

The Claremont City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, May 9, 2007, in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Members of the Council present were:

Michael Prozzo, Jr.
Deborah Cutts
Heather Bopp
Assistant Mayor Christopher Irish
Mayor Scott Pope
Ralph Swift
James Neilsen, IV

Excused Members were:

Andrew Austin
William Regan, III

Also present were:

Guy Santagate, City Manager
Jane Taylor, City Solicitor

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pope at 6:33 p.m.

MAYOR'S NOTES

Mayor Pope sent congratulations to Women's Supportive Services for their May 5th walk. There were 150 walkers and they raised \$17,000. He thanked all the walkers and volunteers for their efforts. The Farmers' Market will be open on Thursdays, 4-7 p.m., in Broad Street Park starting June 7th. The Community Gardens will open on South and Broad Streets in the section owned by the Claremont Savings Bank. Point of contact is Ms. Kit Hawkins. On May 3rd, the Stevens High School Cardinals had their first track meet in Claremont in 17 years on the new track (Coach Parker Sports Complex at Monadnock Park) and out-of-towners said it was a beautiful facility. He thanked the anonymous donor for the facility. He recognized the Parks and Recreation Department for keeping the parks and recreation facilities in great shape. Zack Bunnell and Kai Kleyensteuber, Disnard Middle School, were selected for the 2007 Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington. Mr. Santagate said he met with the two students. They are bright young boys, had done their homework and asked good questions about leadership. They understand obligation, work ethic and commitment. Mayor Pope recognized Jan Bunnell as the 2007 Citizen of the Year; she has spent many years working with the Claremont Soup Kitchen, Inc.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Swift asked that Ms. Swift on page 3 be changed to Mr. Swift.

A motion was made by Mr. Prozzo and seconded by Ms. Cutts to accept the minutes of the April 11, 2007, City Council meeting as amended.

Motion carried 7-0.

APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Claremont Community Television, Inc. (CCTV) Board of Directors

Mayor Pope noted Anita Engel was appointed by the members to seat #7 of the Claremont Community Television, Inc. (CCTV) Board of Directors.

A motion was made by Mr. Prozzo and seconded by Ms. Bopp to reappoint William D. Mattson to seat #3 of the Claremont Community Television, Inc. (CCTV) Board of Directors.

Motion carried 7-0.

Fiske Free Library Board of Trustees

A motion was made by Ms. Bopp and seconded by Ms. Cutts to appoint Barbara Hall to seat #3 of the Fiske Free Library Board of Trustees.

Motion carried 7-0.

Historic District Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Swift and seconded by Ms. Bopp to appoint Jason Farrell to Seat #2 of the Historic District Commission.

Motion carried 7-0.

Parks and Recreation Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Cutts and seconded by Mr. Neilsen to reappoint Steven Lizotte to seat #4 of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Motion carried 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance 483 – Licensing Private Solid Waste Disposal Haulers – 2nd Reading – Public Hearing

Ms. Taylor noted this is a substitute ordinance with changes that were requested at the last Council meeting. The purpose of the ordinance is to require that all private solid waste haulers that operate in the City are licensed as of July 1 and that they offer recycling no later than January 1, 2008. Licenses issued by the Public Works Department will include a statement that will disclose the licensees' intended disposal sites for recycling and solid waste. The list is not meant to be exclusive; they will list all potential disposal sites. That was the only change from the first reading.

Mr. Santagate said he had a meeting with the haulers to talk to them about requiring them to offer curbside service to customers. They said they need time to buy the equipment and January 1, 2008, would be an appropriate date to start.

Ms. Cutts said she was disappointed with the January date, but thinks it's a huge step forward and is glad to see it going forward.

Mayor Pope read Ordinance 483 into the record.

Mayor Pope asked if waste handlers would be subject to this licensing. Ms. Taylor said no.

Mr. Neilsen commented that he doesn't view this as mandatory recycling.

Ms. Bopp asked about the fines for a violation. Chief Scott said the fine established under State law is \$1,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Irish and seconded by Ms. Cutts to adopt Ordinance 483 – Licensing Private Solid Waste Disposal Haulers on second reading.

Mr. Prozzo asked if the haulers are not prepared by January 1, 2008, can they come back to ask for more time. He said that was "food for thought."

Mr. Neilsen questioned enforcement. Ms. Taylor said the license is required to be carried in the vehicle. There will be no "trash police." Citizens can report if no license is displayed or if they are not being offered recycling. Mr. Irish said the City has no power to know if the haulers are recycling the materials or just putting the stuff in the same bucket for disposal. Ms. Taylor said that is true. Ms. Cutts said solid waste and recycling have been discussed ad nauseum. People will want to know they are getting what they pay for. It is about consumer choice and responsible actions. Mayor Pope said of enforcement that a New York City Police Officer said citizens are their best eyes. He said you can't enforce something that is not in place to begin with. So, get it in place and then work on the gaps in enforcement. Ms. Bopp agreed with Mayor Pope.

