

CITY COUNCIL NON-PUBLIC SESSION

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018

PORTSMOUTH, NH
TIME: 6:00PM

At 6:00 p.m. the City Council held a Non Public Session in Accordance with RSA 91-A:2, I (a) regarding Strategy or Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining – The Association of Portsmouth Teachers Tentative Agreement.

City Clerk Barnaby conducted a roll call vote for attendance: Mayor Blalock; Assistant Mayor Lazenby; Councilors Roberts, Pearson, Dwyer, Denton (6:05 p.m.) Perkins, Reynolds and Becksted.

Councilor Pearson moved to enter into Non Public Session to discuss the Association of Portsmouth Teachers Agreement. Seconded by Councilor Perkins and voted.

The City Council moved from the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers into Conference Room A.

Staff Present during Non Public Session: Tom Closson, Negotiator; Dianna Fogarty, Human Resource Director; and Steve Zadavec, Superintendent of Schools.

Others Present: Ann Walker, School Board Member.

Negotiator Closson reviewed the request for a one year extension of the Association of Portsmouth Teachers Tentative Agreement.

At 6:12 p.m. Mayor Blalock closed the Non Public Session.

At 6:15PM, a Work Session was held on the FY19 Budget Guidelines.

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 p.m., Mayor Blalock called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Blalock, Assistant Mayor Lazenby, Councilors Roberts, Pearson, Dwyer, Denton, Perkins, Reynolds and Becksted

III. INVOCATION

Mayor Blalock asked everyone to join in a moment of silent prayer.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Assistant Mayor Lazenby led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Approve City Council Rules and Orders

Mayor Blalock requested that the City Council adopt the Rules and Order this evening as presented, and if there are any changes needed they be made at a future meeting by a Councilor bringing them up under their name.

Councilor Perkins moved to approve the City Council Rules and Orders, as presented. Seconded by Councilor Pearson and voted.

Ratify City Council Policies and Procedures

Mayor Blalock requested that the City Council ratify the City Council Policies and Procedures, as presented and if there are any changes needed they be made at a future meeting by a Councilor bringing them up under their name.

Councilor Perkins moved to ratify City Council Policies and Procedures, as presented. Seconded by Councilor Pearson and voted.

Ratification of Blue Ribbon Committees

Councilor Perkins moved to ratify the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committees, as presented. Seconded by Councilor Pearson and voted.

- African Burying Ground Stewardship Blue Ribbon Committee
- Citywide Neighborhood Steering Blue Ribbon Committee
- New Parking Garage Committee
- Renewable Energy Policy Blue Ribbon Committee
- Sister Cities and Citizen Diplomacy Blue Ribbon Committee
- Sustainable Practices Blue Ribbon Committee

Code of Ethics Lot Drawing for City Council Representative

Councilor Roberts was selected by Lot Drawing to serve as the City Council Representative on the Board of Ethics.

PRESENTATION

1. Presentation of Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) – Scott McIntire, Melanson & Heath

Mr. McIntire provided an overview of the CAFR Report and said all books and records were found in good working order and meet general accounting principles. He reported on the Management Letter and informed the City Council that there were no significant audit entries to report.

City Manager Bohenko spoke to the Popular Annual Financial Report which has been put together by the Finance Department. He said the intent of this report is to provide financial information on how the city is doing in an easy to understand format as well as highlight city accomplishments, accolades, economic indicators, and operational data that the city feels will be most informative to the residents.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 4, 2017; DECEMBER 18, 2017; DECEMBER 20, 2017 AND JANUARY 2, 2018

Councilor Dwyer moved to accept and approve the minutes of the December 4, 2017; December 18, 2017; December 20, 2017 and January 2, 2018 City Council meetings. Seconded by Councilor Pearson and voted.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Tom Coakley – spoke regarding the Police Commission vacancy and said he is here to present himself for the position. He spoke to filing for a vacancy for the Police Commission that occurred in 2015 and stated he feels that a decision needs to be made on the process used to fill the vacancy due to the difference in opinions between the City Attorney and Attorney General's office.

