

The Claremont City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2011, in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

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

Members of the Council present were:

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

Absent:

At-Large Councilor Adam Burke (excused)

Also present were:

Guy Santagate, City Manager
Jane Taylor, City Solicitor

MAYOR'S NOTES

Stevens High School Student Council Update

None

Mayor Cutts said this is National Volunteers Week. Council thanked all volunteers in the city.

Mayor Cutts presented a proclamation to the Loyal Order of the Elks for Elks Youth Week (1st week of May).

Tim Dunham, Elks Activity Chairman and Drug Awareness Chairman, thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve the City. They have a Student of the Month program; two students get the award and a \$50 savings bond. They also provide Christmas baskets to needy families. Brian Landry, also from the Elks spoke a few words.

Mr. Bergeron said on Monday he and his wife saw members of the Police Department apprehend a person that was trying to run away. They did it professionally. Other people called the Police names, but the Police did their job very professionally.

Ms. Messier said this is the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. She read some information about the Civil War monument that is in Broad Street Park. It was created two years after the war and was the first public sculpture erected in the state of New Hampshire.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

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

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Mayor Cutts presented a proclamation to Erwin Caplan for his 24-year tenure on the Claremont Planning Board.

Mayor Cutts presented a proclamation to the Conservation Commission in recognition of its work on behalf of the City. This is the first board to be recognized as part of an effort to thank the City's volunteers; one board will be recognized each month.

Dianne Harlow, Conservation Commission, said they are a small group and they enjoy what they do. There are vacancies to be filled on the board. She talked about the Conservation camp for 8-16 year olds. Applications are available in the Planning office. Scholarships are available. She said Bob Woodman started this many years ago.

Claremont City Center Project – Steering Committee

Nancy Merrill, Planning and Development Director, said there is no set number for the steering committee. They have assumed 9; there are 8 applicants and 1 vacancy. Interested people can apply through the Planning office.

Ms. Messier nominated William Greenrose.

Mr. Austin nominated Shelly Hudson.

Mr. Bergeron nominated David messier. Councilor Messier said she is the wife of David Messier.

Mr. Lewis nominated Steve Picano.

Mr. Austin nominated David Putnam.

Mr. Koloski nominated Gary Trottier.

Mr. Austin nominated Keith Raymond.

Mr. Bergeron nominated Thomas Rock.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 6-0 with 2 abstaining (Mr. Raymond and Ms. Messier).

OLD BUSINESS

Job Fair Update

Mayor Cutts said there was a job fair at River Valley Community College with over 30 employers and it was standing room only for applicants. The City of Claremont had a table there as well as Structural, Lowes, Home Depot, etc. Structural said 90% of its staff is from Claremont. Applicants came from Lebanon, Hanover and Keene. After what she saw today, she believes jobs are very important for us to move forward. We need to focus on getting more jobs here. Jobs will attract other businesses to Claremont. She said she will ask to direct the City Manager to hold a job fair in coordination with the Department of Employment again in the summer or fall.

Mr. Santagate thanked Katrina Spaulding, Business and Development Coordinator, and Nancy Merrill, Planning and Development Director, for doing an outstanding job at the Job Fair. Nothing is more important than creating jobs. We are seeing more interest in building, expanding and improving Claremont. He will talk with George Bald, NH Department of Resources and Economic Development, about bringing jobs here and we will do that in the fall.

Ms. Messier was in full agreement with this. She said Claremont could take the lead on this.

A motion was made by Ms. Messier and seconded by Mr. Bergeron to hold a job fair in Claremont in the fall.

Mr. Bergeron said he thinks it is good for Claremont to be the catalyst.

Mr. Raymond said with Granite State College and River Valley Community College (RVCC) being here, this would be a good place to have a job fair.

Mr. Santagate said River Valley Community College received a \$1.8 million grant for job training. It was accessed by Structural Bridges for job training. It has been helpful toward creating 50 new jobs. Through the efforts of Nancy Merrill and the Planning office and Steven Budd from the RVCC, a program was set up through a grant where people were paid to train. We will seek the Congressional Delegation's support for job training.

Mr. Bergeron volunteered his help.

Roll call vote: 8-0.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, gave out handouts, 2010 Headcount Census Results for the 15 Communities of Sullivan County, NH, and 2010 Headcount Census Results for the 27 Communities of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC). He will provide a copy to anyone who asks; please call him at 542-3233. The 2009 estimates of

the U.S. Census Bureau and the NH Office of Energy and Planning forecasted a decrease in the Claremont census. The official results are that Claremont has gained population to 13,355 from 13,151 in 2000. Communities are growing around the Lake Sunapee area. Cornish was the only town not to gain. The second sheet shows the results for the 27 communities of the UVLSRPC. Claremont is still the largest town/city. He is a Claremont representative on the UVLSRPC

Frank Sprague, Ward 2, thanked the Council for its support of the ban on summer use of outdoor wood boilers. He talked about wood boilers when the property it sits on is sold. He read from NH law about Phase 2 boilers and he said that the City Code 5-176 Notice Upon Conveyance is weak and that it may not reflect state law.