Mayor Pope opened the public hearing.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said he read Ms. Cutts' Letter to the Editor urging citizens to express their thoughts on trash issues. He believes in recycling and waste generated should be dealt with in other ways. Haulers will pass the costs onto consumers for offering recycling services. He asked if the Council knows what the impact on the consumer will be with passage of this ordinance. If the additional cost is reasonable, he thinks it is a good idea, but if not, maybe there needs to be some assessment. The State of New Hampshire, when it is proposing legislation, has to go through a process of seeing what the financial impact of that legislation might be. He asked if it would be a possibility for the City to move to assessing financial impacts of proposed ordinances.

Jacqueline Elliott, Ward 1, thinks this is a good ordinance as written. Her concern is the same as Mr. Folta's. This ordinance is a step in the City's waste management plan. It would have been better to have this ordinance as part of a plan. She hesitated to ask the Council not to pass the ordinance, but hoped the Council would take Mr. Folta's concerns into consideration and to get serious about putting a plan in place in order to be fair to the citizens. She is grateful for the ordinance, but there is still work to do. She said we need leadership from our officials and administration and the public needs a process that allows input before it goes to vote. In reference to Ms. Cutts' letter to the Editor, she didn't think suggestions should be sent via the complaint line. Ms. Cutts responded that the Citizen Comment Form is not automated, but the Complaint Form is, which would make it easier for citizens to use.

Robert Woodman, said the Transfer Station handles about 3% of the city's rubbish. We make \$240 per ton, it costs \$120 per ton to dispose of it, and it costs another \$100,000 per year to run the Transfer Station. Getting rid of recyclables is not cheap. He hopes they pay their own way. It will cost money to recycle. Currently, we recycle all of the city's trash, because it is converted into electricity.

Mayor Pope closed the public hearing.

Mr. Irish said he would support the ordinance. He was disappointed at the public turnout. There were only about 10 people in the audience. If the City has problems getting rid of recyclables now then private haulers will have even more problems. He believes citizens will end up paying more. There is no language in the ordinance for a maximum cost and he is preparing to pay more.

Mayor Pope asked the cost to dispose of one ton of garbage. Mr. Temple said it is \$91 per ton. Mayor Pope asked the cost to get rid of recyclables. Mr. Temple said it varies. We have to pay to get rid of glass. Fibers and paper are hauled out for us. It depends on the market. The transportation costs are high, because we don't have the volume. Some communities have net costs in excess of \$100 per ton.

Ms. Cutts asked if the ordinance could restrict haulers from increasing their fees. Ms. Taylor said the purpose of this ordinance is purely licensing. Fees are in a different section of the Code. This is step one. Ms. Cutts encouraged citizens, when shopping for a hauler, to see what services are being provided in the surrounding communities. She noted Durham disposed of 30 tons of rippables in April and received \$150 per ton in revenues.

Mr. Swift suggested haulers charge extra for the recycling and the same price for regular trash.

Ms. Bopp said we have to start somewhere and it can be tweaked later. She thinks we need to do more. Mr. Swift will support the ordinance, but he said not to expect miracles or prices to go down. He agreed this is a starting point. Ms. Cutts expects the fees to stay the same or go down, because that is what the surrounding communities get.

Mayor Pope thinks recycling is being done in a vast majority of the United States. He said to not underestimate our people; several of them have told him they want to start recycling.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 7-0.

Ordinance 484 – Regulation of Use of Skateboards, Rollerblades & Other Similar Devices – 2nd Reading – Public Hearing

Police Chief Alex Scott said this ordinance will make the Code clearer and easier to enforce. The major change is including the public way in the definition. Bicycles have been removed and put into a separate section. Another change is the inclusion allowing a parking enforcement officer to enforce these provisions. He is working to establish a program similar to Burlington's park patrol program in which they will hire college-aged students, interested in a law enforcement career, as park patrol/parking enforcement. The park ranger position (Parks and Recreation) will be expanded to include assisting with parking enforcement and some of the enforcement measures outlined in these ordinances. This will allow dedicated coverage to the downtown area and City parks. The primary responsibility will be education relative to City ordinances; they won't have powers of arrest, but they can issue certain City ordinance violations. It is similar to a program Burlington has used successfully since the early 1990s. In December, he encumbered \$9,000 from the 2006 budget for the pilot project for this summer.

Mr. Santagate said he and Chief Scott have met with the downtown merchants several times. These ordinances strike at some problems downtown and will improve the shopping environment downtown. This is a step in the right direction and they can be adjusted later if needed.

