

The Claremont City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

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

Members of the Council present were:

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

Absent:

At-Large Councilor Christopher Lewis

Also present were:

Guy Santagate, City Manager
Jane Taylor, City Solicitor

MAYOR'S NOTES

Proclamation – Stevens High School Alumni Week

Mayor Cutts read a proclamation for Stevens High School Alumni Week starting June 5, 2011.

Stevens High School Student Council Update

None

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Koloski to accept the minutes of the April 5 and 13, 2011, City Council meetings.

Ms. Messier abstained because she was not present April 5th and Mr. Burke abstained because he was not at either meeting.

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

APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Parks and Recreation Commission

A nomination was made by Ms. Messier to re-appoint Theodore Hopkins to seat #6 of the Parks and Recreation Commission and thank him for his service.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Claremont City Center Project – Steering Committee

A nomination was made by Mr. Raymond to appoint Jason Farrell to the Claremont City Center Project – Steering Committee.

Mayor Cutts thanked all members for participating on this committee.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Boards and Committees Recognitions – Fiske Free Library Board of Trustees

Mayor Cutts read a proclamation for the Fiske Free Library Board of Trustees acknowledging the board's efforts.

Mr. Raymond thanked everyone that works at the Library. The number of people using the Library is astonishing (average 235 per day).

OLD BUSINESS

Downtown Task Force Update

Police Chief Alex Scott said calling this a task force is not correct. He outlined what was taking place prior to last month's meeting and gave an update to the Council of the meeting hosted by himself and the City Manager, which was attended by Councilor Bergeron, Chair of the Police Commission as well as interested downtown merchants to get some direction as to where to go from here. He introduced members of the Claremont Police Commission: Jerry Cross, Chairman Richard McClintock and Chris Irish. The downtown enforcement issue has been on his radar screen since 2004. Last month the Council accepted a grant for a pedestrian/bicycle enforcement patrol which starts next week. The Park Patrol started the first week in May. Sonny Lunderville is filling that position. For 2011 there will be a focused patrol for Pleasant Street. The challenge is the gas prices, so he is looking at how to limit mileage, but still be effective. The two biggest areas of enforcement are Pleasant Street and Washington Street. Today he met with most of the downtown merchants who said they noticed the increased police efforts. They are continuing with the NH Drug Task Force Team B (covers Sullivan County and parts of Cheshire and Grafton Counties). They are the most effective team in the state (50% of

drug arrests state-wide) because of the quality of the team servicing the area. The meeting with the City Manager and others was to find out what the merchants are looking for and what the Council wanted. This will be on the Police Commission's agenda at least through August. Camera surveillance is important to protect the City's infrastructure. It is used in the Mill area, for the Visitors Center green space, pedestrian bridge and the parking garage. The plan is to expand the cameras onto Pleasant Street. Cameras will not be used to protect private infrastructures. They will coordinate with Granite State College (government entity) as well as the Ombudsman program (part of the school district) and supplement their security and focus on those areas. He hoped that merchants will help with cameras in their stores. Any camera project will be done in compliance with the US Department of Justice Video Surveillance Manual. The cameras need to see what a police officer would see as he walked on the street. Police are looking into implementing a program where a vehicle with cameras is set up in a location where problems occur. He said Sergeant Wilson had the idea to identify landlords on Pleasant and Franklin Streets and for them to remind tenants about the ordinance with respect to picking up after their dogs. Chief Scott also suggested (in this part of the City) that they should consider having a no pet policy in their buildings. Previous efforts: 2007 Park Patrol program started and 2009 pedestrian bicycle enforcement grant received. When he met with the City Manager, a good suggestion was made that in addition to the crime report to include the minutes of the Police Commission meetings for the Council packets. The Police Commission meetings are after the Council meeting, so the minutes will be a month behind.

Mr. Santagate said we want to be helpful and we want to balance the police efforts with being welcoming in the downtown. He thinks it is a small group of people causing the problems. We are trying to address the issues that have been brought to our attention.

