

The Claremont City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Cutts at 6:30 p.m.

Members of the Council present were:

Ward II Councilor Keith Raymond
Ward I Councilor Victor Bergeron
Ward III Councilor Nicholas Koloski
Assistant Mayor Andrew Austin
Mayor Deborah Cutts
At-Large Councilor Adam Burke
At-Large Councilor Christopher Lewis
At-Large Councilor Kyle Messier
At-Large Councilor Thomas Burnham

Also present were:

Guy Santagate, City Manager
Jane Taylor, City Solicitor

MAYOR'S NOTES

Stevens High School Student Council Update

Mayor Cutts said the students were at practice and would not make it to the Council meeting.

Mayor Cutts said that the Claremont Firefighters Association honored retiree Steve Chaisson for 20 years of service. She congratulated Public Works Department employees Kevin Minckler and Matt Dings for achieving Roads Scholar One status.

Mr. Burnham talked about the success of Winterfest throughout the month of February. It was a combined effort of the Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce, Parks and Recreation Department and Arrowhead Recreation.

Mayor Cutts congratulated Heather Irish and David Putnam for their elections to the School Board. She welcomed State Representative Joe Osgood who was in the audience and said that she hoped to schedule a joint meeting with the City Council and the State Representatives and State Senator as soon as possible.

Mayor Cutts, in reference to the possible budget cuts from the state, talked about Claremont taking care of Claremont. She would like to focus on partnerships with companies in Claremont. She said she hoped Mr. Santagate would coordinate a job fair in the spring for Claremont to host.

She suggested getting in touch with the Department of Employment. Mr. Santagate said he thinks that is a great idea as jobs are part of economic development. He said thus far the recovery has been joyless because no jobs have been created. He thinks it is essential and will come back to the Council with the information as soon as he can.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Austin to accept the minutes of the February 9, 2011, City Council meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 6-0 and 3 abstained due to being absent (Messrs. Lewis, Burke and Raymond).

APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Fiske Free Library Board of Trustees

Ms. Messier nominated Jill Shackford to Seat # 3 of the Fiske Free Library Board of Trustees.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Mr. Raymond nominated Thomas Rock to seat #4 of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Mr. Bergeron seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Austin nominated Todd Russel to seat #5 of the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Burke nominated Daniel Worcester to seat #7A of the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Raymond nominated Pierre Caouette to seat #6A of the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Ms. Messier and Mayor Cutts thanked all the applicants for filling all of those seats.

Mr. Raymond noted there are still vacancies on other boards and asked citizens to step up and volunteer. Mayor Cutts said anyone who is interested could contact the Planning and Development office, the City Manager's office or any of the Councilors.

Mr. Koloski asked about husbands and wives serving on the same board or commission. Mayor Cutts said to her knowledge there is no law against it. Mr. Koloski said an applicant for the Conservation Commission had received a letter from the City saying it was viewed as a conflict of interest and the application would be denied at this point. Mr. Koloski said that he read the letter. Mr. Santagate said that was erroneous because there is no conflict. Mr. Santagate will follow up on that. [Note: Mr. Santagate responded to this under City Manager's Report.]

Mr. Koloski questioned who appoints members to the Conservation Commission because the City Code says those are Council appointments. Mayor Cutts said according to the state RSAs, she does. If there is a conflict between the RSAs and local law, the state law applies.

Mr. Koloski asked about the Personnel Advisory Board. The City's web page shows only one person on it. Mr. Santagate will check it out.

Mr. Bergeron said if there is confusion between state law, Charter and the Council Rules, we need to fix them. Mr. Santagate said we cannot fix state law or the Charter directly (it involves a long process), however we can change the City Codes.

Mr. Koloski said that Rockvillemd.gov has pretty exciting descriptions of their boards and commissions and that maybe our City can upgrade our descriptions. Mr. Santagate said he plans to have a presentation next month from the Planning and Development Department. We can work on the changes that don't cost money and for the others, we may appropriate the money.