Brenna Cavanaugh said she submitted a letter for consideration to be appointed to fill the vacancy for the Police Commission. She stated the decision on the process should be up to the City Council. She suggested that the process to fill the current vacancy should be done by a lot drawing. Ms. Cavanaugh said that is a fair and transparent process to fill the vacancy.

Jim Splaine spoke in support of legislation to require the Coakley Landfill Facility Group come under the right-to-know law. He stated there needs to be more remediation of the landfill and we need to assume the responsibility. He spoke opposed to a lobbyist being under contract for the Coakley Group. He said we need to be made aware of who makes the decision on duties and the legislation the Lobbyist would report on.

Zelita Morgan said she would like the public comment session rules to be reviewed and allow individuals to speak on more than one topic. She asked that the City Council direct the City Manager to report where the funds would come from for the Coakley Landfill Lobbyist and how much money has been provided to the group. She suggested that presentations that require more than 15 minutes should be removed from the Council Agenda.

Lee Roberts spoke against the Coakley Landfill Facility Group hiring a Lobbyist. She said that the public needs some answers on the landfill and whether the pediatric cancer is caused by the Coakley Landfill.

Pat Bagley spoke to the request to establish a work session on residential parking program. She would like to see Parking Director Fletcher broaden the work session and provide a presentation on the parking forecast. She spoke to the work session being a public session.

Harold Whitehouse thanked Councilor Roberts for the request to look at new revenues. He said he hopes that the City Council will not increase the budget or raise the tax rate. He said we need to go back to Concord and request our fair share of the room and meals tax.

Mark Brighton asked if the public will get an opportunity to review the Association of Portsmouth Teachers contract before the City Council takes action. He said the City Council needs to control the bottom line and 2.5% is the rate of inflation.

David Meuse spoke to the Coakley Landfill contamination. He said many times the contamination does not change the color of the water. He urged the City Council to be transparent with information because the public has a right to know about the water in the community.

Representative Mindi Messmer - Rye, NH, spoke to the cancer cluster and environmental triggers. It represents a threat to the public. She said the closure of the site is causing the Berry Brook to be contaminated. She spoke to the conflicting sides on this matter between the DES and EPA. She stated that there has been no real accounting of the \$27,000,000.00 that has been spent on the Coakley Landfill and there needs to be. She reported that the State of New Hampshire has the highest rate of breast cancer in the United States.

Representative Philip Bean, Hampton, NH, said that there should be an audit of funds expended by the Coakley Landfill. He spoke to a number of wells that have been shut down in Hampton and spoke to the lack of transparency by the Landfill Group.

VII. APPROVAL OF GRANTS/DONATIONS

- A. Donation to Portsmouth Police Department from Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank - \$500.00

Councilor Perkins moved to accept and approve the donation to the Portsmouth Police Department, as listed. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer and voted.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Letter from Jeremiah Gould, Runner's Alley requesting permission to hold the 21st Annual Runner's Alley/Redhook Brewery Memorial 5k on Sunday, May 27, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with power***)

Councilor Raynolds moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Perkins and voted.

IX. PRESENTATION & CONSIDERATION OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

- A. (*See E-mail Correspondence*)

Councilor Pearson move to accept the e-mail correspondence and place on file. Seconded by Councilor Perkins and voted.

Coakley Landfill (Not on Agenda)

Councilor Denton requested to know if the City has been contributing to the payment of a Coakley Landfill Lobbyist and has a Lobbyist been hired by the Coakley Landfill Group.

Councilor Dwyer requested a Presentation on all Coakley Landfill issues.

City Manager Bohenko said that the City Attorney will provide a presentation to the City Council. He indicated that Deputy Public Works Director Goetz would speak to the actual science. He also indicated that the presentation would take place at the February 5, 2018 City Council meeting.