NEW BUSINESS

Citizens' Request Related to Ordinance Enforcement

Norman Lessard, Ward 2, presented the Council with a petition and copies of some of the City Codes. He showed pictures taken last year of dog feces in the downtown area, bicycles in the downtown and tobacco spit on windows; these were all on Pleasant Street. He presented a petition in reference to enforcement of ordinances for skateboards, rollerblades, bicycles, stopping, standing and parking, and dogs. He talked about what he called "baby carriage entourage" in reference to people with strollers stopping or standing in doorways and creating obstructions. The petition was presented with a request for help from the Council to enforce the listed Codes.

Jose Casteneda, Esersky's Hardware, said he has been on Pleasant Street a little over a year. This activity is discouraging. Obstructing sidewalks, dog feces, people shouting profanities across the street was not expected downtown. Claremont has big potential. He's been in Claremont three years and feels welcomed, however there is potential to be more.

Annette Marotta, Annie's Affordables, has been on Pleasant Street for 7 years. The first few years were no problems, but lately it has been a disaster. She sees cigarette butts, packages, diapers and animal feces on the sidewalk. She cleans in front of her store constantly. The kids stop in front of her store; they smoke cigarettes and marijuana. Those with baby carriages dump the bottles on the side of the street. If they are politely asked to move along, they do, but some come back with revenge. Customers are afraid to come in or go out of her store. She asked for help with Pleasant Street. Tim Warasnik, also of Annie's Affordable, said that last year kids were curb jumping on bicycles and one almost did a "face plant" in their front window. Something needs to be done. Profanity can be heard along the street and it echoes. He's been in Claremont all of his life and remembers when Pleasant Street was THE place to be.

Tina Smrkovski, Reed Optical, said they have had problems with dogs. People walk their dogs around their building (mostly the tenants of the apartments that are right next to them). They also got paintballed along with the rest of the street last summer. They lost a tenant due to noise issues.

Mr. Lessard talked about an incident last year during the summer when a group of people that were obstructing his door and one boy mooned him. He called the Police Department, the Police officer took down the names, but there was no other action. People are spitting tobacco on the windows. This has been going on for four years, but nothing has been done. Something has to be done. This is why he took up the petition and got 33 signatures. Kids are loitering and swearing on the street. We need to clean up the downtown area.

Mr. Koloski said he had no knowledge of this petition prior to the meeting. He was a merchant on Pleasant Street for 10 + years. He had the same problems. By the time the police arrived, people were gone. The downtown is in rough shape and the Council is the "landlord." He asked if a "holdover" cruiser could be used as downtown enforcement and be kept on Pleasant Street as a deterrent. He suggested private fundraising could be used for it. He asked about putting cameras on Pleasant Street through private fundraising.

Mr. Bergeron suggested just sitting and watching on Pleasant Street to see what they are talking about. The problem is getting worse. The groups seem to be getting bigger. The Police Department is doing the best they can. The groups seem to have no respect for property on Pleasant Street.

Mr. Koloski talked about the importance of perception. These stories don't show the City in a positive light.

Mr. Lewis said the ordinances are only as good as enforcement and there is room for improvement. He asked Police Chief Alex Scott where to go from here. He asked how the Council provides support for improvement.

Ms. Messier agreed. Downtown is the economic heart of the community. She referenced a book, "The Tipping Point," and that when too many things happen, it just becomes the norm. She thanked Mr. Lessard for putting together the list of ordinances. Council passes the laws; the Police enforces them and the Police Commission is in charge of the Police.

Mr. Austin suggested Mr. Santagate come back to the Council with a plan.

Mr. Lewis agreed with Ms. Messier that Council does not direct the Police, but impacts them through the budget. Police enforcement is important and if there is a need to change the budget to support it, he wants to know about it now. He asked what to do to support that. Mr. Bergeron said we need to find out if solutions are available without spending more money. Mr. Lewis wants to hear from the other side; if the reality is that there is not enough people to enforce the Codes, we need to fix it come budget season.

Police Chief Alex Scott said he was not aware of the contents of this petition. He will present the information to the Police Commission. Citizens are invited to attend those meetings. The last time this was in front of the Commission was August 2009. Communication and collaboration are keys to the solution. For 2011 there have been no calls on Pleasant Street. In 2010, the Park Patrol was in place. He took exception to it being said that nothing has been

done. They spend about \$9,000-\$10,000 a year for the Park Patrol in the downtown area. In 2009 they got a \$5,000 highway safety grant for additional patrols in the downtown. They received that grant again this year. They do what they can in directed enforcement. In 2010, they had over 300 calls for service for directed enforcement, building checks and patrols. Most were done in the evening and were not seen by a lot of merchants. They will try to shift the focus to business hours. Downtown enforcement was talked about during budget talks. Over the last 7 years, there were collaborative meetings and they resulted in ordinance changes. He takes exception to the comment that that has not proven helpful to the downtown area. The skateboard park and the ordinance reduced the incidents of skateboards on Pleasant Street. With suggestions from the downtown merchants and Police Commission, the parking configuration for crosswalks was changed for better visibility. They are using the bike patrol. In 2009, Pleasant Street merchants were encouraged to get their own camera systems and that would also be helpful to the Police. Communications are critical. No merchant has called in 2011 so, he is not able to identify a problem in that area. Police will continue to maintain Pleasant Street as a priority. If a merchant sees something that is wrong or smells marijuana, call the police. Communication and collaboration are keys.

