

The Claremont City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, October 10, 2012, in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

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

Members of the Council present were:

At-Large Councilor Keith Raymond  
Ward I Councilor Victor Bergeron  
Ward III Councilor Nicholas Koloski  
Assistant Mayor Andrew Austin  
Mayor James Neilsen, IV  
At-Large Councilor Christopher Irish  
Ward II Councilor Roger Formidoni  
At-Large Councilor Kyle Messier  
At-Large Councilor Thomas Burnham

Also present were:

Guy Santagate, City Manager  
Jane Taylor, City Solicitor

## **MAYOR'S NOTES**

### Stevens High School Student Council Update

None

## **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

**A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Bergeron to accept the minutes of the September 12, 2012, City Council meeting.**

**Voice vote: motion carried 6-0.**

## **APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

### Mount Ascutney Region River Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commission

**A nomination was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Raymond to appoint Dorée Russell to seat #1 of the Mount Ascutney Region River Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commission.**

**Voice vote: motion carried 6-0.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### County Commissioners Update

Jeff Barrette, District 1 County Commissioner, talked about the recent tour of the county facilities by members of the City Manager and Council. He gave an overview of what was discussed. Four years ago there was a \$3 million plus deficit and now there is a fund balance of \$3.5 million. They did it by receiving \$2.5 million stimulus funds (ARRA) for debt reduction and had operational efficiencies. He said they are now running the most efficient county nursing home in the state. They haven't used agency nurses in a year and the result is better accountability and continuity of care. In the last four years, there have been a lot of upgrades done in the nursing home.

Mr. Barrette said several years ago an addition was put on the jail. The jail was built in 1978 and was to house 46 inmates, 3 of them women. Before the addition, they had 100 people with 17% being women. They built a transitional housing and rehab facility, which has reduced recidivism 40%. It cost \$6.9 million for the project. They used some of the extra material from the project and built a firing range for law enforcement use only. They have created a capital reserve this year for replacement of large capital projects. He talked about building a biomass woodchip burning facility. It will provide 90% of the heating needs and 10% of the electrical needs which is projected to save \$5 million in 20 years (after the bond payment is paid). Woodchips are being purchased locally. They have received \$650,000 in state and federal grants for the project. They will break ground very soon. He invited anyone to take a tour of the facilities.

Mr. Raymond asked about the nursing home capacity. Mr. Barrette said they are at 136-138, and they are licensed for 156 beds. The decrease is the result of more home and community-based care.

Mayor Nielsen noted that at the DOC (Department of Corrections), the program is for rehab as well as to integrate the people back into the community. Mr. Barrette said the model is recognized on the national stage. It is a collaboration between the police departments, the Courts and the DOC.

Ms. Messier asked about the capital reserve. Mr. Barrette said the Delegation has to vote to create or expend funds from the capital reserve. The reserve is to be funded at one-half of 1% of the County budget which is \$442,000.

Mr. Barrette said the fund balance falls within DRA's (Department of Revenue Administration) recommended 5-10% of the operating budget.

### New Community Center Update

Scott Hausler, Parks and Recreation Director, showed a PowerPoint presentation.

Project Update

- Concrete pour completes gym and pool deck
- Showed pictures of pouring the gym floor; stud walls; interior work being done; propane tanks have been installed, 5 of 7 on site; stud work; rooms taking shape; looking at the pool area; exterior entrance with stone wall pillars; siding installed on building; utility closet; elevator shaft; forming walls of gym; painting the interior

Mr. Hausler said nothing has changed in the financials.

Ordinance 528 No Thru Trucking on Pearl St. Between Sullivan & Central Streets –  
Second Reading – Public Hearing

Police Chief Alex Scott said at the last meeting there was confusion about commercial vehicles. For commercial vehicles making deliveries on that street, this does not apply. Vehicles that exceed the weight and are traveling through are not allowed. This was brought to the Traffic Advisory Committee because of damage to properties and safety issues because of the narrow street and dense population.

Mr. Bergeron asked about large motorhomes. Chief Scott said as long as they are not a commercial vehicle, this doesn't apply.

