

The Claremont City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, September 8, 2010, 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 Jeffrey Goff

Also present were:

Guy Santagate, City Manager

MAYOR'S NOTES

Stevens High School Student Council Update

None

Mayor Cutts said she appointed Chris Irish to Seat #3 on the Conservation Commission.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Mayor Cutts and Mr. Goff recused themselves because they were absent from the August 11th meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Koloski to accept the minutes of the August 11, 2010, City Council meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 7-0 with Mayor Cutts and Mr. Goff abstaining.

APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Fiske Free Library Board of Trustees

Mr. Raymond noted there are three empty seats on this board.

Mr. Raymond nominated Martin Davis to Seat #4 of the Fiske Free Library Board of Trustees. Seconded by Mr. Burke.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Tax Increment Finance District Advisory Board – River Road

Mr. Lewis noted Harvey Hill lives in Charlestown and asked if he owns property in the River Road Tax Increment Finance District; the answer was yes.

Mr. Lewis nominated Harvey Hill to Seat #1 of the Tax Increment Finance District Advisory Board – River Road.

Mr. Goff noted this seat expires 12/31/10; Council asked to hold this application and return it at the December Council meeting. Mr. Goff noted that seats #4 and #5 expire at the end of the year and seat #2 has an expiration date of 12/31/09 and asked to have that date checked.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance 517 Winner Parking Lot, Map 120-106, on Pleasant Street - Second Reading – Public Hearing

The purpose of this proposal is to designate the parking lot owned and maintained by the City at the site of the former Winner Hotel as a municipal parking lot and regulate the hours of parking to two hours during the day and unlimited time overnight, including during winter months.

Enactment of this Ordinance will expand public parking availability for downtown area visitors, businesses, various employers, customers and provide additional public overnight and winter off-street parking.

Police Chief Alex Scott said when the Winner Hotel was razed, the parking lot was meant to become a municipal parking lot. That has happened in conduct, but it was not formally adopted by the City Council. This ordinance takes care of that and puts it under two-hour parking during the day and unlimited time overnight parking. This is added to the Franklin Street lot and the lot in Opera House Square commonly referred to as the “bullpen.”

A motion was made by Mr. Burke and seconded by Mr. Raymond to adopt Ordinance 517 Winner Parking Lot, Map 120-106, on Pleasant Street.

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

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

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Posting of Cemetery Signs

Public Works Director Bruce Temple asked if there were specific questions about the cemetery signs. Mr. Burke said he was approached and asked by a resident why the signs were there. Mr. Temple said there are approximately 29,700 grave sites in the City (including St. Mary's). Two people maintain the cemeteries with the exception that St. Mary's mows its own. Public Works takes in about \$57,000 in cemetery fees and from that, they encumbered money from the 2009 budget and bought the signs to show the sections of the cemeteries. Over the last two weeks, Public Works received 60 phone calls asking for grave locations. They also get calls every day. Oftentimes people coming into town get referred to the cemetery, but they get lost and end up going back 2-3 times to Public Works to ask for directions. The signs look like City signs and they have section numbers on them. Public Works maintains a database which was paid for through a grant. The signs were purchased this spring. Other cemeteries around the state also have signs.

Rusty Fowler, Ward 3, said in his neighborhood, they still have old street signs. He was wondering when they would get new signs and why Princeton Street (name was changed with the new 911 changes) does not show on GPS (Global Positioning System).

NEW BUSINESS

Name City-Owned Property

At its August 10, 2010, meeting, the Conservation Commission approved a motion to request the City Council name a portion of the Claremont Rail Trail as the Robert D. Woodman Rail Trail named after the late Bob Woodman.

Mr. Santagate said he was honored to participate in this recognition. Robert (Bob) Woodman was an integral part of the City. When Mr. Santagate first came to the City, he asked and found out that no one could tell him about Claremont more than Bob Woodman. Over time, they became very good friends. He would be honest and became a reliable source of information. He knew everything about the City of Claremont. Mr. Santagate said he misses Mr. Woodman, his wit and his unmatched knowledge of Claremont.

Mr. Koloski said upon taking a seat on the Conservation Commission, he knew that he would not be able to fill the void left by Mr. Woodman.

