

**MINUTES
DOVER CITY COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 9, 2005**

6:30 P.M.

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

The City Council will be meeting in non public session to discuss Labor Negotiations and Land Purchase.

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

7:00 P.M.

1. MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Trefethen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Those present: Councilors Lewis, Trefethen, Colwell-Ellis, Mayor Pro Tem Hindle, Councilor Keays, Mayberry and Mayor Myers along with acting City Manager Joyal. Those absent: Councilors DeDe and Perry are home sick.

4. PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

5. CITIZEN'S FORUM

Alice Briggs of 10 Cote Drive is concerned with the budget and how the city plans to proceed with the downtown waterfront development, she has lived here and voter here for 15 years and feels she has always elected people who she thought would look out for the welfare of Dover's property owners. She is concerned with long term debts on projects that go beyond providing the required services such as the very few people that participate in such as the arena, she therefore wonders about the bond debt on the downtown waterfront., She talked about where she was from originally and how they developed a portion of their town and how they notified everyone of the property owners by mail explaining the issue involved.

She sees this project as one that Dover tax payers are paying out money for businesses to compete with businesses that we already have in town.

The Mayor stated just for the record he will be discussing the waterfront in his Mayor's report.

Don Medbury of 3 Covered Bridge Lane talked about the City Manager's salary that was printed in the Fosters that was printed incorrectly. The true number is \$162,832. plus \$20k in benefits that was not indicated. He discussed the salaries of all city employees; he feels this is a fantasy land as the wages are unbelievable for a City of this size for the taxpayers to carry this kind of a burden. He commented on the roads in the north end of the city and he would like to be advised when any road in that end of the city was last paved; the reason is his cars are not going to last with the way they are on Tolend and Watson Road area. Lastly he would like to talk about what Mrs. Brigg's has to say, he then read a prepared statement about the downtown waterfront area. He added every tax payer should be notified of projects that are upcoming in the City and not make people depend on the newspaper as it is not accurate. The Mayor rebutted this comment saying he feels the city does a good job of getting the word out on projects.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Resolution RE: Acceptance of Thornwood Lane as a City Street. Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers by Request. **(see item 11 C-1)**

The Mayor opened the public hearing, seeing no one he closed it.

2. Ordinance #05-02/09/2005 – Chapter 131, Offenses, Section 131-19, Use of tobacco products on the grounds of the McConnell Center. Sponsored by Councilor Dean Trefethen. **(see item 11 A-1)**

Caitlin Riley an 11th grader at St. Thomas Aquinas High School and 10th grader, Sara Dudley at DHS along with Emily Martuscello, an 8th grader at DMS are all members of Dover Youth to Youth and are here to make the McConnell Center grounds smoke free. Caitlin stated she used to part of the Dover Recreational Basketball program that practices at the center and she remembers coming out of the center and being surrounded by smoke. They stated this will decrease litter and decrease the likelihood of fire. They all asked for support on this ordinance

3. Resolution RE: Adoption of Petition Pursuant To RSA 231:163 for Changes in Pole Licenses. Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers by Request. **(see item 11 C-2)**

Mike Joyal explained he had submitted a petition to the council to amend our pole licenses under RSA 231:63. One of the requirements was to hold a public hearing. He stated they have received two letters that were recently sent from PSNH and one from Verizon and these are on file with the City Clerk. It is their responsibility to determine if the public good has been met. He continued copies would be filed with the agenda. In terms of background the law of the State of NH is clear that these licenses such as those held by Verizon or PSNH are required to pay properly assessed property taxes and should be considered by them as they should pay property tax as it was determined in a court case of 1999 between the City of Rochester and Verizon on RSA:72:23 (5) section B states the law also requires the lessee fails to pay the property taxes on the due date, in this case the city and the city must terminate the agreement that we have for conduits or poles. For this reason he petitions the city council to universally amend this to include these requirements to conform with the law.

Seeing no one else the Mayor closed the public hearing.

7. MINUTES

- A. Regular Council Meeting – February 9, 2005

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry with all in favor.

8. REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. Appointments Committee – Councilor Otis Perry **(No report)**
- B. Arena Commission – Councilor Darlene Colwell-Ellis See Report

Colwell-Ellis read her report. Mayberry asked Joyal how we are doing financially up at the arena. Joyal says we are not as strong as he had hoped at this time of the year because all the snow has had an impact on the programs, but he still feels we will break even at the end of this year. Staff is making adjustments to be where we need to be for this time frame by deferring some items. Keays asked if they had taken care of the over head girders yet. Joyal says there are issues with the contractors on what type of paint, Keays feels the contractors should have to pay it and Joyal agreed that there were negotiations going on to resolve this issue but it will take some time.

- C. Arts Commission – Councilor Matt Mayberry

Mayberry stated they could not meet last night due to the snowstorm and the next meeting will be on 3/22/2005 at back of the conference room at 5:30 pm, he has an ordinance on the agenda tonight to downsize the commission to nine members.

- D. McConnell Center Reuse Committee – Councilor Matt Mayberry
- E. Planning Board– Councilor Dean Trefethen **(Report submitted)**

Trefethen pointed out that last night they had an extensive presentation from Liberty Mutual who will be building a large facility near their present one on Sixth Street that is larger than their current one. He also mentioned the petition to designate Back Road as a scenic road that had failed on a Planning Board vote of 3-4. Also they were

presented a conceptual plan on the corner of Rt. 108 and Mast Road, there are some re-zoning issues associated with it. Also there is an opening on the SRPC and the Planning Board has recommended Frank Torr take that position.

- F. Cable Franchise Negotiations Committee – Councilor Doug DeDe **(No report)**
- G. School Board Liaison – Councilor Doug DeDe **(No report)**
- H. Solid Waste Advisory Commission – Councilor Otis Perry **(No report)**
- I. Transportation Advisory Commission – Councilor Jason Hindle

Hindle stated they had met last month to discuss housekeeping issues and revising Chapter 166 of Vehicles and Traffic Code, they will meet on March 30 to discuss the Downtown Transit Loop proposal that will be part of our April workshop.

- J. Joint Building Committee – Councilor Jason Hindle

Scheduled to meet last night but cancelled because of the weather.

- K. Recreation Advisory Board – Councilor Bob Keays **(No report)**
- L. COAST Bus – Mayor Scott Myers **(Report submitted)**
- M. Joint Fiscal Impact Committee – Mayor Scott Myers **(Report submitted)**

Hindle moved seconded by Lewis to accept the reports and this will also include Frank Torr's appointment to the SRPC. All were in favor of the motion.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Myers stated he had another busy month, he started off with Dover Program and the book of the year that is "Granny Torrelli Makes Soup", this is a multi generational and community reads book.

He also attended the Heyliger Awards Ceremony where the recreational department recognizes volunteers within the various recreation groups as well as corporate sponsors at the recreational level through out the city.

He continued that as Councilor Trefethen had mentioned Liberty Mutual had a wonderful announcement at the Planning Board meeting last night. He thanked Councilors Trefethen and Mayberry as well as Ron Cole and Tim Dargon who is vice chair of Economic board for their participation at the meeting. This has been a wonderful community involvement.

He also introduced Congressman Jeb Bradley who was here on Monday night with about 200 people present and he enjoyed that Mayberry had moderated at this gathering.

He then recognized a member of our community, Bob Long, who has been a volunteer on a number of boards and he is moving to Chicago with a career move, he read a list of projects that Mr. Long has been involved in including the past chair Chamber of Commerce, Government Affairs Committee, also a member of original waterfront committee, also he has been on the DEDC and served as chair, he wished Bob and Mandy well.

He talked about the waterfront project and about the letter from Dana Lynch on the Butterfield Gym; he then read his appointments to the waterfront advisory board. He then responded to a letter to the editor that discussed the creation of the waterfront board, he is concerned about this because of the inaccurate remarks that were made in it. The writer stated it will have substantial long term increased tax consequences for Dover homeowners and that this will permit them to increase Dover bonds, without city council approval and there will be no voter control over this project, he continued to read the editorial, the Mayor clarified the group has no money attachment to it for them to spend any money; they would have to come back to the council for authorized spending.. The second option they would have Housing authority bonds and these do not factor into our tax bills. The housing authority has the ability to do this project as they have proven in the past. He is only responding to specific facts that are incorrect in the article.

