

The Claremont City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, September 12, 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
Ward II Councilor Roger Formidoni
At-Large Councilor Kyle Messier
At-Large Councilor Thomas Burnham

Absent:

At-Large Councilor Christopher Irish

Also present were:

Guy Santagate, City Manager

MAYOR'S NOTES

Stevens High School Student Council Update

None

Mr. Bergeron asked for a moment of silence for the four Embassy staff members who were murdered in Libya.

Ms. Messier said Ronald Wittemore, a senior citizen in Claremont who can be seen running in Monadnock Park, won three gold medals at the NH Senior Olympics. Mr. Santagate added that Mr. Wittemore will represent NH in the nationals in 2013.

Mayor Neilsen said he is a member of the Life Fellowship Church on Charlestown Road. He talked about 19 volunteer Christian builders that have been working on the church and he said he heard lots of good comments about this area. They are here for two more weeks. He is happy to have people from outside area that appreciate New England.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Bergeron to accept the minutes of the August 8, 2012, City Council meeting with the change noted.

Mr. Koloski asked to have a correction to page 18. It should be listed as Council Rule 50 instead of 34.

Voice vote: motion carried 8-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Bergeron to accept the minutes of the August 22, 2012, City Council meeting.

Voice vote: motion carried 8-0.

APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

None

OLD BUSINESS

New Community Center Update

Mayor Neilsen asked Scott Hausler, Parks and Recreation Director, if he could make the PowerPoint presentation a short one and then post it on the City's website.

Mr. Hausler agreed.

- Project Update
 - Exterior wall panels being installed and nearly complete
 - HVAC and dehumidification units installed on roof
 - Interior duct work and ceiling sheetrock being installed
 - Plumbing and electrical contractors continue working on site
 - Wall stud framing of the main floor nearly complete
 - Masons start blocking up the women's bathroom
- Pictures were shown of the wall panels, completed wall and grading, roofing is complete, energy recovery system for pool, gutter and deck drainage around pool, framing and HVAC, wall studs going up, electrical/generator system, walls around bathrooms, and block work in locker room.

Mr. Hausler said the project financials were included in the Councilors' packets.

Mr. Burnham asked about the material on the side of the building. Mr. Hausler said it is a panel system with sheathing on the inside, foam and the metal on the exterior has been pre-painted so there should be no need to repaint it.

Mr. Austin asked about the fee schedule for the facility. Mr. Hausler said the estimates to run the facility were given last year. Mr. Santagate said for the budget, we will use the numbers that were presented prior and we will try to stay in that ballpark. We should have the numbers by November 1st. Work is progressing on time/schedule. He commended Mr. Hausler and his employees for doing work related to the project and also keeping the programs going along.

Mr. Austin asked about using comparisons with other communities. Mr. Hausler said yes, that is what was used for the pro formas.

Mr. Koloski asked about change orders. Ms. Walter said we have received no more after the second. Mr. Koloski asked about getting credit for the soils used. Mr. Hausler said it was part of the change order with Osgood Construction and we did get the credit.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said he was opposed to the project, but now is looking forward to the hydro therapy. He asked when we will know the opening date.

39 Central Street Update

Police Chief Alex Scott said the last time he gave a presentation about 39 Central Street, he was waiting to find out from the Historic District Commission (HDC) about the viability of razing the building. There is significant historical value to the building. It may be more cost effective to tear down the wooden section and then save the historical section. He was able to make contact with the owner, Paul Ivanov, who talked to Finance Director Mary Walter, but no contact has been made since. On September 6, Mr. Ivanov was sent a certified letter with the final notice of intent to proceed to court by October 1. We have not received a response yet. If we get a signature from him, he can work with a realtor to try to sell that building and the City would not have to intervene. If we receive no response, then in October, we will go to Court for permission to raze the building which doesn't mean we will raze the building, but then we can take steps to find out the costs and the challenges from the HDC and the state's historical preservation office (they recommended "mothballing" the building). There were two incidents there in the last month. The Police will continue to monitor the situation.

