

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
DATE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024

PORTSMOUTH, NH
TIME: 7:00PM

III. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor McEachern called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

IV. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor McEachern, Assistant Mayor Kelley, Councilors Tabor, Cook, Denton, Blalock, Bagley, Moreau and Lombardi

VII. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES *(There are no minutes on for acceptance this evening)*

VIII. RECOGNITIONS AND VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE REPORTS

(There are no recognitions and volunteer committee reports this evening)

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Zelita Morgan thanked City Clerk Barnaby and her team for their work with the recent election. She asked the City Council to request the City Manager to have the City pay for James Hewitt's legal expenses to bring this matter to closure.

Rob Exkin spoke on the development of Sherburne School. He said the development of the site should be kept local and apartments should be created for those in need of housing.

James Hewitt said at the last City Council meeting he asked if the city received a letter regarding his request for reimbursement of his legal fees. He said it took the city five months to get back to his attorney regarding his letter. He said the decision on whether to reimburse his legal fees is the decision of the City Council. He spoke to his service as a Planning Board member and asked at a future City Council meeting that a vote be taken to return his funds to him.

Christopher White said he wants the City to put the James Hewitt matter behind them and pay his legal fees back. He said Mr. Hewitt is asking for his legal fees to be returned to him for the wrongdoing the city did by putting him on trial.

Liza Hewitt spoke regarding the James Hewitt matter. She said as a resident and taxpayer is not what she expected by the City Council. The decision you make now is personal. She said the city robbed \$28,000.00 from their retirement fund and now you can do the right thing and return the money to them.

Rebecca O'Brien said the city has narrowed the field for the Sherburne Property and spoke in support of POAH doing the development for the project. She said POAH will focus on sustainability which is

important to residents. She spoke in support of improvements to the city playgrounds as outlined in the CIP. She said the playground needs to be brought up to safety standards.

Anna Kay Vorsteg thanked the City Council for their services and said you are down to two finalists for the Sherburne Property which include PHA and POAH. She said POAH is a large organization, but PHA works here in the community and has expertise and experience in developments here in the city.

Erik Anderson said he agrees with comments regarding James Hewitt and the financial consequences need to be rectified by the city. He said he serves on the Housing Committee, and you could pick a developer this evening, but he hopes the City Council does not. He said the city should digest the comments and vote at the December 16, 2024, meeting regarding this matter.

Sue Polidura asked the City Council to reimburse the Hewitt's family for their attorney fees. She said you can find the money and prevent them from escalating this to the next level.

Jeffrey Cooper read the resolution adopted by the Arts and Cultural Commission for the creation of an Arts Overlay District. He said the Arts and Cultural Commission could serve as a partner in this endeavor. He stated that there is a clear call in the city for artists to live, work and thrive in the city. The city should support the arts.

Roy Helsel said this is a tourist town but there is no excuse for exceeding the speed limit. The Police Department needs to issue tickets and suggest larger signs with the speed limits listed. In regard to the James Hewitt matter, the financial request should be answered by the City Council.

Kirsten Hunter said that PHA is a part of the network of care. She hopes the city accepts POAH for the development of Sherburne Property. She said we are in a housing crisis and many residents have moved out of the city because they can no longer afford to live here. She said we need a new partnership and POAH works in the region, and she urged the Council to support them in this process.

Paige Trace spoke regarding the James Hewitt matter. She said the Council listened to staff and you thought you were doing the right thing but what you did was an error in judgement. She said the Hewitt's spent a great deal of money for Mr. Hewitt's defense and he was found innocent. She urged the City Council to pay Mr. Hewitt his legal fees.

Susan Dewhurst said she can no longer afford to live in this city. She said you need to move forward on the housing issues in the city. She spoke in support of POAH for the project and said that they should be chosen as they scored the highest on the project.

Peter Furst spoke in support of PHA because they are the only organization that has created affordable housing here in the city. He said POAH has a good proposal but are less expensive in the area. He said it would send resources outside of the city. He said PHA is a better choice and will allow the city to expand and will provide a high-quality project.

