



City of Dover
City Council Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
Date: May 3, 2006

Time: 6:00 PM Executive Session
7:00 PM Special Meeting
7:30 PM Workshop

6:00 P.M.
EXECUTIVE SESSION
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

The City Council will meet in Executive session to discuss Labor Negotiations.

NOTE: **This meeting is not open to the public per RSA 91-A:2 (b).**

7:00 PM
SPECIAL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mayor Myers called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Deputy Mayor Hindle led the Pledge of the Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Councilors Present: Harvey Turner, Catherine Cheney, Dennis Ciotti, Doug DeDe, Deputy Mayor Jason Hindle, Bob Keays, Mayor Scott Myers, Dean Trefethen.

Councilors Absent: David Scott

Also Present: City Manager Mike Joyal.

2. PUBLIC HEARING:

- A. Resolution RE: Approval of McConnell Center Bonds for the Purpose of Internal Revenue Code Section 147(f).** Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers, by Request.

Mayor Myers explained that this is being re-heard due to not meeting the time requirement for advertising of the public hearing.

He opened the public hearing asking if anyone wished to speak, seeing no one he closed the public hearing.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

- B. Resolution RE: Approval of McConnell Center Bonds for the Purpose of Internal Revenue Code Section 147(f).** Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers, by Request.

Hindle moved to adopt, seconded by Ciotti.

Motion passed on a 6-2 roll call vote, Keays and Trefethen opposed.



4. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Appropriations, Fees and Capital Improvements Program.

Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers by Request.
*(SCHOOL BUDGET PORTION TO BE REFERRED TO A PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 10, 2006,
CITY BUDGET PORTION TO BE REFERRED TO A PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 24, 2006)*

Hindle moved to refer School Portion to a public hearing on May 10, 2006 and the City Portion to a public hearing on May 24, 2006, seconded by Ciotti. Motion passed on an 8-0 vote.

B. Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Dover School Board and the Dover Teachers Union.

Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers by Request.

Hindle moved to adopt, seconded by Ciotti.

Mayor Myers introduced Carolyn Mebert School Board Chair to speak on the resolution.

Mebert thanked the members of the bargaining team on both sides for the work on this 2nd round of negotiations and thanked the Council for their consideration.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. John O'Connor introduced Rich Barrett, Teachers Union President and recognized the many teachers in the audience. He explained the cost impact of the contract of the 3 year duration.

Trefethen stated that the previous Council of which he was a member as well as this current Council have been consistent with their negotiations in the area of not expanding benefits in an attempt to reign in costs. He will not be able to support this contract because it is expanding benefits and will add cost to the taxpayers.

Motion to adopt FAILED on a 2-6 roll call vote, Ciotti and Myers in favor.

5. ADJOURN into Workshop.

Hindle moved to adjourn into workshop at 7:15 p.m., seconded by Ciotti. Motion passed on an 8-0 vote.

WORKSHOP

1. BUDGET PRESENTATIONS:

A. Police Department

Joyal introduced Police Chief Bill Fenniman and urged the Council to ask questions. Chief Fenniman reviewed his slide presentation (see 05/03/06 folder). He explained that the 2 police contracts have been settled and there is an increase in personal services. The other area with an increase is \$118,000 for a separate women's facility which is necessary for the female officers, who have been very tolerant of not having one up to this point.



DeDe asked about the 4 vehicles that are set to be replaced this year and are they looking into more fuel efficient vehicles.

Fenniman explained that there is currently a study being done in Detroit using hybrid vehicles for police use.

Trefethen stated when the Council toured the Mast Road facility back in January, there was a police cruiser being painted to Dover specifications of blue and white, and asked if it would be cheaper to keep the colors that they come in originally.

Fenniman explained that these cruisers are a part of the State Police bid and we receive the vehicles green, so they need to be painted anyway. He stated that the cost to paint the vehicle in house is \$387.00 compared to \$500.00 elsewhere.

