

City Council Workshop

July 19, 2022

Council Chambers

6:45 PM

COUNCILORS PRESENT

Councilor Beaudoin
Councilor Berlin
Councilor de Geofroy
Councilor Fontneau
Councilor Gilman
Councilor Gray
Councilor Hainey
Councilor Hamann
Councilor Larochelle
Councilor Malone
Mayor Callaghan

OTHERS PRESENT

Blaine Cox, City Manager
Katie Ambrose, Deputy City Manager
Cliff Newton, resident
Susan Rice, resident
human, resident
Tom Kaczynski, resident
Chuck Grassie, resident
Christopher Rice, resident

COUNCILORS EXCUSED

Deputy Mayor Lachapelle
Councilor Desrochers

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Callaghan called the City Council Workshop to order at 6:45 PM. Deputy City Clerk Cassie Givara had taken a silent roll call prior to the Public Hearing preceding the Workshop meeting; all Councilors were present except for Councilor Desrochers and Deputy Mayor Lachapelle, both of whom were excused.

2. Public Input

Cliff Newton, resident, addressed Council regarding the supplemental appropriations to establish three capital reserve funds and the right-to-know requests that he had submitted to the City in regards to these funds.

Susan Rice, resident, spoke to Council regarding the purchase of the property of the 181 Highland Street property and the details of said purchase. Ms. Rice read a letter to Mayor Callaghan regarding the vote for the ward 5 Council seat.

human, resident, addressed Council regarding the need for emergency preparedness planning as it relates to potential nuclear events.

Tom Kaczynski, resident, spoke to Council about spending remaining under the tax cap as well as the use of supplemental appropriations.

Chuck Grassie, resident, passed along praise from the State level regarding Rochester's efforts with nitrogen reduction in the Great Bay estuary and the outstanding work being done by the Director of Public Works in this regard.

Christopher Rice, resident, read a 91-A request that he would be submitting to the City and he spoke about Councilors absences during meetings.

City Manager Cox reported that Fred Leonard, resident, had submitted online public input regarding the purchase of land for a new fire station as well as public input and public hearings. City Manager Cox stated that he had distributed copies of the correspondence to all Councilors.

3. Communications from the City Manager

City Manager Cox thanked all of the City Staff and volunteers who had helped with the Lilac Family Fun Festival the prior weekend. He said that it was a wonderful, well-attended event and the City hopes to expand upon its success and make it bigger and better in future years.

4. Communications from the Mayor

Mayor Callaghan reported that he had attended the grand opening of Sig Sauer and met with the CEO. He said that the facility has exciting plans for Rochester and looks forward to seeing their progress in the future.

Mayor Callaghan stated that National Night Out will take place at the Rochester Common on Tuesday, August 2 from 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM. This is also the night of the City Council Regular meeting. Mayor Callaghan said if there were no objections, he would like to move the Council meeting from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM to allow Councilors and staff to attend a portion of the National Night Out prior to the Council meeting. Councilor Malone, one of the organizers of Rochester's National Night Out, explained that the event is led by police departments all over the country to promote the relationship between the police and the community. She said it is a free event for families and gave details on what the event would offer.

Mayor Callaghan said that the new Fire Engine, as well as the mobile communications center, had been on display outside City Hall prior to the Council meeting to give people an opportunity to check them out.

Mayor Callaghan suggested that this coming fall, the Council get together and attend Spaulding football home games.

5. Historical Society Update

Mayor Callaghan introduced Bob Griffin, President of the Rochester Historical Society. Mr. Griffin explained that the Historical Society is located on Hanson Street in a

City leased building and is open Thursday afternoons, free of charge to the public. He gave an overview of the programs and exhibits offered at the museum, their upcoming projects, and online resources the museum has available. Mr. Griffin explained that they are currently taking inventory of boxed items on the 2nd floor of the museum, the contents of which are currently unknown. He also explained that they are digitizing historical photos related to the history of Rochester and saving them with cloud-based storage to preserve the images in case there is any damage to the physical photos.

Mr. Griffin explained that he had concern with the storage of historical items in the museum; the top floor of the building being hot and humid in the summer and freezing in winter, which is not ideal for maintaining and preserving historic items. He explained that the Historical Society would need to address this issue in the future.

Councilor Larochelle praised the short videos that the Historical Society produces and posts on YouTube, and highly recommended them. Councilor Beaudoin asked for the website address. Mr. Griffin explained that the Historical Society page is through the City of Rochester website and there is a separate YouTube channel [Historical Society & Museum | Rochester NH](#).

Councilor Berlin stated that one of the first things he did when he moved to Rochester was to visit the Museum and was able to find historic photos of his house. He recommended residents visit the museum.

6. Department Reports

Councilor Hainey referenced a portion of the Police Department report, which detailed two officers who had gone above and beyond to assist a resident in need. She thanked these officers and praised the police department.

7. Adjournment

Mayor Callaghan **ADJOURNED** the City Council Workshop meeting at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassie Givara
Deputy City Clerk