**A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Ms. Messier to adopt Ordinance 528 No Thru Trucking on Pearl St. Between Sullivan & Central Streets.**

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

Mayor Neilsen opened the public hearing.

Craig Lehman, Ward 1, asked about registered weight versus physical weight. He said he is a truck driver who tends to get lost, so he is concerned about GPS leading drivers down the wrong street. He suggested putting up signage for trucks to get to major stores. He talked about not allowing trucks to operate on South Street between Broad and Chestnut Streets and that it is difficult to go around that street. He also suggested designation of a truck route.

Mayor Neilsen closed the public hearing.

Mr. Raymond noted this is only for Pearl Street, not South Street as that part has already been passed.

Mr. Irish agreed with the ordinance, but asked why we don't have a truck route.

Chief Scott explained that the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) had done a study a few years ago. There is a major convergence of three routes in the City. The cost to go around the City would be prohibitive. A connector across from Washington Street to Chestnut Street was one suggestion and it would be expensive.

Mr. Raymond said the City Center Steering Committee talked about posting signs that would move trucks up North Street.

Mr. Irish asked if signs could be posted directing trucks through the City. Chief Scott said it is a state route and we cannot direct trucks off it. Routes 11/12/103 go through the heart of the City.

Ms. Taylor said the City has authority to put up temporary signs, but without the ordinance, we can't put up permanent signs.

**Roll call vote: motion carried 6-0.**

Acceptable Displays for Downtown Trash Cans

Mr. Temple said at the last meeting that Renegade Art Group (RAG) was approved to place inserts on the trash cans downtown with the approval from Public Works. He asked for guidance on what would be acceptable to display on the inserts.

Ms. Taylor noted the original motion was written for the Heart of Claremont, but during the meeting it was changed to Renegade Art Group; they are not listed in the Secretary of State's office as any type of organization. Her concern is that the inserts should not be commercial. She suggested having pictures, positive messages and community events, but not private enterprise or advertising unless the Council directs the City to establish an agreement for private businesses with some sort of compensation.

Mayor Neilsen said Jason Farrell, RAG, had indicated there would be no advertising, only goodwill, school events and feel good messages.

Mr. Temple asked for specific guidance or should he just use common sense.

Mr. Koloski understood there was to be no advertising, just goodwill messages and they are to be shown to Mr. Temple before being used. He doesn't want to see any ads on the trash cans. Mr. Temple noted there is interest in doing that. He thanked RAG for coming forward to do this. Any group that is interested should approach RAG who will make a schedule for placement and then the request will go to Public Works for approval.

Mr. Irish read the motion from the previous meeting and said it was clear to him that RAG in conjunction with Public Works would make the decision.

Ms. Taylor said this group is not an organization with liability protection in the event of an accident. She recommended they fill out volunteer forms to deal with liability issues.

Mr. Koloski said using the name Heart of Claremont was an error; Ms. Taylor said that is what was presented to the City. Mr. Koloski said not everyone will be pleased with the messages; he suggested RAG make a schedule for placement.

## **CITIZEN'S FORUM**

Mark Barriger, Ward 1, suggested changing Middle Street to two-way traffic outside of school hours. On Summer Street, the high school blocks the view of traffic.

Gary Viterise, Old Newport Road, thanked Public Works for the road work that was done, but said he would like to have it paved.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said in reference to the budget that the Council should spend money to hire a CPA (Certified Public Accountant) to assist the Council in analyzing the proposal. He talked about the temptation to play with the budget. Next March is the school district vote and he believes the school board will present a bond to be voted on. He talked about City and school finances.

Elaine Osgood, Ward 2, asked for clarification on the "sandwich board" signs. She is a member of Victory in Jesus Family Church in Charlestown and they usually post their Candyland signs around the City. She was told the signs were not to be on public property.

Mr. Koloski said he and other Councilors have been contacted by a few individuals about this. He spoke to Mr. Santagate and Mr. Santagate said we have allowed signs for years especially for non-profits, but some signs have been placed in such a way as to obstruct the view of vehicle drivers. Mr. Santagate would like to review the ordinance with Fire, Police and Public Works to update that. In the meantime, they can put signs up as long as they are not in the intersections. The signs will be removed from the island by City Hall. We'll check with other cities and towns to see what they are doing. He asked that signs not be placed in areas where there will be turning traffic.

