

**City Council Workshop  
October 18, 2022  
Council Chambers  
6:02 PM**

**COUNCILORS PRESENT**

Councilor Beaudoin  
Councilor Berlin  
Councilor Desrochers  
Councilor Fontneau  
Councilor Gilman  
Councilor Gray  
Councilor Hailey  
Councilor Hamann  
Councilor Larochelle  
Councilor Malone  
Deputy Mayor Lachapelle  
Mayor Callaghan

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Blaine Cox, City Manager  
Katie Ambrose, Deputy City Manager  
Terence O'Rourke, Attorney O'Rourke  
Shanna Saunders, Planning Director

**COUNCILORS EXCUSED**

Councilor de Geofroy

**Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Callaghan called the City Council Workshop to order at 6:02 PM. All Councilors were present except for Councilor de Geofroy, who was excused.

**2. Public Input**

human, resident, spoke to Council regarding the City's emergency preparedness for potential nuclear events.

Tom Kaczynski, resident, addressed the Council regarding the ARPA proposal for City-assisted daycare as well as vehicle replacements for the Department of Public Works.

Susan Rice, resident, spoke to Council regarding the role and compensation of the City Manager, the City's land purchase practices, and First

Amendment rights.

### **3. Communications from the City Manager**

City Manager Cox stated he had nothing to report besides the presentation of the Adopt-a-Spot certificates.

#### **3.1 Adopt-a-Spot certificates**

Mayor Callaghan presented the Adopt-a-Spot certificates to those participants who were present and read the full list of Rochester's Adopt-a-Spot volunteers.

### **4. Communications from the Mayor**

Mayor Callaghan reported that Governor Sununu had visited Rochester the prior Tuesday and had visited several businesses in the Granite State Business Park with staff of Economic Development.

Mayor Callaghan said that the Arts and Culture Awards ceremony had taken place the night prior. He praised the arts community in Rochester and thanked them for their passion and commitment to the arts within the City.

Mayor Callaghan gave an update on the extreme cold weather warming center. He stated that the Tri-City Managers were working on an RFP and the County Commissioners have sourced a \$60,000 grant to assist with the operations of the center.

Mayor Callaghan read a proclamation declaring October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> "Lead Poisoning Awareness Week" in Rochester.

### **5. Parking Review Group Progress Report & Update**

Councilor Fontneau, Chair of the Parking Review Group, reported that the Committee had been meeting monthly for the past six months and thanked City Staff from the Planning Department, Police Department, Public Works, and Economic Development for their support and guidance through their work and research. Councilor Fontneau introduced Shanna Saunders, Director of Planning and Development, to give more detail on the work of the Committee.

Director Saunders gave an overview of the mission of the Parking Review Group, which was primarily to gather information and solicit input from the public to determine the needs of the City. Director Saunders summarized the total inventory of parking spaces currently in the downtown area and some statistics on these spaces. She further presented a parking analysis showing

the total parking needed versus the parking demand. The Parking Review Group reviewed multiple strategies from the parking study and determined which they wanted to focus on and which they did not believe would work in Rochester. Director Saunders said the group also reviewed the violation history for the period of June 2021 through June 2022 to get a better understanding of the demand and the need in certain areas of the downtown.

The Parking Review Group then developed a 10-question survey to solicit the public's opinion. Thus far, they have already received 314 responses. Director Saunders presented a graph showing the results of the survey to date. She spoke about the poster session the review group would be hosting to solicit more one on one input from respondents.

Director Saunders explained the tasks the Parking Review Group had already accomplished and explained what portions of their mission they still had remaining; such as developing action items and next steps, completing a financial analysis to discuss the potential monetization of parking in the downtown area, and discussing the issue of potential multi-level parking structures.

Councilor Lachapelle referenced a slide that showed the total cost per space for a potential parking garage, which was listed as \$25,000. He asked where that figure was obtained. Ms. Saunders said that this information had come from the City's consultant who did a review of area garages; she said that if Rochester ultimately decided to develop a parking garage, it could hopefully be done for a lower cost per space.

Director Saunders referenced comments the Mayor had made earlier regarding Irving and spoke about why they had been presented with an award at the Arts & Culture Awards. She reported that Irving had donated the original of the mural on the side of the new Rochester station to the Arts Museum, and this piece is now on display at the library. They have also given Rochester the rights to reproduce the image as a poster to distribute to the public.

## **6. Department Reports**

No Discussion.

## **7. Adjournment**

Mayor Callaghan announced that Council would be entering into a non-meeting and would adjourn prior to entering. He requested a roll call to enter into the non-meeting. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous roll call vote with Councilors Beaudoin, Desrochers, Lachapelle, Malone, Berlin, Hainey, Laroche, Gray, Gilman, Fontneau, and Mayor Callaghan all voting in favor.

Mayor Callaghan **ADJOURNED** the City Council Workshop meeting at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassie Givara  
Deputy City Clerk