Mr. Bergeron said he has a problem with people in Concord telling us what to do with the building. That is something that needs to be fixed. Chief Scott said he will present the most cost effective plan of action. There was mention of the Sawtooth building. Mr. Santagate reminded everyone that it cost over \$1.5 million to save that wall. Chief Scott said it makes sense to work with them, but hopefully we can work with Mr. Ivanov and not have to go that route.

Mayor Neilsen asked Ms. Walter about the taxes that are due. He said two people have contacted him about the property, but wanted to know what the City's position is on taxes. He

asked if the owner walked away, what would we do about the taxes that are due. Ms. Walter said there is no process to forgive taxes, we can only tax deed the property and take on the liability.

Mr. Burnham suggested the state would be the one to change that. Chief Scott said he will check to see if there is any flexibility to change that.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, asked to confirm that from Mr. Santagate's comments the state historic bureau's involvement in the Sawtooth building negatively impacted the condominium portion of the project. Mr. Santagate said that is correct.

Discussion on How Requests for Information from the Public to City Councilors Should be Handled

Mayor Neilsen said the current practice for an RSA 91-A request is that it goes through the City Solicitor. He said he gets private requests for 91-A, so his question was what to do if citizens approach Councilors directly for information.

Councilors discussed the matter. A citizen with a complaint should go to City Hall. The right-to-know request form is on the City's website.

Mr. Formidoni asked what the charges are. Ms. Walter said there is an hourly fee for research or a per page fee, or sometimes there is no fee for the information, it depends. Mr. Formidoni said for simple information, he's happy to get the information and then get back to the citizen.

Mr. Koloski thinks it should be up to each Councilor to decide. Ms. Messier agreed.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said he heard of Councilors having to make a 91-A request and he thinks that is absurd. He would like to see the procedure for how Councilors get information become a part of Council Rules. Mr. Bergeron made a Point of Order this is not about how Councilors get information from the City Manager, but how citizens get information from Councilors. Mr. Folta said he misinterpreted the agenda. He suggested putting the Council packet on the website in advance of the meeting. He talked about constituent service; working for the people that voted for Councilors and not for the paid public employees.

Mr. Bergeron said he does everything he can to get the information for his constituents.

Ms. Messier requested that when a Councilor brings up a Point of Order, it should be addressed right away. Mayor Neilsen said he respects Mr. Bergeron's Point of Order, but Mr. Folta redirected his comments. Mayor Neilsen said he doesn't think it is necessary to respond to each agenda item.

Proposed Change to Council Rule #50 – Conflict of Interest

Proposed Item 50. (Council Rules):

Conflict of Interest:

Conflict of Interest - If a potential for Conflict of Interest is identified, it should be brought to the attention of the entire Council at the time of discovery. Any member of the Council who might be shown to have clearly prejudged an issue or have a conflict of interest on an issue before the Council, places that issue in doubt and the City at great legal risk, therefore he or she should not take part in discussion or voting on the issue. He or she may, however, participate in the public hearing as a private citizen.

If anyone, on or off the Council, raises the question of prejudgment or conflict of interest on the part of any member and that member is unwilling to voluntarily step down, the remaining members of the Council shall hear any evidence the challenger and the challenged may have; subsequently, the Council, by two-thirds vote, shall decide whether the challenged member may sit. If there is substantial evidence of prejudgment or direct financial interest, the vote should be to require the challenged member to step down. Any two (2) members of the Council may request that the chair or the city manager secure a written opinion as to the potential conflict of interest of any Council member.

Recusal:

If a member recuses himself on an issue, he or she becomes a member of the public for purposes of that matter. A recused Councilor shall always step away from the Council table.

When the Council is in a public session, the recused member should either sit with the public or leave the room, as they choose. Of course, if the recused member is a party in the matter, he or she may also have specific rights or particular role to play in the matter, and should do so as appropriate.

When the Council is in a nonpublic session, the situation is different. The only people with a right to attend a nonpublic session are the Councilors themselves and other invited attendees. A recused member is not acting as a Councilor for that matter and thus does not have any more right to attend a nonpublic session than any other member of the public. Therefore, when a Councilor recuses himself or herself from a matter in a nonpublic session, he or she should leave the meeting room immediately and return when the discussion and/or action on that matter have ended.

