

The Claremont City Council held a meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 2014, 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 Carolyn Towle  
Ward III Councilor Nicholas Koloski  
Assistant Mayor Victor Bergeron  
Mayor James Neilsen, IV  
At-Large Councilor James Reed  
Ward II Councilor Charlene Lovett  
At-Large Councilor Kyle Messier  
At-Large Councilor John Simonds

Also present were:

Guy Santagate, City Manager  
Jane Taylor, City Solicitor

### **MAYOR'S NOTES**

Mayor Neilsen explained that he was not here for yesterday's Council meeting because his children surprised him and his wife with a trip to York for their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Thanked his children.

Mayor Neilsen said he had received a copy of the Quran as a gift to the City and said he would donate it to the Library for reference.

Ms. Messier pointed out some good news in the Finance Report. The City was able to get a lower rate on an SRF loan which will save \$239,000 for the sewer loan and \$178,000 for the landfill closure loan; total savings of \$418,000 over the life of the loans.

Mr. Koloski pointed out the Donation Report in the Council packet and he sent heartfelt thanks to all the donors. Mr. Raymond said the City received \$147,367 total donations.

Mayor Neilsen said HotZero was asking for an endorsement of its project. Mr. Santagate said HotZero would like to apply for some grant money through PUC (Public Utilities Commission) and requested a letter supporting HotZero's proposal for a biomass-based Hot Water District Energy System (HWDES) for the City of Claremont. The City Manager and Council signed the letter.

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

Bill Carpenter, Chairman of the Claremont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, talked about the “Birthday in the Bricks” on September 20<sup>th</sup>. He reminded everyone that some downtown streets would be closed including Opera House Square, Pleasant Street and Tremont Street. They will set up rides in the bullpen next Friday night. The rides and Ferris Wheel will be free. Check the Claremont250.com website for details. They are still looking for donations. The Kiwanis Brewfest will also be on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The sculpture will be assembled by early October. Mr. Carpenter asked to extend the committee’s existence to August 31, 2015 to finish the sundial, landscaping, etc. for the sculpture. A list of donors is being assembled to be recognized. Mayor Neilsen asked about the process to extend the committee. Ms. Taylor said it is the Council’s discretion. It is an ad hoc committee. Ms. Taylor will coordinate with Finance Director Mary Walter for the listing of donations.

**A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Simonds to continue the Claremont 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee until August 31, 2015.**

**Voice vote: 9-0 carried.**

Department Reports Questions and Answers

Mayor Neilsen asked about the update from the Library Director. Mr. Santagate said he is at a training class. Mike Grace will be here next month.

Ms. Lovett asked about the trees at Arrowhead. Mr. Santagate said we are close to completion on a contract with Pathways. We will request they look at Arrowhead first. Mayor Neilsen wants to make sure all are on the same page. He said after the trees are cut down, Arrowhead plans to re-contour the area and there is concern about the overall impact. Parks and Recreation Director Mark Brislin said he and Arrowhead will talk to Pathways so everyone is on the same page.

Ms. Lovett asked what the Fire Department is doing to get the message out that fire alarms save lives. Mr. Raymond said October is Fire Prevention month and that is stressed throughout the month at school, etc.

Ms. Lovett asked about the Finance Report and how long the loans are for. Finance Director Mary Walter said it impacts five different loans and some go out to 2028. Ms. Lovett asked about the revenue of Interest on Taxes being higher. Ms. Walter said people are catching up on taxes and interest that is owed.

Ms. Towle asked about the Drapers Corner mowing situation. Mr. Santagate said it’s a strip of land that the contractor will be responsible for in the future. The contractor will change it from grass to something else. The City went out to mow it.

Ms. Lovett asked about the preliminary engineering report in the Ledgewood area. Ms. Walter said it is not done yet. Ms. Lovett asked about workorders to clean the pipes in the Ledgewood

area. Mr. Santagate said Public Works has been doing it. He said the whole drainage issue will cost about \$5-\$6 million to correct. This is phase 1. Ms. Lovett said since the storms in July, the cleaning hadn't been done as of a couple of weeks ago. Mr. Santagate said the drainage issue goes much further than just Ledgewood. It goes down to Charlestown Road. He suggested the Council may want to do a TIFD (Tax Increment Finance District) for that area. Mayor Neilsen said the catch basins need to be cleaned out to minimize damage during future storms. Mr. Santagate said Public Works is working on this regularly. Mr. Santagate said he will ask Tom Woodley in Public Works what the priorities are.