Mary Woodman said this was dear to her husband's heart and he wanted to make sure kids could benefit from the scholarship from the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Koloski made and Mr. Raymond seconded the following motion:

In honor of his dedicated service to the City of Claremont and, especially to the conservation of the City's public recreational land and the Claremont Conservation

Commission, the Claremont City Council hereby designates that portion of the Claremont Rail Trail located between Broad Street and the easterly bank of the Sugar River at the old railroad bridge as the Robert D. Woodman Rail Trail, and hereby authorizes the City Manager or his designees to work with the Conservation Commission to place a suitable plaque thereon, commemorating the naming this day of a portion of the Claremont Rail Trail as the Robert D. Woodman Rail Trail.

Mr. Goff said that this and one other naming of city property has set a high standard and should serve as an incentive for those that have dedication within themselves to serve Claremont.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Mrs. Woodman said Bob was devoted to all of it with the kids. He was very happy with the Conservation Commission and very active in getting scholarships for the kids. It's a very worthwhile activity and she was very happy to see this happen for Bob.

Mayor Cutts said this activity has been ongoing for two and a half months and a lot of work has gone into this effort.

Motion to Adopt Investment Policy

Mary Walter, Finance Director, said this is done every year. There are no changes to the policy.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff and seconded by Mr. Burke that the Claremont City Council, pursuant to RSA 47:6, hereby re-adopts the City of Claremont Investment Policy and authorizes the City Manager or his designees to take such actions as may be necessary to implement said Investment Policy in accordance with state law and regulation.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Council was running ahead of schedule, so Police Chief Alex Scott had an item for Citizen's Forum and was recognized early. He said he needed to raise bail money for Jerry's Kids for MDA (Muscular Dystrophy Association). His bail has been set at \$800.

Ordinance 518 Winter Parking – First Reading

The purpose of this proposal is to continue to exempt the Municipal Parking Lot on Franklin Street and the area of the Rotary Island in Opera House Square known as the "bullpen" from winter parking limitations and to expand this exemption to the Winner Municipal Parking Lot on Pleasant Street. Such winter parking will continue to be on a "first come" availability basis.

Enactment of this Ordinance will continue and expand winter off-street, overnight public parking availability for the downtown area.

Chief Scott said the winter parking originally passed two years ago had a sunset provision. There were no issues and Public Works could get in to clear the lots. This ordinance continues the winter parking and adds the Winner parking lot. If winter parking becomes an issue, Council can revisit it.

A motion was made by Mr. Burke and seconded by Mr. Raymond to adopt Ordinance 518 Winter Parking on first reading.

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

Mr. Goff asked about plowing. Mr. Temple said they worked around parked cars. He doesn't anticipate any changes in the mode of operation (plow roads first, sidewalks second and parking lots last).

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Santagate talked about requests for technology. He read from a letter outlining the terms of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Red River Computer Company. CEO Rick Bolduc has offered to do an assessment for the City and school at no charge. The City welcomes Red River's offer and this service will not preclude Red River from bidding on future City proposals. They are familiar with government process. The information they gather is considered confidential and they will not disclose it. Each party will undertake activities under its own cost. The agreement shall terminate upon delivery of findings by Red River to the City. He read a letter from Rick Bolduc acknowledging the City's Purchasing Policy and the terms of the letter. The City and Red River are now in the process of formalizing the MOU. Red River not only brought jobs to Claremont, but they also brought the ability to "brain share" with a company that is on the cutting edge of technology.

Mr. Raymond asked about a joint assessment. Mr. Santagate said he waited to talk to the schools until after he talked to the Council.

Mr. Austin asked about the possibility for more computer-based jobs for the City. Mr. Santagate said he doesn't know on the City's part, but Red River just hired 16 people, 4 from Claremont. Job creation is something we hope for. This was sparked by discussion with the Council on the City's technology needs.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, talked about his goal of this city becoming a 21st century city. He talked about IBM's concept of smarter government, do more things at less cost through the use of technology, and Red River could bring that as well. He said the 21st century is about citizen participation. He hopes citizens are asked what services they want. Other cities have things he would like to see in Claremont.

Mayor Cutts said this shows Mr. Santagate's ongoing commitment to the betterment of the City. She thanked Mr. Santagate for that as well as Red River.

