

**MINUTES  
DOVER CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
JANUARY 4, 2006  
7:00 P.M.**

Councilors Present: Bob Keays, Doug DeDe, David Scott, Dean Trefethen, Catherine Cheney, Harvey Turner, Dennis Ciotti, Deputy Mayor Jason Hindle, Mayor Scott Myers. Also, City Manager Mike Joyal.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Keays led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. DISCUSSION RE:

A. FY05 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)  
Review by Independent Auditors

City Manager Joyal introduced Scott McIntyre of Melanson, Heath and Company to review the CAFR (see 01/04/06 meeting folder). Mr. McIntyre gave a lengthy review highlighting various sections throughout the document concluding at 8:00 p.m.

Hindle thanked Mr. McIntyre for being here tonight which is his 7<sup>th</sup> time before the Council and stated that the first year he was here the focus was on the Arena and asked what are the concerns now.

McIntyre stated that the city has fully disclosed its deficits and has taken measure to minimize the deficit growth. He referred to page 30 stating that there is money put aside (mandatory) to offset this deficit which the city could choose to use to fund the deficit and stop the bleeding, but it doesn't affect the general fund because it is already set aside.

Trefethen asked out of the municipal clients that his company serves, how many get favorable and how many get unfavorable opinions.

McIntyre explained that there have been some adverse opinions given because those municipalities hadn't recognized GASB34.

Trefethen asked what the difference between the audit that we have done and a forensic audit.

McIntyre explained that the forensic audit a/k/a fraud audit, can focus on one specific area, department etc. if there is evidence of inappropriate accounting.

Trefethen stated that even in a forensic audit they do not necessarily look at every single transaction, only samples, and then if they find something, they go into it further.

McIntyre stated this is not his field of expertise, but yes that is the case.

Joyal asked McIntyre to address the documents dated October 4, 2005 (see folder), Management Letter and Agreed Upon Procedures for City Manager's Office. McIntyre distributed the documents to the Council which also included memorandums from Finance director Jeff Harrington responding to these documents. The issues discussed in these documents included Communication Expenditures relating to former City Manager Paul Beecher use of cell phone after leaving the city, NHMA membership dues, various bank accounts that hold the city ID number which are no longer viable and auditing of student activity accounts.

**RECESS/RECONVENED at 8:35 – 8:45**

Councilor DeDe left the meeting at this time.

## B. Downtown Transportation Improvements

Planning Director Steve Stancel began by reviewing the background of the Rizzo Associates traffic study explaining that there have been numerous neighborhood meetings and review by the Traffic Advisory Commission. He explained that the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) is a State process that is a part of the State Master Plan (see spreadsheet in 01/04/06 folder).

Next, Rick Bryant of Rizzo Assoc. reviewed the list of projects on another spreadsheet titled "Rizzo Study CIP Projects" which includes the priority listed in the Master Plan as well and those that are deemed critical in supporting economic development as well as those that have already had some investment spent. He also displayed a power point slide show (also in folder).

Mayor Myers clarified that the 3<sup>rd</sup> column of the spreadsheet lists the first two items (Upper Square Improvements and Intersection Improvements @Broadway/St. John St. are listed as removed from CIP, but is not due to lack of support for these projects but because they have been placed in the operating budget.

Deputy Mayor Hindle, for the benefit of the new Councilors, reviewed the history of the Rizzo Study from the perspective of the TAC as he has been the Chair of the Commission during the process.

Councilor Scott thanked them for their presentation but feels that the cost of these projects will be hard to explain to his Ward 3 constituents and he figures them to cost \$500.00 per home owner. He would want to know what the benefit would be to them directly and stated that if we can find a place to cut \$500.00 per homeowner, then fine, but if not, he would not support this. He continued that ½ of this money is going to a bridge over the Cochecho River and doesn't understand the need for that asking what is wrong with the current access to that area and will it increase the traffic flow in the Henry Law area.

Mr. Bryant explained that it is adequate for the present conditions, but they were asked to look at projected use. They also have to look at enticing development to that property and they need to look at high volume traffic access in the area.

Councilor Scott stated that if the developers need a bridge they should pay for it.

Mayor Myers clarified that city portion is 20% matching fund and amounts to \$231,000 of the total \$1.8 million.

Councilor Scott again stated he needs to know the advantage of this to the residents of Ward 3.

Hindle further explained that the previous Council established a fund through the vehicle registration which is meant to be used for transportation improvement projects.

Joyal explained that the Washington Street issue is a part of the Statewide Comprehensive Plan and is separate from the Rizzo recommendations and is the end result of a multi-year planning process. He stated that if we decide not to use these funds for the bridge, the money can't be preprogrammed and will go away and the city won't benefit.