Mayor Pope read the Explanation of Proposed Action.

Mr. Neilsen asked about having signage and education. Chief Scott said signage will be discussed with Public Works and one of the first steps will be education. Ms. Cutts agreed with Mr. Neilsen and would like the information be put into the paper. Ms. Bopp asked for signage for parking lots as well.

Mayor Pope read the Prohibited Acts section including locations off-limits to skateboards, rollerblades, etc.

A motion was made by Mr. Prozzo and seconded by Ms. Cutts to adopt Ordinance 484 – Regulation of Use of Skateboards, Rollerblades & Other Similar Devices on second reading.

Mayor Pope opened the public hearing.

Robert Woodman said he would like the skateboarders to be illuminated at night to avoid getting hit.

Ralph Farnsworth, owner of the Board Room (skateboard/snowboard shop), said he is not opposing the ordinance. He said when the kids go into his store, he tells them to stay off the skateboards on Pleasant Street. He would like a place for the kids to go. He gave out his store phone number 543-9800. He said he has a lot of contacts that would help with contests and events.

Norman Lessard, Ward 1, said the downtown merchants support this ordinance and he looks forward to the creation of a skateboard park.

Richard Stevens said he used to ride a skateboard; he is concerned about taking skateboards out of downtown and then not having anywhere else to go. We need to consider the long term effect.

Mayor Pope asked about a State RSA requiring lights on bikes after dark. Chief Scott said yes for bicycles but the State has not regulated skateboards. Bikes are considered vehicles and are required to meet certain lighting requirements. A lot of issues could be resolved if the State made the laws relative to a pedestrian apply to skateboarders, rollerbladers or other similar devices. Pedestrians are not required to carry a flashlight, so that is the same for skateboarders.

Mayor Pope closed the public hearing.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 7-0.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Ruth Preston, Executive Director of the Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce, said there would be a celebration of new faces on Opera House Square on Friday at 3 p.m. There will be a ribbon cutting for Monte Verde Art Glass Studio, Farro's Deli, Violet's Book Exchange, Green Acres, Wheelock Travel, and Esscor Electronics. The public is invited. Bike and Walk to Work Day is on Friday May 18th, 7-9 a.m. The Moose Lodge will offer parking and Hannaford's will provide breakfast. The Chamber is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year and the 51st Citizen of the Year, Jan Bunnell from the Soup Kitchen. The event will be at Saint Gaudens on May 31st. It will be a sit-down dinner catered by the Teal Room and tickets are available at the Chamber.

Mayor Pope recognized Ms. Preston for her fine work at the Chamber. She will soon be leaving Claremont.

Al Livingston, Executive Director for Main Street Claremont introduced himself and said how glad he was to be here. He sees his role as facilitation and support for the merchants and trying to assess what they need and what they want and to try to accomplish those goals. He feels the downtown area needs appearance improvement and that will be addressed later.

Tom Downs, Ward 1, Physician, representing Working on Waste, said that tomorrow at 7 p.m., Dr. Joel Tickner would speak at the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center on environmental issues that will have to be dealt with soon. It will be free.

Mayor Pope read a note that the Farmers' Market Association invited the public to a perennial plant swap at the corner of South and Broad Streets, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 12th. Proceeds go to the Farmers' Market scholarship awarded to a graduating senior from Stevens High School.

Ordinance 485 – Regulation of Bicycles on Public Ways – 2nd Reading – Public Hearing

Ms. Taylor noted that this is a substitute ordinance that includes the addition requested at the last Council meeting.

Chief Scott said this ordinance mirrored Nashua's ordinance. It cleans up the Code and separates bicycles from rollerblades and skateboards. It is consistent with State statute. The helmet issue was added. There was a question about Duty of Parent at the last meeting; he called Nashua and they have not used that provision. Typically it is addressed as an educational tool with children and parents. Typically the only time parents are held accountable for children's actions is when there is already a delinquency or CHINS (Child in Need of Services) petition pending.

A motion was made by Ms. Cutts and seconded by Ms. Bopp to adopt Ordinance 485 – Regulation of Bicycles on Public Ways on second reading.

Ms. Bopp asked how this information would get out to the schools. Chief Scott said it would be the SRO's (School Resource Officer) responsibility between now and the end of the year. Chief Scott will meet with a newspaper reporter to discuss the issue. The park patrol program will be an integral part of that. Those two individuals will be dedicated one to the parks and one to the downtown area and their primary function will be education. Chief Scott said this will be an integral part of the bike rodeo.

Mr. Prozzo supports this ordinance and thanked the downtown merchants for working with the City staff and Police Chief. Mayor Pope echoed the thanks.

Norman Lessard thanked the committee, Chief Scott and Mr. Santagate for working together on this project.