OLD BUSINESS

Dog Park Update

Scott Hausler showed a PowerPoint presentation about the dog park project. The project received a vote of confidence from the Parks and Recreation Board to move forward on the project. He introduced Tracie Ruggles, leader of the Dog Park Committee.

Ms. Ruggles said this will require a fundraising effort. Currently they have a group of 20-30 people. The next step is to take the information to the Planning Board and then to do the fundraising.

- What is a Dog Park
 - Off-leash fenced-in area for dogs
 - Benches for patrons
 - Water fountain for pets
 - Waste bag dispensers and waste containers
 - Transition area with a hard surface

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- Small and large dog areas
- Claremont Dog Park (Why)
 - Exercises & socializes dogs in a safe environment
 - Provides opportunity for dog owners to socialize
 - Promotes responsible pet ownership
- Dog Park Proposed Site
 - Parks & Pastimes, Consultant, identified Veterans Park as best location
- Dog Park (Veterans Site Identified)
 - Can easily comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements
 - Water and electrical utilities are nearby
 - Offers both open space and shaded areas
- Veterans Park Location
 - Pictures of the park
- What is the Cost of the Dog Park
 - Estimated \$30,000
 - Includes
 - Fences
 - Transition entry area, gates and signage
 - Benches, pet water fountain and waste bag dispensers
 - Entry landscaping
- What are the Rules
 - Suggested dog park rules
- Example of Dog Park Rules
- Fundraising Plan
 - \$30,000 project goal to include
 - Cash donations
 - Donation of supplies & materials
 - In-kind contributions
 - Here's how you can help
 - \$200 – Dogs Best Friend (purchase section of park fencing)
 - \$125 – Memory or Tribute Brick
 - \$100 – Dog Park Pal
- Thank you
 - Questions

Mr. Hausler said the plan, after presenting to the Planning Board at the end of this month, is to finalize the fundraising plan and then come back to the Council with final information. Mr. Hausler said this Dog Park is like any other amenity that would take place in a park such as a playground, ball field or swimming pool. Mr. Bergeron asked for them to bring back how much it would cost to maintain. Mr. Hausler said of other facilities that participants are very active and they help to police and maintain the facilities. Ms. Ruggles said they hope to continue fundraising to help with the maintenance of the park.

Mr. Burnham said he sees lots of dogs at Arrowhead and that a dog park will help with that.

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Ms. Ruggles said that people travel from here to White River Junction's dog park to let their dogs run off leash.

Ms. Messier thanked them for the work and said this would be a great addition to the community. Mayor Cutts is in favor of this; they are a big-dog family. Her family will give a donation for a memory/tribute brick.

Jeff Thibodeau said he doesn't see it in the Constitution. If people have dogs and can't take care of them, they shouldn't have them. He asked if the City puts in a dog park, will other kinds of pet owners want a park for them as well. His income is limited. He talked about the Constitution, putting employees on salary and doing away with overtime.

Mr. Raymond said the park was a good idea especially for people that don't have big yards.

Ms. Ruggles said the park is not only for dogs, but also for owners to socialize as well.

Mr. Austin asked for the dimensions. Mr. Hausler said it will use 1,700 linear feet of fence. He will have more information at the next meeting.

Ms. Ruggles said that the layout will allow owners to be able to see their dogs at all times.

Mr. Lewis confirmed that it was the space behind the softball field.

Mr. Raymond clarified this group was not here to ask for money from Council; this would be funded by donations. Mr. Bergeron repeated his request to know how much it will cost to maintain it, because not enough money was allotted to fund what Parks and Recreation currently has. Mayor Cutts agreed. Mayor Cutts asked that in addition to the expenses, she would like to know how much it costs the City for dog poop patrol so that we know if this is an opportunity to save money.

Jeff Thibodeau said that if owners don't have the land, get rid of the dog.

Steve Raymond said he is in favor of this, but we can't afford to put anything on the backs of taxpayers.

Francis Gauthier, Ward 2, talked about the Trinity Street dog waste problem. He doesn't think dog park people will take care of the clean up.