He then made his appointments to the Waterfront Advisory Board. (see council folder of 3/9/2005).

He is thrilled for the way the group has taken on the task and moving forward with the project. He continued there will be a total of 12 voting members with the acceptance of this report. Hindle moved seconded by Keays with all in favor of accepting the Mayor's report.

10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Joyal stated he had submitted his report in writing as usual. Also he wanted to let them know we have used up all of our salt pile and we are having difficulty getting salt from our usual vendors. We will be purchasing additional salt for the rest of the winter and they have been able to piggy back onto the state bid contract and not with the original vendor. To date we have spent \$360,000 on snow removal efforts up until the day before yesterday in snow plowing. Joyal says Lavoie and his staff have done a great job on curtailing snow expenses. He has met

with dept heads and asked them to curtail costs; he does not anticipate any problems in being able to meet the budget through the rest of the year. Hindle added his thank you to Pete Lavoie and his staff for the long days and nights in cleaning streets this winter as it has been a rough winter. Hindle moved seconded by Colwell Ellis to accept with all in favor.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCES IN 2ND READING

1. Ordinance #05-02/09/2005 – Chapter 131, Offenses, Section 131-19, Use of tobacco products on the grounds of the McConnell Center. Sponsored by Councilor Dean Trefethen.

Trefethen moved seconded by Hindle to adopt. Trefethen explained the McConnell Center is going to be a center for youth services and health related services, so to be consistent to have these types of services this should ordinance be supported. For those adults who do smoke and want to smoke and are using the building, there is a very short walk to most of the entrances of the center and they are located near permissible areas for them to smoke outside the building. He urged them to support this. Mayberry was going to oppose this until Trefethen said that they can smoke outside of the McConnell Center Building, as he feels the library parking lot should be allowed to be a spot for people to be able to smoke. When are we going to let adults be adults and let them make their own decisions. Trefethen pointed out you can smoke in the library parking lot, Mayberry stated he stands corrected Lewis thanked Mayberry for raising this type of question on this. Motion to adopt passed on a roll call vote of 7-1 with Mayberry opposed.

B. ORDINANCES IN 3RD READING – NONE

C. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution RE: Acceptance of Thornwood Lane as a City Street. Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers by Request. NEW BACKGROUND

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to adopt. Trefethen stated he will vote no on this as he feels the road will need to be rebuilt if it gets developed in the near future. Lewis asked if this has been to the Planning Board for a vote. Joyal says the original developer did go before the Planning Board and the road was put in by the developer and is built to city specification and the developer has asked us to take possession of the road. Lewis wants to table this motion, Joyal asked Stancel to come forward to explain, Mayberry asked where Thornwood Lane is located. Stancel says this road is part of a 3 lot subdivision of a larger parcel in ward 3 and because they needed road frontage, they were required to put in the public road, there are some quirks as the family has been required by a judge to sell off some property. They had to have frontage on a public road and they created that cul d sac, then sold off the Marketplace, the public driveway will service the additional 80 or so acres. Stancel's recommendation is to approve this as a public road. Mayberry asked is there a time line, Stancel says the email from the city attorney indicates no. Mayberry would like a nod from the Planning Board so he will make a motion to send this to the Planning Board. Stancel says the Planning Board would not have approved the project if they had not been satisfied that the road was built to specs. Trefethen is confused, he feels the approval of this predated his service on the Planning Board and he also feels this will be a private road until accepted. Stancel tried to explain that a builder could build the road before developing it to city specs and before selling the lots but generally they do not have enough money to do this. They would be forcing a private entity to maintain a road now that has been sold out of the family. Lewis moved to table until it is reviewed by the Planning Board and seconded by Mayberry on a 4-3 vote with Mayberry, Lewis, Keays and Trefethen in favor of the motion until it goes to the Planning Board for review.