Turner asked about the Oak St./Broadway project that was removed from the CIP and when will this project be started.

Myers explained that this was pulled out of the CIP by the Council and was directed to be placed in the operating budget for the upcoming year. He stated that this budget would be passed by June 15<sup>th</sup> and the project would begin in the next construction season. Turner stated he will support this but thought that the Oak Street Bridge wasn't going to be redone in order to keep trucks off of it.

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City Planner Bruce Woodruff stated that this goes back to the public outreach process 24 months ago which concluded that they should try to have the trucks go the shortest distance through the city and explained that this has actually always been open to the trucks.

Councilor Cheney asked for clarification regarding whether or not the riverfront is developed, is the bridge needed to alleviate traffic congestion.

Bryant stated he wouldn't do the bridge unless they anticipated the development of the riverfront, although they would proceed with the rest of the reconfiguration recommendations.

Keays asked about the clearance issue under the railroad bridge on Broadway and the fact that the road can't go any lower due to the utilities.

Woodruff stated that Guilford's response to any bridge rehab was "no", but the State has pledged their support to fix it.

Keays feels we shouldn't be putting money into something we don't own he stated he won't support anything to do with the railroad bridges, etc.

Councilor Ciotti asked about the 80% matching funds from the State and whether this would be at current pricing or projected.

Woodruff stated they are getting better at making these adjustments, although this hasn't always been the case and they have had to come back for more money. He stated that hopefully the outer years are correct figures, but feels they will have to be updated each year.

Councilor Cheney asked about the original recommendation to put a parking deck at the Third Street lot and why it is no longer a recommendation.

Woodruff stated this was discarded due to its irregular shape.

Trefethen stated that when he looks at the list of projects, there is nothing located within Ward 4, however he will consider them all with due diligence because he took an Oath of Office as a Councilor for the City of Dover and feels that these projects will still be benefiting the Ward 4 residents as they do drive downtown, etc. He is not looking at it from the "what's in it for me" perspective but the long term benefit of the city. He stated that he has been following the Council history for the last 15 years and 8 or 9 years ago that Council decided to control costs by not spending any funds on infrastructure and feels that approach cost more money in the long run. He concluded that they need to balance what the cost of doing something today is versus the later benefit to the citizens and when we have the opportunity to do something about the traffic, we have to pay for it.

Next, Bruce Woodruff reviewed the list of the projects of the Transportation Improvements Program spreadsheet for CIP years '07 through '12.

Keays asked why there is a discrepancy in the cost of the Knox Marsh Road versus Long Hill Road sidewalks.

Woodruff explained that this is due to the problem that has already been discussed this evening regarding not having up to date figures with Knox Marsh Road having been presented with 1994 estimates.

Turner referred to plans on the wall in the back of the Chambers and asked about the Longhill Road/Route 108 project and where that stands because this is his neighborhood.

Woodruff stated they are trying not to take any frontage. He stated that the plans on the wall are outdated and included the Exit 10 version. He will have updated plans and another neighborhood meeting is scheduled for 01/13/06.

Ciotti asked if there is any rezoning being looked at in this corridor for the future.

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Stancel stated that the sidewalks will be put on the eastern side and the rezoning will be done on the western side so developers will add sidewalks themselves to that area.

Ciotti asked if the width will be increased and curbing added.

Stancel is not sure.

Ciotti stated he wouldn't want to tear up what is already done.

Woodruff then discussed the ongoing Community Trail project stating that there have been neighborhood meetings held throughout the process and the neighbors are committed to the project. The next meeting is at 6:30 on 01/17/06.

Hindle commended Mr. Woodruff on his involvement in this project and the bringing together of the factions to work hand in hand with the city.

Next regarding the Washington Street Bridge, Woodruff clarified that the local match doesn't come out of the reserve but is bonded. He stated that back in 1996 the projected amount of the project was 1.5 million which the State agreed to pay 80%, and now that the price is at about \$2.5 million, the State is still agreeing to pay 80% of the new amount.

Regarding Alternative 3 of the Spaulding Turnpike project, there are updated plans on the back wall that incorporated the suggestions of the Council at a previous workshop. There will also be a joint meeting held with the DOT and Fish and Game to decide who will be funding the improvements to Hilton Park.

Finally he updated the Council on the Park and Ride project at Indian Brook Drive.

### 3. ADJOURN

Hindle moved to adjourn at 9:45 p.m., seconded by Keays and passed unanimously.

Valerie A. French  
Deputy City Clerk