Chief Scott said sandwich board signs have steadily crept into the public travel way. Over the next week, people will be notified to remove the signs from the public travel way (medians and traffic islands). If, after that time, they are not removed, the City will remove them. We will explore finding other locations.

Mayor Neilsen suggested contacting private property owners for sign placement.

Ms. Taylor said the ordinance is not clear, so it needs to be reconciled. Political signs are allowed on the state right-of-way, but not the City.

Jason Farrell, Ward 1, said in reference to the sign left by the Opera House that it was okay for the City to cut the chain because his group cannot find the key.

Steve Raymond, Ward 1, said the City had done a good job on a small portion of East Green Mountain Road, so he thanked the Council and Public Works for the section they did. He asked when they will finish it.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Motion to Authorize License Agreement for Water St. Parking

Nancy Merrill, Planning and Development Director, said this request came from the Sugar River Mills Redevelopment Company for a potential tenant on the third floor of the Wainshal Mill.

Evan Langfeldt said the potential tenant wishes to remain anonymous. They have three workers that are handicapped so the request is to license directly to the tenant for the three spaces.

Mayor Neilsen asked if the City has any issues with this. Mr. Santagate said the license will run with the tenant. So when they leave, those spaces come back to City. This request went to the Traffic Advisory Committee and there is no restriction except to license to the tenant. Ms. Merrill said the existing number of public handicapped spaces would stay as they are. There are two in front of the state office building, two in front of the Wainshal and one on United Way.

**A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Raymond to authorize the City Manager or his designees to negotiate and enter into a multi-year license agreement with a prospective tenant of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of 21 Water Street (Parcel 120-6), the Wainshal Building, so-called, for the license of three (3) handicapped accessible parking spaces on the south side of Water Street, across from said building. This license shall be effective only upon the prospective tenant entering into a lease agreement with Sugar Mills Redevelopment LLC, as owner of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, and shall be personal to and effective only for so long as the prospective tenant remains a tenant of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 21 Water Street. The tenant shall be responsible for all costs incurred by the City related to the parking designation, including but not limited to restriping of the designated and adjacent parking spaces and any required signage.**

Mr. Bergeron asked if the spaces can be used by the general public after business hours. Ms. Taylor said specific times can be written into the license, so during off hours, the public would have additional handicapped spaces.

Chief Scott said this would not reduce the number of available handicapped spaces.

**Roll call vote: motion carried 6-0.**

Mayor Neilsen announced the annual Firefighter's Parade would be this Friday at 6:30 p.m.

### Community Garden – Public Hearing

Christine Hawkins, Ward 3, said she started the Community Garden six years ago on Claremont Savings Bank property that is now the New Community Center. They had very good luck this summer at the site on Sugar River Drive; the Fire Department brought water to the site; and the soil is extremely good as it is in a river bottom area. She would hate to lose the site because it is

a difficult task to start a new garden. She would love to continue. The 4-H group and Pathways are two that participated; gardening is therapeutic in many ways.

Robin Widdeman, Ward 2 resident and 4-H Leader of the Claremont Jaguars, said they have been members of the Community Garden for two years. The children learn sharing; some of the food they grew was donated to the Soup Kitchen. This program decreases food insecurity. This motivates children; it shows them the food cycle from seed to the table. She read an e-mail from Robin Luther, Extension Field Specialist of Youth and Families, UNH Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County, referencing Carl Colise who was an active 4-H member. They would like to plant the 4-H garden in his honor. They asked to continue to use the area on Sugar River Drive at the pumping station for the garden.

Susan Lawrence, resident of Unity, asked to speak. **Mr. Raymond made a motion to allow her to speak. Council agreed.** Ms. Lawrence is a Master Gardener. She said she has been using the Community Garden for the last five years. She said it is difficult to start a new garden and she hoped the garden could stay.