2. Resolution RE: Adoption of Petition Pursuant To RSA 231:163 for Changes in Pole Licenses. Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers by Request. See LETTERS FROM BOTH PSNH & VERIZON

Hindle moved seconded by Lewis to adopt. Lewis stated he is in favor of adopting this. Mayberry says the state senate is taking action on this tomorrow so he would like to table this. Joyal stated what is being dealt with in the legislature is separate from what they are acting on tomorrow; this has to do with the actual piece of property that the taxpayers own. We have a case such as this and that is the lease with Clean Gear at the city arena, this is the same scenario, any place there is a pole that Verizon owns, they would have to pay for the space that the pole is on. Mayberry still feels the state Supreme Court has been asked to look at this due to the e-telecommunications tax. Joyal says the issue has already been addressed by the Supreme Court and Rochester won the case and it has been confirmed by the

Supreme Court. Joyal says the basis for proceeding with this has already become law. Mayberry still wants to wait 30 days on this. Joyal says for property tax purposes this needs to be addressed before April 1st if it is to be included in this tax year. The Mayor feels we should be voting on this tonight in spite of what Mayberry says. Motion to adopt passed on a roll call vote of 6-1 with Mayberry opposed.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Raffle Permit – American Legion Post 8
2. Raffle Permit – Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce
3. Raffle Permit – Great Bay Figure Skating Club
4. Parade Permit – Portsmouth Christian Academy

Hindle moved seconded by Trefethen to grant with all in favor.

B. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution RE: Designation of Back Road as a Scenic Road Pursuant to RSA 231:157. Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers, by Request.

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to adopt. Trefethen explained the Planning Department's final recommendation would be to make Cullen by to Mallard Lane into a scenic road but not the rest because of the impact this would have on property owners and the 25 foot ROW. People would have to go to the Planning Board to even chop dead trees etc. There is nothing in the scenic road that would impact traffic; it is not going to accomplish what the people want. He is not trying to diminish those that feel the road is really beautiful but he will voting against the petition. Motion to adopt failed 0-7.

2. Resolution RE: Acceptance of Donation of $\frac{3}{4}$ Acre Parcel of Land from Strafford County Commissioners. Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers, by Request.

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to adopt. Motion to adopt passed on a vote of 7-0.

3. Resolution RE: Opposing Elimination of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers, by Request.

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to adopt. Mayberry feels this is really being renamed and is now under Department of Commerce and it was formally under the Department of Agriculture. It is just being renamed but he will support the resolution. Lewis would like the agencies to add a simple letter and examples to go to our representatives in congress, we need to do this before we send it off in a package to the government. The Mayor will also support this and all were in favor of the resolution on a 7-0 vote.

4. Resolution RE: Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Dover School Board and the Dover Educational Office Personnel. Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers, by Request.

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to adopt. Lewis feels this is a good model in terms of negotiation, he finds this is a very acceptable increase, he is pleased. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0.

5. Resolution RE: Enterprise Park Building Project and Lease. Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers, by Request.

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to adopt. Joyal stated in the first whereas it should say from 12,000 expandable up to 20,000 square feet and the fourth whereas the same language and the further be it resolved insert 12,000 up to 20,000 square feet also. Hindle moved to amend with Mayberry seconding the motion with all in favor of amendment Lewis wants to know about item #5 what are the additional costs in terms of facilities and support that the city will need to provide to finish this project off. The Mayor explained a couple of years ago the land out there always had a paper road and then they came before the City Council and the council authorized the city to build a road after the first business signed a purchase and sales agreement to build out there; we have worked with utilities and to that point the city is paving the road, and we are working through with this deal with the BFA that the City is a part of. Lewis agreed and will support this. Motion to adopt passed on a roll call vote of 7-0.

6. Resolution RE: Award of Purchase Order for Charles Street Pump Station Construction Engineering Oversight Services. Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers, by Request.

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to adopt. Keays only sees one bid, he asked is that correct. Joyal says they went through DES to apply for funding and there was a bidding process; now that the contractor has been identified they want to go with the original contractor. this is only a subsequent phase of the original project that went out to bid. Keays wants to know if we had other bids on these jobs. Motion to adopt passed on a roll call vote of 7-0.