Mr. Reed and Mayor Neilsen asked for an update of whether or not a workorder is in and what its status is. Mr. Santagate wants to add what to do with Charlestown Road to next month's Council agenda.

Mr. Bergeron asked to instruct the City Manager to instruct Mr. Woodley to go up there to look at this and if needed, clear the drains. Mr. Simonds asked if Mr. Santagate could get an answer and then report back to Ms. Lovett so she can answer her constituents. Mr. Santagate said yes.

Ms. Lovett asked Fire Chief Rick Bergeron about smoke alarms. Mr. Santagate said according to the RSAs they are required, but there can't be inspections of single family houses or duplexes unless they are rented. He asked where the State Representatives are on this. Chief Bergeron said they carry smoke alarms on their apparatus and when they go on a call, they ask the homeowner if they have smoke alarms or they find alarms are lacking. If not, then the Fire Department installs one. Fire Prevention month is October and Fire Prevention week is the second week of October. This year's focus is smoke alarms. He is working with CCTV to get the word out.

Mr. Santagate said when Council meets with the State Reps, we may want to have a discussion with them about which properties are required to have smoke alarms.

Mr. Simonds said in reference to the signage in front of City Hall that he's gotten two estimates from a sign company and he will bring that forward to the Council.

## **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

**A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Simonds to accept the minutes of the August 13 and 27, 2014, City Council meetings.**

Ms. Lovett said in August 13, page 11, first paragraph, third line should be 2011 energy audit instead of 2001. Page 3, first paragraph of Citizen's Forum, should be August 27 instead of September 24.

Ms. Lovett said August 27, page 9, fourth paragraph should be energy audit not electrical audit. Page 4 after Dr. Harvey-Smith's comments, Ms. Lovett believes she said it is very important to have a balanced approach if we are going to talk about issues within the school district and talk about the successes as well.

**Roll call vote: motion carried 9-0.**

**APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

Claremont Community Television, Inc. (CCTV) Board of Directors

**A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Koloski to appoint Ronald J. Landry to seat # 3 of the Claremont Community Television, Inc. (CCTV) Board of Directors.**

**Voice vote: motion carried 9-0.**

Mayor Neilsen asked Councilors if any of them wanted to sit on the CCTV Board as there is a Councilor seat available.

Claremont Planning Board

An application was in the packet for Matthew Whooley for the Claremont Planning Board. This is a Mayoral appointment so Mayor Neilsen will coordinate with Ms. Russell on this.

Frances J. Tolles Home Trustees

**A motion was made by Ms. Messier and seconded by Ms. Lovett to appoint Wendy Moquin to seat # 6 of the Frances J. Tolles Home Trustees.**

**Voice vote: motion carried 9-0.**

Tax Increment Finance District Advisory Board – Downtown

**A motion was made by Ms. Messier and seconded by Ms. Towle to re-appoint Matthew Nelson to seat #1 of the Tax Increment Finance District Advisory Board – Downtown.**

**Voice vote: motion carried 9-0.**

Mr. Koloski made a plea for citizens to serve on the Conservation Commission as alternates.

Ms. Lovett made a plea for applicants for the Downtown TIFD; there are four vacancies. Mr. Bergeron said there has been talk about citizens wanting to get more involved in the City; there are a number of boards and commissions with vacancies to fill

NH Rail Transit Authority

Mayor Neilsen said Raymond Gagnon sits on the NH Rail Transit Authority. He had received a letter from the Authority saying there is no definitive term and Mr. Gagnon can hold the seat as long as he wants, or the Mayor removes him. No reappointment is necessary.