Michael Rodriguez Torrent said he has lived here for ten years, and the city needs more housing. He spoke in support of POAH and their expenses on affordability and should drive more affordable housing here.

Katheriene Stewart said she lives here and is a business owner and would love to own property here, but it is impossible with the way the market is and the cost of houses. She said more housing is critical and should be below market value. She urged the city to honor the scoring and put POAH ahead of PHA. She stated we need meaningful development.

Kristen Jeffrey said she supports POAH for housing at Sherburne School. The city can benefit more from working with POAH and they earned the highest score.

Chris Dwyer, Chair of PARC, said there is a new public art trust before you this evening for approval. She spoke regarding the guidelines and benefits for awarding grants. She urged the City Council to vote in favor of the trust.

Craig Welch, Executive Director of PHA, said PHA would be honored to work in partnership with the city on this housing project. He said Sherburne School would be a great addition to their portfolio. He stated if the city is going to grow its supply of housing, they should expand housing with PHA. He said PHA is the gold standard choice in housing.

Tom Ferrini said he appreciated the City Council's hard work on this project. He stated there is no doubt that POAH is a fine organization but what PHA does best is it has local people working on their projects. He said in twenty years we don't end operating. He said PHA is a local group that is highly sophisticated and is an organization that will be here for a long time.

Merrill Aharonian spoke in support of PHA as developer for the Sherburne property. She said that she can live here because of PHA. She said POAH seems responsible, but we need local control and resources. She said in the end, PHA is the best developer for this project.

Jason Blades spoke to living here and supports PHA personally and professionally. He said local support can meet the needs of the city.

Petra Huda asked when the required public hearings for the Sherburne project will be held. She said the selection committee was chosen by the city staff and POAH stands out and should be selected for the project. She asked when the taxpayers are going to get their tax bills. In addition, she said the city needs to pay Mr. Hewitt his money back.

Emma Stratton, Arts & Culture Commission, spoke to the plan on historic preservation and said the Council should support work force housing and the overlay district.

Karen Rosania spoke in support of comments made by Emma and Jeffrey. She said the goal is to keep our amazing artists and continue to attract new talent. She said we need more options to be affordable for the ability to work and live in the city. She said an arts district would be important for the city to support artists to live and work here.

Jackie Cali-Pitts spoke in support of the arts. She said there is a gem in the city called Peirce Island and asked why we need to install art on the island. She addressed Mr. Hewitt and said anyone that comes up against a situation where they must defend themselves and spend funds to do so should be made whole by the accuser if they are found innocent.

Patricia Bagley said we all make mistakes, but it is a sign of strength to admit our mistakes. She said the City Council can do the right thing and provide James Hewitt with his funds.

Alex Finnigan, POAH, together our team has listened and tried hard to answer the questions. He said we are contacted by the city, but we are not local, and we are deeply respected. He said POAH wants the chance to earn the respect of residents in Portsmouth.

Candace Parker, Dover, NH, said she grew up here and works in the city. She said that she supports PHA for the project.

Matt Dyec, Dover, NH, said that this is his professional home and asked why the city would outsource the housing project. He spoke in support of PHA.

Verity Boyer, Portsmouth Advocates, Exeter, NH spoke in support of the housing project at Sherburne Property. She said it is important for the city to honor the character of this community.

Joan Griffin said her mother Ruth looked after the needs of the city and kept housing local and community based. She said her mother served on PHA for years and asked why the city would consider outsourcing the housing project. She said PHA will be here after the ribbon cutting and will answer the accountable questions.

X. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE ON ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

Extension of Public Hearing of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP):

A. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) FY 2026-2031

- **PRESENTATION** (*Presentation was held at the November 12, 2024 Work Session*)
- **CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS**
- **PUBLIC HEARING SPEAKERS**
- **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND DELIBERATIONS**

City Manager Conard provided a brief presentation regarding the school playgrounds. She spoke about permitting and construction timelines. She stated that the South Mill Playground was initiated as part of the 400th Celebration. She spoke to the grant funds from Rotary which are designed for the reprogramming of funds that will require a public hearing. She spoke regarding the Citywide Tree and Public Greenery Program stating that an increase in funds would not necessarily lead to an increased volume of trees planted. She addressed sustainability projects including the Micro transit Study, Decarbonization Plan and the Municipal Building Energy Audit. City Manager Conard discussed stormwater drainage and flooding. She stated that staff proactively is addressing funding increased from \$250,000.00 to \$500,000.00 per year in FY25, and that the request for FY26 is now \$1,000,000.00. She addressed flooding resilience which would need to be funded 100% through the General Fund. She also addressed the addition by the Planning Board to recommend that \$150,000.00 be added in FY27 from parking revenue for a feasibility and site selection study for a new parking garage.

Mayor McEachern opened the public hearing and called for speakers.

Kate Hatem spoke on funding for the playgrounds at elementary schools. She said that the school playgrounds are very important and the need for funding because they are not in good shape.

Petra Huda spoke to the funding for the Police Facility Building. She asked for the status of the funding and the need to tighten spending requests.

Meg Aldrich said it is so important to advocate funding for the elementary school playgrounds. She said there are hundreds of children that would benefit from this funding and the playgrounds are not ADA compliant and is a big issue that needs to be addressed.

Margaret Witherspoon spoke regarding the playgrounds being placed within the CIP. She said that she is concerned with the safety of the equipment and the harmful effects that could happen to the children using these structures. She said that these are liability issues for the city.

Trevor Ristaino spoke for the reallocation of funds for playground equipment. He said Little Harbour School playground is a mess. He stated higher rated schools are a magnet for families, but the playground equipment needs to be replaced.

Ashley Blackington said the PTA has donated funds to cover initial plans and designs in 2023 for playgrounds. She said current plans cannot be covered through PTA's or parents. She said the current plan is in the budget and swapping projects is the right thing to do. She said all elementary schools need rehabilitation and that the ADA exists for all to play. She stated that none of the playgrounds are in compliant or accessible for all.

With no further speakers, Mayor McEachern declared the public hearing closed.

At 8:50 p.m., Mayor McEachern declared a brief recess. Mayor McEachern called the meeting back to order at 9:00 p.m.

Councilor Blalock asked what would be the earliest to get the shovel in the ground for Little Harbour School improvements.

Superintendent McLaughlin said he does not feel they could break ground in July. He said that the playgrounds could be upgraded, and it would be a significant step forward. He said it is important to remember that this is a 4-year project, and we have not been involved in the project management up to this point. He stated we would like to break ground as soon as school ends in 2025. He also indicated that the playgrounds are ADA compliant.

Councilor Cook said if we move funds up, we will start the process sooner. Councilor Blalock said there is urgency to upgrade the Little Harbour School playground. He said he is trying to be fiscally responsible.

Mayor McEachern asked if we believe that Little Harbour School is ADA compliant. Public Works Director Rice said playgrounds are not optional but the time you start making modifications you need to meet ADA requirements. He said we would make the playgrounds functional for all and not increase expenditure. Mayor McEachern said he hears there is not a way that the school could start the project in July of 2025.

Councilor Bagley said the Little Harbour School schedule needs to be considered and we should leave the project under the School Department. He stated in FY2027 we have \$600,000.00 for Little Harbour School and asked if it would be feasible to bond the funding this summer.

Deputy City Manager of Finance/Administration Lunney said in the past you have committed funds earlier and allowed for bonding to take place.

Mayor McEachern asked how this would affect the bond limit. Deputy City Manager of Finance/Administration Lunney said it would not be an issue with debt limit funding.

Councilor Lombardi asked about \$2.8 million for the Police Department policy. He said there is funding authorized and available from prior years.

City Manager Conard said we would move the project forward in the coming years and need access for the \$2.8 million to begin to access funding.

Councilor Tabor said if we form the new committee, it would be for municipal buildings and move things around in City Hall. He said we need to keep moving on the Police Department and make things more inclusive for buildings here.

