

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
DATE: MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2019

PORTSMOUTH, NH
TIME: 7:00 PM

At 6:15 p.m. a Non-Public Session was held in accordance with RSA 91-A:2, I (a) regarding Strategy or Negotiations with respect to Collective Bargaining – AFSCME Local 1386.

CALL TO ORDER

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

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. INVOCATION

Mayor Blalock asked everyone to join in a moment of silence.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Blalock led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Arbor Day – Growth Award – Corin Hallowell, Arborist & Charles Baxter, Arborist

Mayor Blalock announced and presented Portsmouth's Parks and Greenery Department, led by arborists Corin Hallowell and Charles Baxter, with the Tree Growth Award. Corin accepted the award with thanks and appreciation for the support of the City Council and City Manager Bohenko.

2. McIntyre Presentation Introduction of David Eaton from Colliers International

Mr. Eaton provided a brief presentation on the financial analysis that Colliers International will be conducting on the McIntyre project. He spoke to his 30 years of experience and diverse skill set encompassing the sale, development, management and finance of residential, commercial, retail and industrial properties. He said that the McIntyre is an important piece of land in the City. Councilor Dwyer asked what kinds of information will be provided to the City. Mr. Eaton said they will put things into financial exhibits, provide sharing and participation programs. He said the exhibits will be presented to the City Council as part of the application going to the Federal government.

Councilor Becksted asked if Colliers International has ever been hired by the City. Mr. Eaton said Mr. David Choate is his partner and he may have done some work for the City. Mr. Eaton also indicated that he had been hired once in December but it was not related to this project. Councilor Becksted asked if Mr. Eaton had done work with the Kane's before. Mr. Eaton said no.

Councilor Raynolds asked if the company considers themselves experts in their field. Mr. Eaton said they work with development cases and are not appraisers. Councilor Raynolds asked if they would provide an estimate of the expected real estate value for the development and rental income that will result and the profitability of the developer. He also asked about expected income on ground leases and real estate taxes and making a recommended estimate as to the proposed perimeters of the financial deal. Mr. Eaton said they will either support the project or not and will look at the rents, occupancy rates and proposed expenses. He indicated the City will see an exhibit projected out several years with equity, capital and estimated returns.

Councilor Roberts asked how profitability, risks and expenses are reviewed. Mr. Eaton said they have marketing information, operating pro formas, market studies on rental structures. He said matrix's to apply as operating expenses is a return on equity estimate, confirm vacancy rates and make sure that the project can prove to be profitable.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – APRIL 1, 2019

Councilor Perkins moved to accept and approve the minutes of the April 1, 2019 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer and voted.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Roy Helse asked if the development on Rockingham Avenue and Woodbury Avenue will be required to install sound barriers. He also spoke to the rezoning request of 15 Middle Street.

Edward Richards said he is a petitioner that lives in the neighborhood of Chase Drive. He said they have been confronted with a change to the development of the church. He said the neighborhood is concerned and feels spot zoning has occurred. Mr. Richards said they do not want a housing development of over 200 homes when most of the neighborhood are single family homes. He stated that the zoning should revert back to SRB zone.

Tim MacDonald spoke in opposition to the proposed downtown street closures. He would like to learn more on the cost benefit of the closures and the time spent by staff on this proposal. He said there will be a loss of 92 parking spaces during the events and suggested that other areas that are less impactful be considered.

Esther Kennedy spoke to a public dialogue session when she brought forward the issues of parking, the creation of a park and the post office regarding the McIntyre project. She spoke to parking being a great deal of the conversation by the City in June, 2017. She feels that the City has not listened to the public input outlining concerns relative to the McIntyre project.

David Allen representing Seacoast Area Bicycle Riders Board, extended their best to the City on the upcoming Portsmouth Mayor's Ride on Wednesday, May 8th at Noon. He said there will be a bicycle tour of recent and planned bicycle and pedestrian improvements. He thanked the staff and Planning and Public Works Department for the work they do. He announced that the ride will start at City Hall and invited the City Council to attend or participate in the event.

Mayor Blalock passed the gavel to Assistant Mayor Lazenby.