Mayor Pope opened the public hearing. No one spoke. He closed the public hearing.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Skateboard Park Update

Mr. Santagate said the skateboard park is needed. Earlier he had proposed to put funds toward the park. There was talk that most or all of the money could be raised privately. Then the Council talked about looking at the site (Riverside Park as it is known).

Larry Beswick, Ward 2, said the skateboarders are raising money. They have raised approximately \$22,000. The Police Department has been very supportive. He said the park is known as the Sarah Smith Park. He said the plan for the area is to have a skateboard park and a picnic area and to add a canoe launch later. Of the money they have, \$19,000 is from a grant. They have other grants out. He said they don't need a lot of help from the City, but would like a little help to the tune of \$50,000-\$75,000 from the City to see it built by winter. They need the park. He would like a motion to accept the Sarah Smith Park as a potential skateboard park and he would like the Council to back it 100%.

Mayor Pope said he is listed as a supporter on the letter that Mr. Beswick gave to the Council. He supports a lot of it, but has to be "sold" on the canoe launch because of a waterfall below the area. He gave a brief history on why previous skate parks were closed: drugs, vandalism, and intimidating people. He gave his support because when he had asked who would help maintain this park, the kids said they would and it is in an area where it can be seen. He said if we close off one area, we need to provide some recreation in another.

Mr. Neilsen is concerned about the access road as you try to get onto Washington Street. He asked if it would be possible to get a right-of-way across the auto lot to get to the signal. Scott Hausler said that has been considered. The entrance and exit would be right-hand turns only and crossing over Washington Street would not be allowed. They talked to the owner of the auto lot, but it would cost a lot of money to construct a road to access the signal. The site plan works with the existing road and will make it less steep. That is probably the best bet based on the budget.

Ms. Bopp asked if the grant that has been submitted needed plans for the site. Mr. Hausler the plans are the same as those that were presented to the Council. The LWCF (Land and Water Conservation Fund) grant would be lost if we did not do the park. If we change the location, it's a possibility, but not an absolute that we would lose the funds, but we would need to submit a new site plan. Mr. Santagate said we originally were talking about a skateboard park, but then it was expanded. He would like it clarified.

Mr. Irish said it was originally a private group making a skateboard park, then the grant was submitted with more than just a skateboard park and that turned it into a City project.

A motion was made by Mr. Irish and seconded by Mr. Neilsen to endorse the skateboard park referred to as Riverside Park as outlined in the application for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant.

Mr. Neilsen asked about soft monies. Mr. Irish said according to the budget page from the LWCF Project Application Summary, \$30,000 - \$50,000 will come from City funds, which is less than \$75,000 originally talked about. This motion is to endorse the concept.

Ms. Cutts asked to clarify the name of the park. Mr. Beswick said it was Sarah Smith Park. He said he is after someone to give money, but that person won't give if the name is changed. Mayor Pope said there is a plaque on the road leading to the water pumping station in memory of Sarah Smith who was a member of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution). There were several trees planted in her memory.

Mr. Swift asked if the Corps of Engineers will have to get involved due to the site work being on the riverbank. Mr. Hausler said they have been working with Shoreline Protection and DRED and they will be going through all the permitting and reviews that are required. Mr. Swift asked, because of its proximity to a car dealership, if this could become another disaster area [due to contamination]. Mr. Hausler said there wouldn't be much excavating so he didn't think so.

Ms. Bopp talked about the money that has been raised (\$19,000 from the grant and \$3,000 raised). Mr. Hausler said the grant application approval is important for future fundraising. Ms. Bopp loves the theme of the skateboard park, but \$3,000 is not a lot of money raised. It was a hard fight for the City budget in November and now we are discussing spending taxpayers' money on a skateboard park and for yearly maintenance. Mr. Hausler said they will be putting resources that are currently in place toward 7.5 hours a week for general maintenance (picking up rubbish, mowing the grass, sweeping the court, etc.). In 20 years we could be looking at resurfacing an area or new equipment. They can absorb the 7.5 hours. It may take a little more gas for mowing. He indicated that \$3,000 is not much right now, but they have to have the site plan. Now they are close to proving to people that this is real and that is when people start donating funds. Ms. Bopp asked if the park will be used year round. Mr. Hausler said all of the parks are open year round with limited traffic during inclement weather. Ms. Bopp asked if there would be space for the skating rink. Mr. Hausler said no.

Mr. Farnsworth said he has construction contacts and he could get them to donate blacktop. He and his friend could design and build the handrails. He and his band can do fundraising.

Motion carried 6 yes, 0 no and 1 abstain, with Mayor Pope abstaining.

Solid Waste and/or Recycling Program – Public Hearing

Bruce Temple, Public Works Director, showed a Powerpoint presentation titled "City of Claremont Options and Costs Curbside Recycling."