Norman Lessard, Ward 2, noted the meeting with the City Manager was a good one. The downtown is quieting down quite a bit. He thinks the work being done by the Police Department is effective. He talked about a dog incident that happened yesterday on Pleasant Street as well as some other incidents and that this is why we need cameras there. He read a statement from John Root, Twisted Fitness: outside Twisted Fitness, a woman was running with a golden retriever and was forced into the street (into traffic) by two walkers and their pit bull terriers that they could not control. Last winter Mr. Root's business was hit by paintballs which cracked some windows. Mr. Lessard read a statement from Stephanie Lanzaro, 39 Myrtle: last year while jogging with her child in a stroller, a dog on a leash broke free and was barking at her in a threatening manner. A friend of the dog owner subdued the dog. Ms. Lanzaro has curbed her use of Pleasant Street because of dogs. Ms. Lanzaro witnessed the same incident in front of Twisted Fitness and reported it to the Police, but without names of the individuals involved, she was told they could not do anything. Mr. Lessard said that three years ago he was accosted by a gang member; the individual was found and went to court, but the case was dismissed.

Claire Lessard, Ward 2, said in reference to what happened yesterday that she witnessed the incident in front of the Family Dollar store and the Ink Factory. She had to walk in the road to get away from the pit bulls. Surveillance cameras would be most beneficial in these instances. She was in favor of the dog park. She talked about enforcement and that she has noticed a calming in Claremont.

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Mr. Bergeron said that Chief Scott did a good job covering the information. He thinks there is more to do than just enforcement. He would like to meet with the Mayor and City Manager to discuss other issues. Dogs are not just on Pleasant Street, but all over downtown. Council needs to work with the merchants to make downtown a better place. He asked if there is any law to restrict putting up cameras. Chief Scott said you can't use highway surveillance systems and you can't use cameras to look into a place that you otherwise would not be able to look into if a police officer were walking down the street.

Chief Scott agreed with Mrs. Lessard that it is a partnership where you have to work together (merchants and police) as a team. The incident on Tuesday would have been an appropriate situation to call the police. We need to continue communicating to make downtown vibrant.

Mr. Bergeron said he has talked with some people and they are happy with what the Chief has started.

Mr. Burnham said people are being made aware that they are being watched and that is a good thing.

Mr. Koloski said he would welcome the Police Commission minutes in the Council packet. He asked if a copy of the letter went to the Goddard Emporium and Union Block apartments. Chief Scott said yes. He said he doesn't believe that pets are allowed in those buildings. Mr. Koloski said he has received positive feedback in reference to cameras on Pleasant Street.

Mayor Cutts said the charge to the task force is in last month's Council minutes. Even with the layoffs, the Police have not complained about working harder. She said that Council needs to think about that as the budget comes up. She asked if the removable speed bump on Water Street would be put out again this year. Chief Scott said yes. Mayor Cutts asked about a speed bump on Pleasant Street. Chief Scott said that is a state route and trucks go over it, so that wouldn't work. Chief Scott said that pavement marking will be done at the end of this month or in June. Last summer a traffic barrel was used at the crosswalk on Pleasant Street, but they are trying to come up with something better. Mayor Cutts asked if the dog ordinance allows officers to challenge pet owners to make sure they have something to be used to pick up after their dog. Chief Scott said yes and if an owner is not prepared, they can be warned and then ticketed. Every contact is recorded in a Call-for-Service log. Mayor Cutts asked about passing out the dog ordinance information when notices are sent for registering pets. Mr. Santagate said that can be done.

Mayor Cutts read the motion from last month about the task force and she asked Mr. Santagate about continuing it. He said he would take direction from the Council, but would need more definition of the issues. Mayor Cutts said they will brainstorm on that and offer Mr. Santagate more specifics.

Mr. Koloski said that if the cameras are not monitored by the Police Department, we have missed the mark and it's a waste of time. Chief Scott said we don't have the ability to monitor each

camera continuously. If a dispatcher sees an issue they can direct a response. If Police are called, then dispatcher can direct a response. If Police are called after the fact, the recording can be looked at to help solve the case.

Chief Scott said a lot of merchants are concerned about their store front window and the cost of a camera system is probably less than an insurance deductible. The combination of their private system and the public system will be the most help to the Police.

Norman Lessard, Ward 2, apologized for some statements he made at the close of the last meeting.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Raymond Gagnon, Ward 3 resident and State Representative, thanked the Council for meeting with the State Representatives and Senator Odell. He gave updated budget numbers. An estimated \$114 million will be downshifted to cities, towns and school districts, but the state budget is not yet final, so these numbers may change.