Mayor Blalock moved to suspend the rules in order to take up City Manager’s Informational Item XI. A.1. – Presentation Re: Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in the Pease Public Water System Update – Captain Gary D. Perlman & Dr. Gregory V. Ulirsch. Seconded by Councilor Becksted and voted.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby returned the gavel to Mayor Blalock

XI. A.1. Presentation Re: Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in the Pease Public Water System Update – Captain Gary D. Perlman & Dr. Gregory V. Ulirsch

Dr. Ulirsch provided a detailed update on the Pease Public Water System and evaluation of exposure to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). He said the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is a public health agency that evaluates environmental exposures for public health risks. He informed the Council that ATSDR has released a health consultation on drinking water contamination at the Pease Tradeport PWS. He advised the Council the health consultation evaluated whether water containing PFAS posed a health threat to people who drank it any time since 1993. He indicated those people included workers at the Pease International Tradeport and children at the two childcare centers at the Pease International Tradeport. He announced the full report is titled “Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in the Pease Tradeport Public Water System (PWS). Dr. Ulirsch said you can find the report at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/PHA/HCPHA.asp?State=NH>.

Dr. Ulirsch reported the health consultation concluded that Pease International Tradeport workers and children who attended the childcare centers were exposed to PFAS by drinking contaminated water. He stated the water was supplied to the Pease International Tradeport before the Haven well was shut down in May 2014. He said drinking water from the Pease Tradeport PWS during this time might have increased the risk for some harmful health effects. He stated the cancer risk from past exposure to all PFAS in the Pease Tradeport PWS is uncertain.

Dr. Ulirsch stated though the Haven well has shut down, there are still low levels of PFAS in the water serving the Pease Tradeport PWS. He said ATSDR does not expect that consuming water or consuming low levels of PFAS from the Pease Tradeport PWS (after May 2014) will harm people. He stated however, persons who were exposed to PFAS from the Pease Tradeport Water System in the past should be aware of ways to reduce future PFAS exposures. He said information on ways to reduce exposures to all sources of PFAS is available at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas-exposure.html>.

Dr. Ulirsch reported based on available scientific information, ATSDR concludes that the health and nutritional benefits of breastfeeding outweigh the risks associated with PFAS in breast milk. He also reported that exposure to perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) can depress the immune response, increase cholesterol, slow growth and development, and cause liver damage. He stated ATSDR is available to consult with any health care provider, as needed.

Councilor Becksted requested that Dr. Ulirsch get this information out to the Pease Development Authority for their meeting scheduled on Thursday, April 18, 2019. He also indicated that there is a public comment session at the meeting which begins at 8:00 a.m.

Deputy Public Works Director Goetz said since May 2014 the Haven well has been shut down. He also stated since 2016 there has been carbon filtration on the other wells.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby asked if children that have been exposed, is the need for avoidance important. Dr. Ulirsch said yes it is.

Councilor Dwyer asked about the effects to development and the need for more information on contacting a health care provider. Dr. Ulirsch said that they would get more information out and work in conjunction with the CAP. Councilor Dwyer spoke to the long term effects and asked if Dr. Ulirsch would come back over time to alert individuals to the long term effects. Dr. Ulirsch said he and Capt. Perlman will be around for a while. He said they look at testing procedures and have been conducting health studies for over 30 years.

Councilor Roberts asked about the state of research. Dr. Ulirsch said research continues. Councilor Roberts asked about the health effects and how long will the process take for a conclusion to come forward. Dr. Ulirsch stated a few years and announced that they will have an office in the area.

VII. VOTES ON ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

- A. First reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 10 – Zoning Map 10.5A21A by changing the property with the address of 15 Middle Street from Civic District to Character District 4 and amending Zoning Map 10.5A21B by changing the height requirement area for the property street frontages on Porter Street and Maplewood Avenue to 2-3 stories (40')

Councilor Roberts moved to pass first reading and schedule second reading and a public hearing for the May 6, 2019 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer.

Councilor Becksted spoke to the last meeting and the confusion regarding the current zoning. Planner Peter Stith said the property has been zoned civic and was presented that way at the Planning Board. He said civic properties are owned by non-profits.

Councilor Roberts asked about the height and said he thought it would be lower. Planner Stith said the height extends around the building to the similar height of the surrounding buildings.

Councilor Becksted asked why we are being asked to rezone this property to something other than civic. He said the property has always been zone civic, maybe there are others in the community that would like to look at this property. Councilor Becksted also stated under the plan coming before us a hotel has the highest requirement for parking spaces.

Councilor Dwyer said she would like a comparison with other properties that are zoned civic. She said it would be helpful to understand other civic designations and issues.