Mr. Bergeron said he felt sorry for the police. This City has developed a nucleus of people downtown that don't have respect for rules and they do exactly as they please. Chief Scott said he started working for the City 20 years ago and it has been an issue for the better part of that time.

Mr. Lessard disagreed with Chief Scott in reference to the merchants buying their own cameras. The City should pay for two cameras, one on each end of Pleasant Street. Direction has to come from higher than the Police Commission.

Mr. Raymond asked when the Park Patrol officer will be walking Pleasant Street again this year. Chief Scott said it will begin in May.

Mr. Koloski agreed that cameras should not be paid for by merchants. He is surprised there is a camera on the pedestrian bridge but not on Pleasant Street. He would like to go the fundraising route.

Mr. Burnham said he was on Pleasant Street a few days ago. The language is atrocious. We need to put someone out there to monitor Pleasant Street. Stop this now. Most these people are in the apartments along there. He said it might be Mr. Santagate's responsibility to come up with an idea. If you pass an ordinance, you have to enforce it.

Mayor Cutts asked about the chain of command. Mr. Santagate said he appoints all three members of the Police Commission and they hire the Police Chief. Mr. Santagate gives input in that. He attends those meetings when necessary. The City Council approves the police budget. Due to the budget limitations, he has had to deny requests for more people. We are trying to do everything right now to avert layoffs when the state budget is decided. The City has about 14 fewer people than 10 years ago. The Police Department just lost two members to Newport due to better pay. We agreed to replace one now and maybe one in August after we know what the

state budget is. We used to meet with merchants once a month and he thought it was helpful. If merchants think so, we may be able to do that again. Mayor Cutts said we don't need to look at manpower, we need to work smarter, not harder. She is not comfortable asking merchants or citizens to financially support or fundraise to enforce security, reduce vandalism and prevent physical harm to people. She likes the idea of cameras if there are not enough police officers. She suggested the money may come from the General Fund for a one-time purchase.

A motion was made by Mr. Austin and seconded by Mr. Burnham to direct the City Manager to put together a task force including the Police Commission, Police Chief or designee, one member from the petition, Councilor and someone from Planning Code Enforcement, with the intent to address this and come up with a measurable way to reduce this activity and to improve satisfaction for the people present at the Council meeting with monthly updates to the Council.

Ms. Messier thanked the petitioners for bringing their concerns forward.

Mrs. Smrkovski offered her building as a place to install a camera as it is at the end of the street.

Mr. Smrkovski, father-in-law to Mrs. Smrkovski, said the dog issue is not just the front of the buildings on Pleasant Street, but behind the buildings is worse. It needs to start with education. Identify the dog owners in the downtown area. Remind them that they need to clean up after their pets. He is in favor of using cameras. He suggested increasing the fines. He liked the idea of getting the group together to study this problem.

Mayor Cutts said the rules for picking up after your pet went out with notices for dog licensing.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said this seems to be a hot issue and he noted there were no newspaper reporters present. He observed the problem is not just downtown. He said we are talking about lower socio-economic folk. Claremont is a magnet for them. They may not have the same kind of respect for things that more advantaged people have. Claremont is an urban center for surrounding poorer areas. He asked if there are longer term solutions, although he had no answers. Mayor Cutts disagreed with Mr. Folta's suggestion that there is a lower class of citizens either in Claremont or migrating to Claremont. Mr. Folta talked about the American Community Survey figures and that there are measurable statistics of character of the demographics in Claremont.

Mr. Bergeron asked when we will stop blaming everything on low-income people. Everyone needs to have respect for the law and other people's property.

Mr. Koloski talked about the "dog poop flyer" that was recently mailed to all dog owners. He said he had no previous information about this agenda item and he feels ill prepared. Mr. Santagate said Mr. Lessard had asked about putting this on the agenda. He had a packet and Mr. Santagate asked him to make copies for the Council. Mr. Santagate acknowledged that it would have been helpful to have it ahead of time, but he did not ask for it.

Mayor Cutts clarified that this was a citizen agenda item and she had as much information as the rest of the Council.

A motion was made by Ms. Messier and seconded by Mr. Raymond to move the question.

Roll call vote to move the question: Motion carried 8-0.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Mr. Bergeron volunteered to be on the committee.

Motion to Accept Conservation Easement Map 82, Lots 10 & 11

Nancy Merrill said this is for the Riverside Marketplace project. She introduced Ray Lobdel, Wetland Scientist, representing the developer. There is a request for the City Conservation Commission to take on the role of third party easement holder.