Mr. Irish read a letter from residents (Sarah Kennell, Diane Friend, Roberta Viola and Francine Namkovich) of Sugar River Drive saying that they have no issues with the garden and they feel it is a positive use of the land.

Mike Tetu, Ward 1, said there were pre-existing uses for that open space such as walking. He asked the Council to not permit the Community Garden to continue there. He wanted to discuss relocation and he said it would only be a small issue to move the garden. He felt the open space use is higher use to include swimming. He thanked Bernie Folta for doing a 91-A request to get 36 pages of information. He said in July that he spoke with Mr. McGlaflin, farmer, and he said he had been haying that field where the garden is “forever” and that he lost two acres of hay. Mr. Tetu asked Mr. McGlaflin if he had a place for the gardeners to use which he said was 100 yards away. Mr. Tetu said that was not good soil. He would like to have a stakeholders meeting.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said he spoke on behalf of “sunshine” in reference to the Community Garden material that he gave to Mr. Tetu and Mrs. Hawkins. He said he would supply the information to anyone who wanted to see it. He said the issue is that when there is a citizen initiative to improve the City it gets tied up in a bureaucratic swamp. He is not taking a position on a neighborhood issue.

Ms. Hawkins, Ward 3, said the garden plot is 1/8 of an acre. The no swimming designation was accomplished by the City for liability purposes. The snow fence was put up by the City. There have been positive points made by some neighbors and there are fewer teenage partying issues.

Mr. Raymond said Mr. Tetu had stated this was open space for walking the dog, etc.; Mr. Raymond asked if the Community Garden had stopped those activities. Ms. Hawkins said no.

Mr. Irish asked what the Council is being asked to do and was there a sunset date on the original motion for the garden. Ms. Taylor read the motion from the May 9<sup>th</sup> Council minutes. There

was no sunset date. Mr. Irish asked, and the gardeners that were present agreed this is a suitable location.

Mr. Bergeron agreed with Mr. Tetu that the stakeholders should get together to work together. He said this is City property and we can change its use. Everyone needs to talk about it.

Mr. Koloski asked about other neighbors that are against this. So far Mr. Tetu is the only one to speak out against this and to say he wanted this as open space. The garden is only taking up a small portion of the property. Mr. Koloski does not see a need for the stakeholders to meet on this.

Mr. Santagate said it is up to the Council if there is a meeting or not. There was a proposal for a garden and we got a letter saying that this was a dangerous place because of the drowning there. It was determined that the garden should be moved toward the road; a snow fence was put up and signs were posted that the area toward the river was dangerous. After that he heard from others that people used to swim and fish in that area all the time.

Mr. Irish said that nothing that is allowed is being prevented. He sees no reason to change.

Mayor Neilsen said it was the City's open space and he does not see that a 1/8 acre garden would take away activities. He doesn't see a problem with using it as a garden.

Mr. Raymond believes that in a couple of years they will want to find a larger site because of their success.

Mr. Koloski likes the idea of naming the garden and would like to move forward with it. He doesn't want to limit the activity there. He got a copy of the information Mr. Tetu referenced through Mr. Folta. Garden users have an annual fee of \$20. The farmer losing acreage has no formal agreement with the City. In order to change his mind, there would need to be more opposition. He read from an article from the Valley Green Journal about 4-H kids helping the needy with produce grown on City property and said that was something to be proud of.

**A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Irish to allow the Community Garden to remain on Sugar River Drive, Lot 158-46, until that group approaches the City for a change.**

Mr. Koloski said he was opposed to the motion. He would like to have a one year time limit

Mr. Irish said this is part of the Parks and Recreation Department.

**Mr. Raymond amended the motion to make it annual approval.**

**Mr. Irish withdrew his second.**

**Mr. Koloski seconded the motion.**

Mr. Irish asked to have it for two years. **Mr. Raymond and Mr. Koloski agreed to two years.**

Ms. Messier said agreed with this and said it is important for everyone to state their opinions.

Mr. Bergeron said he is not against the Community Garden. He will vote in favor of this. It has not been proven to him that the neighbors are against this garden.