Motion passed. Councilor Becksted voted opposed.

VIII. APPROVAL OF GRANTS/DONATIONS

- A. Acceptance of Donation from Poco Diablo, Inc., Restaurant – John Golumb & Marlisa Geroulo for Light Forms art installation on Ceres Street by Pandora LaCasse Designs - \$2,250.00

Councilor Reynolds moved to accept the first installment donation of \$2,250.00 from Poco Diablo's Restaurant for the purchase of light forms on Ceres Street from Pandora LaCasse Designs. Seconded by Councilor Perkins and voted.

B. Acceptance of Wellness Award – Health Trust Wellness Program - \$2,000.00

Assistant Mayor Lazenby moved to accept the \$2,000.00 Wellness Grant from Health Trust to be used toward wellness initiatives in 2019. Seconded by Councilor Perkins and voted.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Request for License to Install Projecting Sign for Joe Faro/Tuscan Brands owner of Tuscan Market for property located at 14 Market Square (***Anticipated action - move to approve the aforementioned Projecting Sign License as recommended by the Planning 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***

B. Request for License to Install Projecting Sign for Scott Rafferty owner of Open Concepts Realty for property located at 371 Islington Street, Unit A (***Anticipated action - move to approve the aforementioned Projecting Sign License as recommended by the Planning 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***

- C. Letter from Cole Gove, Seacoast Growers Association requesting permission to include Squamscott Vineyard & Winery, LLC in the 2019 Portsmouth Farmers' Market for the sale and tasting of their product (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with power***)
- D. Petition and Underground Utility License for 100 Pinehurst Road - Request to install 3 conduits in 1 four (4) foot wide trench from the utility pole, 48 feet across Pinehurst Road to their property (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with power***)

Councilor Denton moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Councilor Becksted said the sign request for Tuscan Market looks larger than what we normally approve. City Manager Bohenko said Planning Director Walker has reviewed the request and the sign is in conformance with City requirements.

Councilor Roberts said if the sign is too big the Planning Department can make the owners remove the sign.

City Attorney Sullivan stated that the sign is in conformance with the Zoning Ordinance.

Motion passed.

X. PRESENTATION & CONSIDERATION OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

- A. Email Correspondence

Assistant Mayor Lazenby moved to accept and place on file. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer and voted.

- B. Petition from The Clip Joint Barbershop against making the downtown a Pedestrian Zone

Councilor Reynolds moved to accept and place on file. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Lazenby.

Councilor Pearson said the report back explains that the closing of the streets will be held on Sunday and The Clip Joint is closed on Sunday's.

Motion passed.

- C. Letter from Russell Prescott, Executive Councilor, District 3, sharing information regarding the Executive Council

Assistant Mayor Lazenby moved to accept and place on file. Seconded by Councilor Roberts and voted.

- D. Letter from Attorney Paul McEachern regarding Petition to rezone the Federal Building property on Daniel Street

Councilor Dwyer moved to refer to the Planning Board for a report back. Seconded by Councilor Denton and voted.

- E. Letter and Petition for Rezoning of 200 Chase Drive (CC Church)

Councilor Becksted moved to refer to the Planning Board for a report back. Seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Councilor Dwyer said there maybe a little difference and this was handled by the Planning Board in the last six months.

City Manager Bohenko said the Planning Board may say they looked at the property and recommend the rezoning.

Motion passed.

XI. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

A. CITY MANAGER

1. Renewal of Boarding House Permits
 - 278 Cabot Street
 - 350-352 Hanover Street

City Manager Bohenko said the permits will expire tomorrow and there are corrective measures that need to be taken care of. He said that the corrective measures will be part of the permit.

Councilor Perkins moved to renew the Boarding House permits subject to specific corrective measures and upgrades to be completed upon a schedule to be incorporated into the permit, pursuant to Section 9.805 of the ordinance. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Lazenby.

Councilor Becksted said that these are the last two boarding houses in the City. If a fire apparatus needs to be made part of this, the owners cannot afford that expense.

City Manager Bohenko said we are granting the permits with stipulations. Councilor Becksted said he would like staff or City Manager Bohenko to try and look at a way to incentivize the property owners. City Manager Bohenko said he would look at what can be done and will work with the owners on the corrective measures. He said if it appears that the owners cannot make the upgrades and are contemplating selling the buildings he would let the Council know.

Motion passed.