CITIZEN'S FORUM (Continued)

Francis Gauthier, Ward 2, said he had a good meeting with the City Manager in reference to the outdoor wood-fired hydronic heater (OWHH). He talked about an ordinance on OWHH. He talked about the Council's power in reference to OWHH. He said he and his wife cannot sell their home without the neighbor's outdoor wood boiler being under control. He said he will send information about the power the city has. He said they and the abutting neighbors are anxious because information is sent out, but he receives almost no responses. He didn't agree with everything from the meeting with the City Manager, however, he believes the City will go forward with an ordinance to limit use of OWHHs in the summer time. He believes as oil prices go higher, people will burn more. The appearance of a phase 2 boiler will not solve the problem as people can remove the guts.

Rusty Fowler, Ward 3, read a petition that had been sent to the Council regarding autos that are parked at Arrowhead Motors that block the vision of drivers exiting Moody Avenue onto Washington Street and a hodgepodge of autos coming and going from Dunkin' Donuts which adds to the danger. He asked NH DOT (Department of Transportation) for a recommended line of sight and was told at 30 mph it should be 353feet and at 40 mph it should be 470 feet. He said Arrowhead Motors has no permit for a flashing sign which is a distraction. This all came about due to neighbors' almost mishaps. He said something needs to be done immediately. At Dunkin' Donuts 9-10 cars can be waiting on Moody Avenue to get into the drivethru. He attended the Zoning Board meeting last night where they were unable to hear the request for Arrowhead's sign variance. He asked that the sign be turned off until they get the variance.

Marie Lozito, Ward 1, said she is a candidate for State Representative on the Republican party. Tuesday, September 14, is the primary and she reminded everyone to vote.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said he looks at the Council packet every month. He suggested the packet could be put online. He noticed the audit, management letter, single audit and audited financial statement were in the packet, but the audit was not on the agenda. He was wondering if the Council would discuss the audit results.

Mayor Cutts asked Mr. Santagate to review the safety concerns on Washington Street (Arrowhead Motors). Mr. Santagate said he had referred that to the Traffic Advisory Committee and the Planning office is looking at the enforcement issue.

Mr. Burke and Mr. Santagate talked about the site plan reviews for Arrowhead Motors and Dunkin' Donuts. Mr. Santagate said the site plans for that corner will be looked at to see what was required.

Capital Improvement Plan

Mary Walter, Finance Director, showed a PowerPoint presentation about the Claremont Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) 2010 - 2015 that was presented to the Planning Board on July 26, 2010.

- What is a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)
 - Links local infrastructure investments with Master Plan goals, land use ordinances and economic development.
- Why Do a CIP
 - Preserving public health, safety and welfare
 - Anticipating the demands of growth
 - Improving communication and coordination
 - Avoiding undue tax increases
 - Developing a fair distribution of capital costs
 - Building a foundation for growth management and impact fees
 - Identifying “scattered and premature” development
 - Supporting economic development
 - When larger businesses are looking to relocate in Claremont, they want to know this information
- Why is the Planning Board Involved
 - Because the City has adopted a Master Plan, we need to have a CIP and authority is given in RSA 674:5-7
 - The RSAs contain no specific guidelines for a formal process to adopt the CIP or capital budget. Absent that, the City Council has responsibility for the acceptance of the CIP after review and recommendations by the Planning Board
 - Last CIP was done in 2003 and expired in 2008
- Eight steps for the completion of a CIP – this is from the Office of Energy & Planning (OEP)
 - 1. Organize for the CIP process
 - 2. Define capital projects
 - 3. Perform a fiscal analysis
 - 4. Review the Master Plan
 - 5. Communicate with departments
 - 6. Review proposed capital projects
 - 7. Prepare a 6-year project schedule
 - 8. Present your recommendations
 - This was done through the CIP Advisory Committee which was made up of the Planning and Development Director, City Planner and Finance Director
 - Once accepted, a certified copy of the plan will be filed with the City Clerk and a copy will be filed with the Office of Energy and Planning
- Capital Projects Strategic Areas of Focus
 - Community & Economic Development
 - Public Health & Safety

- General Government
- Transportation
- In Summary
 - The CIP is a working document that is:
 - Designed to be a guide for the City Manager and Finance Director in preparing the annual budget,
 - That helps contribute to stabilizing the city's property tax rate,
 - Aids in the prioritization of various municipal projects,
 - Informs residents, business owners and developers of planned improvements.
- Planning Board has made its recommendations to the City Manager and City Council

Department CIPs

- Police & Communications
 - Over 6 years requested \$647,000 and proposed funding is \$431,000
 - Most items can be found in the budget, except Replacement of long-arm firearms (currently over 25 years old)
 - Refurbish/Replace Emergency Communications Center
 - Although this is a high priority, we don't know the status of the court which will have an impact. We should hear in November about whether they will stay in City Hall.