## **CITIZEN'S FORUM**

Thomas LaCasse, Ward 2, talked about the work that was done at Drapers Corner and that he was promised a two-car driveway that he could turn around in and that nothing would slope toward the house. He said the driveway slopes toward the house and he is not able to turn around in the driveway. Mayor Neilsen said he had told Mr. LaCasse to come to Council with his complaint and to file a citizen complaint. He asked Mr. LaCasse if there was anything in writing, but Mr. LaCasse said no. Mr. LaCasse said he doesn't have property markers and that the contractor was supposed to regroom his property. He said he can't do his wood pile until that work is done. Mayor Neilsen said Mr. LaCasse has to also submit a written citizen complaint form. Mr. Santagate will follow up with Kurt Beek and will meet with Mr. LaCasse. Mr. Simonds said he has been in the yard and he understands the concerns. Mr. Bergeron asked that these types of negotiation be in writing. Ms. Taylor and Mr. Santagate said it is in writing.

Bill Carpenter, Ward 3, announced his opposition to the Charter Change. He is working with a few people to form a Vote No campaign. He talked about smoke detectors and urged the City and Council to give smoke detectors to every home and he estimated it would cost about \$60,000.

Steve Picano, Ward 1, requested to have the tax bills sent each quarter so people don't lose the second piece of the first bill.

Steve Raymond, Ward 1, said in reference to the JSL (Junior Sports League) that the taxpayers have a right to know what happened with the money and the bank account. Mayor Neilsen said a letter was sent to the four individuals we have addresses for and we are waiting to hear from them. Mr. Raymond said this started in January and look how long it's been going on.

Paul Bonneau, Ward 1, talked about the lights not coming on in Monadnock Park when a team from Keene was playing. Parks and Recreation Director Mark Brislin said the lighting is sophisticated; there was a mistake made, but it has been addressed. There is an action plan in place. Mr. Bonneau asked about a bill for the service to the turn lights on. Mr. Brislin said we pay a monthly light bill.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, talked about the Council goals and objectives session in March and that the strategic plan developed by Chief Alex Scott was strange. He compared Claremont's plan to the City of Lebanon and he recommended Lebanon's as what the heart of strategic planning is all about.

Cindy Howard, Ward 2, confirmed that Mr. LaCasses's situation is true. She asked about the status of the investigation of the Hunter property. Mayor Neilsen said Council will get an update during the Non-Public session tonight.

Ms. Towle asked about the timeframe for the JSL letters. Ms. Taylor said the deadline was last Friday. We've had some communication, but not from everybody. We'll send a follow-up letter. Ms. Towle said of the lighting issue in Monadnock Park that she would like to reach out to the Keene soccer team to thank them for coming.

Mr. Koloski said he had the same concern about the Keene soccer game. Some switching systems are done remotely. Because he has heard other unrelated complaints, he has started looking for funding/grants for whisper quiet Caterpillar generators for the lights.

Paul Bonneau, Ward 1, said people from other communities say what a wonderful park we have. He thinks this is one time we went too far with the systems.

Mayor Neilsen believes this is the first time those lights have not functioned, but it doesn't hurt to look into other ways for lighting.

Mr. Bergeron said in all fairness, that this is the first time this has happened; a mistake was made and the Parks Director took care so it won't happen again.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Ordinance 538 Establish Parks and Recreation Commission Under the Administrative Code – Second Reading – Public Hearing

The purpose of this proposed change is to implement a requirement of the May 16, 2014 Probate Court Order regarding the E. Charles Goodwin Recreational and Community Center to "merge the E. Charles Goodwin Community Center Commission into the City's Parks and Recreation Commission" through the City's Administrative Code to provide for a unified advisory board to the City's Parks & Recreation Department.

Enactment of this proposed Ordinance will result in compliance with one of the Probate Court Order's requirements.

**A motion was made by Ms. Messier and seconded by Mr. Koloski to adopt Ordinance 538 Establish Parks and Recreation Commission Under the Administrative Code.**

Ms. Messier read the explanation of proposed action into the record.

Ms. Taylor said the existing Parks & Recreation Commission has seven members with no alternates. It was originally set up by resolution and not part of the Administrative Code, which the Court Order is now requiring. The proposal incorporates the original charge of having an advisory role and recognizes the legacy of the Goodwin Community Center (GCC) Commission. Those currently serving will continue their terms. Preference will be given to former GCC Commission to fill vacancies or alternate seats. The role of alternates is to participate, but the voting is for the seven-member commission. When a regular member is absent, an alternate can step in, which should help with quorum issues.