2. Purchase and Sale Agreement for Property Identified as Map 232, Lot 8 Off of Lois Street

City Manager Bohenko said to purchase this property is in the best interest of the City. He said the property has value, there are storm water management opportunities, both through the preservation of existing wetlands and the potential to construct storm water infrastructure at the end of Lois Street. He also said there is potential to create a turnaround at the end of Lois Street for municipal vehicles. City Manager Bohenko said the City's public sewer line runs in and along the boundary of the property in the "paper street" portion of Lois Street. He informed the City Council to purchase the property it will need to go to the Conservation Commission to authorize the expenditure from Conservation Funds and to the Planning Board for a recommendation back. He further reported that \$30,000.00 will come from Conservation Funds and the remaining \$30,000.00 would come from funds set aside for open space.

Councilor Perkins moved to refer this potential acquisition of property located on Lois Street to the Conservation Commission for action and to the Planning Board for recommendation. Seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Councilor Becksted asked if we will be referring this to the City Attorney because it abuts the Toyota Dealership. City Manager Bohenko said City Attorney Sullivan has reviewed this matter. Councilor Becksted would like to receive a recommendation from our outside counsel regarding this request. City Attorney Sullivan said we will make sure that this is discussed with outside legal counsel.

Motion passed. Councilor Becksted voted opposed.

3. Request for First Reading to amend Chapter 6, Article II, Section 6.202C – Billiards and Bowling

City Manager Bohenko said the ordinance would need to be adjusted to allow bowling before 1:00 p.m. on a Sunday.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby moved to authorize the City Manager to bring back Ordinance Chapter 6, Article II, Section 6.202C for first reading at the May 6, 2019 City Council meeting, in accordance with the request made by Mr. Maderios of Bowl-O-Rama Family Fun Center. Seconded by Councilor Raynolds and voted.

4. Request for License – Property Located at 35 Congress Street

City Manager Bohenko recommended to enter into a temporary construction license.

Councilor Dwyer moved to authorize the City Manager to negotiate and enter into a temporary construction license with 29-41 Congress Street, LLC as submitted to facilitate construction activities at 35 Congress Street. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Lazenby and voted.

5. Extension of Connect Community Church License Agreement with Public Parking

City Manager Bohenko advised the City Council that this is an extension for the Connect Community Church parking lot. He said the terms of the agreement are through February 29, 2020 and gives the City Manager the authority to renegotiate the terms of future agreements without further action of the City Council.

Councilor Roberts moved to authorize the City Manager to negotiate and enter into this Third Amendment to extend the terms of the Agreement with the Connect Community Church (“CCC”) to allow the public to use 124 parking spaces in its parking lot. This motion gives the City Manager the authority to renegotiate the terms of the Agreement in future years without further action of the City Council. Seconded by Councilor Reynolds and voted.

6. Request to move the October 21, 2019 City Council meeting to October 28, 2019

City Manager Bohenko said he is requesting the Council move the October 21st City Council meeting to October 28th, due to both the Deputy City Manager and he will be out of town.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby moved to change the October 21, 2019 City Council meeting to October 28, 2019. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer and voted.

City Manager’s Informational Items

4. Report Back Re: Downtown Street Closures

Councilor Pearson said staff has reviewed the request and have come back with a recommendation on what is feasible. She said an Open Streets program has been suggested for two consecutive Sunday afternoons in the fall, September 29th and October 6th, from noon to 5:00 p.m. She reported the streets to be limited to non-vehicular traffic include:

- Daniel Street from Penhallow to Market Square; Market St. from Bow to Market Square; Congress St. from Market Square to High St.; and Pleasant St. from Porter St. to Market Square.
- Congress St. will be converted to accept two-way traffic from Fleet St. to High St., and both High St. and Ladd St. will also be two-way. The portion of Porter from Pleasant St. to Church St. will reverse in direction. No changes to Bow St. are recommended.

Councilor Pearson reported that the cost is a work in progress and there is a working title because the intent is to have community enjoy the downtown. The proposed title is “Share the Square.” She said what happens next is she and Councilor Reynolds will review the report and should have a report back to the Council the first meeting in June.

Councilor Reynolds said from the beginning the idea that was put forward was framed as an experiment on what we could do downtown to give people the opportunity to see Market Square differently. He thanked the staff for their work on this proposal.

Mayor Blalock said it is important that we do not deny uses for property owners to access their property.

