is an accurate depiction of how recycling trash should be placed at the curb. Councilor Bolduc replied that this depicts the correct way to contain your trash and recycling and placement does not need to be mimicked.

Councilor Baer stated that any bin can be used for recyclable materials as long as the container is clearly marked as recycling; stickers are available for marking of the containers from the Department of Public Works. Mr. Dunn replied that for the City to go through the effort of ordering the containers they may have considered ordering them a little larger.

Mr. Dunn requested to be on the record as not agreeing with every other week collection. Mayor Pro Tem Hamel thanked Mr. Dunn for his comments.

INTERVIEWS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

PUBLIC HEARING: NONE

PRESENTATIONS:

1. American Heart Association & New Hampshire Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
– “Heart Safe Community Award”

Nancy Vaughan, Government Operations Director for the American Heart Association, Chip Cooper, Acting Bureau Chief for the New Hampshire Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, and Deputy Fire Chief Shaun Riley addressed the Council.

Ms. Vaughan explained that this initiative was started in New Hampshire (NH) a number of years ago. Discussion was had regarding the number of needless deaths due to cardiac arrest and the survival rate in NH was only 5%. The HeartSafe Community Award was created to acknowledge the communities that have a strong system of care for cardiac arrest situations by having a community that is trained in CPR, by the placement and training of automated external defibrillators (AED) throughout the community, and by having emergency response personnel trained adequately and effectively. There have been 21 communities in NH established as being HeartSafe.

Acting Chief Cooper added that this program is a nice cooperation between the Department of Safety, the Department of Health and Human Services and the American Heart Association. An important part of the HeartSafe Community Award is the community involvement; although the Fire Department in the community may be the administrator of the information it is the backing and support of the community that makes the system work together. Acting Chief Cooper congratulated the Laconia Fire Department, as well as the community of the City, and read a letter of designation for the Council.

Deputy Chief Riley commented that in the City there is a cardiac arrest survival rate of 24%, which is well above the 5% State average, and this is due in large part to the relationship between the City and LRGHealthcare, because without this none of the success would be possible, as well as the hard work of the members of the Laconia Fire Department, and bystander CPR. Another factor has been the Council and the appropriation of funds the Council has, and continues to, make for the community. A map of the AED locations in the community was displayed for the Council.

Deputy Chief Riley also thanked Firefighter Jason Griffin who, during a light duty situation, was utilized to complete the clerical process of the HeartSafe information and did a tremendous job.

Additionally, Deputy Chief Riley noted that the use of the LUCAS compression heart machine, which was purchased by LRGHealthcare for use in the ambulances, has been very effective in the community. Just this afternoon in the Weirs Beach area of the City a gentleman went into cardiac arrest and a fellow employee called 9-1-1 and was coached through the process of administering CPR. When the Weirs Fire Station crew arrived on the scene they began care and used the LUCAS device; this resulted in the patient speaking to the personnel on the scene before departure. The patient is expected to have a very favorable outcome.

Mayor Pro Tem Hamel thanked Deputy Chief Riley for his leadership in this process. The members of the Fire Department are tremendous professionals and the City is quite proud. The hope is that with Motorcycle Week funds additional AED's can be purchased and stationed in the City.

Councilor Baer asked how many LUCAS devices are available in the City. Deputy Chief Riley replied that LRGHealthcare provided two for the City and there is one in at Central Station and one at the Weirs Station. Every piece of fire apparatus has an AED as well. In the community there are 57 registered AED's throughout the community. The benefit to registering an AED with the City is that if 9-1-1 is called they will be aware of the location of the closest AED and can direct the caller to use it if necessary.

The Council recognized the Fire Department and community with a standing applause.

Councilor Lipman moved to purchase two additional AED's with an appropriation from the Motorcycle Week fund. Seconded by Councilor Bolduc.

Finance Director Woodaman requested a maximum amount.

Deputy Chief Riley explained that the contracted price is approximately \$750 and an additional cost for mounting accessories.

*Councilor Lipman amended his motion to have an appropriation from the Motorcycle Week account not to exceed \$1,800. Seconded by Councilor Bolduc. **Motion passed unanimously.***

Chief Erickson thanked the Council for the appropriation.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Pro Tem Hamel thanked Parks & Recreation for the events of July 4th and the great job with the festivities of the day at Opechee Park.

Mayor Pro Tem Hamel thanked Ann Saltmarsh, Public Works Director Paul Moynihan and Jim Pressure from the Concord Coop for holding the community education events on recycling. The efforts to inform the public about recycling are appreciated.

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

No report on any item in committee

LIAISON REPORTS: NONE

MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Myers reviewed the Project Updates (see Attachment #1) and the Financial and Operational Trends (see Attachment #2).

With the Recycling Report (see Attachment #3) City Manager Myers reported that the first week of mandatory recycling was successful. The two week period reported included the last week of June and the first week of July. City Manager Myers thanked the City staff, particularly Ann Saltmarsh, Director Moynihan, and the crew at Public Works, as well as Bestway Staff, for working with residents and focusing on the educational component that needs to happen with mandatory recycling. This is the first week that the ordinance will be enforced and if there is a violation trash will not be collected.

As a follow-up to comments made earlier this evening, City Manager Myers advised the Council that the 18 gallon containers are an industry standard size and are used all over the country. The reason that several different sizes are not purchased is because the Council made the decision to purchase the 64 gallon to allow for a capacity that would be significantly larger and encourage recycling. The toters purchased are of a high quality and the City has been working with property owners to make this transition smooth for all. Ann Saltmarsh is a great resource for anyone that has questions and they can also contact City Hall. The City has been making several efforts to educate the public and has been providing various options for the residents, including stickers and containers.