Mr. Koloski agreed current enforcement doesn't do much. There is the same problem on Mulberry Street.

Ordinance 519 Outdoor Wood-Fired Hydronic Heaters – Second Reading – Public Hearing

This proposed change amends Article IX to Chapter 5 of the Claremont City Code to add definitions of commercial and residential units, limit operation of residential heaters during summer months and require properly functioning spark arresters on all units.

Enactment of this Ordinance will clarify the existing ordinance and address concerns regarding air quality during those months when air dispersion of smoke emitted from these heaters is problematic.

Fire Chief Peter Chase said this is an amendment to the current ordinance. It identifies the timeframe to operate outdoor wood boilers (OWB). This does not affect commercial units which are over 350,000 Btus. Permits are required to install OWBs. The farm on Piper Hill will not have to shut down. The owner has identified that it is a commercial OWB and it exceeds 350,000 Btus. OWB manufacturers recommend not operating during the summer just to heat hot water. Because of a number of complaints, we are trying to have them turned off May 15 to September 15. City staff agreed with this. This will affect a few people, but is a good addition to the ordinance. A phase 2 boiler runs cleaner than a phase 1, which is cleaner than a non-phase boiler. These boilers can last 20-30 years.

Mr. Bergeron asked if this requires spark arresters for all. Chief Chase said yes.

Mayor Cutts asked if a complaint during the allowable operating season would cause review. Chief Chase said yes.

Chief Chase referenced a legislative hearing where DES (Department of Environmental Services) claimed it would cost \$25,000 for testing the emission from the boilers, so we won't get a lot of help from DES. It makes sense to turn them off in the summer.

Mr. Bergeron asked who would be responsible for enforcement. Chief Chase said the Planning and Development office. We are able to fine people for non-compliance.

A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. Koloski to adopt Ordinance 519 Outdoor Wood-Fired Hydronic Heaters.

Mr. Austin read the explanation of proposed action into the record.

Mayor Cutts opened the public hearing.

Francis Gauthier, Ward 2, said he is glad the City is moving forward with this. He talked about Supreme Court cases and the use of the word nuisance in those cases. He said the City may be better without a health officer and have the county health officer do the work.

Gary LeClair said he owns the farm on Piper Hill. He owns two OWBs, one at the farm and one at the house. The one at the house is smaller. He sees this as a complaint about one property only. He sees no difference between the OWB and a wood stove or having a fire pit. He talked about this being grandfathered. He talked about upgrading the house boiler to a commercial size instead of a home size. They have had the boilers for 15 years and have had no complaints. The original one had a spark arrester on the chimney, but it caused more problems than not. It causes creosote build up.

Frank Sprague, Ward 2, suggested talking to Bev Widger at the Claremont Saving Bank for the job fair.

Mr. Sprague talked about the nature of smoke and related health hazards. He handed out pictures and talked about cyclic operation and the smoke. He talked about low spots being engulfed in smoke from his neighbor's OWB. He said there are people burning things other than dried wood in their OWB. The cyclical nature causes smoke and creosote. He talked about particulates in the smoke.

Steve Raymond, Ward 1, said he doesn't have an OWB. He talked about people burning wood in wood stoves in the house. He said the City should fine those that are misusing the OWB and not everyone.

Arlene Gauthier, Ward 2, is in favor of the seasonal ban. She asked and was granted the ability to yield the rest of her time to Frank Sprague.

Frank Sprague continued talking about what local governments can do: stay passive or develop public education programs, property line set backs, set emission standards, enforce bans and prohibitions, require removal of an OWB upon transfer of property. Seasonal bans are widely used and he doesn't think it could be challenged in court [as suggested by Mr. LeClair].

Gary LeClair talked about his house OWB and having to buy another water heater for the summer. He said if there is proof of health risks, the proper place for discussion would be in court.

Francis Gauthier talked about the size of the boilers and that the volume of smoke is unbelievable. They need to burn at 1,000 degrees to burn clean. He said there is scrubber technology available. He talked about a court battle in Michigan which set a precedence. He said if he has to live through another summer of "poisoning" it is going to be publicized in a big way.

