

The Claremont City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, June 12, 2013, 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:

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

Absent:

At-Large Councilor Keith Raymond
Assistant Mayor Andrew Austin

Also present were:

Guy Santagate, City Manager
Jane Taylor, City Solicitor

MAYOR'S NOTES

Mayor Neilsen asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Councilor Keith Raymond's mom.

Claremont School Board Update

None

Ms. Messier said in mid-May there was an article in the Union Leader about HotZero heating Claremont buildings with hot water. She said this is good news.

Mr. Irish noted that NH Magazine had named Claremont the 2013 Best of NH Town on the Rise.

Mayor Neilsen said at the front desk of the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center (CSBCC) there is a pictorial of the CSBCC that was done by Athletic Business.

Mr. Koloski said the State of NH Film Office will highlight the CSBCC by holding its next meeting there Wednesday, 5 p.m. Mayor Neilsen said the contact person at the NH Film Office is Matthew Newton.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Koloski asked to change a sentence in the May 29th minutes. “Mr. Koloski said if this is approved, it would result in 13 layoffs.” He asked that it be changed to a question.

A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Bergeron to accept the minutes of the May 8 and 29, 2013, City Council meetings with the correction.

Voice vote: Motion carried 7-0.

APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Parks and Recreation Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Irish and seconded by Mr. Koloski to re-appoint Jolene Tenney to seat #4 – At Large of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Council thanked Mr. Thomas Davis for also applying and encouraged him to apply for other available board seats.

Voice vote: motion carried 7-0.

Tax Increment Finance District Advisory Board – Downtown

A motion was made by Ms. Messier and seconded by Mr. Koloski to re-appoint Eugene Lattuga, Jr. to seat #1, Matthew Nelson to seat #3 and Robert Porter to seat #4 of the Tax Increment Finance District Advisory Board – Downtown with much thanks for continuing on this important board

Voice vote: motion carried 7-0.

Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Bergeron and seconded by Ms. Messier to appoint Thomas Rock to seat #2 and Richard Wahrlich to seat #3 of the Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission.

Voice vote: motion carried 7-0.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Irish to appoint David Nichols to seat #6A of the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Voice vote: motion carried 7-0.

Business Corridor Project – Steering Committee

A motion was made by Mr. Formidoni and seconded by Mr. Burnham to appoint Russell Fowler, Paul LaCasse and Kenneth Harlow to the Business Corridor Project – Steering Committee with thanks.

Voice vote: motion carried 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Peter Wright, VRH CEO

At 6:45 p.m. Mr. Bergeron left Council Chambers.

Mr. Santagate introduced Peter Wright, President and Chief Executive Officer of Valley Regional Hospital (VRH). In addition to his extensive management background, he understands collaboration, partnerships and the value of working together. The City has a lot of common goals with the hospital; it is one of our largest employers in the City. He looks forward to working with Mr. Wright in the future.

At 6:47 p.m. Mr. Bergeron returned to Council Chambers

Peter Wright said he is the president and CEO of VRH. He said this is a fantastic hospital that provides excellent quality of care. The hospital is part of a national collaborative through the American Hospital Association on a quality improvement project. A national speaker said NH is one of the best states in this collaborative and VRH is one of the best, if not the best in the state. He talked about the quality of care and used the example that people go to Disney because they have an amazing experience so he wants people to go to VRH because they have a fantastic experience. There are five hospitals within a 30 minute drive of Claremont, so people have a choice of where to seek healthcare. He wants people to choose VRH, to make it their hospital, so part of that is to reconnect with the community. The hospital belongs to the community. He wants to work on the great experience. He talked about Claremont being the editor's pick for Best of NH Town on the Rise. The hospital wants to get involved with economic revitalization of the community. They are working with the City to put together a pool therapy program at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center. They are working with the high school to provide a medical team for the athletes and they are collaborating on an athletic trainer. Their pediatric team will get involved with the health of the students. They are working with businesses on an occupational medicine program. He was trained in the resort industry; he was a member of the law enforcement community; he was a member of the fire service; and he is a big volunteer in community activities. In this region the three biggest industries are government, healthcare and education, so they are teaming up with the schools and they will team up with local government. He sees great potential here.

Mr. Formidoni asked if the role of critical access hospitals will change under the affordable care act. Mr. Wright said yes. VRH has a solid piggybank. They have a volume challenge right now that will be taken care of by a new orthopedic surgeon (he is Harvard trained) who will be coming in July. Their board of trustees is thoughtful and has no personal agendas. Part of the strategic plan is to reconnect with the community. He talked about a management service agreement and said he is an employee of Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) and there is collaboration between VRH and DHMC. He said he also meets on a regular basis with CEOs of Mt. Ascutney, New London and Alice Peck Day Hospitals.

Mayor Neilsen talked about two programs from VRH: Connecticut Valley Home Care and the hospice group, and that they have made a significant impact in this community.

Mr. Wright said the future of health care is in home care and the future of end of life care is in palliative care and hospice. He said anytime Council wants him to come back, he and his team will be here, contact him anytime, his door is always open.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said he was at the hospital gathering that welcomed Mr. Wright. He talked about the hospital being the biggest employer and that employment is regional. He asked what percentage of hospital employees are Claremont residents and what percentage commutes. Mr. Wright said the operating budget is \$50 million and approximately 2/3 is payroll and benefits. He estimated 75% of the employees come from Claremont, Charlestown, Cornish and Plainfield. He said the economic impact of the hospital is two times its operating budget.