Mayor Blalock said he was upset at being accused on the hiring of a Lobbyist. He said we need to know the role the City Council plays in this matter.

Councilor Perkins said she would like an update on the geological study on the Coakley Landfill as part of the Presentation.

Councilor Raynolds said the Presentation needs to be public.

- B. Letter from Richard Ade and Daniel Plummer, Ocean Properties & Two International Group reiterating their interest in the McIntyre Project

Councilor Perkins moved to accept and place the letter on file. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer and voted.

- C. Letter from Mayor Thomas Koch, City of Quincy, Massachusetts regarding the McIntyre Project

Councilor Perkins moved to accept and place the letter on file. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer and voted.

- D. Letter from Mayor Joseph Curtatone, City of Somerville, Massachusetts regarding the McIntyre Project

Councilor Perkins moved to accept and place the letter on file. Seconded by Councilor Pearson and voted.

- E. Letter from Thomas Coakley regarding Police Commission Vacancy

Councilor Pearson moved to accept and place the letter on file. Seconded by Councilor Perkins and voted.

- F. Letter from Mayor Brian Arrigo, City of Revere, Massachusetts regarding the McIntyre Project

Councilor Pearson moved to accept and place the letter on file. Seconded by Councilor Perkins and voted.

- G. Letter from Jim Splaine regarding various issues

Councilor Pearson moved to accept and place the letter on file. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Lazenby and voted.

X. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

- 1. Request for Action regarding McIntyre Property

City Manager Bohenko said he would like to stick to the deadline of February 5, 2018 if a decision cannot be reached this evening.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby advised the City Council that he will be recusing himself from all matters regarding the McIntyre Property because of his employment with Ocean Properties.

Deputy City Manager Colbert Puff said a three stage process has been outlined and a free flow of public input. She reported at the last City Council meeting a vote was taken to have Redgate/Kane to be the preferred partner. She spoke to the need to develop a non-binding Memorandum of Agreement to move forward with a developer. She advised the City Council that they were picking a development team, not their specific proposal for developing the site.

City Manager Bohenko said the Council needs to ratify the public input process to move forward as well.

Councilor Perkins moved to ratify the public input process as outlined in the memorandum dated December 20, 2017. Seconded by Councilor Denton and voted. Assistant Mayor Lazenby recused himself from voting on this matter.

City Manager Bohenko said we would move forward with a non-binding Memorandum of Agreement. He addressed the development agreement. He said if there are concerns we could table until February 5, 2018.

Councilor Dwyer said we need some sense if others are ready to move forward on a vote.

Councilor Denton moved to ratify the selection of Redgate/Kane and enter into a non-binding Memorandum of Agreement. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer.

Councilor Roberts said he is comfortable moving forward but would like to vote at the next meeting on February 5, 2018. He said people should have an opportunity to speak on the partner.

Councilor Reynolds said he feels the same way as Councilor Roberts. He stated he does not feel that he is ready to cast a vote this evening. He indicated he wished to have more discussion as a City Council as to the criteria we are using in our decision. He said more discussion is needed in public on this matter.

Councilor Becksted said he is not ready to move forward with a vote. He said he would like to keep all three developers in the process. He said we still have not really heard from the public and the next meeting is a Public Dialogue Session versus Public Comment Session.

Councilor Pearson said we had a Public Comment Session this evening on the project and not many spoke. She said now is the decision to select one of the developers. She noted that she did not vote for any development partner at the December Council meeting, but said she has pretty strong opinions about who should be picked. Councilor Pearson pointed to the qualifications of the architects on Redgate/Kane team, and their experience on bringing new life to historic buildings. She indicated all developers were qualified but someone needs to rise to the top. She spoke to adaptive reuse and that this would not be an experiment but Redgate/Kane have the ability to create a new space.