Mr. Koloski asked the Spragues and Gauthiers if they supported this. They said yes. Mr. Koloski asked if there was a record of how many units are in the City limits. Mr. Santagate said that Planning may have it. Mayor Cutts asked to break the numbers down by how many are commercial and how many are not. Mr. Koloski said originally he thought this was a dispute between neighbors, however it is the Council's job to protect citizens, so he supports this. He said he understands Mr. LeClair's concerns.

Mr. Raymond said that Mr. LeClair's farm boiler is exempt, however the house will need a back up hot water heater. He supports this because it is for the benefit of the whole community.

Mr. Austin said this is a difficult decision. He sympathizes with both sides. Health issues could be a real problem in the City during the summer.

Mr. Bergeron asked if this ordinance covers having someone remove the OWB if it is an unregulated boiler and is installed after the ordinance has been passed. Ms. Taylor said if there is a code violation, we try to get voluntary compliance, but if it does not meet the state standards it can be shut down. Mr. Bergeron talked about what happens when a property is sold that has an OWB on it. Ms. Taylor said there is state law that says they have to be in compliance and notify the new owner.

Mr. Burke asked if people would be exempt from the ordinance if they upgraded their OWBs to commercial size. Chief Chase said yes and they would be phase two boilers which are much cleaner.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Ordinance 520 Zoning Maps 1 and 2-Correction – Second Reading – Public Hearing

The portion of the City bounded from Tyler Street and Union Street to Summer Street, Oak Street, Franklin Street, and Main Street, including Central Street, Sullivan Street, Mulberry Street, Walnut Street, School Street, Trinity Street and Pearl Street was reclassified by petition of the residents of the area from Residential II District (R-2) to Professional Residential District (PR) and adopted by Ordinance #236 on December 14, 1983. This zone was incorrectly designated as a Rural Residential (RR) District on Zoning Maps #1 and #2 as re-adopted in 2007. This amendment to Zoning Maps #1 and #2 corrects an error in the zoning maps. It does not change the zoning district for any parcel.

Enactment of this Ordinance will adopt technical corrections to Zoning Maps #1 and #2.

Tracey Thibault, City Planner, said this is a zoning map correction redesignating what was PR (Professional Residential) back to PR (which it was back in 1983). It had been inadvertently changed to RR (Rural Residential).

A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Burke to adopt Ordinance 520 Zoning Maps 1 and 2-Correction.

Mr. Koloski read the explanation of proposed action into the record.

Mayor Cutts opened the public hearing. No one spoke. She closed it.

Ms. Taylor clarified that this does not rezone any parcel that appears on either map.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Ordinance 521 Water Department Rate Schedule – Second Reading – Public Hearing

The purpose of this proposal is to clarify the water rate schedule for public hydrants. Water rates for public hydrants have historically been calculated on an annual basis but billed semi-annually to the fire department. Ordinance #505, adopted in 2010, combined public and private hydrants in one table since they are all billed semi-annually. The intent to streamline the water rate schedule resulted in an over-charge for public fire hydrants. The proposed ordinance corrects this.

Enactment of this Ordinance will correct the water rate schedule adopted by Ordinance #505 for public hydrants. All other sections of Ordinance #505 remain unchanged.

Mary Walter, Finance Director, said that in the old water rates, it was clear that we billed for fire hydrants once a year. In the new ordinance, the language had us billing for hydrants semi-annually which is not how we do it. This cleans that up.

A motion was made by Mr. Bergeron and seconded by Mr. Raymond to adopt Ordinance 521 Water Department Rate Schedule.

Mr. Bergeron read the explanation of proposed action into the record.

Mayor Cutts opened the public hearing. No one spoke. She closed it.

Mayor Cutts said she had received feedback about the water and sewer bills that just went out. Council approved increases and she agreed with that. She asked about the billing cycle. Ms. Walter said this bill was for the summer cycle. We normally read the meters in January and July, however this was for 7 months and the last one was 5 months. Ms. Walter said that Public Works is trying to do it on a 6-month cycle.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Cynthia Howard, Ward 2, talked about a Valley News article, "Claremont Rejects Spending" (in reference to the school budget). She said the message from the voters was people want to cut spending and to lower their taxes.