Councilor Cook said she supports moving the funding up. She said if they could break ground early, they could do that. She said she wants ADA playgrounds everywhere in the city. She stated that she finds the timeline frustrating because it takes so much time to get to implementation.

Councilor Blalock moved to adopt the Capital Improvement Plan for FY2026-2031. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.

Councilor Bagley moved the Bonding monies for the Elementary School Playgrounds up from FY27, FY28, FY29, to FY26, FY27, and FY28 in the amount of \$500,000.00 each year. Seconded by Councilor Cook and voted.

Councilor Denton moved to add \$50,000.00 for a Fleet Decarbonization Plan. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.

Councilor Denton explained items that do not make it to next year's funding fall off the list of projects. He spoke to the need for an RFP for fleet decarbonization plan for all vehicles used by the city. He said the RFP would go out for this coming year and then put the funding into the CIP.

Councilor Bagley said he admires Councilor Denton's passion. He said there are not many EV options that work well and there may not be enough municipal vehicles.

Councilor Denton said there is no grant funding out there currently. Councilor Tabor said we need a contractor to tell us what is available.

Councilor Cook spoke in support of a decarbonization program.

Mayor McEachern passed the gavel to Assistant Mayor Kelley.

Mayor McEachern said we are not there with some of the vehicles yet. He said we could take off the funding more easily if there were new vehicles out in the city. He said on another subject we need to keep skateboard lighting on longer which would solve the current needs at the park now.

Assistant Mayor Kelley returned the gavel to Mayor McEachern.

On a roll call vote 3-6, the motion to add \$50,000.00 for a Fleet Decarbonization Plan **failed** to pass. Councilors Tabor, Cook and Denton voted in favor. Assistant Mayor Kelley, Councilors Blalock, Bagley, Moreau, Lombardi and Mayor McEachern voted opposed.

Councilor Denton moved to increase the funding for the Trees and Greenery Project for FY26 to \$40,000.00, FY27 to \$60,000.00, FY28 to \$80,000.00, FY29 to \$100,000.00, and FY30 and FY31 to \$100,000.00. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.

Councilor Bagley said he would support changing the number to \$40,000.00 and revisiting the issue in a year.

Assistant Mayor Kelley asked Public Works Director Rice when the funds would be allocated and spent. Public Works Director Rice said it is difficult to keep the trees alive in the first two years.

Mayor McEachern asked if there could be other programs and processes to keep the trees viable. Public Works Director Rice said it is a grant tree program in the first two years. He said we would be responsible with the property owner taking over the watering for the following years.

Councilor Moreau asked if you could find \$20,000.00 to look at some of these items discussed. Public Works Director Rice said it is about having a viable place for the trees to live.

Motion passed.

Councilor Cook moved to include the Shuttle Loop/Micro-transit Study recommended by the Sustainability Committee and included as part of the Climate Action Plan in the CIP budget for funding in FY2026 with \$100,000.00 under Federal/State funding in FY26. Seconded by Councilor Denton.

Councilor Tabor supports the idea for FY26 rather than FY27. He said we need to look at the impact in shuttle/loop with all the houses being built.

Councilor Bagley said he supports the motion because we are looking at grant funding. He said we are planning for a new parking garage. He stated each year COAST will need more funding and we would be looking at \$100,000.00 from parking revenues.

Motion passed.

Councilor Bagley moved that \$150,000.00 be added in FY27 from Parking Revenues for a feasibility and site selection study for a new parking garage. Seconded by Councilor Moreau and voted.

On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted to adopt the Capital Improvement Plan for FY2026-2031 as amended.

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to suspend the rules to bring forward Items XV. A.1. – Sherburne developer proposals: discussion and next steps and XVII. A.1. – Report Back on Sherburne Property Process as Requested at the November 18, 2024, City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Tabor and voted.