New Community Center Update

Scott Hausler, Parks and Recreation Director, gave an update of the number of members, expenditures and revenues.

- Total members 3,656
- Units issued 1,682
- Expenditures \$302,816.62 January through May (not closed out)
- Revenues \$276,821.22 January through May (not closed out)
- POS
 - Daily Admissions as of May 31 – 4,851
 - Over 36,000 visits to the facility
 - Net Revenue POS \$19,549.00
 - Total Net Revenue Pkg (includes deferred payment plans) \$355,859.90
 - Net Revenue Paid Pkg \$256,468.56
 - Non-Res Usage: 15% of Total

Mayor Neilsen complimented Mr. Hausler on the cleanliness of the facility and the friendliness of the staff.

Mr. Irish concurred with Mayor Neilsen. He noted the facility is averaging \$55,000 a month income which is about \$25,000 below breaking even which is close to what was predicted. Mr.

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Hausler said cost recovery was higher than that. For net revenues, we need to keep in mind the deferred payments.

Ms. Messier said last month there were about 30,000 visits and this month it is up to 36,000 which is about 6,000 in the last month which is a good amount of people. Mr. Hausler said the number does not include the people that come for events.

Mr. Koloski asked about parking issues. Mr. Hausler said we still have some issues, but with the additional signage it is improving.

Council Goals

Top Goals Submitted By Councilors

Goal	Councilor	Priority
Succession Plan for City Manager	Mayor, Nick	
Use or Sale of City Owned Property	Mayor, Roger, Tom	
Regular Updating of the New City Web Site	Mayor	
Better Use of Visitor Center / Planning Office	Mayor, Nick	
Resolution of Collective Bargaining Issues	Nick, Roger	
Make City Operations Smarter, More Efficient	Nick	
Promotion of City as a Place for Business or Residence	Roger	
Enforce Rules for Low Income Rental Properties	Roger	
Support Economic Development to Increase Tax Base	Kyle	
Support Successful City Center Revitalization	Kyle	
Support Improvement of Blighted Neighborhoods	Kyle	
Support Successful Community Center	Kyle	
Link Education to Economic Development / Work Force Training	Kyle	
Financial Aid to Help Youth		

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Use the New Community Center / Programs	Tom	
Work with all stakeholders (SAU, CYBA, Parks and Rec., adult leagues, etc.) to develop a City-wide recreation commission to oversee the most efficient and positive use of athletic fields and resources for everyone	Chris	City Manager and Council Sub-Committee
Work with SAU to leverage technology throughout the City	Chris	City Manager and Council Sub-Committee
Research combining the SAU and City into one form of government	Chris	City Manager and Council Sub-Committee
Review all ordinances, fees, etc. relating to Parks and Rec.	Chris	City Manager and Council Sub-Committee

Mayor Neilsen noted the top four items on the list were mentioned by two or more Councilors. He said the City Manager's goals had morphed into City goals. He asked Councilors to look at these and to set priorities to give the City Manager a direction to follow. These are broadbased goals. He noted that usually when Council makes a request to the City Manager, it is taken care of.

Mr. Formidoni suggested combining "Promotion of City as a Place for Business or Residence" with "Support Economic Development to Increase Tax Base" and "Enforce Rules for Low Income Rental Properties" with "Support Improvement of Blighted Neighborhoods." Mayor Neilsen agreed those could be combined. Mr. Bergeron said "Enforce Rules for Low Income Rental Properties" was already being done through Welfare. The City is not giving rental assistance without a compliance inspection. Mr. Koloski said the City has identified problems that we were not aware of previously. Mayor Neilsen said to strike out "Enforce Rules for Low Income Rental Properties."

Ms. Messier said the goals at the top of the page with multiple Councilors listed should be priorities. Mr. Koloski asked if the "Use or Sale of City Owned Property" could be taken off because it is already being done. Council discussed and agreed that it should be left on the list. Mr. Bergeron said the number one priority is having a succession plan for the City Manager. Mayor Neilsen said he would like to see the City Manager develop a strategic plan that could be used by a future City Manager. We need to know who would take over if Mr. Santagate was not able to show up for work. Mr. Bergeron said Council should have a policy for hiring a new City Manager. Mr. Irish agreed with Mr. Bergeron.

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Mr. Bergeron recommended keeping this document and as an item is finished, to remove it. He suggested starting at the top and working down. Mr. Irish said that certain ones will be ongoing and asked if there was a way to segregate them. Mayor Neilsen said a lot of these are reminders of things that need to be done. Council can add to the list, if needed. Mr. Irish said he would like to start moving on the succession plan tonight. He asked if the Mayor and City Manager can start talking. Mayor Neilsen said he will start talking with Mr. Santagate on this. Mr. Bergeron said he thinks a committee of two or three people should work with the City Manager. Mayor Neilsen thought that was a good idea especially if there is turn over on the Council. Ms. Messier said she would like all Councilors to work on this in public. Mr. Bergeron thought it was a good idea. Ms. Messier requested Staff put together a framework for Councilors to work from. Mr. Irish suggested community members could give input. Council agreed about the framework. Mayor Neilsen said between now and year's end for Mr. Santagate to come back with a framework of a succession plan. Ms. Messier said she would like "Support Economic Development To Increase Tax Base" toward the top of the list.