Mr. Santagate said he appreciates any updates from the state. He asked if the \$225,000 contribution toward retirement has been restored. Rep. Gagnon said the retirement amount is still in negotiations. Mr. Gagnon said April revenue numbers were not as good as was expected. Mr. Santagate said his concern is the actions in Concord will lead to a property tax increase. Rep. Gagnon said 47% of the new Representatives have not held seats on any local boards. Mr. Santagate said the property tax is the tax of choice. There is no will to change that. We are the second highest property taxed state in the country. However, if you use property, income and sales tax, then NH is the 46th lowest in the country. We are taking steps to freeze positions where we can and cutting where we can. When the state budget is finalized, he would like to have another meeting with the Representatives and Senator Odell to discuss its impact.

Mark Perry, Ward 3, said he moved to Claremont 15 years ago. Three years ago a neighbor started a farm with 3 barns, 100 chickens, roosters and goats. The neighbor allowed chickens to range off the property, but a fence took care of that. There is a strong odor of manure along the property line. Roosters crow early in morning. He was told that if the property is in zone RR2, it can be a farm with up to 2800 chickens. He said his property values have been reduced. He talked about runoff going into drinking water. He believes one acre is not large enough for a farm. He said the state recommends the property be at least eight times that. The solution he was given from the City was that he should consider moving. He was there first. He said he was told not to go in front of Council to make changes to this law, because it would affect a lot of people. He said the state recommends 8 acres of land, but the City overrode that. He said he spoke to the City Manager and Mr. Santagate suggested he come to the Council. Mr. Perry said two others were here to speak on his behalf.

Richard Nelson, Ward 3, Bonneau Road, said he can hear the rooster crowing and smell the manure. He believes the lot is too small for that activity.

Mary LeBlanc, Ward 3, lives next to Mr. Nelson, said she was concerned about their well that is below the farm. The fence minimized chickens running around.

Steve Raymond, Ward 1, asked about the leash law as it pertains to his own property. Chief Scott said he will answer him during break.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, talked about the policy to not interact with speakers during Citizens Forum. He asked about how answers will be given out to citizens.

Mr. Bergeron was upset that a City official had told Mr. Perry to not go before the City Council. Mr. Santagate said he talked to the City employee and that is not what was said. He also talked to Mr. Perry. In NH, farmland is cherished. The Planning Department has contacted the state department on this issue.

Nancy Merrill, Planning and Development Director, said according to City ordinance, agriculture is permitted in this district; the City Planner conducted a visit. The state Agricultural Department was contacted and the operation has a state license and it was recommended to cover the manure.

Tracey Thibault, Planner, said the farm was inspected and there were no violations of best management practices. In an RR2 zone, agriculture is a permitted use and the minimum lot size is one acre. She said if, as Mr. Perry suggested, Council looked at this RR2 parcel, the discussion would have to include all RR2 zones in the City.

NEW BUSINESS

NH FastRoads Presentation

Carole Monroe, Executive Director, New Hampshire FastRoads, said that in 2007/2008, the state formed a coalition to discuss how to move forward with broadband in the region. Keene established a broadband committee. They worked with the CDEFA (Community Development Finance Authority) who paid for a company to do a proforma and a business plan with the intention of finding financing to bring broadband to this region. That allowed NH FastRoads to participate in the round-two American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funding with UNH (University of NH) and the state of NH. It is a \$45 million grant across the state. It has matching funds for a \$66 million project. NH FastRoads' piece is \$5.3 million of federal funds and \$2.2 million of matching funds (private and public). They are not asking cities and towns to fund it. The project goes from Orford to Rindge and includes the Middle Mile Project. They are offering fiber to all community anchor institutions (municipal and government buildings; public safety; K-12, both public and private; higher education; health care institutions; and libraries) along that route. There are about 220 locations along the route. In addition, they will be running fiber to the premise and two census block groups in this region, one in Enfield and one in Rindge. Fiber to the premise is an offer of a fiber connection to everyone in the census block. This is an open access network with multiple providers. Small businesses will have opportunities to access cloud computing (they won't have to have their own servers and

infrastructure in places because they will have a broadband connection that will allow them to do that. This project began July 1, 2010, and must be complete by June 30, 2013, to have access to the federal funds. All of the revenue gets turned back into rolling out broadband for underserved areas. They have been working with FairPoint to see if there is a project they can work on together. They are all about economic development. NH FastRoads is an LLC (Limited Liability Company) under Monadnock Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) in Keene. Their sole purpose is to ensure they can offer the best and broadest of services in this region and to attract businesses and keep them here. The four things they are asking for is: 1) contact person, Nancy Merrill; 2) location for a cabinet within a community anchor institution (something they can access); 3) validate the list of community anchor institutions; and 4) stay in touch. Businesses and homes along the route will be able to connect with reasonable connection fees and then they will have access to the service providers on the network.