Mr. Bergeron asked if the only problem last month was the number. All agreed.

A motion was made by Mr. Bergeron and seconded by Ms. Messier to adopt Council Rule 50 – Conflict of Interest.

Roll call vote: motion carried 8-0.

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

The purpose of this proposed change is to enact a weight limitation for commercial vehicles on the portion of Pearl Street between Central and Sullivan Streets to less than 10,001 pounds. This proposal has been requested by Pearl Street residents and the Traffic Advisory Committee as a result of safety concerns arising from increased heavy truck traffic on this portion of Pearl Street as they cut through from Central to Sullivan Street.

Enactment of this Ordinance will result in increased safety for both motor vehicles and residents along Pearl Street and will permit posting of the weight limitation.

Chief Scott said this came about as a result of complaints that trucks were causing damage on Pearl Street, so it made sense to prohibit tractor trailer-size trucks from going onto that street. The Traffic Advisory Committee recommended this change.

A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Austin to adopt Ordinance 528 No Thru Trucking on Pearl Street between Sullivan and Central Streets.

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

Mayor Neilsen opened the public hearing.

Joe Osgood, Ward 2, said the 10,000 pound limit bothers him. His Chevy pickup has a gross weight of 12,000 pounds so he can't go down that road.

Mr. Koloski questioned the weight limit, too. He has a box truck that is more than 10,000 lbs.

Mr. Bergeron said this will even eliminate motor homes from using the road.

Mr. Osgood recommended raising the limit to 25,000 lbs.

Chief Scott recommended tabling this until next month.

Mr. Koloski rescinded his motion and Mr. Austin rescinded his second.

Bruce Temple, Public Works Director, said he will work with Chief Scott on this.

A motion was made by Mr. Bergeron and seconded by Ms. Messier to table this until we can get more information.

Voice vote: motion carried 8-0.

Ordinance 529 Fiscal Year Conversion – Second Reading – Public Hearing

The purpose of this proposed change is to change the City's fiscal year to a July 1 through June 30 budget cycle and allow for quarterly billing and collection of property taxes.

Enactment of this Ordinance will result in the City's budget cycle being synchronized with the state budget cycle and provide the opportunity for improved cash flow and less reliance on tax anticipation notes (TAN).

Ms. Walter said there have been no changes since the last presentation.

A motion was made by Mr. Bergeron and seconded by Mr. Raymond to adopt Ordinance 529 Fiscal Year Conversion.

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

Ms. Walter said if this is passed, we will start a media blitz now so people will be ready to pay their taxes no later than April 1st instead of in July.

Mayor Neilsen opened the public hearing.

Jason Farrell, Ward 1, said he tried to use his Visa card to pay for his car registration, but couldn't do it.

Mayor Neilsen closed the public hearing.

Roll call vote: motion carried 8-0.

Ms. Walter said Visa does not allow us to take their card at the window and then charge the convenience fee. You can use Visa for certain modules online and pay the convenience fee. We are working to get the ability to do this for the other modules as well. In house, you can only use Mastercard and Discover.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Jason Farrell, Ward 1, asked who owns the four Welcome to Claremont signs. There are organizations that would like to repair or replace the signs. He asked about the 250th Anniversary for the City. Lastly, he suggested Councilors call each other by their courtesy titles and surnames as it is more professional.

Mr. Bergeron said the Claremont Kiwanis Club is working with City staff to replace the signs and notifying organizations with signs on the poles where they can pick them up.

Robin Widdeman, Ward 2 resident and Claremont 4-H Club Leader, thanked the Council and Claremont for allowing them to use City land (Community Garden on Sugar River Drive) for their growing program. Accomplishments: families received fresh vegetables; the 4-Hers took first place at the Cornish Fair for their vegetables; Sara Provencher took first place in the open category for her herbs; produce has been taken to the Soup Kitchen; the children are learning how to preserve some of the food for the winter. She asked that the 4-Hers be able to continue to use the Community Garden and to be able to get it ready this fall for next year.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said in reference to Mr. Farrell's comment about the form of address for the Council that he thinks it has merit and value.