Mayor Neilsen opened the public hearing.

Jim Feleen, Ward 2, said this is a radical departure from how things were run in the Parks and Recreation Department for 30 years. The Parks & Recreation Commission was answerable to

the Council and now merging the GCC Commission and the Parks & Recreation Commission will equal a “plain vanilla” advisory board. He said neither the GCC nor the Parks & Rec Commissions were consulted on this change. He thinks the Parks and Recreation Commission should act as a board of directors with the Parks and Recreation Director as the CEO.

Ms. Taylor noted the proposed ordinance was given to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review, but it was not able to meet because of a lack of a quorum. Ms. Taylor said there was a Parks Commission in the Code that was adopted in 1948; it was set up as an advisory group to the City Manager. The oldest resolution she could find was in 1992 and the Commission was always advisory to the Parks and Recreation Director. The purpose on the website appears in the bylaws of the Parks and Recreation Commission, but it was not authorized by the Council.

There was a discussion about the Parks and Recreation Commission responding to the Council rather than the director.

**Roll call vote: motion carried 9-0.**

Ordinance 539 Smoking Ban – Second Reading – Public Hearing

The purpose of this proposed change is to restrict the use and disposal of tobacco products and equipment in certain of the City's recreational parks, as well as the facilities located in these parks.

Enactment of this proposed Ordinance will result in reducing the use and disposal of tobacco products and equipment in several of the City's parks and their facilities and will reduce the exposure of those attending and participating in activities at these parks to tobacco use, including second-hand smoke.

**A motion was made by Ms. Messier and seconded by Mr. Raymond to adopt Ordinance 539 Smoking Ban.**

Ms. Messier read the explanation of the proposed action into the record.

Ms. Taylor said there have been no changes since the first reading. This has had a lot of input from the Parks and Recreation board.

Ms. Messier said she voted no last time because of being able to put designated smoking areas five feet from entrances. She will vote yes but wants smoking to be further away than five feet from entrances.

Mayor Neilsen opened the public hearing.

Thomas LaCasse, Ward 2, said if you ban smoking in the parks, you ought to ban vehicles from the parks because they pollute the air with their exhaust.

Jim Feleen, Ward 2, disagreed with allowing smoking in the skatepark unless there are sanctioned events as there are rarely any in the skatepark and there are mostly children in that park. Ms. Taylor said she and Mr. Brislin reviewed all the parks and they could not find a place for a designated smoking area at the Skateboard Park because the park is so small, the same as Broad Street Park and Moody Park.

Mayor Neilsen pointed out that if there is a problem, the Parks Director or City Manager would bring it back to the Council.

Steve Raymond, Ward 1, thought designated smoking areas is a good idea. Start small to see how well things will go. He asked about the difference between smoke, charcoal, burning brush, etc.

Ms. Taylor said this only addresses tobacco and tobacco products.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, applauded the process this ordinance went through. He hopes it continues.

Cindy Howard, Ward 2, said smoking is a personal issue and it is not the role of the government to control people's lives.

Councilors agreed this is a compromise and a place to start.

Ms. Lovett said Peter Wright, CEO of Valley Regional Hospital, is okay with this as it stands knowing it will be reviewed later. In reference to economic development, she said smoking has affected sales at the Farmers' Market.

**Roll call vote: motion carried 9-0.**

Ms. Taylor said this is effective immediately upon passage. It is okay to put up No Smoking signs at the Farmers' Market. Mr. Reed asked to notify department heads and he specifically asked that Chief Scott's department be notified.

Update Timber Harvest – Moody Park

Mr. Brislin said this spring volunteer groups stacked fallen timber into piles. Half of the picnic area below has been cleaned up and they hope to finish soon. Some of the piles of brush by the sides of the road are now gone and they hope to finish the piles in the next month or so. The road will be ground up and will become a gravel surface. He's working with Sinuosity on a trail maintenance plan and planning new trails for Moody Park. Plan proposal is due at the end of October. There will be a meeting for people to discuss what they want on September 22. \$65,000 has been received from the timber harvest. The money is to be put back into the park.

Mr. Raymond asked for another dog waste station at Moody Park, with signs to be posted.