Mr. Goff asked about department head ranking versus CIP ranking. Ms. Walter said OEP (Office of Energy and Planning) has recommendations for prioritization. Public health and welfare issues have a higher priority.

- Fire
 - Requested \$2,801,000 / proposed funding \$1,041,508
 - Change in FY 11 because paid off two of the fire trucks in 2010
 - Replace airport hangar – terminal building has no funding
 - Terminal building may get money from FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) and having it in the CIP may help with grant funding
 - Ladder 2 may be able to be refurbished instead of replaced
 - Mr. Goff asked about water funding. Ms. Walter said \$94,000 was put into capital reserve for new fire trucks. When the new water and sewer rates came out, it was determined that the fire hydrants were not being charged enough, so that needs to be phased in which will be less money for the capital reserve and it will come from Fire operating budget.
- Streets & Roads
 - Requested \$21.6 million / local funds \$12 million / proposed \$3.8 million
 - Bond 1 recommended by Finance Department in 2012 with first payment due in 2013
 - Main and North Streets
 - 80/20 match

- Improvement to the gateway to the City
 - There are a lot of road projects and some came about because of the federally mandated hazardous mitigation plan that was worked with the UVLSRPC (Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission)
- Streets & Road – Equipment Replacement
 - Capital replacement plan has been very successful
 - Only two equipment operators are needed and they do other things besides maintenance
- Cemetery
 - \$170,000 requested / \$170,000 proposed
 - Some money will go into a capital reserve
- Sanitation – Transfer Station
 - Zero requested / zero proposed
- Planning & Development
 - \$399,000 requested / \$54,000 proposed
 - Website is very successful – updating website
 - Grade parking lot
 - Replace signage at 5 major entries into the City
- City Admin & Facilities
 - Phone system, 5 year lease
 - \$20,000 this year for reroofing City buildings will go into capital reserve until we have enough to complete the project
 - Bond issues for electrical, heating, structure of rooms, lack of good ADA access
 - ADA access is scheduled as part of Bond 1 at \$200,000.
- Library
 - A main concern is that there is no air conditioning
 - Usage continues to increase (highest August since 1989)
- Parks & Recreation
 - Replace dehumidifier for indoor pool
 - One failed in March and the other one just failed. Money will have to come from Fund Balance.
 - Outdoor Pool Facility Restoration is expensive and will have to go into capital reserve
- Parks & Recreation Equipment Replacement
 - Using leasing program since 2006
- Bond Payments

- City allowed to have \$25 million in bonded debt and we currently have \$4 million in General Fund Debt and \$2.4 million in Landfill Debt (not part of the debt limit)
- Phase 1 General Obligation Bond for 2013 will be \$7.2 million with a payment of \$504,000 a year at an estimated 4% interest rate

- Where the Money Will be Spent in the CIP Being Presented (Includes Bonds – Present & Future)
- Percentage of Tax Dollars to be Spent by Function
 - 80% Goes to Streets & Roads Projects
- City Portion of Tax Rate Projected if CIP is Funded as Presented With No Other Changes
 - 2010 - \$11.95
 - 2011 - \$12.01
 - 2012 - \$12.17
 - 2013 - \$12.17
 - 2014 - \$12.33
 - 2015 - \$12.35
 - These numbers assume there will be no other increase to the taxes. Mr. Santagate said the City has level funded for four years in a row and we cannot level fund again, so that increase will be added to these figures.
- Estimated Yearly City Taxes on \$150,000 Home with CIP as Presented
 - 2010 - \$1,792
 - 2011 - \$1,801
 - 2012 - \$1,825
 - 2013 - \$1,824
 - 2014 - \$1,848
 - 2015 - \$1,852
- Remember that the CIP is a means to an end...not the end itself
 - During the budget season each year, the CIP will be evaluated to meet the goals of the budget

Mr. Goff asked for Mr. Santagate's rationale for the CIP. Mr. Santagate said a CIP was done for 2003 through 2008. This time he asked department heads to identify needs with estimated costs. Every item requested would equal \$30-\$40 million and we can't do that. So, we deferred a lot to outside the 6-year plan and looked at what was possible. \$13 million has been put into this proposal. Of that, \$2 million is already being funded in the operating budget. The vehicle replacement plan is working well. The items in the plan can be moved around depending on needs. We have level funded for the past 4 years, but we cannot keep doing that. We will keep the tax rate increase at or below 3% notwithstanding this. We got a lot done from the 2003 plan. This is a 6 year plan and the first year is a budget. This will add 6 cents to the 2011 budget. We are trying to pay down debt, increase savings, invest in infrastructure and keep the tax rate stable.