Joe Osgood, Ward 2, said yesterday at Claremont Middle School he was told by the moderator he had to move his truck out of the parking lot as it had a campaign sign on it. He was told he couldn't have campaign signs in the parking lot. He asked for a written policy of where campaign signs can and cannot be posted before the next election (after this November).

Mr. Bergeron said there is a law that the moderator can determine that signs be 500 feet from the polling place.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said that political expression is a fundamental right and he recommended the City depend on legal advice.

Rebecca Vinduska, Ward 1, recommended continuing with the Community Garden. The pride and progress of the children is great.

Steve Raymond, Ward 1, said that yard sale signs on telephone poles look awful. He thinks something should be done about yard sale signs not being removed when the sale is done.

NEW BUSINESS

Outdoor Pool Update

Mayor Neilsen said at the last meeting that a Councilor had questioned if the damage to the water gutter system was as serious as stated and if the City continues with the closure, where are we in terms of cost for that closure.

Mr. Santagate said the damage is serious enough for us to conclude that repairs would be too costly.

Mr. Hausler said that during previous presentations the damage was shown. The need for repairs has been identified during budget discussions since 2005. In 2010, the pool gutter system repair was going to cost about \$255,000. He also talked about the need for a new surge tank, a \$70,000 expense; installing a bulkhead divider (not necessary, but helpful) which allows programming the facility differently, cost of \$80,000; and work on the filtration system. The total cost would

be \$600,000 and with the bulkhead divider, it would be \$520,000. Those prices came from Aquatic Development and did not include the bathhouse which is designed to be in the southern part of the country. Last year, a water meter was put in and we know we are losing a lot of water; a repair was done to the center seam of the pool. Without the money to make the repairs, it made sense to close the pool. He can come back to a future meeting and talk more about the water features that could replace the outdoor pool. If Council would like, he could get current repair costs from Aquatic Development.

Mayor Neilsen asked about the costs for the next step. Mr. Hausler said Osgood Construction has estimated it would cost \$50,000 to demolish, remove debris and cap off the space. That would have to be done to install a spray pad. The facility is 30 plus years old.

Mr. Bergeron said when Council approved closing the pool, that Mr. Hausler would come back with the cost to remove the pool. Mr. Bergeron suggested waiting a year after the opening of the new Community Center pool to come back with suggestions for a new water feature. He wants to know the cost to remove the old pool.

Mr. Burnham asked if the fence could be used at the dog park. Mr. Hausler said it has some value.

Mr. Bergeron asked for a firm figure for removal. Mr. Hausler said it is \$50,000.

Skateboard Park Update

Mary Walter, Finance Director, said at the last meeting that Mr. Irish had questions about surveillance cameras down there.

Mr. Raymond had a concern that there is no cable with a buoy system to stop someone from going over the dam. People can walk to the river in that area.

Mr. Burnham said there was a safety cable there at one time. Ice took the cable out, but there are anchors on both sides.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, thought the issue was about naming of public buildings. Mayor Neilsen said he is mistaken. Naming the pavilion has already been done. Naming public facilities was tabled.

Mr. Hausler said in reference to security that the conduit is in place and a security light is in place. However, there is no direct line of site to the Police Department for a wireless camera. That will be addressed in the near future. He said the value of that space is one of the best expenses for a recreation facility. It gets a lot of use. His department does have to address vandalism and trash. In reference to safety, part of the plan was to have fencing put up. A split rail fence is in place in the parking area. State Fish and Game has identified that location as a

kayak retrieval spot. Pavilion design is close to being done. Application has been started for shoreland protection.

Motion to Re-adopt Investment Policy

Lisa Richmond, Treasurer, said this is an annual review of the Investment Policy. She talked about a change to Section IV General Policy, D Safekeeping and Collateralization. RSA 48-16 was expanded to allow a different form of collateralization.