Mr. Burnham said that "Regular Updating of the New City Web Site" is critical and should be done on a daily basis. Mr. Koloski noted that updating has been happening and he has heard a lot of good compliments about the new website. Ms. Messier said she heard positive comments from alumni this weekend.

Top Goals Revised By Councilors

Goal	Councilor	Priority
Succession Plan for City Manager	Mayor, Nick	
Use or Sale of City Owned Property	Mayor, Roger, Tom	
Regular Updating of the New City Web Site	Mayor	
Better Use of Visitor Center / Planning Office	Mayor, Nick	
Resolution of Collective Bargaining Issues	Nick, Roger	
Make City Operations Smarter, More Efficient	Nick	
Promotion of City as a Place for Business or Residence and Support Economic Development to Increase Tax Base	Roger, Kyle	
Support Successful City Center Revitalization	Kyle	
Support Improvement of Blighted Neighborhoods	Kyle	
Support Successful		

Community Center	Kyle	
Link Education to Economic Development / Work Force Training	Kyle	
Financial Aid to Help Youth Use the New Community Center / Programs	Tom	
Work with all stakeholders (SAU, CYBA, Parks and Rec., adult leagues, etc.) to develop a City-wide recreation commission to oversee the most efficient and positive use of athletic fields and resources for everyone	Chris	City Manager and Council Sub-Committee
Work with SAU to leverage technology throughout the City	Chris	City Manager and Council Sub-Committee
Research combining the SAU and City into one form of government	Chris	City Manager and Council Sub-Committee
Review all ordinances, fees, etc. relating to Parks and Rec.	Chris	City Manager and Council Sub-Committee

Motion to Authorize and Accept Donation of Fence Replacement, Map 158-46

Mike Tetu, Ward 1, sent his condolences to Councilor Raymond's family. He talked about the April 22nd meeting with Staff to talk about the fence replacement at the Community Garden. At that meeting, he said it was agreed the replacement fence would go where the snow fence had been; it would be constructed with 4 x 4 posts and hemlock railing; the material cost was negligible and the labor would be an afternoon's work. He doesn't have documentation of, and he doesn't know exactly when, his original authorization for the fence was given. The materials were salvaged and there were no costs to him. He asked to have authorization to mow the section from the fence to river prior to July 4th. He talked about reflectors on the river side of the fence. He purchased reflectors at a cost of \$17 (one for each post). He said JT Landscaping mowed the area last year was willing to do it again this year. He preferred that Council know about the mowing. Other topics discussed at the meeting were management of invasive species on site (i.e. sumac and knotweed); the attractive nuisance aspect of the river; riprap for erosion control; the Clark well pump house needs to be looked at; the river is up and we are losing property daily. He signed a volunteer waiver and put the fence up.

Ms. Taylor said Mr. Tetu was told that the authorization to put up a replacement fence had to come from Council. A risk management person from Primex reviewed the area and gave us

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examples of the type of fence that could be used. The fence would show the extent of the Community Garden area. There is water and sewer infrastructure on that parcel. The fence had to be of a recognizable nature so that people wouldn't stumble into it.

Mr. Irish asked if the fence is already up. Mr. Tetu said yes. He provided the used materials (hemlock rail and 4 x 4s). The only expense he has incurred is to purchase the reflectors and he intends to put them up.

Mr. Irish asked about the examples from Primex. Ms. Taylor said the Primex report gave examples, but didn't say it had to be a specific type of fence. At the meeting, it was discussed that the fence was to be done in coordination with Public Works. Mr. Tetu said at the meeting he explained what the materials for the fence would be and the location. He said the only function of the fence is to delineate the garden and the rest of the open field. Mr. Irish asked who is in charge. Ms. Taylor said Mr. Tetu indicated he would do the mowing, not some other person, and that he wanted Council approval.

Scott Hausler, Parks and Recreation Director, said there was a meeting to discuss garden issues. Some of the previous Council discussions with Mr. Tetu identified what type of fence he would put up. Mr. Hausler said he is not sure it is the same fence that is up now. If Council approves this, Mr. Hausler needs to verify that the fence that is up will do what it needs to do. He spoke on behalf of the gardeners saying the fence needs to be something that can be adjusted or put in a different location as the garden changes. He will verify the fence is the appropriate one and work with Mr. Tetu to correct it, if needed.

Mr. Koloski asked to lower the dollar amount in the motion to \$250 (to cover Mr. Tetu's time and the cost of the reflectors) and to strike Mr. Tetu's name from the mowing section. Mr. Tetu said he can document that the fence was approved by Staff, if need be.

Mr. Irish wasn't sure this was needed. He said Mr. Hausler said his department would deal with it. Mr. Irish was concerned that if the fence doesn't work, who will pay for the fence that will have to go up. Mr. Koloski said it would come back before the Council. Mayor Neilsen said the fence is already up. He asked if the fence takes into consideration the future Community Garden, if not, can it be moved.