Mr. Burke said the project is exciting and he is glad to see it will give access to cloud computing.

Ms. Monroe said she has talked to the schools about connecting the schools in a virtual private network.

Mr. Santagate asked Ms. Monroe if she was in partnership with MEDC. Ms. Monroe said they are a disregarded entity under MEDC, established as an LLC in the state of NH (Jack Dugan's corporation). Mr. Santagate asked if Ms. Monroe has had a chance to assess the existing network and will this identify the strengths in the City. Ms. Monroe said Claremont has some options. NH FastRoads is a transport company and they offer a competing environment. Mr. Santagate asked if the state will receive the revenues from this. Ms. Monroe said no, they become part of the economic development of NH FastRoads. The net profits will not go to subsidize MEDC, they will go to extending broadband in this region. Mr. Santagate asked who will own the network when it is in place. Ms. Monroe said NH FastRoads, LLC, will own it. They are an LLC set up as a separate organization under MEDC. They will provide transport service to service providers over that network. Mr. Santagate asked if it will be a base fee or transaction fee. Ms. Monroes said it varies. Mr. Santagate asked if Ms. Monroe will need access to poles. She said yes. The poles are owned by PSNH (Public Service of NH), FairPoint, the Co-Op and National Grid. Mr. Santagate asked if these companies favor the FastRoads project. Ms. Monroe said there are rules in place at the PUC (Public Utilities Commission) for having access to the poles which they intend to follow. Mr. Santagate said he is interested in the speed and getting access to those that do not have it. Mr. Santagate asked about access to all computers. Ms. Monroe said the type of computer or operating system will not matter. Mr. Santagate said if this can identify the strengths in the City, we can market that.

Ms. Merrill said NH FastRoads is pulling the fiber optics through the "middle mile." Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) is working on broadband mapping; they are mapping speeds down to the census block, so Claremont will be able to tell what providers and speeds are available by block.

Mr. Bergeron asked about negotiating with these service providers as we do with the cable company. Mr. Santagate said we will check it out.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said he has been following this issue as it is part of the UVLSRPC issue. FastRoads is like a pipeline; they do not provide the water. They will lease the pipeline to water companies who will have different colored water. He is interested in the FastRoads business plan. There are already competitors (Comcast, FairPoint).

Sullivan County ATV Club Wheeled Vehicle Trail Permission

Mark Carrier, Co-President, Sullivan County ATV Club (SCATV), said they were here to get the annual trail permission. They need to do some maintenance work on Arrowhead. They will need permission to do repair for the state grant-in-aid. It will be about \$16,000 to \$17,000 for material and labor costs for the Arrowhead site. He said Parks and Recreation Director Scott Hausler was in agreement that the work needed to be done. They will come back to Council for the other approvals.

Mr. Austin asked if this was from the state gate to Broad Street. Mr. Carrier said yes. Mr. Austin said he was approached by constituents about making the area from Pleasant Street to Broad Street as a walking trail only. Mr. Carrier said in the past the permission was all the way to Pleasant Street to take care of the cleaning, but the cleaning has already been done. He put up a Dead End sign where you turn toward the school, so that should deter some riders. Mr. Austin said it was not the four-wheelers digging up the trail, but it is dirt-bike riders.

Mr. Raymond asked if these are the same trails as last year. Mr. Carrier said yes.

Mr. Bergeron said he had gotten a call from someone on Cossitt Avenue about rocks flying off the trail. The caller said she was pleased with the cooperation she had received from SCATV and Mr. Hausler. Mr. Bergeron said if parts of the trail are not part of this agreement and not covered by the insurance, they should not be responsible to maintain it.

Mr. Burnham said he works with Arrowhead and one of the main problems is that the dirt bikes tear up the trail. He suggested snowmobile and ATV clubs work together. Mr. Carrier said that the president of the snowmobile club helped him fill out the grant-in-aid paperwork.

A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Burke that the Claremont City Council, pursuant to RSA 215-A:15, hereby authorizes the city manager, or his designees, to take such actions as may be necessary to issue a written Permission for Wheeled Vehicle Trail Access to the Sullivan County ATV Club for a period of one year from the expiration of the current Permission. This Permission is for use of designated City-owned land and class VI highways, which lists are to be included with the Permission Form and is subject to all City and state rules and regulations pertaining to use of ATVs and other off-highway recreational vehicles on public property. This Permission is granted subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Arrowhead Trails may be used only if Permission is also granted for use of property commonly known as the "Dunn Field" off Chestnut St.;**

- 2. The City may close one or more trails to ATV use for reasons including but not limited to trail conditions, maintenance and public safety.**

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Acceptance of \$7,220.00 Gift of Landscaping from Claremont Garden Club

Mr. Santagate read the letters from the Claremont Garden Club and Berry's Landscaping Service to redo the garden at City Hall. The Club has taken care of the area for years. They are all volunteers.

