

OFFICIAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
CITY COUNCIL
Minutes, Regular Session, July 16, 2014
City Hall—Council Chambers
7:00 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Georgia Tuttle, Councilors Bruce Bronner, Carol Dustin, Erling Heistad, Karen Liot Hill, Heather Collier Vogel, Stephen Wood

MEMBERS ABSENT: Assistant Mayor Suzanne Prentiss, Councilor Nicole Cormen

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Greg Lewis, City Clerk Sandra Allard, Fire Chief Chris Christopoulos, Public Works Director Michael Lavalla, City Engineer Christina Hall, Airport Manager Rick Dymont

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Mayor Tuttle.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Hill led the Council in the Pledge.

II. PUBLIC FORUM ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Tuttle made the announcement.

III. OPEN TO PUBLIC

No members of the public spoke at this time.

IV. RESOLUTIONS: None

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: July 2, 2014

Change: Page 2, line 29, replace “Below” with “Welsch”.

Karen Liot Hill moved to approve the minutes as presented in the July 16, 2014 agenda packet, with the change noted. Seconded by Bruce Bronner.

****The motion passed 6-0.***

Mr. Lewis said he does not think it is reasonable to gather all of the necessary information in two weeks. He said their mission is to take care of Dulac Street this year. They will have to determine the timeline that would be required and look at a backup plan for Dulac Street. He said the options presented were developed from the walkabouts and community meetings. Councilor Wood said the City gets neighborhood input, but they tell people what the rules are. The City starts by telling people what they cannot have. Mayor Tuttle said that was not how the walkabouts were conducted. She said the City took broad comments.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Presentation of Second Reading to amend Ordinance #18, Salary Plan, Article III, Bargaining Unit Employees, Lebanon Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA)

Karen Liot Hill moved that the Lebanon City Council recognizes the second of three presentations to amend Ordinance No. 18, Salary Plan, Article III Bargaining Unit Employees, Lebanon Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA), by replacing the current language with “Employees covered by the terms and conditions of the successor collective bargaining agreement between the City of Lebanon and the Lebanon Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA), as provided in that agreement, and as placed on file in the office of the City Clerk, shall be paid in accordance with the accompanying pay plan for the first pay period of January 2014 to the last pay period of December 2016.” Seconded by Stephen Wood.

****The motion passed 5-0.*** (Councilors Heistad and Wood were not in the room at the time of the vote.)

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. NHDOT Presentation and Discussion of Bridge Projects: I-89 over the Connecticut River between West Lebanon, NH and White River Junction, VT; and I-89 over Hardy Hill Road, Lebanon.

Joe Adams of NHDOT and Gene McCarthy of McFarland Johnson appeared. Mr. Adams said this project is in the early design stage. Both projects are scheduled to go out to bid in the fall of 2017. The project is federally funded. Mr. McCarthy discussed the importance of the Connecticut River bridge. He said they will do a superstructure replacement, replacing the deck and the steel girders. They will change from separate north and south spans to one large bridge to improve safety and minimize impacts. He showed existing and proposed bridge sections. The bridge will have wider shoulders and auxiliary lanes. They will maintain two-lane traffic in both directions during all construction. He showed possible lane configurations and the pier configuration.

Mr. McCarthy said the taper from the I-91 ramp to I-89 southbound is greater than standard. They are recommending a southbound auxiliary lane between I-91 and Exit 20

of I-89, but a decision about that has not yet been made. He asked if a northbound auxiliary lane would be useful. He reviewed the traffic control strategy. He said at peak times, there will always be two lanes open in both directions. The estimated construction cost is \$38 million, and construction is planned for 2018-2019.

Mayor Tuttle noted that presentations will be made at the Kilton Library on July 24 for the Connecticut River bridge project and on July 29 for the Hardy Hill project. She asked if there will be any cost to Lebanon taxpayers. Mr. Adams said there will not. The project is funded by the federal government, as well as New Hampshire and Vermont state funds. Mayor Tuttle asked if this will affect tractor-trailer traffic. Mr. Adams said it will not. Councilor Bronner said adding auxiliary lanes in both directions makes sense. He said it is difficult to break into the right-hand lane on I-89 northbound for those heading onto I-91. Councilors Heistad and Hill agreed. Councilor Hill said the exiting traffic and the through-traffic are moving at different speeds. She suggested road markings to indicate where through-traffic should go.

Councilor Dustin asked how disruption to the river environment will be minimized. Mr. McCarthy said that is a challenge and will be part of the environmental permitting. They will construct temporary trestles to get to the piers.

Ron Kleiner of NHDOT reviewed the Hardy Hill bridge project. He said the bridges were built in 1966, and each bridge is 37 feet wide. The decks are in poor condition. They propose to replace the decks and girders. Construction will be phased, and they will build an additional structure between the existing northbound and southbound spans. They will keep two lanes open in each direction. All work will be done within the right-of-way. Construction is planned for 2018.

Councilor Vogel asked how this will affect traffic on Hardy Hill Road. Mr. Kleiner said hopefully, drivers will not know the work is happening, although they may see scaffolding. There will be no road closures. Councilor Hill asked if the Planning Board will comment on this. She said there are sourcewater issues there, and she expressed the hope that best practices will be used.

B. Request by Execusuite, LLC for eight (8) additional water and sewer units to serve commercial spaces located at 75 Bank Street (former junior high), Lebanon.

(Councilor Hill recused herself at this time.)

Attorney Nick Burke, representing Execusuite, LLC, said this project is nearing completion. They have received approval to create a fitness studio in the former gymnasium, and they have added two additional residential units, a small office, and the SPARK! Community Center. He said Execusuite has an application before the Zoning Board and Planning Board for one additional residential unit. He said Ms. Hall has determined that there is sufficient water and sewer capacity.