

The Claremont City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, August 8, 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
Andrew Austin
William Regan, III
Ralph Swift
William Corey

Also present were:

Guy Santagate, City Manager
Jane Taylor, City Solicitor

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

SWEAR IN COUNCILOR

Gwendolyn Melcher, the Claremont City Clerk, administered the oath of office to William J. Corey on August 7, 2007. Mr. Corey replaces former Councilor James Neilsen and will represent Ward I. The term will expire on 12/31/07.

MAYOR'S NOTES

Mayor Pope welcomed Councilor Corey as representative of Ward I.

Mayor Pope noted the Lollipop Carnival was held at Barnes Park on August 2nd and that it was a good day. He congratulated Don and Beth Haynes for their dairy farm being named Organic Farm of the Year. Sophie & Zeke's has jazz night on Thursdays and Fridays which contributes to the night life on Pleasant Street. He read a thank you letter from Sullivan County Nutrition; they will have their annual Senior Appreciation Picnic on August 23rd at the Earl Bourdon Center and the Council is invited. He read a thank you letter to Police Officer O'Hearne from Reverend Lee H. Poole for his help when Rev. Poole had car problems.

Mayor Pope recognized Senator Robert Odell who recognized Jan Bunnell for her work at the soup kitchen and for being named Claremont's Citizen of the Year. He read a resolution from the Senate and a commendation from Governor Lynch.

Mayor Pope read the proclamation from the City recognizing Jan Bunnell as Citizen of the Year for her work at the soup kitchen (proclamation presented at the Citizen of the Year dinner had an incorrect date, so he wanted to make it right). Jan thanked everyone for her awards.

Mr. Irish said Rich Gingras won his last fight 4-0. He wished Mr. Gingras success in his next fight in Rhode Island on Friday.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

A motion was made by Mr. Prozzo and seconded by Mr. Regan to accept the minutes of the June 16, 2007, Council Public Works Tour and July 11, 2007, City Council meeting.

Motion carried 9-0.

APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Board of Appeals/Code Review

A motion was made by Mr. Prozzo and seconded by Mr. Austin to reappoint Donald Limoges to seat #5 on the Board of Appeals/Code Review board.

Motion carried 9-0.

Frances J. Tolles Home Trustees

A motion was made by Mr. Prozzo and seconded by Mr. Swift to reappoint Frances A. Reynolds to seat #3 and Vicki Landry to seat #5 on the Frances J. Tolles Home Trustees board.

Motion carried 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Safer Grant Update

Fire Chief Peter Chase thanked the City Manager for allowing him to speak to the Council. Before the 2002 layoffs, the Fire Department had the minimum required staffing per shift (staffed at 5 with a minimum of 4 if someone were on vacation or sick). After the layoffs, the shifts went to 4. When someone was on vacation or sick, the shift was 3 and that does not meet the standard. Now, with the increase of 2 people in 2006, the Fire Department has 2 shifts staffed at 5 and 2 shifts at 4. In January 2007, the Council voted to apply for the Safer Grant which would "put more people on the street." Funding for the grant did not open until the end of July, but the City Manager has placed a hiring freeze on the city. We have 30 days to apply for grant. Chief Chase recommends going forward to apply for the grant. The funding match for the first year is approximately 2 for 1. The federal contribution descends for 4 years; they pay

nothing for the 5th year, but we are required to keep that person on until the 5th year. The governing body has to approve applying for the grant, so once the City applies, we are committed. Over 5 years, the feds will contribute \$105,425 (maximum cap) toward each fire fighter. The department overtime would be reduced by \$10,000 (\$5,000 for the first year) for each new person hired. He noted some off-duty firefighters had come to the meeting to show their support for this request. This program was set with a 5-year sunset and this is the fifth year.

Mr. Santagate noted that he and Chief Chase have different roles and he respects that. Mr. Santagate reviewed the 2002 layoffs. He said we are still down 10-12 people. We added two back to the Fire Department last year. We need room to catch up with taxes and that is why he proposed to level fund the 2008 budget. We're facing challenges to fund salary increases, health cost increases, and pension increases that we have to absorb. If the grant funded the new person 100% in year one, 80% in year two, etc., then this would work. He would have a difficult time supporting this in 2008. He recognized the outstanding work done by City employees who were left after the layoffs. He can't support picking up the expense in 2008, but in 2009 we'll be in a different position to support this.