Councilor Dwyer reported last week the Chamber held a forum on the development of the project and all the information has been brought together. She said people that attended asked great questions and all grasp the time line and urgency to pick a development partner. She asked about the timing of a non-binding Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

Deputy City Manager Colbert Puff said if the City Council chooses a partner we would enter into a non-binding MOA right away. She said when we submit an application it needs to be binding and the agreement would come at the point of transfer.

Councilor Dwyer said there is a need for additional parking on site and that is an important detail.

Deputy City Manager Colbert Puff said that would happen after the non-binding MOA and further that all project teams expressed a change to the parking.

Councilor Perkins said she would stand behind the Redgate/Kane firm. She stated Redgate/Kane have done their homework on permitting and community engagement is strong as well. She indicated that there are many things that Redgate/Kane has done well.

Councilor Denton said Councilor Becksted mentioned keeping all three firms in place until the public has had an opportunity to speak on the developers. He stated the best vote we have is to move forward with Redgate/Kane.

Mayor Blalock passed the gavel to Councilor Roberts.

Mayor Blalock said he has been neutral and would support any of the three firms but he supports Redgate/Kane currently. He said he is prepared to vote this evening on this matter.

Councilor Roberts returned the gavel to Mayor Blalock.

Councilor Roberts said there is not a vision but a hazy outline and stated there is a strong feeling in the community to not have a hotel. He said the design by Redgate/Kane was the best and he would be in favor of Redgate/Kane. He stated that there are serious questions about the risk of turning the McIntyre building into office space instead of a hotel, as was outlined by the city's consultant. Councilor Roberts said the Council needs to be aware that if Redgate/Kane can't pre-lease enough of the building, they may come back and say they really need to build a hotel.

Councilor Becksted asked if this in any way eliminates the other two developers as part of the process.

Councilor Dwyer said the developer would be part of the public process. She said if we take the vote the other two would have a different status but they could raise questions about items and asked for input and discussion. She stated they would not be there as our partner.

On a roll call **vote** 7-1, motion passed. Councilors Roberts, Pearson, Dwyer, Denton, Perkins, Raynolds and Mayor Blalock voted in favor. Councilor Becksted voted opposed. Assistant Mayor Lazenby recused himself from voting on this matter.

2. Report Back from Planning Board Re: Paper Street Request for 170 Swett Avenue

City Manager Bohenko advised the City Council that the Planning Board is requesting denial of the request.

Planning Director Walker said the Planning Board voted to recommend denial of the request. She said the City may have interest in retaining this as it abuts to City property.

Councilor Dwyer asked how we use the lot. Planning Director Walker said we do not use the lot currently but we may have a use for it in the future.

Councilor Perkins moved to deny the request to release City interest in the paper street portions of Moffat Street that adjoin 170 Swett Avenue. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer.

Mayor Blalock passed the gavel to Assistant Mayor Lazenby.

Mayor Blalock said everything stays the same by denying request.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby returned the gavel to Mayor Blalock.

Councilor Raynolds requested that Public Works Director Rice report back to the City Council in 3 months regarding possible uses by the City of the paper street portions of Moffat Street that adjoin 170 Swett Avenue.

Motion passed.

3. Request for First Reading of Ordinances Re: Charter Amendment Drafts

City Attorney Sullivan said the prior City Council placed Charter amendments on the Municipal Election ballot and the Charter has been amended. He stated the Charter amendments call for the preparation of two ordinances. He said the City Clerk would develop a form for both ordinances and the form would become part of the ordinance. He advised the City Council that he and the City Clerk would create the forms and the ordinances would stay close to the Charter language.

Charter Amendment 1:

Councilor Pearson moved to direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance amendment as presented to bring forward for first reading at the February 5, 2018 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Perkins.

Councilor Dwyer said she feels the definition language for the term PAC is too vague. City Attorney Sullivan said that this is a starting point and some of the language will be expanded and changed. Councilor Dwyer said on page 3 the requirement for staff to complete a Financial Disclosure Form would be only if the staff is a voting member of the board or commission.