Ms. Taylor said the reason for the motion is because it is City-owned property and for a citizen to put something or do something on City-owned property, they have to have Council permission. She said Mr. Tetu had originally requested Council approve his ability to mow that property, otherwise she agreed the second part didn't need to be in the motion. The second point is, whatever the value, if it is a non-cash donation (which it is), Council has to approve and accept it.

Mr. Bergeron said when Public Works Director Bruce Temple comes back, he can look at the fence and then fix it if it needs to be. Mr. Tetu said Mr. Temple had seen the fence and that it would be fine.

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

Roll call vote: motion carried 6-1 with Mr. Irish voting no.

A motion was made by Ms. Messier and seconded by Mr. Burnham to authorize and accept with sincere appreciation in-kind donations of labor and materials valued at up to \$250.00 for fence replacement by Mike Tetu on Parcel 158-46 near the Community Gardens, such work to be undertaken in consultation with the Public Works Department, according to the risk management suggestions received from Primex.

Mr. Irish asked how Council can move the question when a motion was not on the table. Councilors concurred with his question.

Mr. Irish talked about the request for the fence being on the agenda this month and a request from the Community Garden to be on the agenda next month and what if there is disagreement about the fence. Mr. Tetu said he could take the fence down in a short period of time. Mayor Neilsen said Council will deal with it next month if it is an issue. Mr. Irish talked about being asked to approve something that was already done without permission on City-owned land. He said that was embarrassing to him.

Mr. Koloski said he will vote no because the most important part is the mowing. He would rather see that authorize the mowing with the volunteer form. In regard to mowing, he said we are being told it is a dangerous area, so why mow which would make it an attractive nuisance.

Ms. Messier said she had heard that someone could do the mowing if they sign the volunteer form. She thanked Mr. Tetu for putting up the fence.

Mr. Koloski asked who approves the mowing. Mr. Irish asked who makes sure the fence is the right one. Mr. Santagate said they would sign the waiver to mow and we will let them. Mr. Koloski asked for clarification because Mr. Tetu was saying the area is dangerous, but then he was asking to mow the area.

Mr. Tetu said the first statements made to him by neighbors when they heard the Community Garden was going there was they were concerned there would be more children there. Mr. Tetu said from the point of view of the City's insurance carrier, the guidelines suggested children be accompanied by adults and in regard to swimming, he said the expectation of preventing children or adults from gaining access to the river is not practical and next to impossible to achieve. He agreed with that. He thinks if you don't mow the field, you can't monitor the kids.

Mr. Koloski said he would have liked to have had the Primex document in the Council packet. Ms. Taylor said she can get copies for Council, but that is not what is being voted on.

Spencer Allen, Ward 3, thinks the Council needs to look at previous situations (i.e. the ATV trail fence was installed prior to getting Council approval). Mr. Koloski said that was also done for the scoreboard.

Marty Davis, Ward 2, asked Mr. Tetu about the structure of the recycled materials and if the posts are pressure treated. Mr. Tetu said yes. Mr. Davis said some gardeners are concerned about chemicals leaching into the ground.

Mr. Irish said he will vote no as what is in front of the Council is not what was agreed upon. He was concerned about accepting liability. Ms. Taylor said these were suggestions, not requirements for the City to follow.

Mr. Koloski said he will vote yes; this still has to be done with Public Works.

Roll call vote: motion carried 6-1 with Mr. Irish voting no.

Community Garden

Withdrawn

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Jerome Goggin, Ward 1, requested the City erect a fence at the end of Bond Street. Bond Street is a dead end street. A steep embankment leads down to the trail below. This embankment gets heavy use from students. They leave a lot of litter. Additionally, dog owners don't pick up waste from dogs. Foot traffic on the steep banking is eroding the bank. The City will face liability if someone falls. A fence that prevents access from Bond Street to the trail will go a long way to help improve the neighborhood.

Mr. Tetus, Ward 1, talked about a meeting with some Community Garden people and there were more applicants than available plots, so they tilled more ground right up to the fence which is the reason people are gardening close to the posts. He asked about JT signing the volunteer form in order to mow the field.

Jeff Barrette, Ward 1, asked Council to reconsider demolition of the outdoor pool. He said he doesn't believe the figures showing the cost of repairs and the amount of lost water that were previously presented and he believes they should get a second look. He said once a resource like an outdoor pool is taken away, he doesn't believe it will be easy to bring it back. He said his kids are swimmers on the Tiger Sharks team and his family belongs to the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center (CSBCC). He said there is a difference in swimming at an outdoor pool and an indoor pool. He would like, at his own expense, to do an independent assessment, put together estimates, find out what the repair costs are and come back to Council with a report. He thinks it would be better to mothball the pool until the money can be found to repair it.

Mayor Neilsen asked if it has been out to bid, who determines if it is accepted and the City moves forward.

Mary Walter, Finance Director, said the City budgeted the money to demolish the pool in the first six months of this budget. The bid was lower than the amount budgeted. She believed there were six bids. Mayor Neilsen asked what the low bid was. Ms. Walter said \$23,000.

Mr. Irish asked what the scope of the demolition is.

Scott Hausler, Parks and Recreation Director, said the scope of work is to demolish the facility, fracture the bottom, remove the walls, use some materials that don't need to be taken away to fill the hole, bring in fill, and cover it with loam and seed to make it an open field space.