Mr. Bergeron asked what happens if they don't raise the money. Mr. Santagate said he understands they will raise all the money and then do the installation.

Mr. Koloski asked who laid the bark mulch downtown. Chief Scott said Public Works. Mr. Koloski said it is a simple thing, but makes a world of difference.

Mayor Cutts said this is really great. She thanked the Garden Club and will support this.

A motion was made by Ms. Messier and seconded by Mr. Koloski to accept with sincere appreciation in-kind donations of labor and materials valued at \$7,220.00 for landscaping of the area surrounding City Hall area from the Claremont Garden Club.

Ms. Messier said that will take a lot of work and time. She appreciates what they do.

Mr. Bergeron said he is not against it. It is a great idea. He is concerned that half would get done this year and then it would take two more years to complete it. This group should be commended for what they do.

Mr. Burnham said they always keep it in good condition and they should be commended.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Lease Agreement for Claremont District Court

Mr. Santagate said hopefully this is part of a bigger picture that we have been struggling with for years. Over the last 7 or 8 years, there has been pressure to consolidate some courts. One plan is to close Claremont and move it to Newport. We have worked hard to prevent that from happening. Closing this District Court may save the state money, but there would be an overall increase in expenses to the local community. The City would have an increase because the Police would have to travel back and forth to Newport. The family court is in Claremont. It is used by many of the high school students and the administration has to accompany them. In 2009, we waived the rental fee in Claremont of approximately \$53,000 a year. The fee was waived again last year to keep the court here. The major part of a current proposal in the legislature keeps the District Court in Claremont and the state would pay toward court expenses

for 2012 and 2013. We asked to be reimbursed for 2009 and 2010 and we're hoping it will take place. July 1, they will pay half and then we will go back to ask for the rest.

A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Bergeron to authorize the City Manager to amend the existing lease agreement with the State of New Hampshire for the lease of certain premises within the City Hall complex to be occupied by the Claremont District Court to extend the lease term for an additional six months so that the new lease expiration date will be December 31, 2011 at a monthly rent of \$4,415.90 due on the first day of each month commencing July 1, 2011.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Permission to Apply for COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) Grant

Police Chief Alex Scott said no formal action is needed tonight. The solicitation opened May 2nd and the grant due date is May 25th. Permission is not needed for the grant application. He is hoping to come back in a few months for acceptance. This pays 100% funding for 3 year/36 months. They have a frozen position and they were able to apply to fill that position. Nationwide this funding program has over \$2 million. He is hoping to get \$200,000 to help offset the hiring freeze and continue to provide services to the community. The primary focus of the grant is to continue to support the SRO program which focuses on preventing crime in and around our schools; it would help continue to address street level drug dealing by continuing to support the NH Drug Task Force; and including the quality of life downtown enforcement efforts. He thanked Bill Wilmot, Accreditation and Grants Coordinator, for putting this together. Mayor Cutts supports this.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Santagate said he attended a community session held at the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center for the proposed bus service to Lebanon. The proposal includes 5 round trips daily. Those with a vested interest are Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and Hypertherm. The City is not in a position to pledge any funds and they weren't surprised at that. They will look for subsidization by private companies. Hypertherm said they are willing to participate. They have proposed stops at the Moody building and the Visitors Center. The UVLSRPC was at the meeting.

Mr. Santagate replied to Mr. Burke's previous request about the energy audit. We are close to getting it done. There will be a presentation at the June 8th Council meeting.

Mr. Santagate replied to Mr. Burnham's previous inquiry about logging at the reservoirs. So far we have taken in at Rice Reservoir \$35,776; Dole Reservoir \$16,489; and we have just started at the White Water Reservoir. The plan is to let it grow back naturally. Mr. Burnham said it will grow back with junk wood. He suggested looking for a grant to plant timber that would give revenue in 30 years. Mayor Cutts suggested involving the Conservation Commission. Mr. Santagate will follow up with Public Works Director Bruce Temple.