Councilor Lipman commented that he would like to see items that have been outlines in the Strategic Planning Goals added to the Project Updates. It was noted that in the South End of the City there are some areas, particularly an abandoned gas station and convenience store, which has been unmaintained and is not in line with the gateway goals the Council has outlined. The City has been making investments in this area and it would be nice to see it mirrored with the private property owners. There is also a property in Lakeport that is in the same condition.

Councilor Baer stated that she has reported the property on South Main Street to Code Enforcement several months ago and they did look into it. The response was that the property was being sold and that has not happened as of yet.

Councilor Lipman commented that the Council has noted the vast improvements in the turf at Opechee Park but they would like to see some reporting on some of the park maintenance issues. Councilor Lipman asked if there was a notable difference in the Weirs Beach area with street maintenance. Councilor Doyle replied that it is noticeable but because there has been a lot of rain recently it can be difficult to judge; over the holiday weekend there was a large amount of people in the Weirs and staff did a great job keeping it looking good. City Manager Myers added that City staff worked around the clock over the holiday and the following weekend to maintain the beach and accommodate the large amount of people visiting.

Mayor Pro Tem Hamel commented that the crews also had to set up Opechee Park for the holiday and had a very busy week.

City Manager Myers also advised the Council that with the power issues that were encountered also led to staff working extra to maintain the sewer pump stations over a busy weekend. There was a great team work by everyone.

Councilor Lipman asked what the next steps for the Downtown TIF would be. City Manager Myers replied that they will be making a presentation at the next Council meeting on July 22 and it will include the information the Council has requested.

Regarding the property on South Main Street, City Manager Myers advised that certified letters have gone out to the property owner twice and there has been no response. Mayor Pro Tem Hamel asked if there is any progress with the Hathaway House. City Manager Myers replied that he will have an update at the next meeting on this property.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Request by Caren's Ice Cream to extend hours of operation to correspond with Weirs Beach fireworks schedule

City Manager Myers advised that this is a vendor that is licensed and is requesting to have the ability to stay open only on the dates indicated.

*Councilor Bolduc moved to approve the request by Caren's Ice Cream to extend hours of operation to correspond with the Weirs Beach fireworks schedule. Seconded by Councilor Doyle. **Motion passed unanimously.***

Councilor Lipman asked if the City has received any correspondence from the outdoor entertainment vendor that the Council permitted at the last meeting. City Manager Myers explained that he has begun the process with the Licensing Board and his 30 days will begin when that is approved.

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 Bolduc expressed that he was surprised to learn that there will be a meeting at City Hall tomorrow morning regarding a proposal to allow chickens to be raised in residential areas of the City. Councilor Bolduc explained that chickens can have an odor, be disruptive to neighborhoods, and cause public health concerns. City Manager Myers explained that this has been approached with the requests by the public to grow sustainable food and this is a public meeting. Councilor Bolduc requested that these meetings be changed to the evening hours when the public can attend. City Manager Myers

replied that he will pass this information along and added that several communities are looking at amending their agricultural codes to allow use by more residents.

Councilor Lipman asked if the signage ordinance is being reviewed at this time which is an issue for the business community. City Manager Myers replied that the agricultural and signage areas are what is being focused on first. Councilor Lipman expressed that the signage should be a priority over chickens because this will directly affect the tax base of the community. City Manager Myers replied that they are responding to the public and there has been an overwhelming amount of calls for a change to allow chickens to be raised. Councilor Lipman replied that the reality is that the tax base is vulnerable and the businesses that may go out because they don't have adequate signage cannot be replaced; there needs to be priority for the signage concerns. City Manager Myers replied that he will share this with the committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Hamel requested the thoughts of the Council regarding the County decision to move forward with the construction of a corrections facility with a preliminary price of \$42 million. It is understood, following a tour of the County facilities, that the jail facility is inadequate and needs to be rebuilt but with the City should have an opinion on this being the major contributor to the County taxes. The State is looking to build a new prison facility twice the size for less money. Mayor Pro Tem Hamel added that he is surprised to have not heard an opinion from the other towns in the County.

Councilor Lipman commented that, not unlike the school project, you need to start from what can be afforded and work with this. There are significant deficiencies in the facility and it is understandable why it is being looked into, but with respect to the plan and what the pass down is, there was a suggestion to the Commission to work with what is affordable.

Mayor Pro Tem Hamel stated that there is a proposal to increase staffing with the new facility which would result in a \$2-3 million increase in the budget. Like Councilor Lipman stated, this needs to be affordable and asked the Council if they would like a letter drafted to the County regarding this opinion.

Councilor Bolduc agreed that the price is out of line and he does not want to see a facility that is comfortable for the people being held there. Something has to be done but not at that high of a price.

Councilor Baer asked what the City would be contributing with interest for the project. City Manager Myers replied that with a 30 year bond there would be approximately \$16 million in interest. Councilor Baer stated that the real share is inclusive of this.

Councilor Lipman added that if there are additional operating expenses that would amount to \$400,000 for the City in addition to the bond, then the City would be reaching the limit of the tax cap.

*Councilor Bolduc moved to have a letter drafted by the City Manager and sent to the County Commission and Delegation expressing the Council's opinion regarding the proposal. Seconded by Councilor Baer.
Motion passed unanimously.*

NON - PUBLIC SESSION: NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Bolduc moved to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Baer. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted:

Mary A. Reynolds
City Clerk