Councilor Roberts said the submission of funds expended should be the total amount rather than itemized. City Attorney Sullivan said that is his understanding as well. Councilor Roberts also stated that PAC's have the same standards as individuals. City Attorney Sullivan indicated that this is a starting point to the ordinance. He further stated that PAC's would make a disclosure but the City has no direct control over PAC's.

Councilor Becksted asked does this live up to the state statute. City Attorney Sullivan said the requirements come from the Charter. He explained that both questions were sent to the State and the language was reviewed and there were no changes required from the questions that were submitted.

Councilor Denton said this should apply to all PAC's.

Councilor Perkins said that this is a broad definition of a PAC. She stated there is no problems with the fundraising in the City.

Motion passed.

Charter Amendment 2:

Councilor Reynolds moved to direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance amendment as presented to bring forward for first reading at the February 5, 2018 City Council meeting. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Lazenby and voted.

4. Proposed Acquisition of Bellamy Reservoir Source Water Protection Land Conservation Easement with the Southeast Land Trust

Deputy Public Works Director Goetz provided a brief presentation on the acquisition of the Bellamy Reservoir Source Water Protection Land. He reported that the land is located in Madbury and we have worked with the Town of Madbury and the Southeast Land Trust to acquire Easement on 72 acre property which is ranked number 3 on our list of key parcels. He informed the Council that 10 acres of the property is used as a Christmas tree lot by the current owner. He spoke to the trust fund that is funded exclusively with the jury award (after costs) of approximately \$276 million, resulting from a final ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court in the State's favor in its case against ExxonMobile Corporation for MtBE Contamination. Further, the trust fund will, among other things, provide funding through cost sharing grants to municipalities for the expansion of local and regional source water protection programs.

Councilor Denton moved to authorize the City Manager to negotiate a Purchase & Sale Agreement for the conservation easement and agreement with the Southeast Land Trust for this acquisition; and to establish a public hearing for February 5, 2018 to utilize \$223,130.00 from the water enterprise fund net positions; and to authorize the City Manager to enter into a Grant Agreement to accept \$200,000.00 from the State of New Hampshire's New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund's Land Conservation Grant and Loan Program to be put toward this purchase. Seconded by Councilor Pearson.

Councilor Dwyer said we need to think of lobbyists in a positive view because a lobbyist worked to assist in us receiving these grant funds.

Motion passed.

Mayor Blalock declared a brief recess at 9:30 p.m. At 9:40 p.m., Mayor Blalock called the meeting back to order.

5. Establish Work Session Re: Residential Parking

City Manager Bohenko said he would like to establish a Work Session regarding residential parking to be held at 6:00 p.m. on February 5, 2018 prior to the City Council meeting.

Councilor Pearson moved to establish a Work Session on February 5, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. regarding Residential Parking. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Lazenby and voted.

6. Request to Establish Guidelines for FY19 Budget

City Manager Bohenko advised the City Council he would like action by the Council on establishing a budget guideline for the percentage increase for the FY19 Budget.

Councilor Roberts said if there are reductions he would like to know what they would mean to the department. He feels we need to see what would happen with services if things are reduced.

Councilor Dwyer moved for no more than a 3.25% increase to the FY19 Operating Budget. Seconded by Councilor Pearson and voted.

City Manager Bohenko informed the Council he would bring that percentage forward at the meeting with department heads on Thursday.

B. MAYOR BLALOCK

1. Appointment of Steering Committee Members for McIntyre
McIntyre Public Input Blue Ribbon Steering Committee Charge & Appointments

Guided by the City Council's Public Input Process, the 7 member Steering Committee's charge is to sponsor, oversee and implement a public input process in coordination with the City staff; second, assemble the priorities and principles resulting from the process and report back to the City Council. The input will be used in the crafting of successful application to the National Park Service to transfer of the property from the General Services Administration (GSA) to the City under the Historic Monument Program. The Committee's work should be completed by April 9, 2018.