Mr. Koloski said he thought there would be another step where something would come back before Council for final approval. He wondered about the impact on the dog park.

Mayor Neilsen said if there was prior vote to demolish, Council can vote to rescind if it so desires.

Mr. Irish said his conversation was not about keeping the pool open, but what to do with the demolition (i.e. reusing some of the structure).

Mr. Bergeron said there was a vote to put the demolition on hold until the new community center was opened.

Mr. Koloski said he remembers hearing something about having an outdoor water feature, but that has been taken off the table.

Mr. Bergeron said there were public hearings on this and no one objected to it.

Mr. Barrette said he wants access to the site to see the viability. He said his kids swam at the pool the last year of operation. According to the records, it lost 8 million gallons of water. He asked how you grow grass around a building that loses that much water. He said there is a problem with the math. Mr. Burnham said there is drainage in place to allow emptying of the pool. He said he ran the water plant for 20 years and that you could easily put 1 million gallons of water through the pool a day. Mr. Barrette said it may be as simple as the drainage system. He said he doesn't believe the data and he will do it on his own dime.

Chuck Allen, Ward 3 and Arrowhead Recreation Club, gave a season review: last year was a decent year due to snowmaking; the last two years they spent a tremendous amount of money on major projects (they will come back to Council in the future to give a presentation of these projects and the hundreds of thousands of dollars put into Arrowhead); tracked the volunteer hours: operational hours from December 29 to March 8 were 3650.5 hours, 84 people; 16 people worked 1,346 non-operational hours; there were 39 operational days (55 sessions); total visits 5,030; past projects: replaced old operators building; added tubing area; expanded tubing area; remodified the tubing area; added tubing lift; added groomer storage building with help of the building trades class; upgraded electrical for whole facility; Kinderfest was discontinued; Red River Computer did a community service day and painted the inside of the lodge with help from

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Parks and Recreation Department; replaced parking lot deck with help of building trades class; major kitchen upgrade to a commercial kitchen and the carpet is being professionally cleaned. There have been, and continue to be, many requests for rentals.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, talked about the poster for the 2010 median household income in connection with Welfare issues that he had previously given to Councilors. The median household income for Claremont was very low (poorest community in the region). The median 2009 market value of a single family home is fairly low for the region. Supposedly things are turning around slightly. This morning on the Northern New England Real Estate website there were 152 single family homes and 37 multi-family homes for sale in Claremont. We are continuously on the high side of homes for sale. Surplus lowers prices. It might be an indicator of people leaving Claremont. Claremont has "time bombs." The tax rate includes county and school costs (expect some expansion). He expects to see some time bombs on the City side. He said there is danger ahead.

Mayor Neilsen said that money was set aside in the budget for demolition of the outdoor pool. He asked Mary Walter how much was put in the budget. She said it was \$50,000 in the Parks budget. The amount came from an estimate that was given to Council. Mayor Neilsen read the motion from the May 9, 2012, minutes and he said that demolition was not mentioned in that motion. This discussion will have to go onto next month's agenda. He asked the City to put off awarding the bid because we don't have an official vote.

Mr. Santagate said the bid has been awarded, however the contract has not been signed. This item has been budgeted and because Council approved the money when it approved the budget, we normally go ahead with the project. Mayor Neilsen asked to wait until we get an official vote.

Mr. Bergeron said part of the closing of the outdoor pool is the demolition. Mr. Formidoni said Council approved the budget and that was in the budget.

There was a discussion about the 2012 minutes that discussed closing the outdoor pool and removing the structure. Mr. Irish is concerned that there is a lot more work that needs to be done to the land after the pool is removed and he does not want to be left with an unusable piece of ground.

Mr. Koloski asked if Council could get a copy of the CCTV tape to back up what was said.

Mayor Neilsen said demolition had been talked about for a long time. The money to demolish it had been put into the budget. Part of the money for the new community center came from not paying for the outdoor facility. Mr. Irish said the Council voted to close the pool, but he wanted the Council to have a discussion about demolition based on what they wanted to do with the area later. He would like to add that area to the park.

There was a discussion about not signing a contract before Council can further discuss this. Mr. Bergeron said he disagreed with that. Mr. Burnham said the City had every right to go forward

with the demolition. Mayor Neilsen asked Mr. Santagate to ask the company to wait until next month, but if they can't wait, Mayor Neilsen said we can hold a special meeting to deal with this. Mr. Irish said he wants a copy of the Request for Proposal/Qualifications.

Ms. Messier asked Councilors to honor Council Rule #15, Limitation of Debate.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 533 Alcohol at Arrowhead – First Reading

The purpose of this proposal is to authorize sale or service by the drink of beer and wine at programs or events held at the Arrowhead Recreational Area lodge building, subject to approval by the Director of Parks & Recreation and issuance of a license by the City's Licensing Board.

Enactment of this Ordinance will allow an exception to the Claremont City Code that prohibits sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages in any City park.

Mr. Burnham said because of his involvement with Arrowhead, he will not vote, but he would like to discuss this.

Ms. Taylor said it would be appropriate for him to step down and he could speak to the proposal as a citizen. At 9:14 a.m. Mr. Burnham stepped down from the Council table.