Ms. Walter said the CIP forces identification of needs and if money is left at the end of the year, it can be allocated toward those.

Mr. Austin asked to confirm that approving the CIP does not lock it into the budget. Ms. Walter said that happens at the last budget vote in November.

Mr. Burke asked about fundraising for the new Community Center. Ms. Walter said the Community Center Board has been working with two people from a grant writing company. They have been working behind the scenes fundraising. Claremont Savings Bank (CSB) still has the funds set aside. At some point we will have to bond to fix the old community center or possibly bond to build a new one. There is not a lot of grant money available for community centers, but health and fitness or wellness centers with elderly access have a better chance to qualify for funding. Mr. Santagate said, in his opinion, the odds of grant money coming in are nil. It will be difficult to raise the \$6.5 million that would be needed. The reality is the City will shut down the current building one piece at a time and programs will go away or we have to step up and say that this is public program worth funding. The \$3 million gift (donated by CSB) is 1/3 of a public project. We have a site which is perfect. Closing off South Street will create a campus between Arrowhead, Claremont Middle School, Monadnock Park and the new Community Center. We are waiting to see if some major donor comes forward. Fundraising in this environment will be tough.

Mayor Cutts pointed out that Parks and Recreation bonding would be paid by taxpayers, also we are already paying for a dilapidated structure (i.e. \$62,000 for dehumidification and \$12,000 to replace the boiler). Mr. Santagate said we would have to put \$2-\$3 million into a 1950 vintage building to make repairs.

Mr. Lewis asked about the cost to repair the structural issues of the Parks and Recreation building. Ms. Walter said she believes it is around \$2.3 million and that Mr. Hausler usually includes those costs in his department budget requests. If no new community center is built, the funding for repairing the current one would be put into Bond 2. Also, another piece to look at is that we get 31 cents on the dollar now for revenue and that would be around 70 cents on the dollar in a new facility. Mr. Lewis asked about building the new community center in modules. Ms. Walter said the pool is the most expensive and it would cost \$6 million, so at least \$3 million more is needed to do that. Mr. Austin suggested that technology may be able to show us other ways to make this happen.

Mr. Goff talked about bonding a year earlier and saving \$140,000 annually and in 6 years that would be almost \$1 million in savings. Mr. Santagate said this is a tough recession and those low rates are likely to go away. Mr. Goff asked about refinancing bonds; it behooves us to examine it. Mr. Santagate said major infrastructure should be done soon. Mr. Goff agreed.

Mr. Santagate said this CIP is preliminary and can be changed. We have been paying debts quicker than expected; our general debt is not heavy.

Mr. Bergeron asked Ms. Walter to come back in November with figures about the bond.

Mr. Austin said this is a gamble. Some people are facing layoffs and can't afford taxes. Ms. Walter said we do watch that; 93% of the property taxes had been paid in July. Mr. Austin said

it looks like this winter will be hard on people. Ms. Walter said that is why the CIP has bonding in 2012, but now is an optimum time to get lower interest rates.

Mayor Cutts asked about no money being allotted for Paving & Roadway Improvements for 2011. She said she would not endorse that. Mr. Santagate said his mandate to department heads was not to go over a 3% increase. Mr. Santagate said if you bond early enough, changes could be made. He asked Ms. Walter to get it done for next month. Mr. Bergeron wanted to see it in October so decisions can be made in November. Mr. Raymond agreed.

Mr. Koloski asked about available revenues. Ms. Walter said that is identifiable revenue for the projects to show net effect for the tax rate. Mr. Koloski asked about hazardous mitigation for the old Pleasant Restaurant. Ms. Walter said a feasibility study needs to be done for asbestos abatement. If we don't get a grant, we won't be able to do it.

Mr. Lewis asked about water and sewer infrastructure plans. Ms. Walter said they are separate enterprise funds and a mini CIP was done earlier. Mr. Santagate said when this CIP is done, these will be combined.