Ms. Cutts said she admired the intent to level fund, but this is a no-brainer. This was approved in January and should go forward.

A motion was made by Ms. Cutts and seconded by Mr. Regan to authorize the Fire Chief to proceed with the grant application.

Mr. Irish noted the cost for the first year would be \$21,450 (one firefighter \$64,400 – grant \$37,950 = \$26,450 – reduced overtime for 1st year of \$5,000). He asked if we could approve the application now and then deal with the funds during the budget process. Mr. Santagate said this is a preapproval and we would be committed to hiring two employees at twice what Councilor Irish stated. Chief Chase noted there is a 25% success rate. Ms. Taylor said if we get the grant then we would have to have a resolution to spend the money.

Mr. Austin asked if the Water Street project will increase the Fire Department's responsibilities/workload. Chief Chase said more people and activity equals more activity for the Fire Department. This grant comes out of homeland security money. This grant is awarded in several rounds. If we don't get the grant until January (have 90 days to fill the positions), it could be April before we hire someone.

Mr. Prozzo asked if we are successful, what will be the staffing level. Chief Chase said 22. The grant says your staffing can't go lower than it is when the grant is approved. The budget cannot have dropped in the last three years in order to apply. This has to cover new positions and can't be used to fill vacancies.

Mr. Regan asked Chief Chase what his plans were for staffing before the hiring freeze. Chief Chase said would have asked for one fire fighter in 2008 and one in 2009. Mr. Regan said we accepted private investments of \$26 million in the City and \$7.5 million for a parking garage, so we need to protect those investments. It's a no-brainer.

Ms. Bopp said with the mills and parking garage that we should allow the taxes to come in to allow the tax rate to stabilize. If this comes back next year, she would vote for it. Now is too soon. She agrees with the City Manager. She thinks the Fire Department needs this grant, safety is a big issue, but she is just against it at this time.

Mr. Swift asked in the past year what risky situations have been encountered due to lack of coverage. Chief Chase said a real risk is going into a burning building with only three firefighters and him not being there to pull them back. That has happened several times this year.

Ms. Cutts said we don't meet national standards and there is a potential for personal liability. We're going through a liability issue right now. She doesn't understand why the Council would direct the Fire Chief not to meet the minimum national standards.

Mr. Corey said he had spent 21 years in the insurance business and the only reason people bought policies is for protection against risk. We are looking at a small amount of money and he agrees we should pursue it. He noted that we have been through level tax funding before and it has not always worked perfectly. This grant looks like a bargain to him. He thinks this can and should be done.

Mr. Prozzo agreed with Mr. Corey that this is an opportunity we can cash in on although it is not good timing. Even if approved there is no guarantee we'll get the grant.

Mr. Irish said the only thing wrong is timing, but is willing to take a chance. Go for it. He requested a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-1 with Ms. Bopp voting no.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Kim Head, Ward 1, representing the skate board park, talked about fundraising. They have raised \$562 at a car wash and selling raffle tickets. There is a long way to go to reach their goal. They are asking the community for help. Raffle tickets are on sale at businesses on Pleasant Street and at NCL Engraving. They will sell tickets at Wal-Mart August 17 and 18. The drawing will be August 25th. Prizes range from \$100 to \$3,000. They are accepting corporate donations through the Red Elephant Cafe. All donations are tax deductible. Future raffle donations are being accepted. She believes the skate park will provide great enjoyment. She thanked those that have contributed.