Ray Lobdel, Wetland Scientist, from Landaff, NH, said he was here to talk about the wetland mitigation for the Riverside Marketplace, proposed commercial development at the corner of Main and North Streets. It includes Tractor Supply Company and a hotel plus a possible 60 jobs will be created. His role is to obtain the wetlands permit. Thirty-four thousand square feet (.8 acres) has to be mitigated (compensate for the loss of the wetlands and value). He proposed to create an upland buffer on Stevens Brook (8 acres). They are looking to obtain a third party to hold the conservation easement on this property. Also, across the street is an 850 foot narrow strip of land; it is a dirt parking area that will be restored and vegetated to create a buffer and it will be under conservation easement. The third part of this is the dam on Stevens Brook will be removed and about 200 feet behind the dam will be restored. Then, one mile of Stevens Brook will be barrier free. The state requires an easement holder for this to be a permanent conservation easement. The Wetland Bureau will approve the permit and the project can start when the conservation easement is signed and recorded. There will be monitoring to be sure requirements are being met. There will be management plan to go along with it. The state will review it all for the permitting process. He is looking for the City to approve, in concept, holding these easements.

Mr. Lewis asked about the liability for the City to hold these easements. Ms. Merrill said every 10 years you have to do an update of the maintenance report. There can be enforcement issues if someone does the wrong thing on your conservation easement. Tracey Thibault, City Planner, said there are a variety of ways to handle the easement such as endowment or attach it to the deed. Mr. Lewis asked how we will do it. Ms. Merrill said we would feel confident if it were the responsibility of the underlying landowner. We have not looked at those items in detail.

Mr. Koloski is a Conservation Commission (CC) member. He said the CC was upset that they were the last ones asked to hold the easement. He said he would push for a deed restriction and that it would be updated every 10 years by the developer. This restores species from the Sugar

River to upstream. They were informed that the strip of land along the river would be given to the City (City would own the conservation easement).

Mr. Burnham asked about the development in the back. Mr. Lobdel said there is a 100-foot buffer that won't impact the side area. Mr. Burnham said he lives in the back of the area. The brook is on a steep bank and there is erosion. Mr. Lobdel said the buffer will help filter and reduce the amount of sediment entering Stevens Brook.

Mr. Bergeron asked if we had been given the property across the road. Ms. Merrill said that would be negotiated.

Mr. Koloski asked if the area will be marked to indicate that you are entering a conserved area. Mr. Lobdel said signs saying "Boundary Conservation Area" would be put up every 150 feet.

Mayor Cutts asked about downsides. Ms. Thibault said there would be a monitoring requirement yearly to make sure there is no obvious encroachment.

Ms. Taylor said most points that have been brought up get discussed when drafting the easement. One issue to be discussed is that if land is given to the Council, that would preclude the City from holding the easement. That would be a decision made by the Council as Council is the only body to accept it. Council needs to authorize the negotiations and entering into the easement.

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Ms. Messier to authorize the City Manager or his designees to negotiate, execute and take all such actions as may be required on behalf of the Claremont Conservation Commission to obtain a conservation discretionary easement pursuant to RSA Chapter 79-C across property owned by The Thurloe Kensington Corporation for purposes of preserving approximately 9-plus acres of open space for compensatory mitigation under state wetlands rules. Said easement is to be detailed in an appropriate Easement Deed to be filed in the Sullivan County Registry of Deeds.

Mr. Santagate said we are anxious to get this going. Ms. Merrill said this is a 47-acre site and 10 acres will remain a greenbelt.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Motion to Authorize Sale of One-Half Acre of City-owned Land for Access Road, Map 95, Lot 27

Ms. Merrill said this is a 50-foot strip of land going from North Street into the upper lot. Currently it is a 30-foot right-of-way into the upper parcel. The developer is asking the City to add 20 feet to it and to sell him the .52 acres so he could make it a proper deeded road access. Mr. Santagate said this is essential for access to the site.

Ms. Merrill talked about the different phases of the development. Ms. Thibault said this would be access to phase 4 (60 residential units). Ms. Merrill said this still has to go to the Planning Board.

Mr. Koloski asked about any additional conservation easement. Mr. Lobdell said there would be no additional conservation easement needed. Ms. Thibault said the wetlands application was for the whole project.

Ms. Messier asked if the price had been negotiated. Ms. Merrill said not yet, but it will be fair market value. Ms. Messier asked where the money would go. Ms. Merrill said the General Fund. Ms. Messier asked if this will be part of the tax rolls. Mr. Santagate said yes.

