

Committee Members Present

Councilor Peter Lachapelle, Chair
Councilor Ray Varney
Councilor Julien Savoie
Councilor Sandra Keans

Committee Members Absent

Councilor Elaine Lauterborn, Vice Chair

Others Present

Andrea Lemire, Resident
Peter Nourse, Acting Director of Public Works



MINUTES

CODES AND ORDINANCES COMMITTEE

Of the Rochester City Council

Thursday February 7, 2013

City Council Chambers

31 Wakefield Street, Rochester, NH

7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Councilor Lachapelle called the Codes and Ordinances Committee meeting to order at 7:00 PM. All Councilors were present, except for Councilor Lauterborn.

2. Public Input

Councilor Lachapelle asked if any member of the public would like to come forward to address the Committee.

Councilor Lachapelle advised the residents in Council Chambers that they could address the committee at any time during the discussions of the topics at hand and closed this portion of public input at 7:05 PM.

3. Approval of the Codes and Ordinances Committee Minutes

• January 3, 2013

Councilor Savoie **MOVED** to **APPROVE** the Committee minutes of January 3, 2013. Councilor Keans seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

4. Pawn Shops

Councilor Lachapelle explained that they have received information from Attorney Wensley pertaining to pawn shops. He handed out copies to the committee members. Councilor Lachapelle stated that in the revised ordinance from Attorney Wensley he had put a three-day hold on all items, not just precious metals. Councilor Varney stated three days is not much time. Councilor Savoie expressed three days is a long time when trying to run a business because of the turnover. Councilor Keans agreed that it is not a lot of time.

Councilor Varney explained a situation regarding a citizen in his ward that had items taken from their residence. She herself went to area pawnshops and secondhand dealers because there were several other cases ahead of her at the police department and she received very little cooperation from them, which was very disappointing.

Councilor Keans asked about a reverse 911 blast when police have had a report of a robbery and maybe come up with some sort of protocol to notify these dealers. The Codes and Ordinances Committee discussed it further and Councilor Lachapelle stated this would stay in committee. He also stated that he was concerned about the cooperation issue because the police could be tied up with other cases and citizens are trying to be proactive. Councilor Savoie asked if they could have Councilor LaBranche at the next meeting in March for his input on this matter. The Codes and Ordinances Committee will be asking for a representative from the police department to come to the March 7, 2013 meeting to address some of these issues.

5. Fireworks

Councilor Lachapelle explained that they have also received information on the fireworks ordinance from Attorney Wensley. He handed out copies to the committee members. Councilor Lachapelle stated that on page two in reference to C.vi., the removal of debris should be changed from immediately to within a twenty-four hour time period because of a legal standpoint, whereas there is a monetary fine for not complying. Councilor Lachapelle **MOVED** to have the wording changed. Councilor Savoie seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Councilor Lachapelle stated that Nancy Carignan with the City Clerk's office reached out to the LGC regarding renters and he passed out the information received via e-mail. The committee discussed this issue in regards to terms of the lease agreements.

Councilor Varney asked what they were looking to do now with this ordinance and he **MOVED** to have it brought to the full council for discussion on a public hearing. Councilor Savoie seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote.

6. Water Connection Ordinance

Councilor Lachapelle asked Peter Nourse, Acting Public Works Director, to come forward to discuss the Water Connection Ordinance in compliance with the state ordinance. Mr. Nourse stated that he had brought this to the Codes and Ordinances Committee a couple months ago and since then he has been to the UAB and Public Works Committee. He wanted to know what the next step is due to the time line with the state ordinance. Mr. Nourse had supplied an updated copy of the ordinance with changes, which can be found in the packet. He feels it is a good ordinance and they have the mechanisms to administer it. The Codes and Ordinances Committee discussed having Attorney Wensley review and format this ordinance so the committee can have discussions on it during the February 19, 2013, Workshop Meeting. Councilor Varney **MOVED** to have Attorney Wensley review the ordinance and reformat. Councilor Savoie seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote

Mr. Nourse wants to comply with the State within six months; this is critical and he feels it is important with the State. Councilor Savoie asked if there had been any major incidences. Mr. Nourse stated that that could happen and it would have chronic effects. He also explained a majority of businesses have these backflow preventers and any new business would have to comply because of the permitting process. There would be no cost associated at this time for the permit. He suggested starting out with no fee because businesses are going to have to pay to have the service done. They would have it inspected and the City would track it on a schedule. Councilor Lachapelle asked Mr. Nourse if he would be able to attend the workshop meeting on February 19, 2013, should other questions come up. Mr. Nourse stated he would attend.

7. Other

The Codes and Ordinances Committee discussed panhandling. Councilor Lachapelle explained that it would be back on the agenda for March as Officer Hayes is working with other communities to bring something back to the committee for their review. Councilor Varney discussed this further with the Codes and Ordinances Committee and referenced other communities such as Portland, Maine. He also pointed out there is an increase in the police logs pertaining to this issue. He stated that it is becoming a bigger issue and these individuals are becoming more aggressive.

Councilor Varney asked if Kelly Walters, City Clerk, could check to see when the last re-codification was done. Councilor Lachapelle agreed and would check into this matter.

Councilor Lachapelle wanted to address the Rules of Order. He felt that they need to be looked at and he will be making recommendations, which he will e-mail to the committee so that they can review the Rules of Order at the March 7, 2013 meeting.

8. Adjournment

Draft

Codes and Ordinances Committee

February 7, 2013

Councilor Lachapelle **MOVED** to **ADJOURN** the Committee meeting at 7:32 PM. Councilor Savoie seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Carignan
Assistant City Clerk