Mayor Cutts asked about the Visitors Center parking lot grading being done in 2013 and can it be done sooner. Ms. Walter said there is handicap parking that works, but it is a distance from the building. The area near the building needs to be leveled off to provide handicap parking closer to the building, but it is not a life and safety issue.

There was discussion about inviting the public to speak on the CIP. Mr. Goff said he was concerned that this is a budget item and would like to keep it as a Council discussion. Mr. Bergeron asked about the previous budget process. Mayor Cutts said the discussion had been at the Council level and then the public talks at the public hearing. Mr. Goff said this will set a precedent for the rest of the year. Mr. Koloski said he is used to Mr. Folta speaking and had no objection. Mr. Bergeron agreed with Mr. Goff. Ms. Messier asked when there would be a public hearing on the CIP. Mayor Cutts said there is no public hearing on the CIP; it gets rolled into the budget and then there is public hearing on the budget. Ms. Messier said she would like to stay with the precedent that has been set. Mr. Raymond and Mr. Austin agreed. Mr. Burke said that Mr. Folta should be able to speak specifically about the CIP, but not the budget implications. Mayor Cutts asked Mr. Folta to confirm that his comments dealt only with the CIP and the process and not with the budget. He agreed. Council allowed him to speak.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, talked about a community being able to afford a community center, but not a high school. He didn't think that citizens could carry both major projects. In reference to process, the Claremont CIP was created by a committee of City employees, compared to Laconia and Lebanon that have citizen participation. He thinks it would be great to have a citizen wants and needs list that citizens can e-mail their suggestions to. He has heard people ask (and he didn't see it on the list) why isn't something done with the conference center, between the Library and Fire Station. Ms. Walter said it is on the list. He said if he were writing for the Economist news magazine, as a political analyst, he would have to write that Claremont's CIP has low political credibility, because it represents what the bureaucracy thinks Claremont wants

and needs, but it has no input from citizens. He talked about a USDA grant and needing to have public participation. He thinks the City should take it as a hint from the federal government as a model about public participation.

Francis Gauthier, Ward 2, said the CIP is excellent. Investment people are not just looking for paved roads and sewer, but also enforcement of dog waste clean up and smokeouts. He suggested having citizen watches.

Police Chief Alex Scott said from a procedural perspective, Council does a disservice to the citizens of the community who follow the process, note when there is a public hearing, come to Council meeting and participate. It takes away from the process when Council allows a conspiracy theorist to speak on any item out of turn without an opportunity to notice all the other citizens that may have an interest in commenting on that point the opportunity to come in and comment on that point. This is a representative democracy. Council is made up of citizens that citizens have elected to represent them. He takes offense at the constant commenting by a very few individuals that seem to cast aspersions and challenge directors' credibility on a monthly basis. As a citizen, he thinks that it is fair that he have the opportunity to respond to those types of things.

Mayor Cutts said the CIP was an agenda item and Council Rules allow citizens to comment on any agenda item at the invitation of the Mayor or Assistant Mayor. The CIP does not have a public hearing scheduled. This Council encourages public input. She has gotten feedback from citizens on the CIP, so Mr. Folta's comment that there was no citizen input is incorrect. She appreciated Chief Scott's directness. The problem is that a small number of individuals come to speak negatively about elected officials, directors and City business. She agreed with Mr. Goff's request. She said Mr. Folta did present negative feedback. She is happy that citizens of Claremont know differently as she heard from their feedback. During the budget, they will follow the traditional process of no public input until the end which is the public hearing. This CIP was recommended for approval by the Planning Board which is made up of citizens.

Mr. Goff said public input was requested and received at the Planning Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff and seconded by Mr. Koloski to table until a date determined by the Mayor and City Manager.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Motion to Apply for 2010 SAFER Grant

Fire Chief Peter Chase said he was asking permission to apply for the SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant 2010; this is our fourth application. Each year the rules change. In 2009 we had an excellent shot at getting the grant, but then the rules changed so that grant funds would go to recently laid off firefighters; our layoffs were in 2002. He doesn't think we have a great shot for 2010. The financial responsibility has been reduced to zero. This grant will fully fund the salary and benefits for two people for two years. After the

two-year grant period, we are not required to keep the firefighters. There is no requirement for governmental approval to apply, but he wanted to get Council's okay before going forward.