A motion was made by Mr. Formidoni and seconded by Mr. Burnham that the Claremont City Council, pursuant to RSA 47:6 and RSA 48:16, hereby re-adopts the City of Claremont Investment Policy, as amended, and authorizes the City Manager or his designees to take such actions as may be necessary to implement said Investment Policy in accordance with state law and regulation.

Voice vote: motion carried 8-0.

Motion to Approve Existing Trash Receptacle Improvements

Bruce Temple, Public Works Director, said there had been a discussion about making improvements to the City trash receptacles in front of the Moody Building and up Pleasant Street. His department is in the process of writing a grant to NH the Beautiful to purchase new trash receptacles that would also accept recycling. If successful, he would come back to the Council to apply for and expend the money. He said that Jason Farrell and others would like to spruce up the current receptacles.

Jason Farrell said the aggregate panels are removable and would be replaced by panels made of corrugated plastics. Some suggested panels would include Claremont's 250th Anniversary and a reminder to put trash in the container, etc.

Mayor Neilsen asked to confirm that downtown businesses would not use these for advertising their businesses. Mr. Farrell said they would not.

Ms. Messier said this is a nice temporary fix and asked who would keep up with this. Mr. Farrell said he will do it.

Mr. Koloski asked if this was being done by Renegade Art Group or the Heart of Claremont. Mr. Farrell said Renegade Art Group is a subgroup of the business group and they will be in charge of this. Ms. Messier asked if Mr. Farrell was committed to this for a specific time period. Mr. Farrell said he will commit to do this until the new receptacles come in regardless of the time.

A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Raymond that the Claremont City Council hereby authorizes the Renegade Art Group to undertake renovations and

improvements to existing public trash receptacles in the downtown area in consultation with the Public Works Department, with the Renegade Art Group returning to Council with a value of the project for final acceptance upon completion.

Councilors think this is a wonderful idea.

Mr. Burnham asked if someone could pay for a panel. Mr. Farrell said they will be used for City functions and non-profit events.

Mr. Raymond suggested working with the school art programs. Mr. Farrell said he hoped the High School would take on the receptacle by Stevens High School. Mr. Bergeron said we need to stick with the plastic insert instead of other materials that are not weatherproof.

There was discussion about what can be put on the panels and which department will have the overall responsibility. Mr. Temple said Public Works takes care of the receptacles and will continue to do so. Mr. Farrell said the aggregate panels will be given to Public Works for storage.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said this discussion gets at the perception that Claremont is a wet blanket on citizen initiatives. He said there has to be fair guidelines and we have to think about how to advance the culture and protect the City.

Mr. Bergeron suggested Mr. Farrell and Mr. Temple get together to determine what is acceptable.

Voice vote: motion carried 8-0.

Mayor and Assistant Mayor Responsibilities

Mr. Burnham read from an August 3, 2012, letter from Ms. Taylor to the Council referencing RSA 49-C:16 General Powers and Duties of Mayor and City Manager. If the Mayor is absent, it falls to the Assistant Mayor to assume the duties of Mayor.

Mayor Neilsen said Council Rule #4 talks about the Assistant Mayor taking the chair at the hour appointed for the Council to meet.

There was discussion of Council Rules versus City Charter. Mr. Bergeron said the City Charter supersedes Council Rules. Mayor Neilsen agreed.

Mr. Burnham asked for better communication between the Mayor and Assistant Mayor.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said the problem arose because of an agenda issue. He thinks agenda setting should be worked on. He talked about the Mayor and Assistant Mayor duties as well as

agenda setting in the other NH cities. Citizens can call him at 542-3233 to get information. He suggested having a written procedure.

Discussion of How Agenda is Formed and Councilor Input

Mayor Neilsen said previously the City Manager set the agenda, copy was sent to the Mayor and if changes were needed, he would communicate that to the City Manager; when approved, it would be posted and it was up to Mayor Neilsen to forward it to the Council. He asked what process Councilors would like to use for input. Distribution will be made to the whole Council when the agenda is finalized.