Councilor Tabor reported that the Housing Committee met, and we have given the questions thought and have a lot of information but want to wait for answers to questions. He stated a meeting will be held on December 5th to look at the answers to the questions. He said the City Council can wait for a recommendation from the Housing Committee or make a recommendation this evening.

Assistant Mayor Kelley said we have representation from both organizations here this evening. She would like to open a discussion for the City Council.

City Manager Conard said the questions were collected and answers from the top two proposers and have been provided to the City Council.

Councilor Bagley said the Council should have a motion on the floor.

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to suspend the rules to allow questions by the two firms – Portsmouth Housing Authority (PHA) and Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) regarding the Sherburne Property. Seconded by Councilor Tabor and voted.

Questions and answers were asked of each organization from the City Council with discussion taking place regarding their proposals and other projects they have completed or are currently working on.

Councilor Bagley moved to suspend the rules to continue the meeting beyond 10:30 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Moreau and voted. Assistant Mayor Kelley voted opposed.

Some discussion centered around whether the two organizations could work together on the project if asked. Both PHA and POAH indicated that they could work together on the project.

Councilor Bagley moved to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with the Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) for permanent below-market housing at 35 Sherburne Road, substantially aligned with Proposal #09-25 and their response dated October 11, 2024. Seconded by Councilor Denton for discussion purposes.

Councilor Bagley spoke to the scoring and indicated that with POAH scoring higher this serves as a benchmark for future proposals. He said the timeline is important for funding and we need to move forward with this project.

Assistant Mayor Kelley said respectfully she asked for Councilor Bagley to rescind the motion. She said it is shortsighted to not take the few days for the recommendation to come from the Housing Committee. She said the least we could do is respectfully wait to make this motion until recommendations come back.

Councilor Blalock said he disagrees with Councilor Bagley. He said he believes both firms could work with the city and could develop the project and be good neighbors. He stated that PHA is local, and we should stay in the community.

Councilor Cook moved to table this matter until a Special City Council meeting on December 9, 2024. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.

Councilor Cook said she understands the urgency and would have moved forward last year. She stated we are talking about a two-week delay for the Housing Committee to meet and come back with a recommendation.

Councilor Lombardi said table the motion is a good idea as the original motion would not allow to hear thoughts of the Housing Committee.

Councilor Tabor said we have city staff that made a recommendation, then we had public input with recommendations. He said we have not received the recommendation from the Housing Committee. He said we need to take the extra time and have a special meeting on Monday, December 9th. Assistant Mayor Kelley said both firms know the timeline and there is no concern from them with a delay on the vote.

Councilor Bagley said the Housing Committee has done great work and it would be difficult for the City Council to overlook a recommendation from the Committee, and we should make the decision.

Mayor McEachern said it would be inappropriate for the Council to vote at 11:15 p.m. on this matter. He said he wants to hear what the Housing Committee's recommendation is.

Motion passed. Councilor Blalock and Bagley voted opposed.

Third and Final Reading of Ordinance:

- B. Third and Final Reading of Ordinance amendment to Chapter 1, Article V, Purchasing Procedures, Sections 1.500-1.504 to be deleted in its entirety and replaced with a new Article V, retitled Procurement Procedures, inclusive of new Sections 1.500-1.504

Councilor Cook moved to pass third and final reading of the ordinance as presented. Seconded by Councilor Moreau and voted.

XI. CITY MANAGER'S ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE ACTION

A. CITY MANAGER CONARD

1. Lease Agreement with Community Day Care Center, Inc. D/B/A Seacoast Community School at Community Campus

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved that the City Manager be authorized to amend any Exhibit and to finalize and execute the Lease Agreement with the Community Daycare Center, Inc., d/b/a Seacoast Community School in a form similar to what is proposed in the Agenda Packet. Seconded Councilor Bagley and voted.

2. Request for Public Hearing to Authorize Loan and Acceptance of Grant for Sludge Minimization and PFAS Destruction Pilot

Councilor Denton moved to schedule a public hearing at the December 16, 2024, City Council meeting and subsequently authorize the borrowing of \$1,000,000.00 as described above. Seconded by Councilor Blalock and voted.