Four Methods to Pick Up Recyclables from House to House: Using City Employees and Equipment Within the Department of Public Works (no packer trucks or staff to do curbside pickup for recycling at this time)

Recycling Options: Single stream recycling (all in one container); Dual stream recycling (sort paper, fibers and magazines from containers such as cans and glass); Co-mingled recycling (everything in together and handled differently on receiving end); Source separation recycling (everything is separated)

Single Stream Recycling: Residents put out one bin; City chooses which items will be recycled; City vehicle with one compartment picks up material and dumps into conventional packer; no place close by to accept single stream recycled material (closest is Canada) there is concern about worker's compensation

Dual Stream Recycling: Residents put out separate bins with 2 or more products; Load into dual packer truck (needs a two-man crew)

Co-Mingled Recycling: Recycled material is co-mingled and transported to a materials recycling facility

Source Separation: All recyclables are separated into individual bins by the home owner; City workers could separate at a new city-owned recycle center

What Will Recycling Cost? Single Stream: 3,600 households – no commercial or industrial pick-up; Pick up half of the city per week or 1,800 households; 5 days per week pick up 360 homes per day; With 2 packer trucks – 5 hours per day (not including time to go to the Transfer Station), 36 homes per hour or approximately 2 minutes per household

Cost of Equipment (New-Startup): Packer truck with automated pick-up – 2 required at \$175,000 each = \$350,000; 2 recycle aluminum trailer hauler with wet system for live bottom dump = \$115,000; Truck to pull trailer loaded with recyclables = \$90,000; Recycle wheeled containers – 3,600 @ \$50 each = \$180,000

Cost of Manpower: Each truck - 3 people x \$900/week (with fringe benefits) = \$140,400 annually

He estimates \$875,000 as initial startup with the first year's labor. That doesn't include operational things such as fuel, oil, etc.

Mr. Temple said some communities are successfully picking up recyclables, but it is not free.

With authority to go to bid in June or July, we could get started in January which is the timeframe set up for the private haulers.

Mr. Temple said Goffstown's recyclables are hauled into Canada. They have about 17,500 citizens and produce 2,400 tons of recyclables. It costs about \$300,000 per year to operate their system. He doesn't know what they get back when they sell some recyclables. Recyclables is a spotty market. He will pursue what the return is on recyclables if the Council wants him to. It costs Goffstown \$126 per ton less what they get for it. Durham, without UNH has about 8,000 citizens with 3,600 households. Last year they collected about 900 tons of recyclables at about \$163,000 per year. Durham's operational cost is about \$90,000. There is a 35%-40% soft cost for administration. On top of that, Durham back charges a pro rata share of the space that is used for operations at their transfer station for a cost \$96,000 and adding all the charges comes to \$163,000. After we get up and running, Claremont can expect operating costs of \$225,000-\$250,000 a year less what we might get from sales. He used an average price of \$150 per ton x 1,600 tons. These numbers are for single source mixed recyclables being picked up every two weeks. After several years, Goffstown has increased their efficiency and their numbers are better now.

Mr. Santagate pointed out that we have done an enormous amount of work related to recycling and trash disposal. Over three years ago, he asked the community for input on trash disposal and recycling. He appointed a seven-member committee, five from the community and two from the administration (himself, Public Works Director Paul Fredette, Alison Raymond, Bob Woodman, Jackie Elliott, Tom Connair and Duncan McCutcheon). The meetings took place over an 18-month period. Mr. Fredette asked what to do with the trash (burn or bury) and where and when. There was a great reluctance on the committee's part to determine burn or bury and where and when. It didn't lead to resolution of where to take the trash. Sooner or later the discussion has to end and we have to make a decision. He invited citizens to give their opinion as long as they are specific.

Mr. Santagate talked to County Manager Gil de Rubio and he requested the City contribute \$4,000 to the county for a study related to MRFs (Materials Recovery Facility). The county will put in \$3,000, Newport - \$4,000 and Antioch - \$6,000.

Mr. Santagate and Ms. Taylor talked about a Supreme Court ruling that allows municipalities to direct where trash goes as long as it is a publicly owned facility. Ms. Taylor said the Supreme Court had previously struck down ordinances that directed where solid waste should go saying they burdened interstate commerce. The new ruling opens the door to allow municipalities to have additional control over where solid waste and recyclables end up. She thinks it is something we need to explore further. It appears that if the destination is a public facility, we may be able to control the ultimate destination.