Items for Follow-Up

After the last Council meeting, Mayor Neilsen asked Mr. Santagate to follow up on some items. Mr. Santagate responded:

- Director Presentation – Library has been moved to October as Mike Grace will be attending the Supervisor's Academy class on September 10th and 11th.
- State Representatives – will invite to a future meeting
- Merit Plan - P.A.B. – Council appointed Mr. Howe and City Manager appointed Jason Farrell and encouraged those two to select a third member.
- Transfer Station – Establish a committee. He asked if Council will appoint members. Mayor Neilsen said Mr. Picard volunteered. They are looking for 3-4 people to serve on the board.
- Sawtooth – Sale pending
- Moody Park clean-up – we just heard from Mr. Brislin
- Arrowhead contract in process
- JSL Financials have been requested
- Comcast – Mr. Bergeron has agreed to serve on the Comcast board and CCTV has given two names to be on the board as well.
- Airport suggestions for improvement – Chief Bergeron will give an update
- Amtrak – Update from committee, Councilor Lovett
- Investigation – Mayor will give an update in non-public session

Ms. Towle asked about the energy audit. Mr. Santagate asked for responses from the departments and he hopes to give an update at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Bergeron asked about the building on Pleasant Street.

Mr. Reed said on August 27<sup>th</sup> he wanted to know about the building on Pleasant Street and Mr. Raymond wanted information on the ATV Trail. Ms. Taylor has not been able to get together with the necessary people from the state regarding the Rail Trail. Mr. Reed said Mr. Koloski had a question about the parking garage windows. Mr. Santagate said a claim has been filed and the windows fixed.

Mayor Neilsen asked for an update on Pleasant Street on the next regular meeting

**NEW BUSINESS**

Water/Sewer Charges

Mr. Santagate said there is no Council action due tonight; this is just to hear the issue from Steve Picano.

Steve Picano, Ward 1, talked about the property owner's responsibility to pay for water and sewer (public utility) line repairs from the shut off to the main. He said the cost to make a repair that involves going into the City street is significantly more expensive than making a repair on his private property. He said all other public utilities (electric, phone and cable) take care of their property to the connection on the home or meter. He was told that about 5 or 6 water lines need repair each year which would cost about \$35,000 which he thinks is reasonable for the City to absorb. Repair work in the road should be the responsibility of the City water and sewer utilities. He said the \$5,000 repair for his water line is an extreme burden for him. In his case there are roots in the pipe. He asked to change the ordinance so the property owner is protected from the City side of the shut off.

Councilors discussed this and Mayor Neilsen suggested looking at the number of incidents to determine if the City can afford to handle the cost. Ms. Towle would like to know what other cities' policies are. Mr. Koloski thinks the City should be responsible for the City side. Ms. Taylor said Primex says we don't have coverage to do work on private property lines/property.

Mr. Picano said the camera work has already done. He's asking for the City to do the work on the City's side of the shut off.

Mr. Bergeron thinks the City should take care of the line from the shut off to the main. Ms. Messier would like more information from other communities. Ms. Lovett asked if a month is enough time to get information. Mr. Santagate didn't know because we don't have a Public Works Director, but we can check other communities. Mayor Neilsen asked for an update at the October 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

#### Resolution 2015-9 Mt. View Cemetery Gates Grant – Public Hearing

As the result of efforts begun by William H.H. Moody in 1923 to improve the appearance of the City's municipal cemeteries, Mt. View Cemetery received two pair of double gates and two walk gates for the cemetery's Main Street entrance, made by the Stewart Iron Works Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. The City would like to restore and re-install these cemetery gates, which have fallen into disrepair

Mary Walter, Finance Director, said these gates are very grand and it would be nice to put them back up. This is to approve to apply and then accept, if awarded.

**A motion was made by Ms. Lovett and seconded by Ms. Towle to adopt Resolution 2015-9 Mt. View Cemetery Gates Grant.**

Ms. Lovett read the resolution into the record.

Mayor Neilsen opened the public hearing. No one spoke. He closed it.

**Roll call vote: motion carried 9-0.**

Resolution 2015-10 Oil Tank for Public Works Department – Public Hearing

The City will need to replace the old underground tank with a new aboveground fuel oil tank to service the facility's heating needs.