3. Roll Call Vote for Bonding Authorization Adopted November 18, 2024

City Manager Conard said at the November 18, 2024 regular meeting of the City Council, the Council unanimously adopted Resolution #20-2024, authorizing \$4.3 million for water system improvements and rescinding a like amount that had been previously authorized for the replacement of water transmission mains beneath Little Bay. She indicated that we have been advised by bond counsel that all bond authorization votes should be recorded by roll call to ensure the desired legal opinion on City bonding.

Councilor Cook moved to reaffirm by roll call vote the unanimous vote taken at the November 18, 2024, meeting to adopt Resolution #20-2024, authorizing a bond issue and/or notes of up to four million three hundred thousand dollars (\$4,300,000.00) for water system improvements, and rescinding a like amount of funds authorized to be borrowed for the replacement of water transmission mains beneath Little Bay, which project is not ready to be undertaken at this time. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

4. Authorization to Disburse Monies for Peirce Island Public Art

City Manager Conard said this will authorize the disbursement of monies by the Trustees of the Trust Fund for Peirce Island Public Art.

Councilor Moreau moved to authorize the Trustees of Trust Funds to disburse funds from the City of Portsmouth Public Art Trust to DiBari Innovation and Design LLC as required under a contract dated November 20, 2024, for art to be installed on Peirce Island and further that the City Manager is authorized to request multiple disbursements under the contract up to the amount held in the Trust associated with the Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facility percent-for art contribution without further vote of the City Council. Seconded by Councilor Cook and voted.

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Request from Michelle Corgan of Bell Farm Shops LLC., DBA Perch + Petal to install a Projecting Sign at 105 Daniel Street ***(Anticipated action – move to approve the aforementioned Projecting Sign License as recommended by the Planning & Sustainability Director, and further, authorize the City Manager to execute the License Agreement for this request)***

Planning Director's Stipulations:

- ***The license shall be approved by the Legal Department as to content and form;***
- ***Any removal or relocation of projecting sign, for any reason, shall be done at no cost to the City; and***
- ***Any disturbance of a sidewalk, street or other public infrastructure resulting from the installation, relocation or removal of the projecting sign, for any reason shall be restored at no cost to the City and shall be subject to review and acceptance by the Department of Public Works***

Councilor Lombardi moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Tabor and voted.

XIII. PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Email Correspondence

Councilor Bagley moved to accept and place on file. Seconded by Councilor Denton and voted.

- B. Request from Valerie Rochon, Managing Director, Portsmouth NH 400th, Inc., to Establish Two New City Trusts

Councilor Cook moved to authorize the City to enter into the Declaration of Trust Reserve for Portsmouth Settlement Anniversaries and Declaration of Trust 400th Anniversary Education and Public Art Trust with Portsmouth NH 400th Inc. (PNH400) and the Trustees of Trust Funds, as presented; to accept the proposed donations of \$30,000.00 and \$100,000.00 to those trusts, respectively; to accept such additional funds as may be contributed by PNH400; and to authorize the City Manager to execute the trust documents on behalf of the City. Seconded by Councilor Blalock and voted.

- C. Disbursement of funds from the Portsmouth 400th Anniversary Trust to the Portsmouth NH 400th Inc.

Councilor Moreau moved to authorize the Trustees of Trust Funds to release the remaining funds in the City of Portsmouth 400th Anniversary Trust to the Portsmouth NH 400th Inc. charitable organization as reimbursement for the final eligible amounts spent by that organization as represented in the November 26, 2024, communication from Valerie Rochon, Managing Director. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley and voted.