Mr. Irish liked the presentation and asked to have it put on the website under City News. He asked where the upside is for citizens of Claremont. He asked why the City wants to jump into recycling. Mr. Temple said that we would try to look at several alternatives. He said Ms. Taylor looked at one alternative called licensing and offering recycling. Another alternative that was asked about was licensing haulers, requiring recycling and mandating where to take the recycling and trash. Mr. Temple was charged with alternate number three which was to get some hard dollar figures to the Council and that was tonight's effort. He mentioned that recycling is not

free; it's more of a social conscience. He tried to gather factual information that fits Claremont should the Council decide to go with recycling. Mr. Irish would rather have had this as part of a plan. In his opinion, by licensing the haulers, the commitment has been made.

Ms. Cutts said the answer to Paul Fredette's question, in the report from Alison Raymond, was Pay-as-You-Throw (PAYT), but Mr. Santagate said the report did not address where to take the trash. Ms. Cutts agreed the report did not say where, but she doesn't care where it goes. The importance of the PAYT program is you pay on for the garbage you give them; the recycling is separate. Ms. Cutts estimated it costs about \$415 a year per household to dispose of trash which includes paying for a private hauler, the Transfer Station, bags and garbage cans, etc. She noted the equipment Mr. Temple showed is the best of the best and we wouldn't necessarily need to begin with that type of equipment. NRRA did a study and Claremont has the potential to create 730 tons of rippables a year. That is an estimated \$109,500 in revenue using Durham's price of \$150 per ton.

Mr. Swift disagrees with Ms. Cutts; if you don't get best equipment, you will pay multiples in terms of repairs and maintenance.

Ms. Bopp would like to have a city-wide vote in two years. She doesn't believe this should be a Council vote.

The estimate for recycling was \$62.50 per household (\$225,000 divided by 3,600 household) and Mayor Pope said currently we spend \$200,000 for the Transfer Station which equals \$55 per household. With the value added, to him recycling is the way to go. He noted the Sullivan County MRF might affect this plan. Mr. Temple said as a result, we will have to look at the County tax rate; someone will have to pay to operate that MRF. Either way it's not free.

Mr. Neilsen noted the \$1 million start-up cost would have to be bonded.

Mayor Pope opened the public hearing.

Larry Stevens, Ward 2, noted the Eagle Times reported Newport voted down the \$733,000 to start up a recycling program. He is concerned because the government said within the next two years it intends to close all landfills and all burnable wastes. The main reason for high cost in starting a recycling program is government regulation. He would like the Council to set up a committee to investigate this and find out if this is what the City wants to do. Lebanon is not a mandatory recycling town; however they just built a new recycling center and they have had a good response to it. He wonders why we do not have the same response as Lebanon. In Lebanon, people are not paid for their recyclables. He noted he had concerns about disposal of hazardous and bio-hazardous wastes. He would like to see a hazardous waste collection. If the City goes with mandatory recycling, he would like it to go to the public for a vote.

Bernie Folta said a bag of trash is not just a bag of trash, for some people it is a symbol of an underlying issue/agenda. He said "There is an Elephant in the Room" that is complicating the progress on this issue. He thinks the "elephant in the room" is the Wheelabrator incinerator. For

some people that bag of trash is a political symbol for closing the incinerator. "Let's get the elephant in the room."

Jacqueline Elliott, Ward 1, agrees tonight is not the night to make these decisions. We don't have a plan. She is fearful of making important decisions without a plan. It was a major frustration for her that the work of the trash committee could not be capitulated into something more concrete. One of her major frustrations was Public Works Director Fredette and trying to get his report and when he turned it in, his effort was "insulting." She implored the Council to take advantage of the work that is going on at the county level. For these things to work well, you're looking at a certain economy of scale. That necessitates cooperation among communities. She agreed with Mr. Folta that a bag of trash may be symbolic of an agenda. She mentioned a contract from Wheelabrator, "Claremont Town Waste Disposal Agreement." that is circulating.

Mayor Pope closed the public hearing.

Resolution 2007-8 Dissolution and Withdrawal Sullivan County Regional Refuse Disposal District – Public Hearing

Ms. Taylor said the Project and the Districts are technically going out of existence July 1, 2007. In order for the District to dissolve, two-thirds of the member communities need to vote in favor of the dissolution. A vote in favor of this resolution effectively withdraws the City of Claremont from the New Hampshire District.