Norman Lessard, Ward 2, said he and his wife, Claire, are chairpersons for the fundraising activities for the Claremont Skate Board Park. He thanked Larry Beswick, founder of the skate board park. He thanked the skateboarders for the fundraising thus far and the donators. Donations can be made at NCL Engraving on Pleasant Street. So far \$30,000 has been raised: \$19,000 Land and Water Conservation grant, \$5,000 grant from Claremont Savings Bank and the

balance from donations and the raffle. Pike Industries will donate 100 tons of asphalt (\$8,000 in-kind donation). They need a total of 334 tons to complete the paving. They need a paving contractor to lay down the material. The total construction estimate is \$69,000 and \$50,000 is needed for equipment. A total of \$119,820 needs to be raised. They can accept memorial donations. The Holiday Inn Express Springfield would like to donate to the raffle a \$595 one-year family membership to the pool and fitness room. He asked the City for support.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2007-15 Spend Muni-Transportation Money – Public Hearing

Bruce Temple, Public Works Director, said this comes from the number plate money (\$5 for each registration). The account balance for this Capital Reserve Fund is in the \$90,000 range (from last year and this year). The intent is to use \$75,000 for the replacement deck of the Red Water Brook Bridge which has been closed for a little over a year. Mayor Pope clarified that we already have this money.

Ms. Bopp asked about the timeframe. Mr. Temple said the intent is to move forward this fall.

Ms. Cutts asked, in light of the recent bridge disaster in Minnesota, is there data to show our bridges are okay. Mr. Temple feels we are in good shape. You can feel the little bump on the Main Street bridge by Esersky's and it is on his list to get cleaned up. Coy Paper Bridge is not in good shape, but it is not structurally deficient. He intends to let the number plate fund build. There won't be any money from the NH Municipal Bridge program to match what we have until 2012. Mr. Santagate said he is uncomfortable about where the state is financially when it comes to bridges. They could use more money. How to fund bridges is a question. It's a gas tax issue, which is a state issue. Infrastructure around the state has not been addressed financially. Mr. Temple said the bridge is closed and poses no danger, but it is inconvenient to the public. Although the money can be spent on other things, he wants to dedicate it to the bridge program because there are no other funding mechanisms for bridge repair. Ms. Cutts wants to make sure we're not shortchanging ourselves. Mr. Temple said the Coy Paper Bridge is safe; he drives over it several times a week. We are looking to fund the Coy Paper Bridge repair through NH Department of Transportation (DOT) bridge maintenance program which is an 80/20 split. We pay 20%.

A motion was made by Mr. Prozzo and seconded by Ms. Bopp to adopt Resolution 2007-15 Spend Muni-Transportation Money.

Mr. Prozzo noted that since February 2006, approximately \$7,500 a month has been going into that fund.

Mayor Pope read the resolution into the record.

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

Mr. Temple noted that if citizens called their legislatures about the gas tax, they should indicate they want a dedicated gas tax that goes into the bridge fund.

Mayor Pope reopened the public hearing.

Bradley Ferland, Ward 1, said his parents live on that road. The bridge is a short cut and just because we have the money doesn't mean we have to spend it. He doesn't see the bridge being closed as a detriment.

Robert Woodman said 100 families live in Pinecrest Mobile Home Park. This bridge goes to it. Also, there is a box culvert made out of stone that is old and not in good repair. Either fix the box culvert or the bridge. Those people deserve consideration. Mr. Temple said we are a finalist for \$80,000 grant money for the box culvert. We need to do both.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Resolution 2007-16 Expend Used Oil Collection Center Grant – Public Hearing

Mr. Temple said at the Public Works garage they collect household motor oil as well as Public Works' motor oil to recycle through the burner system. They have a 275-gallon drum. This \$2,042.10 grant is from the NH Hazardous Waste Clean Up Fund. The grant will allow them to buy another 275-gallon drum. They will build a retaining wall, containment system and plumb up the tank, etc. This will be for waste oil from households only (no commercial users).

A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. Prozzo to adopt Resolution 2007-16 Expend Used Oil Collection Center Grant.

Mayor Pope read the resolution into the record.

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

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Acceptance of \$147.05 Donation for Rifle Repairs and Spare Parts from John Andrewski

Mr. Santagate said John Andrewski owns a fire arms store in Webster. Police Sergeant Stanley Andrewski is his son. He serviced a couple of firearms that came to \$147.05 and donated the cost of the repair. The City is grateful for that donation.