Mr. Burke asked why our chances are not good. Chief Chase said there are four levels and we have to apply under the third level, so there is not much of a chance. The highest priority will go to recently laid off employees, the second will be to keep firefighters that have been notified of a lay off and we are at the third level. Mr. Santagate asked if the money is going to bigger populations. Chief Chase in 2009 no grant went to NH; the money is going to bigger areas. Typically there are 5,600 applications and only 1,000 awards.

Mr. Bergeron said although we need the firefighters, he had a problem with applying for the SAFER grant because we would be told which employees we had to keep if there were a lay off within those two years.

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Burke to allow the Fire Department to apply for the 2010 SAFER Grant.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Acceptance of \$458,000 Airport Grant from FAA and NH DOT

Chief Chase said this grant is for airport improvement that he has been working on for almost a year. It's the second portion of the parallel taxiway. It has been designed, gone out to bid and met all requirements. St. Pierre, Inc. was the low bidder. This allows the City Manager to sign the contract and get the project started. 97.5 % is funded and the City is paying 2.5% of a \$458,000 project.

Mr. Goff asked where the City's portion will come from. Chief Chase said the Airport Capital Improvement Fund.

Mr. Raymond asked if this will get done before winter. Chief Chase said the contractor will decide. The Governor and Council have to approve the project and the earliest it will be on their agenda is October 6.

Mr. Santagate said that is a lot of money for a small airport. When Executive Councilor Ray Burton did his airport tour, the City put in a pitch for a new airport hangar. Mr. Santagate congratulated Chief Chase for getting the money. Businessmen use the airport when they come to Claremont.

A motion was made by Mr. Burke and seconded by Mr. Lewis that WHEREAS the City of Claremont has received notice of the award of grant funds from the Federal Aviation Administration for the final design, construction, marking, lighting and signing of Taxiway "C" West at the Claremont Municipal Airport, the Claremont City Council hereby authorizes acceptance of the grant (Project No. NH SBG-02-03-2010) in the amount of \$435,100.00 from the Federal Aviation Administration and \$11,450.00 from the New

Hampshire Department of Transportation and further authorizes the City Manager or his designees to execute all documents and undertake all actions as may be required for the acceptance of this grant.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Resolution 2010-19 Update ADA Compliance Procedures – Public Hearing

Ms. Walter said ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requires us to have a plan. We made a resolution in 2006, but changes in personnel require a change to it. Originally, names had to be used, but the City Solicitor did some investigation and found that the positions could be used and a new resolution would not be required each time an employee changed.

Ms. Messier asked if we have had a grievance. Ms. Walter said no.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff and seconded by Mr. Lewis to adopt Resolution 2010-19 Update ADA Compliance Procedures.

Mr. Goff read the resolution into the record.

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

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT (Continued)

Mr. Santagate talked about the audit. Single Audit - needed if we receive \$500,000 or more in grants in one year. There was not one negative finding in that audit (which is unusual) and that is the second year in a row. General Audit - there were three items and they were minor in nature. There were no material deficiencies, only 2-3 small suggestions. One was related to petty cash. The other was that CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) administrators suggested continuing with the practice we had been following for several years, however, the auditors wanted a separation of accounts. The third item is that we are operating the Downtown TIFD (Tax Incremental Finance District) at a deficit. We are aware of that. It is not unusual for a young TIFD, but unless we grow that area, we could face problems. He doesn't anticipate major problems in that area. Right now we are borrowing from the mature River Road TIFD. These numbers are as of December 31, 2009. In December 31, 2008, we had \$31,419,065 in debt and one year later, we are down 7% to \$29,359,000. We have increased savings from \$2,029,492 in 2008 to \$2,378,470 in 2009, a 17% increase. This year we drew out \$400,000 from Fund Balance for road money.

Ms. Walter talked about petty cash. City policy is to purchase an item and then get reimbursed by petty cash. New people need to learn the process. In reference to CDBG, there are over 3,000 general ledger accounts; she'll create 15 more lines. In reference to the TIFD, this is for our information and we will continue to monitor it. If Council wants this on a future agenda or

auditors to come in, we would be glad to do that. Ms. Walter will put the audit on the website when the PDF file is received.

Mr. Santagate said Mr. Bergeron had asked about citizens phoning in calls to Council meetings. There are 13 cities in NH. We called Berlin, Concord, Dover, Franklin, Keene, Laconia, Lebanon, Manchester Nashua, Portsmouth, Rochester and Somersworth. None are allowing phone calls during council meetings. Mr. Bergeron said he asked if it was doable. Mr. Santagate said if those cities were doing it, we would ask how they identify the people and can they talk on any agenda item, but no one is allowing this.