Councilor Becksted said it is important that we work with the public on this and business owners. He would also like a media event held to include community, advertising the event, and the street closures to make people aware that this will be taking place.

3. EDC Report Back to City Council on Review of Land Use/Inspections Process

Councilor Perkins spoke on the recommendation from the Economic Development Commission and requested a report back from City staff on the recommendations, permit procedure, and project liaison / development coordinator.

B. MAYOR BLALOCK

1. Appointment to be Considered:

- Reappointment of Robert Capone to the Cable Television & Communications Commission

The City Council considered the reappointment of Robert Capone to the Cable Television & Communications Commission which will be voted upon at the May 6, 2019 City Council meeting.

2. Appointment to be Voted:

- Appointment of Carrie Mayo to the Blue Ribbon Committee on Sustainable Practices

Councilor Denton spoke to Ms. Mayo's qualifications and said she is doing good work. He said it would be great if more City residents attended the meetings and wanted to serve on the Committee.

Mayor Blalock said being a resident is not a requirement to serve on a Blue Ribbon Committee.

Councilor Becksted would like to have a position on the Committee for a non-resident. He asked if we have had any non-residents serve on any other Blue Ribbon Committee's. City Clerk Barnaby reported a non-resident has served on the African Burial Ground Blue Ribbon Committee and in the past on the Peirce Island Committee when it was a Blue Ribbon Committee.

Councilor Denton moved to appoint Carrie Mayo to the Blue Ribbon Committee on Sustainable Practices until December 31, 2019. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Lazenby.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby said we are not displacing residents from joining the Committee.

Mayor Blalock said this is a Blue Ribbon Committee and he does not need the approval by the Council for appointments to such committees but he has brought it to the Council for a vote. He also stated that the Blue Ribbon Committee on Sustainable Practices outreaches regionally.

Motion passed. Councilor Becksted voted opposed.

3. Establish Sub-committee of the City Council Re: McIntyre Project

Mayor Blalock said he would like to establish a Sub-committee on the McIntyre Project.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby moved to establish a Sub-committee regarding the McIntyre Project and appoint Councilor Doug Roberts, Councilor Chris Dwyer and Councilor Rebecca Perkins to the Sub-committee. Seconded by Councilor Raynolds.

Councilor Becksted asked if the Sub-committee would be following the right-to-know requirements. Mayor Blalock said the Sub-committee would comply with the right-to-know law.

Councilor Roberts said the financial negotiations are subject to be held in non-public session.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby asked if this has a shelf life or mission. City Attorney Sullivan said that there will be no shelf life.

Motion passed.

C. COUNCILOR ROBERTS

1. Parking & Traffic Safety Committee Action Sheet and Minutes of the April 4, 2019 meeting

Councilor Roberts informed the Council that the Committee passed an update to the loading zone ordinance for clarity. He stated the ordinance will come back in conjunction with the omnibus ordinance.

Councilor Roberts moved to accept and approve the action sheet and minutes of the April 4, 2019 Parking & Traffic Safety Committee meeting. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Lazenby and voted.

2. Vaughan Mall

Councilor Roberts said an extensive planning process will need to take place for the Vaughan Mall. He said that this project would look at underground parking and the creation of a park but this would all happen far into the future. He would like to refer this to staff to review and report back.

Councilor Dwyer said to have a refresh of the Vaughan Mall is needed. She said the City needs to look at whether it is feasible to start with the Vaughan Mall.

Mayor Blalock said we have done some work on the Vaughan Mall and it is much better but would like to start a process that would look at the area. He said he does not want to see a loss in parking.

Councilor Perkins spoke to the revitalization plan for the Vaughan-Worth-Bridge lots and suggested reviewing the plan again.

Councilor Roberts said the changes to the Vaughan Mall were done by PS21. He wants to see something more permanent and to move the project along.

Councilor Pearson said she agrees with Councilor Perkins and reviewing the revitalization plan that was voted on by the last City Council. She said a conceptual design is needed for the plan to move forward.

City Manager Bohenko said he would pull the files on the plan and review the report.

Councilor Roberts said he wants to turn this into an action plan.

City Manager Bohenko suggested adding the Pandora lights but we need to proceed with caution because of the infrastructure below. He said we will look at what can be put in the capital plan for this. He said he wants to receive input from the community and bring something to the City Council that has been vetted by people living downtown and the businesses.