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Bergeron to authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute and take all such actions as may be required to convey land located at Tax Map 95, Lot 27 (North Street) to The Thurloe Kensington Corporation and to accept all proceeds related thereto for deposit into the applicable City account.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Resolution 2011-12 Off-Leash Dog Park – Public Hearing

Scott Hausler, Parks and Recreation Director, along with Tracie Ruggles, a volunteer, showed a PowerPoint presentation about the Dog Park Project

- Dog Park Project
 - Presented by Dog Park Committee and Parks & Recreation Department
- Dog Park (Veterans Site Identified)
 - Established well-used community park
 - Offers convenient nearby parking
 - Area is available, maintained and space to be used is underutilized
 - Majority of the topography is level and is the appropriate size
 - Space is just under 1 acre
- Veterans Park Location
- What is the Cost for the Dog Park
 - Estimated Cost - \$30,000
 - Includes
 - Fence lines delineating the park and the specific large and small dog areas along with maintenance gates
 - Transition entry area, gates and signage
 - 2 benches, 1 pet water fountain, 3 waste bag dispensers
 - Entry landscaping
 - Hope to sell memorial bricks
 - 100% of funds to be raised through donations
 - Reserve fund to be set up after project is completed to continue fundraising activities that will

- Contribute to existing maintenance expenses of the area
 - Provide a fund to draw from for future improvements
- Yearly Operation Cost/Revenue
 - Move bag dispenser
 - Turf care (existing expense)
 - No additional maintenance than what is done now
 - New cost would be water (water fountain on site)
 - Group will work with Parks and Recreation
 - Sub-committee MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) will identify areas that may result in current site maintenance reduction of expenses (spring/fall cleanup, daily checks, trash detail etc.)
- What are the Rules
 - P&R and sub-committee will continue to work with Primex (City's insurance provider) on established rules and guidelines for the facility
- Develop Sub-committee
 - Group members will be part of a sub-committee of the Parks & Rec Board
 - Coordinate yearly fundraiser
 - Responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and upkeep and will coordinate spring & fall work session
- Sub-Committee MOU to Include
 - The City may close the Dog Park in the event the area and its activities are, for any reason, unsanitary or unsafe
 - If park conditions remain unaddressed for a period of 30 days or more, the City may close the park
 - Following permanent closure, the Department will restore area to its original use
- Fundraising Plan
 - \$30,000 project goal to include
 - Cash Donations
 - Donation of Supplies and Materials
 - In-Kind Contributions

Mr. Bergeron asked who will enforce the rules for dog registration and shots. Mr. Hausler said that is not an easy question to answer. There are rules in place for all of the parks. A lot of dog parks have self-policing. He is hoping that will happen here. If there are problems, they will address it with the Police Department. Mr. Bergeron asked if the City's liability insurance will allow people to mow the grass. Mr. Hausler said there will be clean-up efforts in the spring and fall. They will follow established volunteer guidelines and they will mow with City equipment. That area is currently mowed and maintained by the City and that will continue.

There was discussion about a typographical error in paragraph 3 of Resolution 2011-12. It should say "at no additional cost."

Ms. Ruggles said the rules are in place so that responsible pet owners are the ones to use the park.

Mayor Cutts suggested changing the rules from unsupervised park to user-supervised park.

Mr. Raymond noted that if this is approved, nothing will happen until the \$30,000 is raised.

Mayor Cutts said she would vote in favor of this; it is forward thinking and will have a potentially positive outcome. This is National Volunteer Week and she thanked Ms. Ruggles and her group for doing this.

Mr. Lewis said this is the type of interaction that is welcomed from residents. He commended Ms. Ruggles and her group for taking the initiative.

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Raymond to adopt Resolution 2011-12 Off-Leash Dog Park.

Mr. Lewis read the resolution into the record including adding the word “additional” (i.e. at no additional cost to the City) in the third paragraph.

Mayor Cutts opened the public hearing.

Steve Raymond, Ward 1, said he talked to some dog owners and they are for it. That may help solve some of the problems in the downtown area.

Mayor Cutts closed the public hearing.

Mr. Bergeron said he is not against the dog park. The people that he has talked to have said that if it will cost the City additional money, they don't want it. He doesn't believe the dog park will solve the problem downtown.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Resolution 2011-11 Hazard Mitigation Plan – Public Hearing

Fire Chief Peter Chase said that adopting the Hazard Mitigation Plan will allow us to be able to apply for hazard mitigation grants. The grants typically cover 75% of the projects. Public Works has improved approximately \$500,000 worth of culverts using these grants. The \$5,000 hazard mitigation grant was applied for by Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC). The City match was staff time to develop the plan. We have to have this plan in order to apply for disaster aid and mitigation aid. The last plan was done in April 2004 and it needs to be updated every five years. We are a little behind on that and a culvert project is on hold until this plan is approved by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency).

Mr. Santagate said there has been a lot of work done on Chief Chase's part. It is very important in the case of emergencies. We can't get any grant funding without it being approved. Chief

Chase said we are required to have a local emergency operation plan (which we have and it is current) and a hazard mitigation plan.

A motion was made by Mr. Bergeron and seconded by Mr. Raymond to adopt Resolution 2011-11 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Bergeron read the resolution into the record.

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

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Planning and Development/Marketing Update

Nancy Merrill, Planning and Development Director, along with Tracey Thibault, City Planner; Kurt Beek, Project Manager; and Katrina Spaulding, Business Development Specialist, showed a PowerPoint presentation of the functions of the Planning and Development Department.