A motion was made by Mr. Prozzo and seconded by Ms. Bopp to accept the \$147.05 Donation of Rifle Repairs and Spare Parts from John Andrewski with thanks.

Motion carried 9-0.

Ordinance 486 Veterans' Exemption (Credit) – First Reading

Mr. Swift asked to recuse himself because he collects this credit. Ms. Taylor was asked to clarify conflict of interest rules. She stated according to the City's Code of Conduct, a Councilor should not vote on something in which there is direct personal or financial interest in outcome. There is also the context to be considered. Mr. Swift is one of many people who take advantage of this credit. In the legislative context, the only time a vote would be thrown out because of conflict of interest is if that person had the deciding vote. The Council agreed Mr. Swift should vote on this issue.

Joe Lessard, interim Assessor, said currently 720 veterans receive this credit. He pointed out that if the number of veterans doesn't change, the increase in the value of the credit will be \$17,000. The total now is \$111,000 which would increase to \$128,250.

Ms. Bopp clarified that the individual Veterans' credit was increasing from \$100 to \$125 and that the Disabled Veterans' credit was staying the same at \$1,400.

Ms. Taylor said the ordinance was so lengthy due to conforming the entire article to current state law. This is a total rewrite. It is a credit, not an exemption.

A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. Prozzo to adopt Ordinance 486 Veterans' Exemption (Credit).

Mr. Regan asked for a clarification of the impact on the tax rate. Mr. Lessard said for the Veterans' Exemption and the Elderly Exemption, the current impact is 61 cents. If both this and the next (Elderly Exemption) ordinance are approved, the impact will be 66 cents.

Mr. Prozzo noted that on a \$150,000 assessment, the increase on the tax bill will be less than \$8 per year. He will support both.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Ordinance 487 Elderly Exemption – First Reading

Mr. Lessard said currently the tax impact for both the Veterans' Credit and Elderly Exemption is less than \$419,000. If we do nothing, then the tax amount exempted or credited increases to \$442,000. If this Elderly Exemption ordinance is passed, the total valuation for the Elderly Exemption multiplied by the tax rate will increase the impact on the tax rate from \$331,000 to \$350,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. Prozzo to adopt Ordinance 487 Elderly Exemption.

Ms. Bopp asked how the public will be notified if this ordinance passes on second reading. Mr. Lessard said the information will be changed on the City's website. This does not affect the

number of people who are eligible, it increases the amount they would get and next year that will be reflected in their tax bill.

Mayor Pope said he had asked Mary Walter, Finance Director, to run some numbers. His suggestion was to drop the elderly exemption amount for the 65-74 age group from \$30,000 to \$24,000; raise the single elderly income level from \$19,600 to \$24,000; raise the married elderly income level from \$26,600 to \$31,000 and raise the asset level from \$50,000 to \$70,000. His rationale is that the price of fuel oil and gasoline had increased. He asked for an amendment to the motion.

Mr. Prozzo asked what this change would cost. Mayor Pope said it would cover more people that need it, but couldn't say how much of a change there would be.

Mr. Irish said the increases Mayor Pope cited are increases that everyone faces. There are still some people who are having a hard time paying their taxes now and any additional increase would be more of a burden.

Ms. Bopp commended Mayor Pope for the work on this. She understands his thought process on the income level, but the asset level causes her pause. The current level of assets seems to be the norm with our sister communities. The current income level at \$19,600 is insane. Mr. Lessard said assets include all assets (vehicles, 401k's, furnishings, etc.) except the residence and up to two acres of property or the minimum lot size.

Mr. Austin agreed with Mayor Pope, but he's not sure of the outcome with the amendment and is hesitant to vote on it. Mr. Lessard said there is no information that we have that would tell how many more could qualify at the higher level. This year, only eight of the applicants did not qualify for the exemption.

Mr. Prozzo referred to Mr. Irish's comments about everyone paying higher prices and he said that most young people may not even have \$50,000 in assets. He thinks we should stay with the motion and he suggested caution.