Mr. Santagate said we have had a 20-year relationship with an entity. In 1982 Mr. Siegler, representative for the Project/incinerator, proposed that it would cost \$17 per ton to dispose of solid waste. With inflation, we should be paying \$43 a ton, but we currently pay \$90 a ton. That gives a glimpse of the kind of relationship we have had with the Project and Claremont got the environmental impact from the incinerator, the negative impact on our image and the pulverized roads. He cited the clearest glimpse of how the Project operated over that time period. When they were dissolving, they offered the land on Grissom Lane, in Claremont, to Newport through ECON, for \$1 so they could sell it Claremont for \$300,000 so they could put those funds into ECON to develop Newport. When that was beaten back, a coincident occurred; the Project gave a \$300,000 "bonus" to the Newport ash landfill so it would take over responsibilities in Newport. From that example, you can see what kind of partnerships you should be afraid of entering into in the future. Now the Project is going out of business and the final act is that they are staying in business to complete the lawsuit against Claremont claiming they were over taxed. The biggest benefactor will be Wheelabrator because that will set the basis for the taxes for the next 20 or 50 years. He read a paragraph from the dissolution and stated that Claremont will pay 25% of the legal fees. He said we should go forward with partners with open eyes and be careful who they are. Mr. Santagate recommended adopting the resolution.

Mr. Irish read the resolution into the record.

A motion was made by Mr. Irish and seconded by Ms. Bopp to adopt Resolution 2007-8 Dissolution and Withdrawal Sullivan County Regional Refuse Disposal District.

Mayor Pope opened the public hearing.

Ms. Elliott said to do it.

Mayor Pope closed the public hearing.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 7-0.

OHRV Crossing on Washington Street

Police Chief Alex Scott has been doing research for making an OHRV (Off Highway Recreational Vehicle) crossing. He has talked to the Trails Bureau and was told the state is in the process of developing standards. He is still working on it and has no firm recommendations at this time.

Mr. Irish said the trails open on May 23rd and he asked if the City would assume any liability with OHRVs crossing Washington Street. Chief Scott doesn't think the City will incur liability based on the choices that a rider makes to cross Washington Street. Under current OHRV statutes you can cross Washington Street to access one trail to the other. There is nothing in the statutes that prohibits that.

Ms. Bopp asked about an officer going out on the trails. Chief Scott said an officer has already been out and written 6-8 tickets.

Acceptance of \$6,750 OHRV Enforcement Grant from NH Fish & Game

Chief Scott said this grant provides coverage from July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008, if approved. The current state budget creates a situation where this money is in jeopardy of being lost to local law enforcement grants. House Bill 2 took all the grant local enforcement money and gave it back to the Fish and Game budget. There are 46 other communities that take advantage of this grant money. He encouraged the Council to call Senator Odell to remind him how important this money is to our trail network. Without this funding, it will be difficult to provide coverage. We are going forward as if money is still available.

A motion was made by Mr. Prozzo and seconded by Ms. Bopp to accept the \$6,750 OHRV Enforcement Grant from NH Fish & Game.

Motion carried 7-0.

Low & Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief

Joe Lessard, Interim City Assessor, said that RSAs 198:56 and 198:57 provide relief from a portion of the state education property tax for people who meet certain requirements. To qualify for 2006, one must have owned a homestead subject to the state education property tax, have

resided in that homestead as of April 1, 2006, and have a total 2006 income of \$20,000 or less if single or \$40,000 or less if married or head of household. The application must be filed with the State between May 1 and June 30, 2007. The money comes from State funds (not locally).

Ms. Bopp asked if this could get out to the newspaper or online. Mr. Lessard said fliers are available in his office.

Approval of Multi-Year Lease Agreement for Software for Phone/Voice Mail System

Dale Giles, Information Systems, said this affects the voice mail and auto attendant software for all City phones excluding Public Works and the Visitor's Center. When they did an upgrade to the computer server they found the current software was too old to be supported on the new system. The needed upgrade will cost \$5,459. They don't have the money in their budget so they looked at a lease for four years at \$1,950 per year.

Mr. Prozzo asked if we can find the money in the budget to buy it outright. Mr. Santagate said we can explore. He asked what the urgency is. Mr. Giles said the server is acting up and if it comes down, it might stay down. Mr. Prozzo would rather buy it than lease it. Mr. Neilsen is not in favor of a multi-year lease for software.

A motion was made by Mr. Neilsen and seconded by Mr. Prozzo to authorize the City Manager or his designees to purchase software for the City telephone/voicemail system with funds to come from fund balance.

Motion carried 7-0.

Apply for and Accept up to \$2,500 NH DES Grant for an Oil Tank

Mr. Temple said this is to purchase an oil tank at the Public Works garage for the heating system as part of a waste oil recycling program. Currently, they receive waste oils at the Transfer Station and then take it to Public Works to be burned in the heating system. This grant application will add a duplicate tank at Public Works. They will continue to collect the oil at the Transfer Station. This will upgrade their system and allow them to have a little more capacity.

Mr. Prozzo verified there would be no other monies involved.

A motion was made by Mr. Prozzo and seconded by Mr. Irish to authorize the city manager, or his designees, to take such actions as may be necessary to apply for and accept a \$2,500.00 Used Oil Collection Center Grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Waste Management Division for the purpose of improving its used oil collection program at the City's Recycling Center pursuant to RSA 147-B:13. The program is intended to collect non-commercial "do-it-yourself" (DIY) used oil from citizens who generate used oil as a household hazardous waste.