Francis Gauthier, Ward 2, agreed with cutting property taxes. He owns rental properties and because of the taxes, his properties are not competitive to surrounding areas. He said people have spoken. He said he was involved with the Granite State Fair Tax Coalition and they wanted a discussion about broadbased taxes. He asked about the big steel building by Davis Framing on River Road and why it was still vacant.

Mr. Santagate commented about taxes and school spending. Even though citizens voted down spending, the school taxes are going up \$1.40, and that is before any state budget impact. The City taxes are going up only 41 cents. The City taxes had been level-funded for the past four years. The school budget is \$32 million. He talked about a joint meeting with the School Board and the Council and that it has been delayed because School Board Chair David Putnam asked to have the meeting after the Master Plan is presented. He asked if Cynthia Howard was representing herself or the School Board. She said she was representing herself. Mr. Santagate said he looked forward to the meeting with the School Board. He said he has volunteered to serve on the superintendent selection committee and that we all want to work toward having an effective superintendent be hired who will address the issues we see before this community. The committee will get its "marching orders" from the School Board (which has the authority to hire the superintendent). We have to be fair where taxes are coming from. Downshifting will be taken up when we meet with the State Representatives. You can't have the state saying it will level-fund the schools, there's no tax increase, there's no increase in fees and there will be no downshifting. That can't happen. We look forward to the meeting.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said the state gives the City its authority, structure and mechanism; there are 13 cities in NH. In those cities, citizens do not have the right to have a referendum on the budget. The management of the City has the responsibility of presenting the budget that the Council adopts. His opinion is that in Claremont some numbers of citizens take out their anger of the tax rate on the school budget. This year the school budget was perceived to be a high increase. One possible solution would be to change the structure which would have to be a change to state law. This would give citizens a chance to weigh in on the City budget and maybe the school budget would not get punished.

Steve Raymond, Ward 1, said that three properties in Claremont have gone up for auction, although he doesn't know if there are more. He questioned if that has to do with taxes. He said the City and schools need to work together. The school budget includes paying for water, sewer and taxes. He said he is for what benefits the schools.

Joe Osgood, Ward 2 and State Representative, said he has been waiting 18 months for a meeting between the Council and State Representatives and hoped it would happen soon. He talked about the state budget; everyone has to share the blame; it will take Republicans time to straighten out the state budget. The state budget will have some changes as it goes through the process. The Republican Party does not want to downshift or to take away Revenue Sharing for the schools. It may require dumping employees at the state level. It may also have to happen at the City and school levels also to get finances in order. He asked to give them a chance to get things straightened out.

Ms. Walter said the Finance Report should read that January's overtime was \$10,000 over last year's, not under. Year-to-date through March 2nd overtime is 255% over the end of February last year.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2011-10 Snow Removal Emergency Funding – Public Hearing

Bruce Temple, Public Works Director, said to bring in outside help for snow removal would run \$7,000 to \$8,000 a night. Since the last meeting, his department has picked up snow at night and then worked all day. We have not spent one dime on outside contractors. Contractors have called offering to pick up snow. No one has helped Public Works pick up snow. In 2008-2009 (which consists of January, February, March, November and December), they spent 5,300 manhours in snow operations. Last year, 2009/2010, they spent 2,800 manhours in 5 months. This year (January, February and a little of December) they have spent 5,700 manhours. This has been a tough winter. During the weekend of February 26-27, they plowed snow all day; went home at 7 p.m.; had a water break on Sullivan Street at 9 p.m.; at midnight had a water break on Main Street at Leo's; turned the water off at Leo's; went back to Sullivan Street and worked until 7 a.m.; went back to Leo's and worked until 1:30 p.m.; Sunday plowed snow; Sunday night third water break on Clifton Avenue; Sunday night water break on Green Street; Monday morning fixed Clifton Avenue. The crews have gone out 16-17 times this winter (usually occurs in 5 months; this year done in 2 months). They have used 2,500 tons of salt and 2,500-3,000 tons of sand. All this was done in addition to covering the Transfer Station and taking care of burials. Looking forward, he may have to ask for more money for salt. Overtime hours are way up. If Council would like, Public Works can hire people to pick up snow in the downtown area. They try to plow streets first, then plow City parking lots and finally do sidewalks. They have spent \$40,000 this year trying to keep sidewalks open. They try not to leave streets untreated when they are done for the day. People in the neighbors plow the snow from their driveways onto the City sidewalks. He would like the \$140,000 and would make good use of it. He repeated that we have not spent City tax dollars for contractors to remove snow.