Ms. Walter said Public Works went out for bid twice and received no bids. The money was not encumbered and it dropped into Fund Balance at the end of the year.

**A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Ms. Messier to adopt Resolution 2015-10 Oil Tank for Public Works Department.**

Mr. Raymond read the resolution into the record.

Mr. Koloski noted several things have gone out to bid, but had no bidders. He said we need to check with other communities to see how they get people to read and respond to bids.

Mayor Neilsen opened the public hearing. No one spoke. He closed it.

**Roll call vote: motion carried 9-0.**

Resolution 2015-11 FEMA Funds for Storm Event – Public Hearing

Due to rainfall and flooding between June 26<sup>th</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, the City of Claremont sustained significant damage to its roads and infrastructure and incurred significant expense to repair this damage. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds were received in August 2014 and were deposited into fund balance. The \$125,250.00 will be used to replenish materials and supplies used to respond to the June/July 21013 storm event.

Ms. Walter said this will have no impact on the tax rate.

**A motion was made by Mr. Bergeron and seconded by Mr. Simonds to adopt Resolution 2015-11 FEMA Funds for Storm Event.**

Mr. Bergeron read the resolution into the record.

Mayor Neilsen opened the public hearing. No one spoke. He closed it.

**Roll call vote: motion carried 9-0.**

Resolution 2015-12 Re-authorize Funds for Moody Park Maintenance & Improvements – Public Hearing

Resolution 2014-9 authorized up to \$64,000.00 for maintenance and improvements to the grounds of Moody Park. The money was not expended by the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2014, so it dropped into fund balance.

Ms. Walter said that Parks and Recreation Department couldn't get all the work done, so the \$64,000 reverted to fund balance.

**A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Simonds to adopt Resolution 2015-12 Re-authorize Funds for Moody Park Maintenance & Improvements.**

Mr. Koloski read the resolution into the record.

Mayor Neilsen opened the public hearing. No one spoke. He closed it.

**Roll call vote: motion carried 9-0.**

Resolution 2015-13 Expenditures from Color Run Fundraiser – Public Hearing

Withdrawn

Resolution 2015-14 Park Road Improvements \$24,400 – Public Hearing

The City would like to withdraw \$24,400.00 from the Capital Reserve Fund for Parks and Recreation Access Road Improvements to pay for improvements to the Monadnock Park and Moody Park access roads.

Ms. Walter said this will come from the Capital Reserve Fund and will have no impact on the tax rate.

**A motion was made by Mr. Simonds and seconded by Mr. Raymond to adopt Resolution 2015-14 Park Road Improvements \$24,400.**

Mr. Simonds read the resolution into the record.

Mr. Brislin said the majority of the money is for Moody Park Road and money for Monadnock Park is for curbing to prevent wash outs.

Mayor Neilsen opened the public hearing. No one spoke. He closed it.

**Roll call vote: motion carried 9-0.**

Motion to Enter Into Multi-Year Lease Agreement for Public Works and Parks & Recreation Vehicles and Equipment

Ms. Walter said this is the fleet management program. This is for seven vehicles for Public Works and for Parks & Recreation there are: backhoe, zero-turn mower, 40-horse tractor, and a

pool disinfection system. The rate is 1.84% for 5 years and three of the larger vehicles are for 8 years. The money is in the budget. The agreement has a termination clause for non-appropriation. At the end of the lease we keep the equipment.

**A motion was made by Mr. Raymond and seconded by Ms. Towle to authorize the City Manager or his designees to enter into a multi-year lease agreement for vehicles and equipment for the Public Works and Parks & Recreation Departments, at a cost of \$84,940.91 for Public Works and \$40,123.92 for Parks & Recreation, for terms of five (5) or eight (8) years depending on the vehicle, said costs for the first year of the lease having been raised and appropriated in the 2015 budget. The proposed lease agreement contains a termination clause in the event of non-appropriation of sufficient funds for any subsequent year of the lease.**

**Roll call vote: motion carried 9-0.**

Resolution 2015-15 To Accept & Expend Assistance to Firefighter Grant – Public Hearing

The City was notified on August 22, 2014 that the Claremont Fire Department had been awarded a grant for the purchase and installation of a new diesel exhaust removal system for all apparatus housed at the Claremont Fire Station in the total amount of \$50,363.00, of which the federal share is \$47,845.00 and the City's share is \$2,518.00; and

Fire Chief Rick Bergeron said the money from this grant will be used to replace the diesel exhaust removal system in the Fire Station.