Motion carried 7-0.

Street Projects Update

Mr. Temple said the bids for street paving, Bible Hill Booster Station and the Pedestrian Bridge, came in at or below the estimates. With respect to street paving, in Ward 1, Public Works will spend \$212,000 for the stone base and the paving on Water Street and the Mill District. They are on target for a completion date of this fall. On Mulberry Street at its intersection with Sullivan Street, they will pave back to what was Don's Market and go through the 5-way intersection. In Ward 2, they will do milling and paving on Charlestown Road starting on the south side of Draper's Corner to the Short Stop Market; behind Howe Motors: Ledgewood to the intersection with Cherry Hill Road, Fenway and Glenwood. In Ward 3, they will do the section of Elm Street from Integrated Health Services north to Thrasher Road and Bowker Street to Red Water Brook. If money permits, they will do Thrasher Road from Route 120 to the stone forge. The other end of Thrasher Road toward Winter Street will come out of the balance of the \$3 million road fund. They will do about \$40,000 in sidewalk and curb work. Winter Street will be re-advertised for bid in July with a start date of the beginning of September. The first of June there will be a bid out to place a new 16-inch ductile iron transmission main (clean water from the water plant to Washington Street). When the 16-inch pipe comes on line, they will close off the 1920s 20-in main and rehabilitate it. They are going to receive \$82,000 pre-disaster mitigation money to repair the culvert on the west side of Red Water Brook Road. They will receive \$120,000 to help offset the cost to repair the sewer main out of the county home. They will receive \$25,000 to repair the culvert on Thrasher Road and Route 120. The grants have been written by Norma Limoges, Public Works Office Manager.

Fire Chief Peter Chase said the City received about \$300,000 in damage to roads and culverts damage from the last nor'easter. He and Ms. Limoges went to a FEMA funding request seminar to apply for 75% reimbursement for certain items. The preliminary damage assessment was \$37 million state wide. He will come back to the Council when he finds out what we'll get.

Social Services Disbursements

Mayor Pope said the Social Services Committee (Mayor Pope, Mr. Regan, with Mr. Austin on the speaker phone) met today. He presented the suggested figures to the Council and asked to discuss it at a later meeting to give the rest of the Council time to look at the applications.

Social Service Agencies Funding - 2007

Organization	Amount Requested	Committee Suggestion to the Council
Arrowhead Recreation Club	\$7,500.00	\$5,000
Claremont Dental Initiative	\$8,000.00	\$2,500
Claremont Senior Center	\$5,000.00	\$2,500
Claremont Soup Kitchen, Inc.	\$5,000.00	\$5,000
Claremont Food Pantry	\$5,000.00	0
Community Alliance of Human Services, Family Services Department	\$5,000.00	\$2,000
Community Alliance Transportation Services, Inc.	\$6,000.00	\$3,000
Connecticut Valley Home Care	\$6,000.00	0
Headrest	\$7,000.00	\$1,000
Southwestern Community Services, Inc.	\$5,000.00	\$2,000
Sullivan County Hospice, Inc.	\$6,000.00	\$1,500
Sullivan County Nutrition Services	\$5,000.00	\$3,000
Trusting Hands Home Health Care	\$2,500.00	\$1,000
West Central Behavioral Health	\$3,000.00	\$1,500
TOTAL	\$71,000.00	\$30,000.00

Mr. Prozzo thanked the Committee and felt since they had done all of the “leg work” the Council should endorse these numbers.

Mr. Irish questioned Arrowhead’s application for Social Services instead of the Community Reinvestment Fund.

Mayor Pope withdrew the recommendations for further consideration.

Community Reinvestment Fund Disbursements

Ms. Cutts said the Committee will meet soon.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Santagate said the Master Plan is going forward and the Visioning Committee is doing great. He asked the Council to consider getting involved in the Master Plan Land Use Committee. The

Open Space Ordinance Committee has been meeting for several months and some members may be knowledgeable about land use and may be beneficial to the Land Use Committee.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DIRECTIVES

There was a discussion about the May 23rd Workshop. It was originally set up to discuss Council Rules and Elderly Exemptions. Mayor Pope will talk to the City Manager about the agenda.

There was a discussion about the Social Services Committee disbursements. Mayor Pope asked to have the conversation at a future meeting when all three members of the Committee will be present.

There was discussion about the agenda for the May 23rd Workshop and the need for changing Council Rules. Mayor Pope gavelled the discussion and asked for a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:26 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Bopp and seconded by Mr. Irish to adjourn.

Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorée M. Russell
Clerk to the Council