

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
February 18, 2014
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor Collins
Councilor Gates
Councilor Gray
Councilor Hamann
Councilor Kittredge
Councilor Larochelle
Councilor Varney
Councilor Walker
Mayor Jean

OTHERS PRESENT

City Manager Dan Fitzpatrick
Deputy City Manager Blaine Cox
Deputy City Manager Pollard
Attorney Dan Wensley
Tom Kaczynski, Resident
Ric Perreault, Resident
Chief Michael Allen

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Councilor Keans
Councilor Lachapelle
Councilor Lauterborn
Councilor Torr

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Jean called the City Council Workshop Meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Deputy City Clerk Marcia Roddy took a silent roll call. All councilors were present with the exception of Councilors Keans, Lachapelle, Lauterborn, and Torr, who had been excused.

2. Public Input

Mayor Jean invited members of the community to come forward to speak on issues concerning the City of Rochester.

Ric Perreault, resident, spoke about "protecting" the village of Gonic. He referred to the proposed rezoning of the Chesley Hill Road area from an R1 to R2 zone. This is, he added, a classic case of "spot zoning" that benefits only one property owner. He said he hopes that the Council would take up this matter on a separate vote. Mr. Perreault said that if the plan is to build multi-family rental dwellings in the area then thought should be given to the impact on the schools. He does not see the residents of

the proposed development as being long-term Rochester residents who will "stick" with the community. He urged the Council, once again, to suspend procedure and vote on the rezoning proposal as a separate vote.

Tom Kaczynski, resident, cited two proposals that were published in *Foster's Daily Democrat* in January. One was for the Department of Public Works facility and the other was for the City Hall Annex. He said that he had asked about the City Hall Annex renovations a few months ago and was told by the mayor that he was against any big spending on that. He asked if this new proposal is within the \$125,000 or \$150,000 that was to be used to secure the building. Mr. Kaczynski said that he stands by his comments that he has not seen any significant growth in the city and that the city should live within the "confines" of this historical building.

Mr. Kaczynski spoke about the Chapter 31 Ordinance (Panhandling) and urged the Council to repeal it. He supported the American Civil Liberty Union's position and does not believe in taking away the rights of all people. He said that it is a "negative" approach and hopes that the Council will do the right thing.

Public Input was closed at 7:07 PM.

3. Communications from the Mayor

No discussion.

4. Communications from the City Manager

No discussion.

5. Department Reports

Councilor Gates asked Chief Allen a question about the Police Department report. He said that the item regarding the Teen Night refers to a grant from the Disproportionate Minority Contact. He asked what the dollar amount of the grant was. Chief Allen said it was \$10,000.

Councilor Hamann asked Chief Allen a question about the spreadsheet with priority calls (P. 87). He said that it has a -8 change for sex offenses. Chief Allen said that is incorrect; it should be +8. Councilor Hamann also pointed out the -2 change in civil matters. Chief Allen said that should be +2. Chief Allen explained that the person who usually does this report has resigned and he has done his best to put in the numbers and apologized for some of the errors. There should be a new person in that position next month who will take over the preparation of the reports.

Councilor Varney said he would like an update on job loans and would like that to be a part of the monthly reports.

Councilor Varney pointed out that a grant writer was hired and he would like a summary of what grants have been applied for in the fiscal year to date.

Councilor Varney would also like to see a summary of implementation of the Master Plan.

Councilor Gray added that with regard to the job loans it had been asked that that come from Community Development, whose next meeting is February 27, 2014. There should be a report from the Community Development Committee every month that will include updates on the job loans.

6. Presentation on Community Branding

The presentation has been deferred to the March 18, 2014, workshop due to the snowstorm.

7. Presentation of Audit

The presentation has been deferred to the next regular meeting on March 4, 2014.

8. Other

Councilor Gates said that he had been contacted by a constituent regarding the timeline of the Chesley Hill Road matter. He wanted to know if that has been scheduled yet. Mayor Jean said that is still in process as they are looking at how to bread down the review into "bite size" pieces. He said he hopes to have more information on that process at the March 4, 2014, City Council meeting.

9. Adjournment

Councilor Walker **MOVED** to **ADJOURN** the workshop meeting at 7:15 PM. Councilor Collins seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia H. Roddy

Deputy City Clerk