- Community Development
 - Business Development
 - Planning
 - Zoning
 - Project Management
 - Boards & Commissions
 - Building Codes
 - Health Codes
- Building Codes
 - Building codes protect life, safety, property and environment
 - 2010 – 598 permits issued
 - 2011, 1st quarter – 105 permits issued
 - Updated and detailed Building Code pages on City website
 - Reviewing building code (IBC) for recommended state amendments
 - International Existing Building Code (IEBC)
 - Insurance Services Office (ISO) building code effectiveness classifications
 - ISO has filed advisory rating programs, including rating homeowners and dwelling lines of insurance
 - A community's classification is based on administration of building codes, review of building plans and field inspections.
 - After analyzing data, ISO assigns a Building Code Effectiveness classification from 1(exemplary) through 10
 - Claremont currently has a rating of 2
 - Municipalities with well-enforced, up-to-date codes demonstrate
 - Better loss experience, which reflects on the citizens' insurance rates
 - Minimizing catastrophe related damage, which ultimately lowers insurance costs

- Master Plan Update
 - Draft Chapters
 - Housing
 - Economic Development
 - Transportation
 - Historic Resources
 - Natural Resources
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Commercial Facilities
 - The Planning Board will review comments from the March 26th comment session on April 25, 2011
 - Once integrated into the document, the Planning Board will schedule a public hearing, after which the Board will have the opportunity to adopt the plan
- City Center Project
 - Funded through HUD Challenge Planning grant
 - February 2011 – September 2012
 - Steering Committee being formed
 - Claremont City Center Project application identified four goals:
 - Expand & enhance public involvement in the planning process
 - Improve housing quality in the city center
 - Revise zoning in the city center
 - Revitalization of the city center
- Claremont Boards & Commissions
 - City has 24 boards with 130 members
 - March 2011 there are 23 regular board vacancies and 11 alternate seat vacancies
 - Volunteers fully engaged in many aspects of planning and development, recreation, libraries, conservation, historic preservation, airport, cable television and many other areas in Claremont
- Website Use
 - Among 2010 upgrades
 - Combined Economic Development/Claremont Advantage push
 - New home page for Current Community Issues & Projects
 - Reordered Residents drop down menu for easier use
 - New links for Municode
 - Some proposed 2011 upgrades
 - Photo changes/easier and in-house
 - Add City map
 - Improve on-line municipal forms
 - Improved news archive
 - Live link capability on news page
 - Add Welcome Kit pages to Claremont Advantage page
 - Add Search function
 - Updates for mobile browsers
 - Update content areas
- 2011 Print Advertisements

- Business NH Magazine
 - Printed in July and September with 1/3 page
- Vermont Business Magazine
 - Ads retained for April, August and September, 1/3 page to support the theme of Commercial Real Estate
- Valley Business Journal
 - Ads for June, September and October specializing in Commercial Real Estate, Fall Tourism and Claremont/Windsor
- Online Advertising
 - Business NH Magazine – 1 year Web Tile Ad with direct link to www.Claremontnh.com
 - NH Business Review – 10 months Web Tile Ad for March-December
 - WMUR – featured online from March-August 2011. 50,000 impressions per month. In March there were 34 direct clicks. Above the industry rate by .05%.
 - Additional Web Advertisements
 - New England Real Estate Journal
 - Vermont Business Magazine
 - Business West
 - Northeast Real Estate
 - New Hampshire High Tech Council
 - These ads are currently all scheduled to run for April, May and June
 - BusinessWest
 - Advertising will show on this website for April, May and June of 2011
- Other Marketing Opportunities (we don't pay for these)
 - NH Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) Business Recruitment Magazine
 - DVDs Claremont Small City Reborn
 - Web-GIS Expansion
 - Commercial Broker Mailing
 - PSNH (Website at no cost)
 - DRED (Website at no cost)
 - Industrial Park Listings – Classified as needed
- Welcome Kit
- New Commercial
 - Lowes
 - Open April 2010
- New Downtown Business
 - New Socials
 - Time Out Sports Bar & Grill
 - New England Deli
 - Fred's Family Restaurant
 - Ming Cheng
 - Elegant Bridal
 - TLC

- Simpson & Mulligan
- Esersky's (Renovation)
- Java Cup (Renovation)
- Industrial development
 - Structal Bridges
- New Development
 - Valley Regional Hospital Renovation and Addition
 - September 2010 completion
 - Innovative Homes, Main Street
- New Additions/Renovations
 - Lambert Auto
 - Jiffy Mart
 - Amidon Jewelers
 - Esersky's
- Current Development
 - CVS Pharmacy, Wall/Meadow/Tremont
 - Riverside Marketplace, North and Main Streets
 - Timberpeg/Real Log Homes/Consolidation and Expansion, Plains Road
 - Creating jobs
- Grants (CDBG/HUD Projects)
 - Total \$5,702,904
- Draper's Corner
 - Safety Improvements, Resurfacing, Pedestrian Enhancements, Culverts, Landscaping and Lighting
- North and Main Street
 - RFQ for engineering to be advertised spring 2011
 - \$4.8 million project 80/20 split
 - 24 months to construction
 - Improves grade & site distance
- Other City Projects
 - Main Street Project
 - Opera House Square to Union/Main intersection
 - American Recovery Act Energy Efficiency Audit
 - \$25,000 awarded
 - City Hall, Library, Parks & Rec complex, Fire Station, Visitors Center
 - American Recovery Act Energy Conservation Grant
 - \$152,000 awarded
 - To replace City Hall boiler
 - Begin June, end November
 - CDBG – Claremont Soup Kitchen
 - Barnes Park Oil Tank Release
 - Farwell Block – CDBG Feasibility Study
- Look to the future
 - NH Fastroads
 - Expand broadband in the region