Mr. Koloski said he has a liquor license but does not currently have a mobile liquor license and asked if it would be appropriate for him to step down. Council said no.

Scott Hausler said Arrowhead Recreation Club (ARC) had asked about allowing alcohol consumption at the lodge for functions such as weddings, reunions, etc. Staff researched how other communities handle permitted alcohol consumption in their facilities. This ordinance would allow sale and consumption of beer and wine at Arrowhead with required Licensing Board approval. This is supported by his department.

Police Chief Alex Scott said he reviewed the history of the current ordinance regarding alcohol use in City Parks. There were problems in the 1990s, so alcohol was not allowed in parks. He feels beer and wine are an appropriate balance. The intent is to allow for a festive occasion, but not to establish a drinking establishment. The question was raised about limiting it to a non-profit organization. Events would be coordinated through Arrowhead which is a non-profit and the City is considered a non-profit. These will not be BYOB (bring your own bottle) events. It will have a licensed caterer that is serving the liquor. It will be limited to the building and the deck of the building. Liquor licensing requires that it be in a contained premise.

Ms. Taylor said because this is a recreational area funded originally by the former Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, they had very specific rules about renting, leasing, etc. and they said you can have it as incidental use.

Mr. Koloski said licensing individuals to serve off premises is regulated by the State Liquor Commission. He cautioned the City about being an additional insured on the insurance certificate.

Ms. Taylor said that is part of the City licensing process.

Mr. Koloski asked if beer and wine is currently allowed at the CSB Community Center. Chief Scott said yes, subject to Licensing Board approval.

Spencer Allen, Ward 3 and board member of ARC, said that they wanted the flexibility to have liquor, not just beer and wine and that the ARC hoped to get its own liquor license next year.

Tom Burnham, Ward 3, said that people want to rent the hall and they want alcohol. It will be well controlled. He thinks it doesn't need to be limited to wine and beer. He thinks it should include mixed drinks.

Mr. Koloski asked how the City plans to enforce just beer and wine. He said that a mobile caterer's license is not limited to just beer and wine. Mr. Hausler said that will be part of the application and licensing reviews. He said we feel comfortable having just beer and wine. Staff will be present and the permit holder will be responsible to abide by that requirement.

Mr. Irish asked about the alcohol policy at the Opera House. Ms. Taylor said it is beer and wine, subject to Licensing Board approval. Mr. Irish didn't agree that it should be limited to beer and wine. He asked about police enforcement of the beer and wine only rule. Police Chief Alex Scott said if it became problematic, it could be reviewed. Chief Scott is reticent because of the problems that occurred in the late 80s and 90s with DWI arrests after functions and being called to some of the functions. He personally feels it doesn't make sense to allow alcohol at the CSBCC, however, this is a way to test the policy. Chief Scott said the alcohol will be served by a licensed server, who would not want to risk loss of license for a violation.

Mr. Koloski said whoever is serving is the responsible party. He backs the decision to take baby steps.

Mr. Bergeron asked if there is a violation, can the permit be pulled. Ms. Taylor said if someone violated it, the permit can be terminated and the police can shut down the event.

A motion was made by Mr. Bergeron and seconded by Ms. Messier to adopt Ordinance 533 Alcohol at Arrowhead on first reading.

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

Voice vote: motion carried 7-0.

Motion to Authorize Lease Agreement with Arrowhead Recreation Club

Ms. Taylor said Arrowhead Recreation Club had a lease agreement with the City that was done in 2002. There were a couple of problems. The original term was for five years and then it could be renewed for three years. The lease term dates were not filled in and state statute says that any lease that has a term longer than seven years has to be recorded at the Registry of Deeds to be valid. The new lease will not be substantially different than the old lease. It is still in draft form. Council has to authorize the City to move forward with it.

A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Ms. Messier to authorize the City Manager or his designees to negotiate and enter into a lease agreement with the Arrowhead Recreation Club, Inc. for operation and management of certain recreational activities at the Arrowhead Recreational Area.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, wondered if Council had a copy of the lease agreement. Mayor Neilsen said no.

Voice vote: motion carried 7-0.

At 9:45 p.m. Mr. Burnham returned to the Council table.

Amend Council Rule 2 to Allow Notice by Certified Mail instead of Registered Mail

Ms. Taylor explained that Councilors had received a memo in their packets from her explaining that every time we hold a special meeting it costs more than \$10 for each notice to be sent by registered mail and a lot of times it doesn't get delivered before the meeting. The state changed the law a number of years ago so that notices sent by mail can be sent either by registered or certified mail. This change would allow notices to be mailed by certified mail, fax, e-mail or such other form of written communication where receipt can be verified to each member of the Council and City Manager. Council will vote on this next month.

Mr. Koloski referenced the multiple notifications and asked if this would streamline the process.

Mr. Irish said he has an issue with the Police delivering the Council packets and he would like to have a bigger discussion about it. Mayor Neilsen said this will be placed on next month's agenda.

Veterans Credit

Mr. Irish and Mr. Burnham said they are veterans so they stepped down from the Council table.

Mary Walter, Finance Director, read her e-mail to the Council about the Analysis of Exemptions & Credits into the record. Claremont has about 3,225 housing units. 753 people get Veterans Credit, Elderly or Disabled Exemptions.