Mr. Santagate said we were getting many calls. The plan is to have the streets plowed in the first 24 hours; following streets, do sidewalks which may take to the third day to get started. Snow removal could take to the fourth day. In order to do what the demand was during this period of time (do sidewalks around schools and sidewalks around the City), we can't do that with the present staff, they need time to sleep. We many calls that the sidewalks were not done timely especially around the schools. We are planning to buy a third sidewalk plow for next year. We have to man that which will take someone from a plow truck. If snow is not too bad, we can get to the sidewalks the next day. We cannot meet the demands from the Chamber of Commerce, etc., unless we have another crew to work from midnight to 7 a.m. to pick up sidewalks and residential areas. If approved tonight, we will try to get by and not spend it if we don't have to.

Mr. Bergeron asked Mr. Temple about the budget. Mr. Temple said the budget is up and is tracked reasonably well. Mr. Bergeron said the biggest complaint has been when one of the machines has been down for repair. Mr. Bergeron asked about using the snowblower at the airport during emergencies. Mr. Temple said that machine was paid for by dedicated funds from FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) and the City can't use the machine on City streets. Fire Chief Peter Chase said it was paid for with a \$156,000 federal grant and a requirement was that it

be dedicated to the airport. It is not registered and cannot be run on the road. FAA paid 97.5% for it so they can tell us how we use it.

Mr. Koloski said he continues to not support this. He understands our limitations. He asked if we can keep backup parts on hand so we don't have customs problems (as we did when we needed a part that was only available in Canada) again. Mr. Temple said there is a replacement part on the shelf.

Mr. Burke said he is not in favor of the resolution. He commended Mr. Temple for the job that has been done on roads.

Mr. Raymond said he would not support this resolution. We need the money for other road repairs.

Ms. Messier said people were talking about safety concerns and then she heard from people to let it melt.

Mr. Austin said he got calls about sidewalks not being plowed and then he got calls to not spend the money. It would be best to make do with what we have.

Mr. Burnham said we have gotten over the hump and at this time he would not approve spending the money.

Mr. Lewis said that he has received feedback the same as everyone else. The rain and warmer weather will take care of the snow. Public Works has done an impeccable job on the roads. We have had sidewalk issues and that is due to the amount of snow fall. Hopefully we won't have much more snow this year.

Mr. Temple explained that plowing the sidewalks with the snowblower takes a lot of time. Plowing with the V-shaped plow leaves 3-4 inches of snow on the ground.

Mr. Koloski said that this issue energized citizens. He has heard that other larger communities don't plow as well as Claremont. Mr. Temple said he will share that information with the Public Works employees.

Mr. Bergeron heard that people don't want to spend the money. When citizens heard about the machine being down, they were okay to wait to get the sidewalks done. Mr. Bergeron said he will vote no.

Mayor Cutts said she got one e-mail asking Council to approve this resolution and she got another request to approve this. She observed an elderly woman having to climb over a snow bank to get to her car and she fell. The second comment she received was to not approve the resolution; the constituent talked about the budget being the reason the sidewalks are not being done as before; they were plowing at night and we don't have the manpower we used to. She wanted to remind Council that we have had to level-fund the budget for so many years and now

it is catching up. She said all critical support services do an amazing job with the level-funded budget. She sincerely appreciates the fabulous job. This money would be for plowing and removing snow. She asked where the snow gets taken. Mr. Temple said to the Public Works yard. Mayor Cutts asked about the melting. Mr. Temple said there are no concerns as it melts, it eventually filters to the river.