7 Member Steering Committee Members:

Councilor Dwyer, Chair
Councilor Roberts
Councilor Perkins
John Formella
Philip Cohen
Larry Yeardon
Tom Ferrini

2. Police Commission Vacancy

Option #1

The City Council may determine to follow the provisions in the Municipal Charter under which Reverend Arthur Hilson would automatically accede to fill the position created by the resignation of Joseph Plaia. In this case the City Clerk would swear in Reverend Hilson. A court challenge might then arise, initiated by either the State of New Hampshire or any other person who feels that Reverend Hilson is not entitled to the position as a matter of law.

Option #2

As in 2015 the City Council could determine to acquiesce to the position advanced by the Office of the Attorney General and disregarding the Municipal Charter in favor of following the provisions of RSA 105-C: 3. Under this option the City Council would fill the vacancy on the Police Commission by appointing an individual to serve until the next regular municipal election.

City Attorney Sullivan said currently we have a vacancy on the Police Commission. He addressed the process and the Attorney General's opinion on behalf of the Secretary of State on filling the vacancy. He explained the process followed in 2015 which occurred because of a vacancy. He said he feels the City Charter should be followed.

Mayor Blalock said there are 4 people that have stepped forward to serve on the Police Commission. He said any of the choices would be fine. He said we would satisfy both options by appointment Reverend Hilson.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby moved to appoint Reverend Hilson to the Police Commission to fill the unexpired term of Joseph Plaia until December 31, 2019. Seconded by Councilor Denton

Assistant Mayor Lazenby said it would be great that the other people that stepped forward to get involved in a future election. He said this is the spirit of the vote by the public.

Councilor Dwyer said she agrees with Assistant Mayor Lazenby. She said the number of people that come up to Reverend Hilson as their mentor when he served as a High School teacher. She said instead of a Police Commission we should have an Oversight Review Board.

Councilor Perkins said she agrees with everything said. She asked City Attorney Sullivan why he does not agree with the Attorney General's office. City Attorney Sullivan said the RSA refers to towns and never mentions city and the State only looked at one part of the statute.

Councilor Becksted asked if anyone challenged Option 2 in 2015. He would like to go forward with the option of reviewing candidates that was followed in 2015.

City Attorney Sullivan said Arthur Hilson would not have a challenge and the City Council would not have a challenge.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby said there was risk to be challenged if we went against the Attorney General but both risks are mitigated.

Councilor Roberts said we should appoint Arthur Hilson but he feels we should change the Charter at the next election. City Attorney Sullivan explained the process to amend the Charter and that you would want to start with the amendment process a year from now.

Councilor Pearson suggested that the Attorney General or anyone could challenge.

City Attorney Sullivan said that the Attorney General would be satisfied with the appointment of Arthur Hilson.

Mayor Blalock said we are appointing someone as directed by the Attorney General and satisfies options 1 and 2.

On a roll call vote 8-1, motion passed. Assistant Mayor Lazenby, Councilors Roberts, Pearson, Dwyer, Denton, Perkins, Raynolds and Mayor Blalock voted in favor. Councilor Becksted voted opposed.

3. Appointments to be Considered:
 - Reappointment of Lawrence Cataldo to the Neighborhood Steering Committee
 - Reappointment of Paul Mandle to the Neighborhood Steering Committee
 - Reappointment of Jeffrey Kisiel to the Planning Board
 - Reappointment of Jay Leduc to the Planning Board
 - Appointment of Steve Gray to the Cable Television & Communications Commission
 - Appointment of Peter Weeks to the Trustee of the Trust Funds

The City Council considered the appointments list above which will be acted upon at the February 5, 2018 City Council meeting.

4. Information Only City Council Schedule 2018

Mayor Blalock provided a copy of the 2018 City Council Schedule of meetings for informational purposes. No action required.

