

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
March 15, 2016
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:01 PM

COUNCILORS PRESENT

Councilor Abbott
Councilor Barnett
Councilor Bogan
Councilor Gates
Councilor Gray
Councilor Hamann
Councilor Keans
Councilor Lachapelle
Councilor Lauterborn
Councilor Torr
Councilor Willis
Deputy Mayor Varney

OTHERS PRESENT

City Manager Daniel Fitzpatrick
Deputy City Manager Blaine Cox
City Attorney Terence O'Rourke
Planning Director James Campbell
Chief Michael Allen
Dennis Hancock, Resident
Kristin Ebbeson, Business Owner
Craig Davis, Business Owner
Eric Adema, Business Owner
human, Resident
Stacy Marcioni, Business Owner

EXCUSED

Mayor McCarley

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Varney called the City Council Workshop to order at 7:01 PM. Deputy City Clerk Marcia Roddy took a silent roll call. All councilors were present, with the exception of Mayor McCarley, who had been excused.

2. Non-Meeting

2.1 AB 89 Non-Meeting, RSA 91-A:2 I (b)

The City Council entered into a non-meeting under RSA 91-A:21 (b) - consultation with legal counsel, at 7:02 PM.

The City Council reconvened the Workshop at 7:45 PM.

3. Public Input

Dennis Hancock, resident, spoke on the issue of fireworks in the City of Rochester and gave several examples of why he believes fireworks should be banned in the city.

Kristin Ebbeson, resident and business owner (Riverstones Custom Framing and Franklin Gallery) and Craig Davis, Ms. Ebbeson's business partner, spoke on promoting improvement of downtown Rochester and the reputation of the City.

Eric Adema, owner of the Cast and Grind, spoke his concerns about his treatment by certain city officials and cited threatening by these officials at his place of business.

human, resident, read from the State Constitution and how it applies to the City's representation of the citizens. He would like the Council Rules to be changed to allow public input at all City Council meetings. He also expressed concerns about a privacy policy regarding the Police Department's video recorders.

Stacy Marcioni, co-owner of Revolution Taproom and Grill, spoke of their desire to have a lease for the property known as Factory Court in order to have outdoor dining at their establishment.

Deputy Mayor Varney closed Public Input at 8:20 PM.

4. Communications from the City Manager

City Manager Fitzpatrick presented four City Manager Citations. He said how the complexity of the Granite Ridge development has generated a lot of work for the City staff, especially 67 changes requested by the developer. In the end, 63 changes were agreed upon and the remaining 4 were compromises.

James Campbell, the Planning Director, was presented with a Citation. Also receiving Citations, but not in attendance, were Seth Creighton and Michelle Mears of the Planning Department, and Owen Friend-Gray, Assistant City Engineer.

5. Communications from the Mayor

Deputy Mayor Varney referred to a letter drafted by Mayor McCarley regarding the Health Protection Program for the Rochester Municipal Welfare Department. Councilor Lauterborn said she completely supports the program.

Councilor Keans asked what kind of program this is. Councilor Lauterborn said she believes it is the State insurance program to help low income people. The councilors discussed the letter and its purpose.

6. Department Reports

There was no discussion.

7. Other

Councilor Lauterborn brought up the prior discussion of the lease agreement for outdoor dining. She thinks it is something that should be moved on quickly and urged the City Manager and City Attorney to "make it happen."

Councilor Lauterborn said that a resident of Ward 3 wrote a letter to the City Council concerning a water billing issue. He had suggestions on the billing process, in particular to change to monthly billing rather than the current quarterly billing.

Councilor Gates wanted to point out that during public input there was a concern regarding accessibility of the City Councilors to the public. He said that the City website has all of the Councilor listed and with their contact information. He added that there are several committees that meet regularly and offer public participation with concerns and questions.

Deputy Mayor Varney said that the Council had been informed that Lowe's could not be used as a Ward 3 polling location. Councilor Lachapelle asked if this matter should be referred to the Codes and Ordinances Committee.

Deputy Mayor Varney and City Manager Fitzpatrick clarified the difference between a lease and a permit for outdoor dining. The restaurant in question has already begun the permit process, but is proposing a lease arrangement. The Councilors discussed this further.

8. Adjournment

Councilor Lachapelle **MOVED** to adjourn the Workshop at 8:35 PM. Councilor Bogan seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia H. Roddy, NHCDCC
Deputy City Clerk