

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING/ WORKSHOP
DOVER CITY COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 2, 2005
7:00 P.M.**

SPECIAL MEETING:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call

Members Present: Councilor Colwell-Ellis, Councilor Robert Lewis, Mayor Scott Myers, Councilor Otis Perry, Councilor Dean Trefethen, Councilor Doug DeDe, Mayor Pro Tem Jason Hindle and Councilor Bob Keays. Councilor Matt Mayberry arrived at 7:15 PM. City Manager Mike Joyal was also present.

The Mayor opened the meeting reminding everyone the polls are open 7 am – 7 pm on Tuesday, November 8th election day and absentee ballots are available in the clerk's office up until the day before the election.

3. RESOLUTIONS:

- A. **Resolution RE:** Award of Bid #B06026 for Sixth Street / Venture Drive / Education Way Intersection Signalization Project. Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers by Request.

Hindle moved seconded by Trefethen to adopt. Perry does not see a need for a light at this intersection. Joyal says this for the anticipated growth that is coming out there. The Mayor added there is new construction in enterprise park opening next year. Passed on a roll call vote of 8-0 with Mayberry absent.

- B. **Resolution RE:** Appropriation for FY07 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and Authorization for Bonding. Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers by Request. ***(TO BE REFERRED TO A PUBLIC HEARING on November 9, 2005)***

Hindle moved seconded by Lewis to refer. Motion passed on a vote of 8-0.

Hindle moved seconded by Perry to suspend the rules to introduce item C and D. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 8-0.

- C. **Resolution RE:** Adoption of RSA 162-K Allowing Establishment of Tax Increment Financing Districts. Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers by Request. ***(TO BE REFERRED TO A PUBLIC HEARING on November 16, 2005)***

Hindle moved seconded by DeDe to refer to a public hearing on 11/16/2005. Motion passed on a vote of 8-0.

- D. **RESOLUTION RE:** Request the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation in support of federal funds to complete the dredging of the Cochecho River federal navigational channel. Sponsored by the entire Dover City Council.

Hindle moved seconded by DeDe to adopt. Joyal explained about the ongoing issue of delays in Washington DC and Congress and as a result the funding is not yet in place for the second part of the project. There is 2 million that Senator Gregg is working thru the committees. The Army Corp does not currently have a contract and the dredge cell window is approaching for this winter. DeDe asked about the bid that came in and was it higher than expected. Lewis says if nothing happens this season, what will happen to the existing materials at the river and what will happen to the money that was left. Joyal says if the funds are not used this year the funds will lapse. If the funding comes through but they cannot find a dredge contractor, they should be able to use the money next season. They are currently

negotiating with the prior contractor for the steel removal etc left at the worksite and there will be a cost involved with that. Lewis asked are there any funds to cover over the dredge spoils that are left open. Joyal says that is not so much of an issue. We may have to put a temporary cover over the dredge cell; but we are not at that point yet. Colwell Ellis asked if there is a difference between the amount and the contractors coming in. Joyal says the Army Corp has an overage fund to draw from if there is a shortfall. Trefethen asked about the worst case scenario if we don't go forward with the project. Where does this leave the city in terms of revenue. Joyal says a good portion of that project has already been funded with the dredge spoils that are already in the cell. He added but Senator Gregg's office is pretty optimistic that the funding will come through, if anything there may be a delay by a year. Motion passed on vote of 8-0.

4. OTHER

5. ADJOURN into Workshop

Hindle moved seconded by Keays with all in favor of going into a workshop session.

WORKSHOP SESSION:

A. DISCUSSION Re:

1) Sidewalk Maintenance

The Mayor stated the workshop is to explain what our policies are on sidewalks and maintaining them. Joyal has 3 pieces of information for them. The first is a slide show on where the priorities are on sidewalks, he also wants to discuss the maintenance and snowplowing of the sidewalks. He wants to discuss how we go about plowing and the resources we have. Lastly he wants to touch on the master plan and the ongoing repairs within the city and the intent to update them.

Paul Vlasich our city engineer will present the sidewalk management plan. Paul stated they use the GIS system to analyze the program and update it, first they have to come up with an inventory with the type length and width and rate them according to cracks, roughness and condition. At the same time they look at the curb situation, then the condition of the grass strip and rated all of these. They have a list of sidewalks that is linked to the tax map and lot number. He continued explaining about the map. At this point they now know the infrastructure; he had a list of what the assorted materials cost to repair them. They then calculate the useful life span. They had to then come up with a sidewalk priority list with criteria of how much usage the sidewalk would get; schools, the hospital, and doctor's offices were a priority. Then he has a system to come up with the conditions of the sidewalks. They then ask it about paving projects on the nearby street and gave those sidewalks a boost on the sidewalk priority list. The last part was the master plan of sidewalks of where there is no sidewalk now but one has been requested. The conclusions gathered were they have 52.1 miles of sidewalks in the City of Dover. They came up with an annual expenditure of \$450,000 and last year they only received \$200,000. in the CIP and this year they are also asking for \$450,000.

Now that the propriety list is done he continued explaining how they determined what they were going to replace. He had a list of suggested sidewalk projects including Fisher, South Pine, Maple, Lincoln and Chestnut Streets that have ongoing projects in the process right now. He noted they also had an award of merit for their program based on the 2002 project analyses. The yellow highlighted areas are being undertaken right now or are finished such as Fisher Street which will be finished next year.