7. Resolution RE: Award of Purchase Order for Continued Architectural Assistance in Renovating/Retrofitting McConnell Center Building for Future Use by City and Others. Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers, by Request. *REVISED*

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to substitute as a whole. Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to adopt. The Mayor noted DeDe and Perry called and both are also in favor of this. Mayberry wanted clarification on exactly what this was going to cover. Stancel stated it is for the complete architectural and engineering design services for the building and site itself and it represents 6.75% of the projected budget of 3.7 million dollars. Also the committee wanted to be sure that it will not exceed 247 million dollars. Lewis asked how would he get a night school course in how you go through this process. He understands this is going to be a revenue account right, Joyal says this is a capital project. What Lewis is referring to will this be an operational budget, is there a time line for this, Stancel says this represents 6.75% of the 3.7 million dollar budget for the entire upgrade of the rooms; anything above and beyond the \$249,000 will have to come back and be re-negotiated. Lewis says this also says we will also have a project manager hired to oversee the framework and construction manager to see how that process working. Stancel says the McConnell Center over site committee is discussing this. But it is not part of this contract. Lewis says are we going to be this whole list or are we only the architect and should we do them. Stancel says they are taking a progressive and, green approach as they go through the building with their architectural design. The committee chose not to go out to bid on this. Mayberry asked for the other building projects that we have done, this is the first he has seen that has come up based on expenditures. Is this because we are retrofitting the building and what is this percentage basis about. Stancel stated this usually occurs in the school projects. Hindle confirmed this method. Colwell asked about the reversible costs, and what that would entail. Stancel says Lassle Architects indicated if they have to do a lot of reports or books or plans or if they have to travel elsewhere to do a comparison; those would be reimbursable costs. The committees recommended to 249,750 without re-negotiation. Lewis would like another member of the council to table this because DeDe and Perry are absent; Hindle asked if there is a time line on this. Stancel says one of the reasons we are going with this architect is so we can start the project on Friday. Trefethen stated he was opposed to this money pit and he wondered why Lewis feels it is going to fail. In light of most of the council is in support of this, he will be voting for it. Lewis does not want to see this fail because of the two councilors that are absent this evening so he would like to wait until the full council is present to vote on this issue. Motion to adopt passed on a roll call vote of 5-2 with Lewis and Keays opposed.

C. ORDINANCES IN 1ST READING

1. Ordinance #06-03/09/2005 – Chapter 166, Vehicles and Traffic, Section 166-30, Violations Payment Schedules Sponsored by Mayor Pro Tem Jason Hindle, Transportation Advisory Commission. ***(To be referred to a public hearing on 04/13/05)***

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to refer to a public hearing on 4/13/2005 with all in favor.

2. Ordinance #07-03/09/2005 – Chapter 166, Vehicles and Traffic, Section 166-17, Handicap Access Aisles. Sponsored by Mayor Pro Tem Jason Hindle, Transportation Advisory Commission. ***(To be referred to a public hearing on 04/13/05)***

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to refer to a public hearing on 4/13/2005 with all in favor.

3. Ordinance #08-03/09/2005 – Chapter 166, Vehicles and Traffic, Section 166-50, Stop Intersections and Section 166-51, Yield Intersections –various, Sponsored by Mayor Pro Tem Jason Hindle, Transportation Advisory Commission. ***(To be referred to a public hearing on 04/13/05)***

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to refer to a public hearing on 4/13/2005 with all in favor.

4. Ordinance #09-03/09/2005 – Chapter 166, Vehicles and Traffic, Section 166-40, Contractor Parking. Sponsored by Mayor Pro Tem Jason Hindle, Transportation Advisory Commission. **(To be referred to a public hearing on 04/13/05)**

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to refer to a public hearing on 4/13/2005 with all in favor.

5. Ordinance #10-03/09/2005 – Chapter 166, Vehicles and Traffic, Section 166-19, Winter Parking. Sponsored by Mayor Pro Tem Jason Hindle, Transportation Advisory Commission. **(To be referred to a public hearing on 04/13/05)**

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to refer to a public hearing on 4/13/2005 with all in favor.

6. Ordinance #11-03/09/2005 – Chapter 166, Vehicles and Traffic, Section 166-49, Schedule B, Prohibited Turns at Intersections, Chestnut Street. Sponsored by Mayor Pro Tem Jason Hindle, Transportation Advisory Commission. **(To be referred to a public hearing on 04/13/05)**

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to refer to a public hearing on 4/13/2005 with all in favor.