Mayor Cutts asked about Rice Reservoir logging cleanup. Mr. Santagate said we have a Forestry Plan. When they were up there, there were a lot of diseased trees that had to be taken down. He said he can ask the forester about cleaning it up. Mr. Koloski said the Conservation Commission had a presentation from the forester. He would like to hear what the forester has to say about this. Mayor Cutts asked to check on that.

Mr. Raymond asked (since the Rice Reservoir is not used much) about marketing the land around it. Mr. Burnham said it is a supply reservoir for the Dole Reservoir in case it is needed.

Mr. Santagate replied to Mr. Koloski's previous request about parking on Sullivan Street. It was referred to the Traffic Advisory Committee and was determined to not be a big issue, but Police will continue to monitor it.

Mr. Santagate replied to Mr. Raymond's previous request that anyone with a cat or stray animal issue should contact the Police Department and they will turn it over to Animal Control.

Mr. Santagate said, in reference to the parking situation on Grove Street, the Traffic Committee has not met, but it will be looked at.

Mayor Cutts said that when vehicles are parked on both sides of Central Street, especially on Sunday, that it is difficult for emergency vehicles to go down that road. Mr. Bergeron disagreed; he said there is plenty of room for a fire truck, if nothing is coming in the opposite direction. He suggested making it one way on Sunday. Mayor Cutts asked to have it looked at.

Mr. Koloski talked about a Yield sign on the island at the intersection of Mulberry and Sullivan Streets. Drivers are failing to yield, so he suggested an additional sign could be placed on the other side of the road.

Mr. Santagate said Mr. Austin had previously mentioned a faded No Parking sign in the area of Walshman's on Myrtle Street. Public Works will replace it when they can. Mr. Austin suggested the sign should include an enforcing authority.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DIRECTIVES

Mr. Burke asked if the energy audit includes recommendations by the auditor. Mr. Santagate said yes. Mr. Burke asked if there would be potential cost savings. Mr. Santagate said we will look at the final draft to see. He likes study grants because they are usually a forerunner to more grants. We will try to determine which projects take priority and identify where the money will come from.

Mr. Santagate said in June or July, we will bring forward a revised CIP (Capital Improvement Plan). Mr. Santagate said the technology report may also be presented then.

Mr. Austin asked about putting up a Walking Trail Only sign at the trail between Pleasant and Broad Streets. Dirt bikes are digging it up. Mr. Koloski said the work that was done on the trail was done by the snowmobile club members. He thinks it would be in poor taste to not allow them to use the trail. Mayor Cutts said the grant money for that work came with no conditions. She thinks there is clear interest in using the trail by that group. She thinks it is important for Council to remain objective. Mr. Burnham said in winter it is not a problem for snowmobilers to use the trail; there is a problem with two-wheelers beating it up. Mr. Austin suggested making it seasonal.

Mr. Bergeron asked when the City will go to an 18-month budget to be on state's cycle. He asked how much it would cost.

Mr. Bergeron said it is time the City looks at electronic transfers (on-line bill pay) and accepting credit cards and debit cards. Mr. Santagate said we are on the road to getting that done. There are different rules for different cards.

Mr. Bergeron talked about putting restrictions on new farms (noise, smell, etc.). Mayor Cutts asked the City Manager to ask Ms. Taylor to review the zoning and see if we are matching state law.

Mr. Koloski asked to compare lot sizes for RR2 zoning in other communities.

Mr. Koloski agreed with Mr. Folta about not providing feedback during Citizens Forum. He asked if a section (i.e. Recently Asked Questions) can be added to the City's website. Mayor Cutts is in favor of that. She said Citizens Forum is for comments and constituents are encouraged to interact with Councilors.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, suggested that questions answered could be answered in a City Manager column of a bi-weekly e-mail newsletter.

Mr. Koloski said a veteran was upset with the dog park going into Veterans Park. He asked if there were any restrictions that would prohibit that activity.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Master Plan Committee

Mayor Cutts said the Master Plan is progressing.

Claremont 250th Anniversary Committee

None

CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

None

Mayor Cutts congratulated Roselyn Caplan for being named Citizen of the Year; Lambert Auto for Business of the Year; and Arrowhead Recreation for Non-profit of the Year. Mr. Burnham said that Arrowhead has worked very hard and is a success story. The Chamber did a tremendous job organizing that event.

Mr. Koloski congratulated Brandi Blackinton for being named Young Professional of the Year.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:03 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Bergeron to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorée M. Russell
Clerk to the Council