Councilor Roberts requested a review of the Vaughan-Worth-Bridge Revitalization Report with the possibility of an action plan for updates to Vaughan Mall.

D. COUNCILOR DENTON

1. Proposed Rule Change – Rule 7 Order of Business

Councilor Denton reviewed his suggested changes to the Order of Business for the Agenda. He said the change would move the Mayor and City Councilor items under the public hearings and allow to move forward any item under the City Manager. He said the reason is the important items take place later in the meeting currently, and it would make sense to have a section for City Council to speak and bring something forward something they are waiting to hear a report back on.

Councilor Dwyer said maybe we should be more actively bringing matters forward with the suspension of the rules. She said many of the things under the City Manager have a short time line and she is reluctant to make the changes, maybe the Council needs to be more alert to that.

Councilor Perkins said she agrees with Councilor Dwyer's comments. She said the City Council items are the policy issues but they take place at the end of the agenda.

Councilor Becksted said that he agrees with Councilor Dwyer's comments. He said the Council does suspend the rules to bring items forward if they're made aware of it.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby said he appreciates the effort for movement of Volunteer Committee Reports but it does not make sense.

Councilor Denton said the presentations are not listed and would like them to be placed under the Mayor.

Mayor Blalock said he conceptually likes the idea of the setup of the agenda. He stated many times the City Council wants to bring items to the table and we always have the option to move things around by a suspension of the rules.

Councilor Becksted said the Council could try this format at the next City Council meeting. City Manager Bohenko said you need one meeting clear before you can vote of any changes. Councilor Becksted said he would like the Council to try it at a meeting.

City Manager Bohenko this would be on notice at the May 6th meeting with a vote at the May 20th meeting, and the change in format at a June meeting.

Councilor Pearson said it would take a few meetings to see if this will work.

Councilor Dwyer said she would like to treat more things as consent agenda items. She stated if the meeting goes long everything would be approved at 10:00 p.m.

City Manager Bohenko said keep in mind the first meeting in June is adoption of the budget.

XII. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilor Pearson said she has provided a copy of a letter to The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests regarding the demolition of Creek Farm, also known as Carey Cottage. She said if the Council would like to make edits they can be made at the next City Council meeting when she would like to formerly send the letter.

Councilor Dwyer spoke to Mr. Savage and The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and would like to have Mr. Savage speak at the next City Council meeting due to there being such a difference of opinion. She wonders if that will be a useful tool and would like it advertised. Councilor Dwyer said she questions whether this is the correct forum for this conversation. She stated we need to know what the goal is regarding this matter.

City Manager Bohenko asked if the City Council wants the City to reach out to The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Councilor Dwyer said she would like them to reconsider their immediate plans and clarify the options available.

Councilor Roberts said he spoke to Mr. Savage and the building is historic and it would be ashamed to have it taken down. He said he would also like Mr. Thoresen to come and speak to the City Council on this matter.

Mayor Blalock said in the mean time we could set up a meeting with staff and Mr. Savage. He said there would need to be a balance. City Manager Bohenko said that would be a good first step.

Councilor Pearson said you need to reach out to Portsmouth Advocates as well.

Councilor Perkins expressed her hesitation on this matter and the need for the Council to remember that this is private property.

Councilor Dwyer said that this would be an example of civic property having a particular meaning to the community.

Councilor Roberts said he agrees with Councilor Dwyer's comments, there are buildings where there is a public interest in preserving.

City Manager Bohenko said there are things that would be good to hear from the forester side.

Councilor Pearson said the letter could be redrafted to explain that the City Council is demonstrating care and concern on another historic building.

Councilor Roberts said Mr. Thoresen has a more expansive view.

Mayor Blalock said the letter will be edited and come back at the May 6th City Council meeting.

Councilor Denton said the single-use disposable ordinance will be a topic of discussion at next Friday's Greater Chamber of Commerce Collaborative meeting regarding public policy.

Councilor Roberts said the Council received an email on open carry. Councilor Dwyer said we do not have the authority to do anything until there is a law in place and the bills are in process.

Councilor Reynolds said at the Port Authority Committee meeting last week he learned there will be two arrivals at the Port. He said the first will be on April 25th where components of a wave energy buoy will arrive. He stated the second arrival will be May 1st when the hub and tower components of the Antrim, NH Wind Farm will come through the Port.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:20 a.m., Assistant Mayor Lazenby moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Reynolds and voted.

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

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