**A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Koloski to allow the Community Garden to remain on Sugar River Drive, Lot 158-46, for a two-year term.**

**Motion carried 6-0**

Visitor Center Tree Trimming and Removal of Invasive Species

Mr. Hausler showed a PowerPoint presentation.

- Visitor Center Green Tree Maintenance and Invasive Species Removal
  - Purpose of this presentation is to address several areas of invasive species along the Visitors Center Green and Sugar River
  - Open up visual access to the Sugar River
  - Obtain approval to apply for NH Department of Agriculture Grant and accept donation for professional work to be completed by Stevens Forestry
  - Objectives are to begin removal of invasive species, tree trimming and tree removal
- Identified some areas of invasive species
- Remove locust trees along the lower deck to improve the view
- Showed pictures of invasives that obstruct the view of the river

Mr. Hausler said this area has become a great public space. The next two items apply to this as well.

Motion to Apply for Department of Agriculture Grant for Invasive Species Removal

**A motion was made by Mr. Bergeron and seconded by Mr. Raymond to authorize the City Manager or his designees to execute all documents and undertake all actions as may be required to apply for and, if awarded, accept a New Hampshire Department of Agriculture grant to assist funding City efforts to remove invasive plant species from areas surrounding the Visitors Center and the banks of the Sugar River.**

Ms. Messier asked about City funding. Mr. Hausler said the grant is funded 100% through the NH Department of Agriculture. It is a \$1,000 grant. The City will also work with Lee Stevens on this. The \$1,000 will not cover it all, but it is a good start. We will continue to work with the Department of Agriculture going forward.

**Voice vote: motion carried 6-0.**

Motion to Accept Tree Trimming Donation from Stevens Forestry

**A motion was made by Mr. Irish and seconded by Ms. Messier to accept with sincere appreciation in-kind donations of labor for tree trimming and removal of invasive plants from the area surrounding the Visitors Center from the Stevens Forestry Corporation of Claremont.**

**Voice vote: motion carried 6-0.**

Resolution 2012-19 Close Out Claremont Parks and Recreation Department New Community Center Capital Reserve – Public Hearing

Withdrawn; will be placed on next month's agenda.

Motion to Apply for and Accept NH the Beautiful Grant for New Trash Cans

Bruce Temple, Public Works Director, said this motion was to authorize the City to apply for \$10,000 to purchase new trash/recycle cans for the downtown area.

**A motion was made by Ms. Messier and seconded by Mr. Bergeron to authorize the City Manager or his designees to execute all documents and undertake all actions as may be required to apply for and, if awarded, accept a grant in an amount of up to \$10,000 to fund new trash/recycling receptacles for the downtown area from New Hampshire the Beautiful, Inc., a private non-profit charitable trust that supports recycling grants and signs, anti-litter programs, and provides technical assistance to recycling programs.**

Mr. Koloski asked if the cans will have a place to insert signs. Mr. Temple said the design is unknown at this time. Mr. Koloski asked about funding match. Mr. Temple said we have asked for \$10,000, but we will see what can be purchased with whatever is awarded.

Ms. Messier asked if Mr. Temple had a design in mind. Mr. Temple said to apply for the grant, you have to receive quotes for cost. He is looking at trash/recycle combination cans, but he doesn't have an exact design at this time.

**Voice vote: motion carried 6-0.**

Resolution 2012-20 Maple Ave. Wastewater Collection System Loan Payment – Public Hearing

Withdrawn. Mr. Temple will take the money from Public Works' operating budget for this first payment.

Resolution 2012-18 Apply for Safe Routes to School Grant for Sidewalks and Crosswalks - Public Hearing

Police Chief Alex Scott had previously applied for planning grants for each elementary school for barriers to walking and biking to school. The travel plans have been completed and sidewalks have been identified to be repaired or created to facilitate safe walking or biking to school. The second round of the grant funding will be used for infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Temple said that Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) is helping with the application for upwards of \$250,000. There are significant management fees that go with this, so we will have significantly less money to work with.