- Funded by a \$5.3 million federal stimulus grant
- Construction of a “middle mile” to connect 19 communities, including Claremont
- Will go out to River Valley Community College area
- NH Broadband Mapping and Planning Program
 - UVLSRPC project
 - The National Broadband Map is an online interactive map, showing broadband availability around the nation, including the different providers and speeds available for any area you specify. The website address is www.broadbandmap.gov

Mayor Cutts said she liked this kind of update.

Mr. Lewis said in reference to Riverside Marketplace, that when Home Depot came in, there was supposed to be a phase 2; he asked how we foster the additional phase(s). Ms. Merrill said we can help with some of it, but national chains have their own criteria. We have had inquiries on some of those. Home Depot and Lowes were finished when the economy dropped, delaying Home Depot’s phase 2.

Mr. Koloski thanked Planning for the update. He asked about the plan to put the City’s website address on the new vehicles when they come in.

Mr. Koloski said it is important for the City to be able to take credit and/or debit cards as payment; that is a sign of a cutting edge community. Mr. Santagate said we have looked into that. State law allows us to charge a fee. Each card company has its own rules and there are different fees. He’s not concerned about charge backs. The same rules don’t apply to all cards. Concord is only allowing cards for some transactions. We are looking at it, but don’t want to make mistakes. His concern is where the deposit goes. He would be more comfortable with it being a bank. We are close to getting on that road.

Mr. Burnham asked about online banking. Mr. Santagate said that would be part of the credit/debit card issues. He talked about float and interest income and that we get pretty good money from the interest.

Mr. Koloski asked about listing City real estate. Ms. Merrill said all inquiries go through the Planning office. We list on the DRED state website and PSNH’s (Public Service of NH) website and we do direct marketing with commercial brokers. Mr. Koloski asked about the welcome signs to the community. He was against using taxpayer money for them. Ms. Merrill said they are meeting with city service organizations. Mr. Santagate said there is a lot of interest and encouragement from the business community.

Mr. Santagate said the insurance rating is no small item. The insurance rating is 1 to 10, 1 being the highest and we are at a 2. Some of the difficult code enforcement we have done is paying dividends in a quiet way. Our insurance premiums are lower because of the rating.

Mr. Santagate said we will use the \$57,000 HUD grant to take inventory of present buildings and encourage private redevelopment along the water and sewer lines. You will see a major step in that direction with a private urban renewal project in the heart of the city (CVS). The economic life on some of these properties has expired and we hope the study will help us to determine the highest and best use of urban properties. This is a great opportunity in that area.

Mr. Santagate talked about the Codes and that they are the law. We are trying to find ways to encourage development within existing Codes. If someone doesn't like the Codes, they should request to change the law at the state level. Marketing is important. We need to stay consistent to the marketplace. He talked about Great Lakes and the \$4 million lawsuit that the City is still paying. This update shows some of the things that are going on in the Planning and Development office. We will continue on with the things that we are doing and try to create jobs that are needed in the City.

Mr. Koloski said he had previously asked to have the number building permits that have been issued put in the Council packet. Mr. Santagate said the focus was on tonight's update and that we will get monthly reports to the Council in future packets.

Bernie Folta said that he had 27 years of information processing. The City of Claremont's website is pretty, but navigation through it is atrocious. It does not reflect a savvy city. He talked about Red River Computer helping the City with its technology and he hopes the website will be done because it is the face of the City. In reference to taxes, the presentation mentioned the Claremont Advantage (NH Advantage is business friendly and tax advantage). Claremont's tax rate gives the perception that there really isn't the tax piece to the Claremont Advantage. Claremont's tax bill shows that we are not disadvantaged, but he asked how you fix the perceptual disconnect.

Mr. Santagate said of the website that DRED said Claremont's is one to look at, although there is room for improvement, but it's about the money. In reference to taxes, it is a real issue and the question is how to point it out. Our tax bill is in the middle of the state.

Car-54/Live IMC Update

Police Chief Alex Scott said as a result of the Car-54 program, all 6 line cars have been outfitted with computers.

Captain Mark Chase said this was developed by UNH, University of NH. These are ruggedized laptop computers with voice-activated controls and a touch screen. IMC is records management and an officer can access any information that might be available at their desktop computer. They do most of the reports in the cruiser. Claremont and Cornish are on the system. Only five websites are available on these machines: City, NH RSAs, Municode, OfficerDown.com and the Weather channel.