Cheney stated that during the tour they were told that they needed to replace the vehicles with the same models because of the equipment that goes into them.

Fenniman explained that they are looking at changing the off-line, i.e. detectives, not the street vehicles.

Mayor Myers stated that there are State police that are driving chargers now and if they go to that vehicle would that mean we would have to use them as well because we are a part of their bid specs.

Fenniman stated we don't need vehicles that fast, but no, we wouldn't have to go with those.

Turner asked at what mileage point do the vehicles get retired.

Fenniman explained that the vehicle replacement program calls for 4 vehicles to be replaced, but the vehicles that are no longer used for patrol purposes are handed down to the city departments. These vehicles are usually taken out of the police rotation at 60,000 – 80,000 road miles, and then are used by the city departments for up to 200,000 miles, usually for 10-12 years.

Fenniman then explained the organization chart of the police department and showed the supervisory trends from 1985 to present and also showed the reduction in overtime expenses over the years.

Keays asked how many police officers are there.

Fenniman stated there are 56 sworn officers.

Next, Chief Fenniman reviewed the Community Outreach Program which was formerly the Youth Resources Department with 3 full time employees. Now, under the Police Department, this Division has one full time director, a per diem Counselor and 4 UNH interns and have expanded their hours of service. He further explained that the Diversion Committee refers teens to this program who have been in some type of trouble. They come up with a plan for the teen to follow through and if they do, then they don't have to go through the court system.

Fenniman then reviewed Crime Statistics stating that Dover has a low crime rate.

Next, he stated that the Dover Police Department is up for re-accreditation in December of 2006 and are one of only 40 departments since 1988. He stated that he feels he cannot say that any one division is more important than another as they all



work in conjunction with each other to contribute to the success of the department as a whole.

Trefethen referred to page 199 of the budget document asking if the 5 additional sections after General Fund are covered by grant funding. Fenniman stated yes.

Next, regarding the Parking Fund, the City Manager has put \$75,000 in for a parking study.

Trefethen asked about the Outreach Bureau and is it funded through both the general fund and grants.

Fenniman explained that some of it is funded in the support services account and through grants.

Trefethen explained that he is a member of the Dover Coalition and has a soft spot for this service and asked what would happen to the grants if the 0% budget proposal goes forward which eliminates this service.

Fenniman stated we will lose the grants. He explained his priorities with the 0% budget are to keep officers on the streets, dispatchers and detectives.

Trefethen referred to the crime rate reduction stating that it could be argued that the Outreach Bureau has had an affect on the level II crimes and if we decide to eliminate this how will we measure the impact.

Fenniman stated the impact will be measured very easily as these crimes are often the result of drug and alcohol use by teens. The outreach bureau works with kids between the hours of 3-6:00 p.m. after school and without the outreach you will notice the kids hanging out on the streets.

Next, Trefethen stated that during the tour the Chief explained that the vehicles were being concentrated in certain areas that are expected to be busy and wondered what the results of this have been.

Fenniman explained the Dover Leads Program which deploys vehicles geographically based on calls for service which eliminates the officers driving around wasting gas and helps eliminate overtime.

Next, Hindle asked about officers being funded by grants and once the grant runs out, the city then pays the salary.

Fenniman stated that there are no longer any positions being funded by grants and that all of our past obligations to the federal government have been met.

Discussion ensued regarding several line items in the budget document which are a result of the new accounting procedures.

Ciotti then asked about the Attorney General Task Force officers.

Fenniman explained we provide in-kind matches of services and that our officers are assigned to this region with 86 cases out of the 129 occurring within Strafford County. He stated this is a valuable resource to our city and that the officers come back highly trained and disciplined and usually able to step into leadership rolls.



Mayor Myers asked for clarification of the perception that there are a lot of police cars sitting in the lots.

Fenniman explained that there are 9 police cruisers and that when they are parked in front of the police station, it is during the shift overlaps.