Nancy Merrill, Planning and Development Director, estimated that if we are awarded \$250,000, then we will have \$150,000 to work with. Areas included would be North Street to Grandview, Chellis, Shannon, Centennial, Summit/Tyler/Sullivan intersection, Myrtle Street five corners to Summit Street, crosswalk at Maple Avenue, Maple Avenue Drapers Corner to the Bourdon Centre and potentially Belding and Summer.

**A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Raymond to adopt Resolution 2012-18 Apply for Safe Routes to School Grant for Sidewalks and Crosswalks.**

Mr. Koloski read the resolution into the record.

Mayor Neilsen opened the public hearing.

Cynthia Howard, Ward 2, asked if there would be any additional requirements beyond the expiration of the grant. Ms. Merrill said the improvements would be 100% funded by the grant. There are no anticipated additional costs.

Mayor Neilsen closed the public hearing.

Mr. Bergeron said there would still be the cost to plow the sidewalks. The City Center Committee identified these sidewalks as needing to be done and the Committee supports this. Mr. Raymond said the City Center Committee overwhelmingly stated sidewalks need repair.

**Roll call vote: motion carried 6-0.**

Wireless Fire Alarm System

Fire Chief Rick Bergeron said a year ago that he had talked about problems with the current fire alarm system. It is on the CIP (Capital Improvements Program). He showed a PowerPoint presentation explaining the current system and the wireless system.

- Municipal Fire Alarm Systems
  - Current system is 1917

- How Old is the City's Fire Alarm System – Unknown
  - Been in operation since 1895
- City of Claremont Gamewell 100mil. System
  - Many miles of wire attached to utility poles
- System is Constantly Monitored at the Fire Station and is Checked Twice a Day
  - Hardwired, so lightning strikes can burn out a circuit board (1 or 2 per year) = \$1,000 or \$2,000
- System is Connected to Just Under 100 Fire Alarm Boxes
- Boxes and Wiring Divided Among Four Separate Electrical Circuits
  - Makes circular loop to the fire station
- Fuse Panels and Electronic Receiving Equipment Housed at the Fire Station and Central Dispatch
  - Ceramic fuses no longer available, but they still have some on hand
- Advantages of a Municipal Fire Alarm System
  - Signals are nearly instantaneous
  - Continuously monitored
  - Claremont's system has been used since late 1800's
  - Fire department charges \$16/month to monitor
- Disadvantages of Our Current Fire Alarm System
  - Wind damage; auto accidents; snow and ice; lightning strikes; humidity; constant maintenance and wiring upgrades
  - Impending possibility of pole attachment charges = \$44/attachment/year, estimated 1,000 to 1,500 attachments.
- Wireless Fire Alarm System
  - AES IntelliNet radio network
- Advantages of the Wireless Fire Alarm System
  - Instantaneous
  - Not subject to wind damage; snow and ice
  - Far less maintenance and no utility work on poles
  - Fiber optics
  - Can be expanded to monitor security systems
  - Less expensive for new installation
  - Safer for firefighters from electrical contacts and lightning
  - Meets NFPA standards for redundancy
- Fire Alarm Boxes Already in the Initial "Pipeline"
  - City-owned; School Department; Sullivan County Home Complex; plus other sites
  - No action required tonight; this is for information only
- Starting Point Numbers
  - 96 or 97 alarm boxes in community
  - Initial start up will change over 25 boxes immediately
  - Cost to monitor new radio boxes will stay at \$200/year

Mr. Raymond asked if this would be available to private businesses. Chief Bergeron said it would be available to anyone.

Mr. Bergeron asked when this would come to Council for approval. Chief Bergeron said it's in the CIP. Mr. Bergeron asked the Chief to come back with the cost and savings.

Ms. Messier said this is in the CIP as a lease. Chief Bergeron said that is the initial plan, but it doesn't have to go that way. Initially the City's buildings will be included. The schools are on board.

Mr. Koloski asked for clarification on the signal transmission. Chief Bergeron said the boxes have a range of 5-15 miles. Mr. Koloski asked about a timeline to phase out of hardwired. Chief Bergeron said 3-4 years. He will come back to Council at the beginning of the year to adjust the fee schedule to monitor fire alarm boxes. Currently, local boxes are \$200 a year and the mutual aid box (County Home) is \$1,000 a year. He would like to change that to a wireless box fee of \$200 and next year have the hardwired fee at \$300 because those are more expensive to maintain. All box holders will be advised of these changes.