Chief Scott said that this was on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2012, but the Car-54 program helped to bring it in this year. They were able to get the project down from \$40,000 to \$18,000. There will be ongoing maintenance costs.

Enforcement Grant Update

Chief Scott talked about grants that have been received.

- Join the NH Click, seatbelt enforcement campaign, \$4,125.00 grant from NH Highway Safety. It runs from May 1 to June 30; provides 10 seatbelt enforcement patrols; two officer patrols, 3 hours apiece; focused on school departure and arrival times and by Walmart.
- Operation Safe Commute, \$2,062.50 grant from NH Highway Safety. It runs from May 1 to September 15; includes 3 hour patrols x 1 officer x 2 patrols over 5 days; statewide speed enforcement.
- NH Highway Safety for DWI Hunter Patrols, \$2,475.00 grant; June 1 to September 15; provides 6 6-hour patrols on designated nights; statewide efforts.
- Claremont Pedestrian/Bicycle Patrol Grant of \$5,781.60; 22 4-hour patrols; May 1 to September 15; focus on downtown area.

A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Lewis to accept and expend \$5,781.60 Highway Safety Grant for Claremont Pedestrian/Bicycle Patrol Project.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

- Claremont Enforcement Patrols Grant for motor vehicles, \$5,781.60 from NH Highway Safety. Focus is on Washington Street; May 1 to September 15; 22 4-hour patrols; directed toward speeding and red light violations.

A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Ms. Messier to accept and expend \$5,781.60 Highway Safety Grant for Claremont Enforcement Patrols.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Social Services Distribution

Mr. Koloski read the amounts recommended for distribution by the Social Services sub-committee (members: Assistant Mayor Austin, Councilors Koloski and Burke).

Social Service Agencies Funding - 2011

Organization	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
CASA of NH	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Claremont Soup Kitchen, Inc. & Food Pantry	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00
Community Alliance of Human Services, Family Services Department	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00
Community Alliance Transportation Services, Inc.	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00
Community Alliance Trusting Hands Home Health Care	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00
Connecticut Valley Foster & Adoptive Parents Assoc.	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
Connecticut Valley Home Care	\$4,000.00	\$2,000.00
Headrest	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Southwestern Community Services, Inc.	\$2,500.00	\$1,500.00
Sullivan County Nutrition Services	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00
West Central Behavioral Health	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Total Requested	\$33,500.00	\$20,000.00

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Ms. Messier to accept the committee report and authorize the City Manager or his designees to expend the \$20,000 as recommended by the sub-committee and to request a report form (feedback) from the recipients.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Mr. Santagate said the meeting with the State Representatives was helpful. There will be a follow-up on the request for a job fair in the future. He said Mr. Austin had previously asked about the speed limit by the hospital; Traffic Advisory Committee will review the speed and/or move the sign, if necessary. Mr. Koloski had previously asked about the energy audit; we have a rough draft and are waiting for a final report; will notify Council when finalized. Mr. Burke had previously asked about technology update; meetings have taken place and Council will be notified when information is available. Mr. Koloski had previously asked about registering vehicles online; Mr. Santagate’s concern is that we generate \$1.5 million each year to register vehicles and he is leery about making changes so that payments go directly to the state. Mr. Koloski had previously asked about the Airport Advisory Board; Councilor Raymond’s seat expires in 2012; a regular seat is vacant.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DIRECTIVES

Mr. Bergeron asked that when Chief Scott presents his grants to the Council to bring them in writing. Also, he asked for an update of the request for a joint meeting with the school board. Mayor Cutts said there were conflicting meetings. Mayor Cutts said that Chairman Seaman is not putting it on their agenda at this time due to other things going on such as the Superintendent search. She said the meeting with the Reps went well and they requested we do it again before the Senate passes the budget, maybe in June.

Mr. Burnham asked about the timber cut at White Water Reservoir. He asked if it would be left to come back naturally. Mr. Santagate said he thinks yes. He will talk to Public Works Director Bruce Temple about an update. That has generated about \$50,000 to go into the Water Fund.

Mr. Koloski said he had previously brought forth a citizen's concern about the parking on Sullivan Street. Mr. Santagate said it was looked at by the Traffic Advisory Committee and was determined not to be a problem. Mr. Santagate will check the minutes.

Mr. Raymond had received a citizen complaint about cats and he wanted to know where they would go for help. Mr. Santagate said to contact the Police Department. Animal Control is working with them.

Mayor Cutts said there is an issue with parking on both sides of her street, Grove Street; an emergency vehicle would not be able to get through.

Mr. Koloski said at the intersection of Mulberry and Sullivan Streets (across from Roy Funeral Home) there is no stop sign. Ms. Taylor said she thinks there should be a yield sign there.

Mr. Austin said the No Parking sign has faded by Walshman's on Myrtle Street. He is concerned that the sign doesn't cite the authority and therefore has no "teeth."

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Master Plan Committee

None

Claremont 250th Anniversary Committee

None

CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:43 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Raymond to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorée M. Russell
Clerk to the Council