XIV. MAYOR McEACHERN

1. Appointment to be Voted:
- Reappointment of Philip Cohen to the Economic Development Commission
 - Appointment of Ethan Underhill to the Board of Library Trustees
 - Appointment of Jane Mitchell-Pate to the Parking & Traffic Safety Committee
 - Appointment of Colleen Spear to the Sustainability Committee
 - Appointment of Maxson Ward to the Sustainability Committee
 - Appointment of Scott McDermott to the Trees and Public Greenery Committee
 - Reappointment of Beth Margeson to the Zoning Board of Adjustment

Councilor Moreau moved to approve the reappointment of Philip Cohen to the Economic Development Commission until October 1, 2027; appointment of Ethan Underhill to the Board of Library Trustee until October 1, 2027; appointment of Jane Mitchell-Pate to the Parking & Traffic Safety Committee until December 2, 2027, appointment of Colleen Spear & Maxson Ward to the Sustainability Committee until October 1, 2027, appointment of Scott McDermott to the Trees and Public Greenery Committee until December 2, 2027, and reappointment of Beth Margeson to the Zoning Board of Adjustment until December 1, 2029. Seconded by Councilor Lombardi and voted. Councilor Bagley abstained from voting.

2. Establish Municipal Building Blue Ribbon Committee

Councilor Blalock moved to dissolve the current Community Policing Facility Working Group and move to establish a Municipal Building Blue Ribbon Committee at the December 16, 2024, City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Denton.

Mayor McEachern said we want to look at the Municipal Complex in new ways. He said we have designs and could relocate parts of City Hall to engage the community with one stop. He said he does not feel we would get a new Police Department built here and this is a good time to have a conversation surrounding the entire building. He stated he expects names to be submitted in the next couple of weeks. Mayor McEachern said that these would be public meetings.

Motion passed.

B. COUNCILOR COOK

1. Arts Overlay District

Councilor Cook moved to request that the Planning Board, Planning Staff, and Legal Department work together to draft an Arts Overlay District to be included in our zoning code, with incentives for artist live/work space, studio space, gallery space, and/or nonprofit arts and cultural organizational space, to be initially applied to the CD4-W zone in the West End Area as part of the Master Planning process. Seconded by Councilor Moreau.

Councilor Cook said this came from the Arts and Cultural Commission.

Councilor Moreau at the time spoke to the zoning ordinance for live workspace and said you would create a West End Artist District.

Motion passed.

D. COUNCILOR BAGLEY

1. I-95 Median Speed Enforcement

Councilor Bagley moved to request the City Council and Mayor send a letter to the Governor urging the continuation of increased and highly visible speed enforcement on I-95 until median barriers are installed. Seconded by Councilor Tabor.

Councilor Bagley said perhaps we could include the Towns of New Castle and Greenland. Councilor Moreau suggested we also send this to the Department of Safety.

Motion passed.

XVI. APPROVAL OF GRANTS/DONATIONS

A. Acceptance of Donation to the Department of Public Works for the construction of a pump track - \$5,000.00

Councilor Lombardi moved to approve and accept the \$5,000.00 donation to the Department of Public Works from the NH Charitable Foundation's Altus Engineering Charitable Fund for the construction of a pump track. Seconded by Councilor Bagley and voted.

B. Acceptance of Donation to the Department of Public Works for the construction of a pump track - \$5,000.00

Councilor Denton moved to approve and accept the \$5,000.00 donation to the Department of Public Works from Neal Ouellett and Darlene Furbush Ouellett for the construction of a pump track. Seconded by Councilor Cook and voted.

C. Acceptance of Donation to the Department of Public Works for the labor and materials for the construction of a pump track - \$10,000.00

Councilor Blalock moved to approve and accept the \$10,000.00 donation to the Department of Public Works from the Severino Trucking Co., Inc. for labor and materials for the construction of a pump track. Seconded by Councilor Tabor and voted.

D. Acceptance of Violence Against Women Act Grant, as Amended - \$25,025.00

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to approve and accept the Violence Against Women Act Grant, as amended. Seconded by Councilor Moreau and voted.

XVII. CITY MANAGER'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Report Back on Sherburne Property Process as Requested at the November 18, 2024, City Council meeting

XVIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS INCLUDING BUSINESS REMAINING UNFINISHED AT PREVIOUS MEETING

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kelli L. Barnaby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KELLI L. BARNABY, MMC/CNHMC
CITY CLERK