Mr. Bergeron wanted to know when the ATV trail issue would come back. Mr. Santagate said he talked to those involved and it is not on the agenda because we don't have anything to suggest, yet. The ATV and snowmobile clubs met and talked. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Board will meet on Monday. If Council wants it on the next meeting whether there is a response or not, he'll put it on. Mr. Bergeron said he is looking for a report from the City Attorney. Mr. Santagate said Ms. Taylor could find no information that would lead us to believe that that was omitted from the documents. She can't find where the trail is restricted. Mr. Santagate said he has asked for, but not received anything saying it is restricted. We will continue to search for any restrictions and report back to the Council. Mr. Burke asked about the grant money that the Conservation Commission applied for to fix up that part of the rail trail. Mr. Santagate said Ms. Walter contacted Claremont Savings Bank (CSB) and was told that the money was given to the Conservation Commission through the City to clean up the trail. Mr. Santagate said he will come back next month to ask the Council to accept it. Mr. Lewis asked if there were any stipulations for using the \$5,000 from CSB. Mr. Santagate said the application did not have any stipulations.

Mr. Lewis said he would like to see these issues listed here for housekeeping purposes. Mr. Santagate said he sometimes doesn't have anything concrete or significant to report and if it is not printed, you can't act on it. Mayor Cutts said she makes a list of requests from Councilors and invited them to review it. Mr. Goff said he believes Mr. Lewis doesn't want to lose track of requests. Mr. Burke said he would like to see the spreadsheet in the packet. Council was reminded that all the information in the packet is public and the concern is to not give the expectation that there will be action on an item if there will not be any. There was a suggestion to track it under Mayor's Notes or the City Manager's Report. Mayor Cutts suggested everyone think about it and look at the sheet she has. Mr. Bergeron said he keeps track of his requests.

Mr. Kolosk asked about the parking garage signage and making everyone aware that it is open to the public. Mr. Santagate said he will talk to Public Works Director Bruce Temple. Mayor Cutts said that issue will be talked about in the Claremont Chamber of Commerce newsletter.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DIRECTIVES

Mr. Koloski said there is a traffic issue on Sullivan Street by the former Ben's Market up to Laconia Savings Bank. The street is two-way, but because it is heavily congested, only one lane of traffic can get through.

Mr. Bergeron talked about a proposed change to a Council Rule. He said Citizen's Forum would remain the same. Input on agenda items would follow immediately after Mayor's Notes and there would be a limit of 5 minutes. This would not change public hearings. Mr. Goff suggested changing Citizen's Forum to include agenda and non-agenda items. Mr. Bergeron agreed. Mr. Goff said they may need to move Citizen's Forum to prior to Old Business. Mr. Goff asked about how many times a person is allowed to speak. Mayor Cutts said the current rule is once. Mr. Bergeron said he would like to stick with the current rule. Mayor Cutts confirmed that this would not change public hearings (people allowed to speak on that item) nor would it change first readings (people not allowed to speak).

Mayor Cutts said to make a Rule change, a Councilor makes the suggestion in writing to the Council and then it comes back to the Council at the next meeting for a vote.

Mr. Goff said at the Newport Selectboard meetings, that citizens can speak at the beginning of the meetings and it works well. Ms. Messier confirmed that Council would be changing Citizen's Forum Rule #22 and the order of the agenda.

Mayor Cutts talked about the budget meetings in November, 4 meetings and a public hearing at the end.

Mr. Burke asked about meeting with the Community Center committee. Mr. Lewis said he would like to hear from them about where they are in the process. Mayor Cutts asked Mr. Santagate to invite the Community Center committee to meet with the Council.

Mr. Bergeron asked about doing a Saturday budget meeting. Mayor Cutts asked Councilors to let her know their choice.

Mr. Lewis said in the Financial Overview there is a note that the \$20,000 appropriated for Social Services Funding has not been spent for 2010. Mr. Lewis said he will serve on the committee. Mr. Goff asked if they don't spend the money this year, if it can go into Fund Balance and then be added to whatever amount is funded for next year. Council concurred.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Master Plan Committee

None

Claremont 250th Anniversary Committee

None

Mr. Burke said the Claremont Brewfest will be September 18.

CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:48 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Burke to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorée M. Russell
Clerk to the Council