Ms. Cutts pointed out that even with the Mayor's proposed increases, the "elderly married" will still be one of the lowest in the state ahead of Berlin and Somersworth. With the proposed increase in the "asset limit" we would remain the lowest second only to Somersworth. She would prefer to be closer to the middle.

Mr. Swift doesn't view this as being competitive with other cities. He suggested taking the simple step now and then the Council can look at it again next year.

Mr. Corey asked for a clarification about making changes at the second reading. Ms. Taylor explained that the first reading puts the public on notice. Council Rules has vague language about how much can be amended on second reading. She would be hesitant to bring Mayor Pope's suggested changes back as simply a revision. It sounds like it would be substantially different. Mr. Corey thinks they can go forward with the numbers they have. The proposed

changes are too open-ended. Mayor Pope has the information if anyone wants to see it after the meeting.

Mr. Regan asked if Mr. Lessard can bring the numbers proposed by Mayor Pope to the next meeting for discussion. Mr. Lessard said there is no information in terms of who would be eligible. Mayor Pope said that he had gotten the same answer earlier.

Ms. Cutts said that if the exemption levels stay the same, Claremont will remain among the lowest in the state. Mr. Lessard said the average asset level is \$58,000 and we are at \$50,000.

Ms. Bopp supports Mayor Pope's concern for the seniors. She agrees this ordinance a good way to get started and next year the Council can look at it again. This is the best we can do at this time.

A motion was made by Ms. Bopp and seconded by Mr. Austin to move the question.

Roll Call Vote to Move the Question: Motion carried: 7-2 with Ms. Cutts and Mayor Pope voting no.

Mr. Lessard reminded the public there is a deferred payment for paying taxes, if needed and they qualify.

Mayor Pope read the Explanation of Proposed Action.

Roll Call Vote for Ordinance 487: Motion carried 7-2 with Ms. Cutts and Mayor Pope voting no.

Ordinance 488 Zoning Map Updates – First Reading

Bruce Temple, Public Works Director, said this was to review and recompile the existing zoning maps. In January 2007, the City entered into an agreement with Cartographic Associates out of Littleton, NH, which is a mapping firm, to review the existing zoning map, reevaluate ordinances and get involved in our GIS (geographic information system). At the second reading, Mr. Franco Rossi will be here to answer specific questions. When the zoning map was transferred to the GIS, there were some inaccuracies. The zoning lines were not mapped as accurately as they should have been. This could be misleading. In July, the Planning Board passed a motion to recommend to the City Council to accept the recompiled zoning map. There are no zoning changes, just housekeeping.

Mayor Pope noted there were some slight changes in the AR-Agricultural Residential and RR-Rural Residential zones. The business zone was decreased slightly (4 lots). Ms. Taylor said in reviewing the zoning ordinances and maps, it was discovered that the zoning maps didn't jive exactly with the written provisions in the Code and some inconsistencies were found. With the undertaking of the Master Plan, that group has to have accurate zoning maps to do its work. Existing zoning maps also did not reflect all new zones enacted since that version of zoning map

was created. As a technical matter, for legal purposes the zoning map is what governs, not the GIS.

Mayor Pope clarified the Master Plan group does not set zoning, it sets policy. Zoning is set by the Zoning Board. Ms. Taylor reiterated this map does not change zones.

Ms. Bopp said this might change certain areas. She asked if it will be available at the Planning office. Mr. Temple said yes. He explained as ordinances were passed, the map was not clarified and while it was being loaded on the computer, inaccuracies were noted.

Mayor Pope said four properties have been changed, but the correct zoning is on the deeds. Ms. Taylor said according to Mr. Rossi no properties had changed zones. There might be a few feet of adjustment in a few parcels.

A motion was made by Mr. Prozzo and seconded by Ms. Bopp to adopt Ordinance 488 Zoning Map Updates.

Mr. Swift asked for clarification of the official zoning map. Ms. Taylor said that according to property law in the state of NH, the physical piece of paper governs.

Mayor Pope read the Explanation of Proposed Action.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Temple asked if the Council had questions to forward them to Dorée Russell, Council Clerk, so that Mr. Rossi would have time to research the answer before the September meeting.