**A motion was made by Ms. Lovett and seconded by Mr. Reed to adopt Resolution 2015-15 To Accept & Expend Assistance to Firefighter Grant.**

Mayor Neilsen opened the public hearing. No one spoke. They closed it.

**Roll call vote: motion carried 9-0.**

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Santagate asked Chief Bergeron to have the new ladder truck in front of City Hall at the regular October meeting at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Neilsen asked to have it in front of the Fire Department on September 20<sup>th</sup> for Birthday in the Bricks. Chief Bergeron said the truck and flag will be outside of City Hall tomorrow, 9/11. Mr. Koloski asked if the flag can be placed on the ladder truck for Birthday in the Bricks.

Mr. Santagate said Council hired an investigator which we didn't budget for and the bill will be coming soon, so on the October agenda we will ask to raise and appropriate up to \$10,000 from fund balance. The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston does a quarterly report and the City of Claremont is on the front cover and there is an article about development and public/private partnerships in Claremont.

Bernie Folta, Ward 3, said the article was written by Planning and Development Director Nancy Merrill; it is outstanding publicity for Claremont.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DIRECTIVES**

Ms. Lovett said Council needs to schedule LSRs (Legislative Service Requests) for the State Representatives to submit November 12 to December 4. If Council wants to get something in before the deadline, we have to establish what we want in October. Mayor Neilsen asked if we could get the legislators here for the October 22 Council meeting to meet the LSR deadline.

Ms. Lovett asked when Council wants to start scheduling a look at two sections of the Municipal Code. Ms. Taylor said she has been trying to research some of the issues of concern which involves behavior and there are a lot of reasons why there aren't local regulations regarding behavior because it's a minefield of Constitutional law. She can't tell when she will bring this forward because she is still trying to figure out how to do it.

Mr. Bergeron said this is the third month he has asked for a report about Pleasant Street. Also, the Council should get prepared to talk about possible loss of revenue due to the revaluation. Mr. Santagate said those values are from sales of two years ago. This is driven by state statute. Mayor Neilsen explained the same amount of money will need to be raised so the tax rate may go up. Mr. Bergeron said if the tax rate needs to go up, then Council needs to talk about it. Mayor Neilsen said if we have that discussion, then we need to include the school and the county in the discussion.

Mr. Koloski said people are concerned about what's going to happen to their taxes, so he would like something put on the website quickly. Mr. Santagate said the revaluation does not bring more money into the City. The revaluation shifts the burden from one class to another. It is revenue neutral.

Mr. Koloski said at the fire last night at Joey's on the River, Main Street, it was noted there are two huge (1 foot deep by 1 foot across) potholes in the road in front of the building.

Ms. Towle asked for a date regarding the ATV trail issue. Mr. Raymond had the same request. He said a recent episode of Chronicle showed that Coos County has 1,100 miles of ATV trails and he said people feel like Claremont is missing out. They want to know when they can use the trail again.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Business Corridor – Steering Committee

None

**A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Simonds to recess.**

**Roll call vote: motion carried 9-0.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Reed to come out of recess.**

**Voice vote: motion carried 9-0.**

**NON-PUBLIC PURSUANT TO RSA 91-A:3, II(a)&(c) - PERSONNEL**

**A motion was made by Ms. Lovett and seconded by Mr. Reed to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II(a)&(c) and to invite Mr. Santagate and Ms. Russell into the session.**

**Roll call vote: motion carried 9-0.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Ms. Lovett to seal the minutes until the purpose for which they were sealed no longer exists.**

**Roll call vote: motion carried 9-0.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Koloski and seconded by Mr. Simonds to exit the non-public session.**

**Roll call vote: motion carried 9-0.**

**CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**At 11:34 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Messier and seconded by Ms. Lovett to adjourn.**

**Voice vote: motion carried 9-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorée M. Russell  
Clerk to the Council