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Below are some communities to compare to Claremont:

	<u>Veterans Credit</u>	<u>Elderly Exemption (in thousands)</u>
Claremont	\$125.00	\$30/50/77
Berlin	\$150.00	\$14/21/42
Lebanon	\$100.00	\$45/80/170
Hanover	\$ 50.00	\$80/120/165
Franklin	\$200.00	\$25/64/110
Somersworth	\$500.00	\$45/50/55

Claremont's \$150,000 homeowner pays \$73 to cover these credits/exemptions.

Mr. Bergeron asked if this is tied to income. Ms. Walter said not the Veterans Credit, but the Elderly Exemption is.

Ms. Messier asked if all veterans qualify. Ms. Walter said there are certain qualifications; we follow state law.

Chris Irish, Ward 3, said this should be expanded to include all veterans. It's not about the money, but about the respect. He talked about his personal experience and thinks all vets should get this.

Shawn McCarthy, Ward 1, said he polled other communities. If they can give more to the veterans, Claremont should increase the amount to show appreciation to veterans.

Mayor Neilsen asked to put this on next month's meeting. He asked Ms. Walter to send her spreadsheet to Councilors so they can run the "what ifs." Ms. Taylor said that information would be subject to 91-A requests.

Ms. Messier asked to do the "what ifs" at this meeting or the next meeting. Mayor Neilsen said that they wouldn't know how many non-combat veterans would qualify. Ms. Taylor said that Mr. Irish's recourse is to try to get the state law changed that would allow non-combat veterans to qualify.

Mr. Irish, Ward 3, claimed the City does have the option to offer the credit to all vets. He asked to have that looked into. Ms. Taylor asked Mr. Irish if he has the information would he give it to the City Manager's office.

Mr. McCarthy, Ward 1, wanted to clarify that his request was to increase the amount. He would like to keep this separate from who is eligible.

Ms. Walter asked Ms. Taylor the process to change the amount. Ms. Taylor said it might be changed with a resolution, but she will double-check.

Mr. Koloski said he greatly appreciated Mr. McCarthy bringing this forward, however he wants to be mindful of the people he talks to that are in a tough financial spot.

Mr. Bergeron said he understands honoring veterans, but Council has the responsibility to know who will pay the extra money.

Ms. Walter said that Claremont has a large number of veterans.

Mayor Neilsen said Claremont has a low median income compared to other communities.

Mr. Bergeron asked Ms. Walter to put together a list of certain amounts for the next meeting.

Mr. Koloski asked to get the number of people that qualify for both Veterans Credit and Elderly Exemption.

Mayor Neilsen asked Ms. Walter to bring the numbers of various increases and the impacts.

At 10:21 p.m. Messrs. Irish and Burnham returned to the Council table.

Motion to Apply for and Accept \$2,160 OHRV Enforcement Grant

Chief Scott said we have applied for this same grant program since 2004. This would run through the beginning of 2014. There will be ten 4-hour patrols for 40 hours of patrol. Since 2004, they have done over 1,030 hours of patrols; checked closed to 3,000 OHRVs; issued close to 60 summons; made 7 custodial arrests and have given out over 250 warnings. This makes the trail system safer.

Mr. Irish said he would like to see no warnings and a lot more citations issued so that people follow the rules.

A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Ms. Messier to authorize the City Manager, or his designees, to apply for, enter into an agreement with and accept a grant in the amount of two thousand, one hundred and sixty dollars (\$2,160.00) from the State of New Hampshire Fish and Game Department for the purpose of Off Highway Recreational Vehicle enforcement by the Claremont Police Department.

Mr. Koloski said a citizen in the Cat Hole area wanted it known that the posted speed limit of 10 mph is not being enforced and that there was a near-miss when an ATV flipped. Chief Scott said he will make note of that and make sure there are some cars up there.

Mr. Irish asked for confirmation that approval to ride on the road begins at the gate at the outdoor pool; Chief Scott said yes. Mr. Irish said the ATVs are now riding on Winter Street.

Voice vote: motion carried 7-0.

Resolution 2013-13 Expend Up to \$40,000 from Fire Apparatus Escrow

Rick Bergeron, Fire Chief, said this is part of the apparatus replacement plan. Originally an engine was supposed to be replaced in 2013 and the ladder in 2015, but we need to switch them. The ladder truck will cost more. Interest rates will probably start an upward trend. If we do this one now there will be some savings. In the past two years the ladder truck has needed \$36,600 repairs and the engine repairs were only \$3,600. It seems wise to get the new ladder truck.

Mayor Neilsen asked about the lease payment coming from the apparatus reserve. Ms. Walter said that \$42,300 has been budgeted for the engine. The first year lease payment for the ladder truck will be close to \$79,000.

Mayor Neilsen is concerned about lease payments. Ms. Walter said the apparatus replacement is in the CIP (Capital Improvements Plan). The lease may be for 15 years, but the vehicle will be kept for 25 years.

Mr. Santagate said he likes the pay-as-you-go policy. We're not bonding for these items.

Mr. Koloski asked about the negative effect of not replacing this. Chief Bergeron said it will affect the City's insurance rate; the ISO has penalized us for being one engine short. This will address that ISO report. The new ladder truck will also have a pump on it. We get 30 years out of a ladder truck by managing how they are used (15 years as first response and then 15 years as secondary response).