Ordinance 489 Sullivan Street – One Way West Mulberry to Allen Streets – First Reading

Fire Chief Peter Chase spoke on behalf of the Traffic Advisory Committee (Police Chief, Fire Chief and Public Works Director). The intersection of Sullivan Street hill from Union Street to Tyler Street is an issue with traffic coming up over the hill. The Traffic Committee did research and found Union Street (south of Central) has 3,900 cars a day and there are 1,900 cars a day on Sullivan Street (west of Walnut Street). On that section of Sullivan Street hill, trucks are going down to the paper mill, not up. The road is not wide enough for a truck and car to pass each other; one rides on the sidewalk. There are lots of kids in that area. It was decided the best choice was to make the hill going down a one way, which would allow the trucks to go to the paper mill. Vehicles will now come up Allen Street to Union Street near Central or Tyler Street to the five-way intersection at Mulberry and Myrtle Streets. The Traffic Committee feels this is a good resolution and won't negatively impact anyone in a major way. The Traffic Advisory Committee recommends this ordinance be passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Prozzo and seconded by Mr. Austin to adopt Ordinance 489 Sullivan Street – One Way West Mulberry to Allen Streets.

Chief Chase said there have been eight accidents there in the last three years.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DIRECTIVES

Mayor Pope said the City Manager's evaluation is coming due soon. Council agreed to meet Thursday, September 6th, 6:30 p.m. This will be a non-public meeting.

Mayor Pope said Governor Lynch will be at the Senior Center on August 22nd at 3 p.m. to sign a Bill for insurance for volunteer drivers. He asked the Council to attend if they can.

Ms. Cutts asked about community outreach communication. Mayor Pope said there will be a joint newsletter from the Planning and Development Department and the school. The Master Plan Survey will be available to the public.

Ms. Bopp said the Zoning Board has had discussions about a sprinkler ordinance. The Zoning Board Chair asked if it would be possible to be looked at and consider enacting a sprinkler ordinance.

Mr. Regan, in reference to Rails to Trails, asked for permission to pass on information to Scott Hausler, Parks and Recreation Director, and for Mr. Hausler to do the investigation. Mr. Santagate said to forward it to him.

Mr. Austin said an address on Prospect Street (yellow building) is getting quite a few police calls. He asked if the Police Department keeps records of each call and can the tenants be charged after a certain number of visits. Mr. Santagate said to give him the information and he'll decide how to handle it. Mr. Irish suggested going to the Police Commission and Ms. Bopp suggested going to Code Enforcement. Mr. Prozzo said yes they keep track. They can charge the landlord for repeated service, similar to the City ordinance for false alarm. The Police Department can charge them if there is a criminal violation. Mayor Pope asked Mr. Austin to send it through the process and then bring the results back to the Council.

Ms. Bopp would like an update on the enforcement on Pleasant Street (tickets, people walking the beat). She asked where the money for the parking tickets goes and can we use it.

Mr. Irish asked for a solution to the OHRV (off highway recreational vehicle) crossing on Washington Street be placed on the September agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Master Plan Committee

Mayor Pope mentioned the online survey. October 4th is the tentative date for the public forum.

School Reinvestment Committee

Mr. Swift said this committee is going ahead full steam. The four sub-committees have met several times. They are doing research within the facilities. The School Reinvestment Committee is planning a public forum in October. They are looking for input from the public.

Solid Waste Committee Update

Mayor Pope said a letter has been mailed to former members and we are awaiting their replies.

Open Space Ordinance Committee

Mr. Regan said they have completed their work having drafted good zoning legislation for the community. They currently are sending it to the state for a free legal review. When it comes back here, they will ask for public comment. Then they will present it to the Planning Board and then to the Council. He expects to have it to the Council by year's end. Ms. Taylor said she is still waiting for the minutes of that committee. Mr. Regan will follow up.

CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

At 9:43 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Prozzo and seconded by Ms. Bopp to adjourn for consultation with legal counsel

Motion carried 9-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorée M. Russell
Clerk to the Council