Councilors agreed with leaving the process as is.

Mr. Bergeron said that if five Councilors made a request, then an item can be placed on the agenda. Mr. Raymond suggested including the Assistant Mayor in agenda discussions.

Councilors like receiving a copy of the agenda before they get the packet. Mr. Santagate reminded everyone that it is a preliminary agenda because it has to go to the newspaper 14 days before the meeting in order to be published at least 10 days before the meeting. Some changes can be made 48 hours before a meeting. The agenda and revisions will be sent to all Councilors and be posted in two public places.

Mr. Bergeron asked to be notified when an agenda item that was supposed to be on the agenda gets taken off. Mayor Neilsen will try to do more follow-up on Councilor requests.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, liked that Councilors receive an advanced copy of the agenda. He asked if he could get on the e-mail list for the agenda. Ms. Russell reminded him that the agenda is posted on the City's website.

Setting Up Meeting with School Board

Mayor Neilsen said we are working with the school superintendent to put a meeting together.

Establish Time Limits for Council Meetings

Mr. Burnham suggested the end time be 10 p.m. with a half hour extension if necessary, but the extra half hour has to be voted on by the Council.

Mayor Neilsen noted one meeting went extraordinarily long because of two non-public sessions. Non-public sessions will cause a problem with the 10 p.m. stop time.

Ms. Messier suggested if the meeting appears to be going later than 10 p.m. that Council vote to put the rest of the items on the next month's agenda or to vote for a second meeting. Mr.

Bergeron agreed. Mr. Raymond suggested looking at the agenda at 9:45 p.m. to determine if another meeting is needed.

Mr. Koloski would rather control the agenda instead of setting a time limit. He would rather see us lighten the load.

Mr. Bergeron agreed to set the time limit with the extension, but doesn't want to limit Councilors' ability to ask questions. Mr. Burnham agreed.

Mr. Formidoni said he would not object to scheduling a separate meeting for special events. Mayor Neilsen agreed.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, talked about other cities' meeting schedules. He said one other city mayor sets the priority so things can get done first and citizen input can be done early.

Mr. Bergeron noted Mr. Folta did not mention Keene's rule; that doesn't allow public to speak during the meeting. Mayor Neilsen commented that Mr. Folta had spoken 10 times during this meeting and if the time limit was changed from 5 minutes to 3 minutes, we would be ahead of the agenda. Mr. Bergeron would like to see that limit changed to 3 minutes. Mr. Folta said there are other forums that citizens can use, but you might prefer this one.

Mr. Raymond noted per Council Rules that the Mayor may allow a citizen to speak on agenda items, they don't have to speak on every item.

Mr. Bergeron suggested asking for a consensus to hold the meeting until 10 p.m. with a provision for a half-hour extension. All Councilors agreed except Mr. Koloski who voted nay.

Special Meeting to Discuss Goals and Evaluation Process for the City Manager

Mayor Neilsen asked Councilors to think about a date for the meeting. He will forward to the Councilors a copy of the previous evaluation form that was used.

Mr. Bergeron said the purpose would be to discuss with Mr. Santagate and Finance Director Mary Walter the goals for next year. He said the public can come to listen, but not speak. Mayor Neilsen agreed.

Ms. Messier asked if there are City goals. Mr. Santagate said he has goals that he can provide to the Council.

Mr. Koloski asked for each Councilor to write down four things that each Councilor wants/direction they want the City to go.

Mr. Burnham said that voting for the 18 month budget is setting one of the goals. He liked Mr. Koloski's idea.

Mayor Neilsen asked if Council wanted a meeting on September 26 to talk about goals. Mayor Neilsen asked about the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan). Mr. Santagate said we should have it by then. Mayor Neilsen asked about the financial implications of the CIP. He said he would forward a copy of the previously used City Manager evaluation spreadsheet to the Councilors. Mr. Koloski reminded Councilors to not e-mail about it. He asked about the time requirement for the notice. Mr. Santagate said since they would not discuss financial matters, there is time.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Santagate said we will be resurfacing Coy Bridge at the beginning of October and it will be closed for 30 days. The merchants in the area have been notified. Detour signs will be put in place and notices will be sent to the newspaper soon.