Ms. Taylor noted that it was not on the agenda as such, but this needs to be a public hearing.

Mr. Bergeron said he will support this because he knows how valuable a piece this is and he likes the approach of building in a pump.

A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Burnham to adopt Resolution 2013-13 Expend Up to \$40,000 from Fire Apparatus Escrow.

Mr. Koloski read the resolution into the record.

Mr. Folta made a point of order that the resolution was not noticed as a public hearing.

There was discussion and Chief Bergeron said it would not cause a serious problem if this were put off until next month's meeting. Ms. Taylor suggested if Council wished, it could suspend its Rules in order to consider this.

Mr. Koloski withdrew his motion. Mr. Burnham withdrew his second.

The resolution will be re-noticed for next month's meeting.

Resolution 2013-14 New Hampshire Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Grant – Public Hearing

Mayor Neilsen asked Council for a suspension of Council Rules as there was not enough time to notice this resolution. There is additional grant money available for the generator at the new community center and it is time sensitive.

A motion was made by Mr. Irish and seconded by Mr. Bergeron to suspend Council Rule 23, Filing with Clerk, to consider Resolution 2013-14 to accept and expend additional grant funds for the purchase and installation of a generator for an emergency shelter located at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center.

Voice vote: motion carried 7-0.

Fire Chief Bergeron said a switching gear was left off the original generator grant estimate in the amount of \$5,659. This resolution is to accept and expend the additional money.

A motion was made by Mr. Formidoni and seconded by Ms. Messier to adopt Resolution 2013-14 New Hampshire Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Grant.

Mr. Formidoni read the resolution into the record.

Mr. Bergeron noted that this had to be done tonight or we wouldn't be able to get the money.

Mayor Neilsen opened the public hearing.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, commented about the process.

Mayor Neilsen closed the public hearing.

Roll call vote: motion carried 7-0.

Chief Bergeron said this was done with such short notice that an Emergency Management representative drove from Concord to Claremont yesterday to hand deliver this so that we could process it and then get it back to Governor and Council. He appreciated Council working to get this done.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Santagate talked about making a presentation at a CDFR (Community Development Finance Authority) economic development forum held in Plymouth, NH. They discussed that when you cobble together funds, they don't always come in timely, so it can be difficult to get a project done. Another concern was about TIFDs (Tax Incremental Finance District) in a market with flat or declining real estate values. We don't have many economic development tools in NH and

the TIFD is one vehicle we have. There were comments that there is confusion with the permitting process. North Country and the western part of the state (where we are) are different than Concord, south and along the seacoast. These forums are very valuable and he'll participate more in the future.

He talked about the City of Claremont being named the editor's pick for The Best of NH Town on the Rise; it's a nice award for us. He talked about next week's party at the Verizon Center in Manchester; it's good opportunity for staff and Councilors to promote the City.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DIRECTIVES

Mr. Burnham would like to concentrate on getting vacant City properties on the agenda to see how to move them.

Ms. Messier would like to know more about protecting Bond Street with a fence and protecting the bank. Also, would like a better way to protect that section of the trail (i.e. from dog poop).

Mr. Formidoni agreed with Ms. Messier.

Mr. Irish agreed with Ms. Messier. He asked if there is an ordinance restricting walking and/or cleaning up after dogs on the Rail Trail. He asked for an update on the sale of the GCC (Goodwin Community Center) property.

Mr. Koloski said he has started a conversation in the community about having an ordinance about how far down a window would have to be left open when a dog is left inside a vehicle. He would like to proceed with it. He asked for a tax update (he's heard a lot of complaints/confusion about the billing process) and he would like to know where we stand with properties that we have tax deeded.

Mr. Santagate said there is confusion between the budget, tax and fiscal years. It used to be that the July 1 payment was for the period January 1 to June 30, so we were always paying in arrears. We are now paying as expenses are incurred.

Mr. Bergeron said we need to do an efficiency audit in all the departments. He would like to discuss it at the next meeting.

Mr. Koloski asked about paying water and sewer bills online. Ms. Walter said we are working on it now.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Claremont 250th Anniversary Committee

Mr. Koloski said the Committee has buttons and magnets for sale. He asked if the buttons and magnets can be sold in Central Collections. The buttons are \$2.50 and the magnets are \$1.00;

the money will support the Committee. Mr. Santagate said yes we can do that. Mr. Koloski said there is still room on the Committee for volunteers.

Business Corridor – Steering Committee

Mr. Bergeron said the first meeting will be June 25th.

CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

None

NON-PUBLIC SESSION PURSUANT TO RSA 91-A:3,II(a) – PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Bergeron and seconded by Mr. Burnham to go into Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II(a) – Personnel and to invite Mr. Santagate and Dorée Russell, Clerk to the Council, into the session.

Roll call vote: motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Bergeron and seconded by Mr. Koloski to seal the minutes until the employee involved releases them.

Roll call motion carried 7-0

A motion was made by Ms. Messier and seconded by Mr. Burnham to come out of the Non-Public Session.

Voice vote: motion carried 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:08 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Bergeron and seconded by Ms. Messier to adjourn.

Voice vote: motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorée M. Russell
Clerk to the Council