

**City Council Workshop
April 18, 2017
Council Chambers
7:06 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
Councilor Willis
Mayor McCarley

OTHERS PRESENT

City Manager Daniel Fitzpatrick
Deputy City Manager Blaine Cox
City Attorney Terence O'Rourke

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor McCarley called the City Council Public Hearing to order at 7:06 PM. Kelly Walters, City Clerk, took a silent roll call. All Council members were present.

2. Public Input

Gregg DeNobile, resident, commented on the resolution authorizing borrowing a substantial amount of money for the Richard W. Creteau Technology Center. He questioned where he could find more information about the actual plan and if the City Council was aware that any motion involving bonds must have a two-thirds vote.

Mayor McCarley closed public input at 7:10 PM.

3. Communications from the City Manager

3.1. Presentation of the FY 2018 Budget

City Manager Fitzpatrick presented the FY 2018 Budget Proposal.

City Manager Fitzpatrick briefed the City Council about the Tax Cap calculation and said that the City's budget is approximately \$15,513 under the Tax Cap and the School Department's Budget [City Manager's adjustment] is exactly at the Tax Cap level.

City Manager Fitzpatrick briefed the City Council on the budget philosophy. In closing, he remarked that the City of Rochester has maintained its sound fiscal health without a loss of services and without significant increases in property taxes. He thanked the following key members of staff: Blaine Cox, Deputy City Manager; Roland Connors, Deputy Finance Director; Mark Sullivan, Senior Accountant; Samantha Kelley and Ann Arsenault, Senior Accountants; Diane Hoyt, Human Resource Manager; and Angie Gray, Account Clerk.

Mayor McCarley said there have been no changes made to the Budget Calendar, which had been distributed a few weeks prior to this meeting.

4. Communications from the Mayor

No discussion.

5. Department Reports

Councilor Varney voiced concerns about the 79-E applications. He said the word is not getting out. He added that the Opera House is in the process of renovating a facility in the downtown area and was unaware of this opportunity. He suggested that this application be somehow added to the building permit process. City Manager Fitzpatrick concurred.

Councilor Varney said that Whitehouse Road was scheduled to be paved in 2016. It does not look hopeful that this will happen any time soon. It seems to be Unil Gas who is responsible for holding up this process. City Manager Fitzpatrick recalled that there was a problem with the infrastructure. John Storer, Director of City Services, agreed. He said that the reason for not pushing forward with this project is because the gas lines seem to be too shallow and the City does not want to damage the gas lines. The gas company is trying to do what they can to improve the situation and work out a cost agreement with the City. He added that he could communicate this concern back to the gas company. He explained what some of the components of the agreement would have to include.

Councilor Varney asked about a Chesley Hill Road subdivision, which is currently at the Planning Board level.

Councilor Willis said the subdivision has not yet been approved. Councilor Varney stated his concerns about accepting this street without having the developer work to have the City's sewer lines included in the street acceptance.

Councilor Gray said it may become a legal issue to force a developer to have the development hook up to City sewer lines. Councilor Varney clarified that he did not intend to force the developer to do anything. Councilor Willis briefed the City Council about a discussion with the developer which took place at the Planning Board level about installation of sewer lines. He clarified that the project has not yet been approved and a Planning Board site-walk could be anticipated in a few weeks' time.

6. Adjournment

Councilor Lachapelle **MOVED** to **ADJOURN** the City Council Workshop at 7:25 PM. Councilor Bogan seconded the motion. The **MOTION CARRIED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Walters, CMC
City Clerk