Ms. Walter talked about hauling the snow to the PW yard versus dumping it into the river (which you cannot do anymore) and the increased impact on fuel. One month of fuel has cost \$27,500.

Mayor Cutts said she is not in favor of raising taxes, but part of her job is ensuring the safety of Claremont citizens. She thinks the staff is really stretched. She will vote against this.

A motion was made by Mr. Koloski (with the understanding that he will vote no so this can be opened for the public hearing) and seconded by Mr. Raymond to adopt Resolution 2011-10 Snow Removal Emergency Funding.

Mr. Koloski read the resolution into the record.

Mayor Cutts opened the public hearing.

Francis Gauthier, Ward 2, commended all the work PW does in-house. He talked about the labor unions in Wisconsin. He is happy that citizens have contacted Councilors. Individuals do make a big difference.

Steve Raymond, Ward 1, said they are doing a great job with what manpower they have. This resolution is not necessary because PW is doing a good job.

Joe Osgood, Ward 2, commended PW for what they do. This has been the second worse winter since the early 1970s. You can't man a staff for this bad winter and then have nothing to do in the slow winters. People should learn to drive for winter conditions. He doesn't agree with spending the money. Mother Nature will take care of the snow.

Mayor Cutts closed the public hearing.

Mr. Koloski said someone asked if citizens are allowed to shovel out hydrants. Mr. Temple said yes, some people do and some take care of their sidewalks.

Mr. Raymond said 20 years ago merchants used to shovel the sidewalks themselves.

Mr. Koloski said when he owned a business on Pleasant Street, he would shovel the sidewalk. Mr. Burke said he would shovel in front of his store, also.

Mayor Cutts asked that private plows do not dump snow from the private property onto the public way.

Roll Call Vote: Motion failed with all Councilors voting no.

Mr. Temple talked about a bad storm that was coming and warned citizens to be cautious around culverts and brooks. He said the Maple Avenue sewer that failed 15 months ago is now operational.

Mr. Burke asked about lower Main Street flooding. Mr. Temple said it was possible; the river is jammed there and by Home Depot.

Mayor Cutts thanked the Fire and Police for standing watch over the flooded area so no one was injured.

Mr. Lewis asked Chief Chase about the family that had to be rescued and if there is any pre-planning that could help avoid the situation. Chief Chase said this is NH and people if don't want to leave home, we can't make them. The person was notified twice and didn't want to leave until one hour after the road had closed. The homes did not flood, but the road was flooded. Chief Chase talked about flooding in the 80s. The federal government, in the mid-80s, bought a number of people out and the land reverted to the City, some did not want to leave. Once those remaining mobile homes are no longer functional, they can't be replaced.

Mr. Koloski said it was important to point out that even after the second attempt to evacuate, the resident did not leave, but in order to get him out, the Fire Department had to go through the woods. He commended them.

Social Services Distribution

Postponed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Santagate said you cannot expand the footprint of those properties on Beaugard Street.

Mr. Santagate said that CDFA (Community Development Finance Authority) in Concord oversees the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) program. Kathy Bogle-Shields, CDFA Executive Director, was here with the board of directors on Tuesday. He met with them and talked about the projects that have been done in Claremont using CDBG funds. They visited the Wainshall, parking garage, Sawtooth building, dental clinic, soup kitchen, PVE (Pleasant Valley Estates) corrected failed septic systems and the Brown Block nearly all for \$500,000 each. The state budget was in front of the Finance Committee and there were discussions to cut the CDBG budget 60%-80%. Ms. Shields, today, defended these funds as helping economic development in Claremont; they passed that budget as is.