7. Ordinance #12-03/09/2005 – Chapter 79, City Property, Section 79-12, Use of City Property. Sponsored by Councilor Matt Mayberry. **(To be referred to a public hearing on 04/13/05)**

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to refer to a public hearing on 4/13/2005 with all in favor.

8. Ordinance #13-03/09/2005 – Chapter 113, Floodplain Development, Various Sections. Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers by Request. **(To be referred to a public hearing on 04/13/05)**

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to refer to a public hearing on 4/13/2005 with all in favor.

9. Ordinance #14-03/09/2005 – Chapter 3, Administrative Code, Section 3-69, Arts Commission. Sponsored by Councilor Matt Mayberry. **(To be referred to a public hearing on 04/13/05)**
SUSPEND THE RULES TO INTRODUCE ITEM

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to suspend the rules to introduce item. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0.

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to refer to a public hearing on 4/13/2005 with all in favor.

D. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE

1. Wetlands Application – Albert Berthiaume
2. Letter Re: Butterfield Gym- Dana Lynch **SUSPEND THE RULES TO INTRODUCE ITEM**
3. Letter Re: PNSY - Mayor Evelyn Sirrell **SUSPEND THE RULES TO INTRODUCE ITEM**

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to suspend the rules to introduce items 12D – 2 and 3. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0.

Hindle stated he wants them to support Portsmouth's Mayor Sirrell's request to appropriate \$100,000 to keep the shipyard open. With this vote he directs the acting city manager to put a letter of support together. Keays seconds the motion. Keays asked how many people in Dover work at the shipyard. Mayberry says about 300 people from Dover, the Mayor added Dover is the fourth highest payroll community in the State of NH. Keays asked what the City gives to keep this shipyard open. Joyal says it is \$500 in the form of a grant that we give each year from the council part of the budget. Joyal clarified the city provides this grant to the Seacoast Shipyard Association to keep the shipyard open. Motion passed on a 7-0 vote.

The Mayor read and discussed the letter from Dana Lynch on the Butterfield Gym with regards to the Waterfront development; he wanted this to be put on record. Keays asked about the deed that was given to

the City of Dover from the State of NH if it does state on it if this is for recreation; Joyal stated he will research this and get back to them.

13. COUNCIL MATTERS OF INTEREST

The Mayor stated he had sent an email to give the Acting City Manager direction in what they are looking for on the budget and that his idea is to break it down into a couple of pieces; such as capital, debt and operating. He continued they had already intended to remove over \$400,000 for sidewalks and 80k for a heavy vehicle and 20k for some bridge repair maintenance to take out of capital and to put into the operating budget. This is one step we should take and look at to give Mr. Joyal direction on what to present to us in an operating budget that shows an increase of less than 5% over last years operating budget knowing that we have those other pieces of capital and debt such as salaries, benefits, day to day operations and utilities and all those types of things that go into an operating budget . His direction is that we have those other pieces of CIP this will give us a starting point and there are some other issues such as the raise in health insurance, Mayberry feels this is good advice and a good direction to follow.

Keays would like to see a 4% budget increase for his personal preferences; there is a lot of fat in that budget, he can show it to them, he would like to include the schools as well. The Mayor does not disagree but he feels 5% is a talking start. Hindle would like the school department in the process early if that is possible. Joyal says he needs until April 15th, when his budget comes out April 15th and we can address the school budget soon. The Mayor asked if we couldn't vote on the school before the other parts of the budget. Joyal says there is nothing to say that you can give the school direction as they have done tonight.

Trefethen feels the communication is better this year; he feels the 5% is reasonable for them to start with this. Lewis agrees as well on this to start looking at the budget but he does not want to overlook the 4% number if we can get to this. He would like to see the services in the recreational area provided privately. What are some of the areas we can look at to obtain a tight, firm but effective, budget. The consensus was to give a 5% starting place with the budget. Joyal appreciates their thoughts on this issue; he feels this is achievable. But to make these numbers lower we will have to look at services.

Hindle stated we are meeting in workshop session next week and we are having the county folks in to discuss their budget as this is a considerable portion of the overall budget.

14. ADJOURN

Hindle moved seconded by Mayberry to adjourn at 9pm with all in favor.

**Judy Gaouette,
City Clerk**