B. Fire and Rescue Department

Chief Perry Plummer stated that he will be giving a brief presentation tonight because there was already much information covered at the Council tour as well as the recent 86 page document that was distributed.

SEE 05/03/06 meeting folder for presentation.

Hindle asked about the vehicle replacement and is he looking for a 2006 model. Perry stated yes and explained that the current Suburban didn't pass inspection and they are sharing one vehicle between the staff.

At the conclusion of his report, there were no questions by the Council.

C. Recreation Department

Recreation Director Gary Bannon reviewed his presentation (See 05/05/03 meeting folder and budget document beginning on page 331)

He explained that he began by looking at all of the recreation programs to see if they could be run independently of the general fund in order to come in with this below 0% impact as well as the use of funds from other programs to offset the ones that need it. He stated that they have lost revenue from the gymnasium rental.

DeDe stated that there has been discussion in the past about coordinating the gymnasium use in the city including the school facilities and asked if that has happened.

Bannon stated that he has been directed by the City Manager to work with the school department on this and have begun meeting quarterly and will meet again after the budget. One of the issues they have agreed on is to not rent out gymnasium space for craft fair type events as there are enough sports programs needing this space. He explained that there is a cost to rent the school spaces on the weekends due to the mandatory janitor fee but we have been working with them to minimize the amount of hours they need to be there.

Hindle discussed the new Garrison School gymnasium which will come on-line in 30 days stating that it will be used as a community facility.

Bannon stated yes and this facility can be divided as well.

Keays stated that the reference that shows the cost per single family home for this department doesn't reflect that people have to also pay for each program.



Bannon clarified that this is correct. The \$61.88 per year per single family home figure reflects the cost to run the facilities and offer the programs.

Keays then asked if it is feasible to run the Arena during the summer because Rochester doesn't run their Arena in the summer.

Bannon stated yes, we run one of the 2 sheets during the summer and the current programs do sustain the operating costs.

Cheney stated that during the Council orientation the financial statements showed the debt of the Arena, now this budget document shows the debt of the Arena as being paid off, and asked if this figure transferred.

Joyal reviewed the cash flow problems of the Arena over the last 10 years. They have been addressing this by increasing the revenue and decreasing the expenditures and last year the Arena broke even. He explained that the \$1.8 million being shown is as a deficit in the Arena Fund and by law we have to have money set aside in the General Fund to offset this figure. However, when we go out to bond for various projects, this figure does have a negative impact on our rating. He stated that he is going to be coming to the Council in the near future to ask that they "forgive" this cash deficit which will have no impact on the tax rate and the rating agencies will react favorably. He stated that the Arena will still owe this money to the General fund. He referred to page 383 of the budget document.

Trefethen asked if we forgive this line item in the Arena Enterprise Fund and the Arena then starts having money left over at the end of the year, would it going into the General fund.

Joyal stated the Council decides where the money goes.

Myers explained that this would have to be done by a transfer resolution.

Ciotti asked to get a cost savings analysis to reflect the affect of a lower bond rating.

Joyal stated he will do that.

Cheney stated she would like to know what other towns would do.

Gary Bannon then continued his presentation.

Keays asked if it costs money for kids to play at the playgrounds during the recreation park hours.

Bannon stated the cost of the playground program is \$185.00 for the summer and this program is subsidized by the General Fund.

Keays asked does that mean other children can't go there and play if they don't pay.

Bannon stated the \$185.00 allows them to participate in the supervised program and includes trips and busses to the pool in the afternoon, but other children can play at the playgrounds separately.

Myers asked about the food concessions and vending machines that the city took over and if this is still positive.

Bannon stated yes, they brought in \$100,000 in revenue with \$65,000 expenditures for a profit of \$35,000.



Myers then asked about the Marketing Consultant hired for the Arena facility as a result of the Ferland Study and is there a report that directly shows what has been brought in for revenues to the Arena by that person.

