

**Rochester City Council
Workshop August 15, 2017
Council Chambers
7:30 PM**

COUNCILORS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Daniel Fitzpatrick, City Manager
Blaine Cox, Deputy City Manager
Terence O'Rourke, City Attorney
Gregg DeNobile, Resident
Lou Archambault, Resident
Craig Davis, Resident
Tom Kaczynski, Resident and
State Representative
Michelle Bourassa, Resident
Tom Bourassa, Resident
John MacLean, Interim Public
Works Director

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor McCarley called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Cassie Givara, Deputy City Clerk, took a silent roll call. All councilors were present except for Council Willis, who had been excused.

2. Public Input

Mayor McCarley invited members of the public to come forward to speak.

Greg DeNobile, resident, inquired whether or not the Keno pamphlets distributed to Council by the NH Lottery Commission would be available to the general public. Mr. DeNobile also asked council to

reconsider their vote on the striping of Chesley Hill Road.

Craig Davis, resident, informed Council of his "Anti-Apathy Project." Mr. Davis intends to profile a different Rochester-based business at each workshop meeting for the next several months in an effort to bring attention to local businesses and to bridge the perceived disconnect between council and the public.

Lou Archambault, resident, addressed the ongoing efforts to rejuvenate downtown businesses. Mr. Archambault said that many downtown businesses are owned by non-residents and he doesn't believe they should benefit from the rejuvenation without personally making any contribution.

Tom Kaczynski, resident and State Representative, discussed his frustration at having to file a Right-To-Know request in order to obtain the new Fire Chief's starting Salary. Mr. Kaczynski is concerned that the level of the chief's starting salary could be a basis to increase pay rates throughout the department.

Tom and Michelle Bourassa, residents of Laura Drive, addressed Council about the proposed development of their street. The Bourassas prefer the option of leaving Laura Drive "as is," leaving the cost of future development to the developers and not the taxpayers.

3. Communications from the City Manager

No Discussion

4. Communications from the Mayor

4.1. Announcement: Police Commission Vacancy – Wards 1 & 2

Mayor McCarley announced there would be a decision made on the Police Commission vacancy for Wards 1 and 2 at the September 5, 2017, Regular City Council meeting.

4.2.

Councilor Lachapelle informed Council that Gonic had won the 8th Annual "Gonic v East Side" Softball Game in a 19-9 victory.

5. Discussion: AB 13 – A Laura Drive

Mayor McCarley opened discussion regarding the 3 proposed options for Laura drive outlined in Agenda Bill 13.

Councilor Varney questioned whether Brock's had been contacted regarding the sale of Laura Drive. John MacLean, Interim Public Works Director, reports that Owen Friend-Gray, Assistant City Engineer, had reached out to Brock's and that they are willing to discuss the sale of the street to the City.

Councilor Lauterborn expressed surprise that Brock's owns Laura Drive yet have not been paying taxes for the property and the City has been maintaining the street.

Councilor Keans asked for clarification on whether or not Laura Drive is privately or corporately owned. Attorney O'Rourke confirmed that Laura Drive is owned by Brock's.

Mayor McCarley said the goal at this meeting is to get a Sense of Council, and clarifying the property's ownership was a starting point.

Councilor Gates advised that the matter be sent to Public Works. Councilor Lachapelle inquired when the next Public Works Committee meeting would be held and asked if it would be possible to find out by that time the selling price which Brock's is asking for the property. Mayor McCarley suggested City Manager Fitzpatrick look into this and if the information is available, it will be added as an agenda item for the Public Works Committee meeting.

6. Discussion: AB 20 Buxton Company

Karen Pollard, Economic Development, discussed Buxton Company, which performs retail analytics for the City. Ms. Pollard said they had informed Buxton of the City's desire to attract retailers to the downtown area who are more regional in nature. Buxton reports they do have specific tools for achieving this goal. Economic Development will host a webinar-style presentation from Buxton which will take place Thursday August 17, 2017 at 4:00 PM in the Conference room at City Hall. There has not been a contract negotiated with Buxton at this time, they are in the discovery stages with the city to determine what Buxton has to offer.

7. Discussion: AB 10 Proposed Zoning Changes/Amendments

Councilor Torr said that if there are zoning changes made around the country club, he feels the changes should allow for houses to be built, not apartment buildings.

Councilor Varney addressed potential development on Granite Ridge. Councilor Varney said we need more verbiage in proposal and council needs to reach out to abutters, otherwise he cannot support moving forward. Councilor Keans asked that in the supporting documents, pictometry should be used whenever possible so the detail can be seen more clearly. Council Gates concurred with Councilor Varney on the need for abutter input as well as zoning information of abutting properties. Councilor Lachapelle said council needs clarification on current permitted uses versus proposed uses of the area.

Councilor Keans asked to have pictometry included in future discussions for better detail.

Councilor Gates concurred with Councilor Varney on the need for abutter input as well as zoning information of abutting properties.

Mayor McCarley suggested that a public hearing take place prior to the September 19, 2017, City Council Workshop Meeting after which a more detailed discussion by Council could take place.

Councilor Lachapelle said council needs clarification on the current permitted uses versus the proposed uses of these areas.

8. Department Reports

Councilor Torr inquired when construction would start on the Dewey Street Bridge. City Manager Fitzpatrick confirmed that this issue would be discussed at the Thursday August 17, 2017 Public Works Committee meeting.

9. Other

Councilor Gates discussed a call he received from a constituent regarding a violation from Building, Licensing and Zoning officials for not having screens in the windows of their private residence. Councilor Gates said he had received confirmation that this was in fact an enforceable violation of the property maintenance code. Councilor

Gates said the same constituent had reported that residents can be cited for having their toters and/or recycling bins in sight from the street as opposed to hidden from view. City Manager Fitzpatrick reported he had not heard of such an ordinance, but would look into it further.

10. Non-Meeting/Non-Public

10.1. Non-Meeting, Consultation with Legal RSA 91-A:2, I (b)

11. Adjournment

Mayor McCarley adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassie Givara
Deputy City Clerk