Mr. Koloski asked Chief Scott if the City would get into monitoring security systems. Chief Scott said we would need more personnel to do that. Mr. Koloski commented that the utilities don't pay a pole tax, but the City will have to pay an attachment fee if it stays with a hardwired system.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, wondered if the pole attachment fee is economic revenge for making poles subject to property tax. He said there are two Call Firefighters on the Council and he doesn't think they would be opposed to this.

**A motion was made by Mr. Bergeron and seconded by Ms. Messier to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m.**

**Voice vote: motion carried with all voting yes except Mayor Neilsen who voted no.**

#### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Santagate said the armory has potential for City purposes. He suggested Councilors meet for a tour during the day to explore its use for police, fire and other services. A date and time will be sent out.

He said there will be a joint meeting with the school board on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the John Goodrich Business Room of the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center to discuss mutual concerns.

Mr. Santagate said he is on the advisory board for the River Valley Community College (RVCC) and he went to a meeting this past week to talk about creation of jobs and job training. There are jobs, but we don't have the qualified workforce to fit those jobs.

He is on the search committee at Granite State College for the new president.

Mr. Santagate read a letter from Arrowhead Recreation Club (ARC) referencing a land swap between ARC and a piece of property that abuts Arrowhead on Chase Street that is owned by Kyle and David Messier. The letter states that will smooth out the boundary and create more of a buffer. When the survey is done, this will be presented to the Council.

He said he will be at Arrowhead tomorrow to greet Red River Computer Company employees that are coming in to do community service in several areas of the City. He invited anyone else who wanted to join him to do so.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DIRECTIVES**

Ms. Messier asked if the auditors would come to speak to the Council. She asked about the cameras not working on Pleasant Street. Chief Scott said they are working, but the panning/auto focus feature still needs repair.

Mr. Irish said the top goal should be thinking about our most valuable resource, employees and he would like to focus on recognition, reward and support.

Mr. Koloski would like to have a discussion about the volunteer form for Parks and Recreation because he is concerned it may discourage volunteers from applying. He would like a brief update on Drapers Corner. Mr. Santagate said they are doing preliminary work on Drapers Corner and there is an issue with a FairPoint pole. All of the lead work is done and the preliminary work will be done before snow fall. Mr. Koloski would like sandwich board uses to include non-profits and churches.

Mr. Bergeron mentioned the building he had previously asked about on Pleasant Street. Mr. Santagate said we checked out the owner; no action has been taken as a broker is involved. We will check out the status. Mr. Bergeron asked about the demolition of the outdoor pool; he wants to know the cost. Mr. Santagate said we will bring that in.

Mr. Koloski said you can't see to turn from Summer onto Mulberry due to the vegetation.

Mayor Neilsen said there will be a special meeting on Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Council Chambers for the City Manager's evaluation.

Mr. Irish said the minutes of the September Council meeting shows that it will cost \$50,000 for demolition of the outdoor pool. Mr. Bergeron said Mr. Hausler had said he was going out for quotes.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Claremont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

Mr. Irish has been talking with Jason Farrell about this and Mr. Irish will bring more information back to the Council. Mayor Neilsen talked about having t-shirts for this celebration.

Mr. Koloski wants to get a committee launched. Mr. Bergeron said it was talked about at the last meeting to use the same format as the City Center Committee. Mr. Koloski would like to replicate that process. Mayor Neilsen would like to have a goal that by year end a committee will be established. Mr. Irish volunteered to sit on the committee.

### Claremont City Center Project – Steering Committee Report

Mr. Bergeron said they had received the initial draft report from Cecil Group. On November 5<sup>th</sup> they will have a joint meeting of the Planning and Zoning Boards to present it. The plan is to go from 11 zones to 6 zones.

## CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

None

## ADJOURNMENT

**At 10:28 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Messier and seconded by Mr. Raymond to adjourn.**

**Voice vote: motion carried 6-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorée M. Russell  
Clerk to the Council