5. Information Only Board & Commission Assignments for City Council

Mayor Blalock provided a copy of the City Council Board & Commission assignments for informational purposes. No action required.

C. COUNCILOR ROBERTS

1. New Sources of Revenue

Councilor Roberts requested that all suggestions for new sources of revenue should be collected and listed in one place to focus the City Council's attention on this one issue. No action required.

Letter to Chairman Norman Major, House Ways and Means Committee – City of Portsmouth's Written Testimony in support of HB 1491 Re: Meals and Rooms Tax Revenue (Not on Agenda)

Letter to Chairman Norman Major, House Ways and Means Committee – City of Portsmouth's Written Testimony in support of HB 1609 Re: a surcharge on hotel occupancy (Not on Agenda)

Mayor Blalock informed the City Council he would be providing testimony of the Meals and Rooms Tax Revenue and a surcharge on hotel occupancy this week.

City Manager Bohenko spoke to the letters which would be provided at the hearing. He said the City sends \$27,000,000.00 on rooms and meals and receives only \$1,000,000.00. He said we are second in the State behind Manchester for the amount of meals and rooms taxes collected. He stated a \$2.00 additional tax on rooms and meals would raise an additional \$1.4 million in revenue and it would be collected by the DRA but we feel it should be collected locally.

Councilor Dwyer moved to support the letters regarding HB 1491 on Meals and Rooms Tax Revenue. Seconded by Councilor Perkins and voted.

D. COUNCILOR PEARSON

1. Revisit Proposal to Improve Civic Engagement

Councilor Pearson said she wants to increase engagement with the City and residents. She requested the City Manager review her suggestions outlined in her correspondence to the Council regarding increasing modes of communication between City Council and residents and to start to see some different methods of communication in a digital form.

E. COUNCILOR DENTON

1. Safe Station

Councilor Denton moved to request the Fire Commission and Fire Chief report back on a safe station model within 60 days. Seconded by Councilor Pearson.

Councilor Denton stated that this would require two additional firefighters and a new ambulance. The Chief is on board to look into this further. He spoke to Safe Harbor which is a recovery center. He said that this is a big endeavor and there are other models that we could review.

Councilor Dwyer spoke to support the model and looking at a customized approach.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby said the mission is great and there are opportunities to share costs with other neighboring communities.

Motion passed.

F. COUNCILOR PERKINS

1. Previous City Council Rule #47 – Appointments to Boards and Commissions: Unless otherwise required by statute or ordinance, the Mayor Shall not bring forward for reappointment to any Board or Commission the name of any person who shall have served ten (10) or more consecutive years on the same Board or Commission prior to the effective date of the requested reappointment

Councilor Perkins said she would like to limit appointments to 10 years for Boards and Commissions. She said she feels that a lot happens in 10 years and we would like to refer this to City staff.

Mayor Blalock said he would not support this because it limits the powers of the Mayor. He would not support the motion but would support a discussion.

Councilor Reynolds said he would support the motion along the lines to establish a 10 year limit. He said new views are good.

Councilor Becksted said he would not support the motion because it is vital and important to have someone with longevity and that knows the City serving on our Boards and Commissions.

Councilor Denton said he supports bringing it forward for further discussion.

Councilor Dwyer said she has supported this in the past and she would like to discuss the matter further.

Councilor Perkins moved to refer this matter to the City Attorney to bring back language at a future meeting that would prohibit the reappointment to any Board or Commission the name of any person who shall have served ten (10) or more consecutive years on the same Board or Commission prior to the effective date of the request reappointment. Seconded by Councilor Denton and voted.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilor Dwyer requested a report back on the Revaluation Review at the February 20, 2018 City Council meeting. City Manager Bohenko stated he would send out copies of the Revaluation Review Report to the new City Councilors for their reference.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:45 p.m., Councilor Denton voted to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Perkins and voted.



KELLI L. BARNABY, MMC, CMC, CNHMC
CITY CLERK