Bannon stated she is doing the marketing, advertising etc. and various events have included the Home Show, Job Fair, Dog Show, etc and feels the value is well worth it. He stated these events bring people to Dover and have a tremendous outreach to businesses.

Myers stated he wants this to be broken down into how much more advertising and capacity has been realized as a result of this position.

Myers then asked Bannon that once the total transfer from the Butterfield gym to the McConnell Center is all said and done, will we still be lacking space to accommodate the current programs and will there have to be cuts.

Bannon stated they are working to utilize the space to maximum capacity they will give kids groups the first consideration and go from there.

Bannon concluded his presentation stating he is optimistic.

Joyal then updated the meeting schedule stating that the School budget public hearing will be held on May 10th, Community Services budget presentation on May 17th, City budget public hearing on May 24th, general budget discussion on May 31st with budget adoption scheduled for June 7th. He then stated that the Council certainly can add more meetings if necessary.

Finally, Joyal stated that Friday's (April 28th) Foster's Daily Democrat had a letter to the editor that stated that he (the City Manager) had not complied with the Council resolution passed in February to present a 3% and a 0% budget to the Council. Joyal stated that he feels he did comply with this directive, but wants to know if other Councilors feel the same as the author of the letter.

Keays stated he wants to see a 0% budget.

Joyal again explained the issue and referred to page 23 of the budget and the memorandum supplement that addresses the 0% budget scenario. He stated he provided 2 options; 0% debt services and 0% cut in spending.

Myers stated the Manager did provide what the Council asked for.

DeDe stated that on the night of the vote, there was a great deal of discussion and various amendments were offered. He feels that Councilor Scott was confused that there was a mandate, but there were several changes made to his proposal.

DeDe continued stating that he feels it is unrealistic that a 0% budget can be achieved with current conditions. After 3 budgets as a Councilor he is encouraged with the current process and a 0% budget cannot be achieved without massive cuts. He stated that if programs are cut, more people than showed up here tonight for the teachers contract will come out to speak.



Keays stated he feels the budget is too high and we can nickel and dime it all we want but there won't be any significant decrease without layoffs. He stated that laying off 5 people in each division would lower the tax rate by \$1.15 according to his calculations. He doesn't like layoffs either, but his constituents can't afford any more.

Cheney stated that Councilor Trefethen did emphasize the fact that when they were asking for a 3% and 0% it wouldn't include Capital Outlay and that there items taken out of the CIP and purposely put into the General Fund.

Turner stated that the report card that goes out is the tax bill and that Joyal did what he could, but in the fall when the tax rate is set, he feels that it will still end up being around a 7% increase after all the contracts are settled, etc. He continued that next year he would like to approach the budget process differently and begin by working backwards and establishing a tax bill figure that is appropriate i.e. 5.5%. He would like to address the items that the Council can't change and see what's left and give that to the City Manager to work with.

Ciotti stated that regarding the 0% and 3% directive, the City Manager did what he was supposed to do. He stated that it was misconstrued that there would be a hiring freeze as a result of that resolution, but that wasn't the case. He stated that the insurance increases are a tough pill to swallow and no one is going to win this tug of war.

Myers stated there are still 5-6 weeks of budget work ahead and there are still places to makes changes.

DeDe stated the real answer to this is that it will take a number of years to address the issues. He stated that if we eliminate union employee positions it just means that another employee pushes out a lower paid employee and that we are getting a lower level service from that employee still being paid at their current level. He stated there are still 3 contracts that need to be settled and slashing of services will not work. He is anxious to see what the assessed valuation does to the rates as there has been an increase in the number of homes over the past year.

Joyal concluded by stating that he takes his role very seriously and works for the City Council. He stated he got his guidance from the Council in February (via resolution) and wants to make sure that they all agree that he followed that, but if not, he didn't mean to not comply and is upset that this was presented to the public in this way.

2. ADJOURN

Keays moved to adjourn at 9:15 p.m., seconded by Hindle. Motion passed unanimously.