Mr. Santagate said that Congressman Bass came to a City staff meeting and explained major problems in Congress. He had office hours in Claremont yesterday and will have them again. Earmarks are not on their agendas. Other states support earmarks. Every dollar we send to

Washington, we get less than a dollar back and Massachusetts gets more than a dollar back. That project ought to be revisited. Main Street water and sewer lost out on \$500,000. Tomorrow he'll meet in reference to the school superintendent search.

Mr. Santagate read a public notice for the Master Plan meeting to be held on March 26th at the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center. He thanked the volunteers who have served on that committee.

Mr. Santagate read a public notice about a Downtown Steering Committee for implementation of a HUD community challenge grant. He encouraged people who live along the water and sewer lines to participate. Grant received was for \$54,000. They are required to do this in 18 months. Applications will be submitted to the Council in the packets.

Mr. Santagate read the letter that the City sent to the Conservation Commission applicant that was not accepted; conflict of interest was not mentioned in the letter. Mr. Koloski asked if Mr. Santagate can reach out to the applicant. Mayor Cutts asked that if there is another letter circulating that was shared with the Commission, would the Chair present a copy of the letter to the City Manager.

Bernie Folta said in Washington there is a movement toward a \$4 billion cut including community development funds. He wondered how much money Claremont gets from Washington and how much comes from the state. He was wondering about the earmarks for Drapers Corner and North and Main and if those projects are in danger of not happening. He said in reference to the HUD grant committee that there is a tendency for attrition to take place. He suggested to overpack the committee and to presume everyone in the beginning will not stay to the end. He suggested the HUD grant meeting be televised.

Mayor Cutts agreed with Mr. Folta's thought about attrition and asked if solicitation for that committee would be put on the website.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DIRECTIVES

Mayor Cutts said she is moving ahead with scheduling a joint meeting with the school board and a joint meeting with the representatives. She asked Councilors to submit their avoid dates to her. She would like to have the meeting with the school board no later than March 25 and the representatives meeting by the first week in April. Mr. Bergeron didn't want to wait to coordinate everyone's schedules. The consensus of the Council was to instruct the City Manager to schedule the meetings.

Mr. Santagate said we would like to make a presentation next month on the marketing and website at the regular April Council meeting.

Mayor Cutts asked for an update on the job fair proposal on the agenda.

Mr. Austin asked, since the entrance to the hospital was changed, to take a look at the speed limit on Elm Street. Mr. Santagate said he would send it to the Traffic Advisory Committee.

Mr. Koloski asked to get Department Reports from Planning (i.e. number of building permits issued, number of inquiries for developing in the City); it doesn't have to be detailed. Mr. Santagate said developers don't always let us know who they are. Codes are the biggest issue and are obstacles to development. If people are not happy with the Codes, change them. They could be put on the list of things to discuss with the state representatives. The City must enforce the Codes that are on the books. He is willing to meet with business people who have problems.

Mr. Koloski asked about the status of the energy audit. He asked about motion sensor lights in the parking garage instead of having lights on all the time. Mr. Santagate will check the status and bring it back to the next meeting.

Mr. Burke asked about the technology audit update. Mr. Santagate said there was a change in the IT department at the schools and they are now ready to go ahead with the audit.

Mr. Koloski said at the last Council meeting that he had asked about registering motor vehicles on line. Mr. Santagate said there are questions about how fees will be collected. If they are registered at the dealership, the City may lose revenues. Joe Osgood said a Bill came from the Ways and Means Committee and according to the Bill, the City will get the same amount of money.

Mr. Koloski said the Airport Advisory City Council seat has expired. Mayor Cutts asked Mr. Santagate for clarification from Planning. Mr. Burke said the Council seat on the Planning Board will also be expiring.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Master Plan Committee

None

Claremont 250th Anniversary Committee

Mr. Burke said he had no information and has resigned his seat. It was noted there were no Councilors on that committee. Mr. Koloski said he had not been invited to attend. Mr. Burke said they would welcome volunteers.

CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

None

NON-PUBLIC SESSION PURSUANT TO RSA 91-A:3 II(d) – REAL ESTATE

Removed from agenda

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:22 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Burke to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorée M. Russell
Clerk to the Council