Mr. Santagate said there will be a Hazardous Waste Collection day this Saturday, 9 a.m.-12 noon at Public Works. It is free of charge to Claremont residents. For more information, go to www.uvhhw.org.

Mr. Santagate said there is a public forum at the John Goodrich Room at Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center, scheduled for Thursday, 6:30 p.m., to discuss school improvements. General aid that was proposed years ago will not be available. The legislature set aside \$50 million for new schools, but \$43 million is designated to pay off prior construction jobs, so that leaves \$7 million available. This will be separate from any other school board meeting.

Mr. Bergeron asked if the bridge closure can be placed on the City website.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DIRECTIVES

Mr. Burnham asked about sidewalks: using asphalt as well as concrete. He remembers a discussion about sidewalks in the City Center staying concrete.

Ms. Messier suggested this may come up during the budget.

Mr. Bergeron said the City Center Committee did a survey of all City sidewalks and they will meet on Monday, 5-6:30 p.m. at the Visitors Center with Mr. Temple to go over the list. The meeting is open to the public.

Mr. Austin asked about weeds growing up around the telephone poles. Mr. Santagate said that is something we may have to do. To spray the weeds requires licensing. That will be part of the budget process. Mr. Santagate said we received a letter from FairPoint, or the company they sold the phone booths to, saying to keep the booths will cost \$75 per month.

Ms. Messier asked about the security cameras on Pleasant Street not working. Mr. Santagate said he would check with Police Chief Scott for the status.

Mr. Koloski said at the Visitors Center, there is an empty pole where a camera may have been. Also, there are cameras in the Visitors Center that are pointed toward the floor.

Mr. Austin said at the Planning Board meeting that someone told him they saw a dog defecating on City property, but the owner did not clean it up. He asked how you police that kind of thing and also, who enforces that.

Ms. Messier said a couple of months ago, Constellation Energy recognized the City for 20% energy usage. She asked for more information. Mr. Santagate said we can do an update.

Ms. Messier said last year board members came in and were recognized. Mr. Santagate said that was done once a month or every other month.

Mayor Neilsen said board and committee appointments are on every agenda. He asked about having the chairperson of each committee come during that time to be recognized.

Mr. Koloski asked about the funding for the board and committee recognition night last year. Mr. Santagate said the City did that.

Ms. Messier said Council needs to address the request to use the Community Garden next year this fall. Mr. Raymond said Council needs to make a decision in October. Mr. Bergeron said it should be advertised as a public hearing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Claremont City Center Project – Steering Committee Report

Mr. Bergeron said the committee met with the consultant and was given a list of six zoning programs. They chose one. They will have a preliminary discussion on the 25th. When it is done, there will be proposed changes. They should have a draft report to the Planning Board and Council in six weeks. The plan is to meet with the Zoning and the Planning Board together. Mr. Raymond thinks this will be a good program for Claremont.

Claremont 250th Anniversary Committee

Mr. Koloski asked that City Staff reach out to those that were doing this.

Mr. Santagate suggested that Scott Hausler could head up a committee to dovetail with other events such as up at Arrowhead. Mr. Bergeron said Mr. Hausler has enough issues with the New Community Center. Mr. Santagate will pull him in after the building opens.

Mr. Koloski suggested appointing people as was done for the City Center Committee.

Mr. Santagate said we can do something. Mr. Bergeron liked Mr. Raymond's idea to advertise that we are looking for a certain number of people interested in doing this and to have a Councilor on the committee.

Mayor Neilsen asked about money for this and Mr. Santagate said we could talk about it during the budget process.

Ms. Messier liked the idea of advertising for this and inviting people to come forward to help.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said Ray Gagnon spearheaded it initially. The model of the City Center Steering Committee works well. An engaged leader with significant staff support works well. He suggested inviting the community to give ideas. He talked about a public/private partnership having the best chance of success.

CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice vote: motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorée M. Russell
Clerk to the Council