Hindle commented in the last year of the CIP, Fisher and Lincoln Streets were separate projects that did not come out of sidewalks. Colwell Ellis asked if they are doing entire length of the street on Silver, and Broadway. Mayberry asked what material will we be constructing them of and will they be mostly concrete. Paul explained they go to the homeowner and ask if they want to pick up the additional tab for brick in front of their house. Mayberry asked if the new sidewalks are to be handicap accessible, Paul confirmed there have been tip downs on sidewalks for about 6 years now. Mayberry asked about the trees and shrubs and how they are situated on or near the sidewalks. Keays asked if we are doing

both sides of the street. Paul says that depends on the project. Keays feels one side is plenty for the in town sidewalks. Paul thinks on the in town we should do both sides. Lewis asked about resurfacing a road and if there is already a plan for a sidewalk at the far end of Glenwood Ave and he does not see a need for a sidewalk past the turnpike overpass. Paul disagreed saying this evolved from a neighborhood meeting. Joyal clarified that in 2002 when this list was assembled the priorities were directed to the existing maintenance of sidewalks and as major street projects come along that is when they have been addressing those sidewalks. Keays asked if these are 1992 or 2005 prices in the list. The Mayor asked when we allocate money for sidewalks is it for maintenance on existing sidewalks or is it for new construction of sidewalks. The Mayor wants to see what was allocated for the past two years. DeDe is looking at Baker Street that has \$105,000 allocated for it. Lewis asked about the number of people that actually use a sidewalk. Paul says they do not have a number count but they targeted what they thought was a high use sidewalk areas such as a supermarket and a doctors office.

Joyal asked Doug Steele to talk about the portion of the overall maintenance and cleanup that is done in the spring. Doug explained they do asphalt patching, weed control by spraying and one of their most challenging is the plowing of sidewalks. See handout of sidewalks that are and those that are not plowed with a priority being on the downtown urban core and the schools. They have 2 sidewalk tractors and both can sand and salt as they go. They have one additional tractor that cannot sand. He is asked quite frequently how long it takes to plow the sidewalks, in a perfect storm and with all 3 vehicles out they can do it in about 6 hours. Doug says with regard to the perception of sanding they only sand where they see a troubled area. If they get into the heavy wet snow it may take days to do sidewalks and they are very difficult to maintain. It is one of the most challenging tasks they have because of some of the obstruction such as utility poles in the sidewalk and guide wires that interfere, also trash bags and recycling bins, they all do damage to the equipment and driveway crossings are also a problem for the operators and slow them down. The new sidewalk widths are 6 feet wide but some of the old ones they cannot even get down. The expectations of residents are very high for sidewalk snow removal as many of them have the expectation that the city will plow the sidewalk in front of their house. He wants to improve on what they currently plow before they take on additional streets to plow. They try to have the sidewalks open in the morning for the kids to go to school. Then the downtown area is next and then the neighborhoods around the schools. Keays asked if he is going to plow any more sidewalks more than last year. Doug says they may have added Ash Street as it is a leading sidewalk to Horne Street School. Keays feel we have the equipment. If we increase what we are currently doing people expect it every storm. Keays would like to put the sidewalks out to bid to get them plowed if the city cannot handle it. Lewis asked if Doug wants recommendations on sidewalks; he added assuming if your budget stays the same. Doug says if we can maintain the sidewalks during regular working hours, we could stay within the budget. Lewis knows if business people in Cambridge, MA didn't clean their own sidewalks they would be fined. Joyal clarified about the expectations and the complaints and where they come from. He added if for some reason something occurs like a large snowball that is kind of impossible for an elderly person to move; an issue such as that would have to wait until the next day. Trefethen wants to know how much staff is involved and what it would cost to do all the sidewalks even though he is not suggesting that they do plow them all. He wants to either leave the status quo or make a change or thirdly maybe there is some other option. He then reminded folks at home you can be part of the problem or part of the solution, so don't plow it into the street put the snow on your own land.

DeDe thinks the idea of additional staff to handle a large storm is unrealistic; the system based on averages is the intelligent way to go about it. There will be times when the severity of storm is such they can't. He does not see the use of the sidewalks as being used at that time of year. He does not see a great deal of change from what is being done. Hindle agrees on focusing on some type of policy as councilor Trefethen suggested. Before we were to put any policy in place we should sit with the school department and see a map of where the children that are walkers are in the neighborhoods of the schools. Mayberry says he remembers when they last purchased a new sidewalk plow. Doug says that was 3 years ago and probably cost \$60,000. Mayberry stated so the price of this today is probably \$75,000 by now.

Joyal interrupted they would set up cost scenarios to show how they can do the routes if they were to expand the program even though he has not even asked the staff or attempted to expand it and he knows this will not happen but he will develop some costs. Lewis thinks what is needed more than anything else is to make it explicit about what the expectations are. If we change it then we create the new expectation. Trefethen wonders if the map in front of us could be put on the web site people could view it to see if they are on the list to be plowed. And Trefethen does not want to spend any more money on this. But he still would like to go through the exercise of what it would cost us. DeDe wants to put a note in the Community Newsletter about not putting the garbage bags out on a stormy night. As far as determining costs is it possible to figure what it would cost for a 2 inch or a 4 inch storm, if so that would

be ideal. Keays read in the paper the other night where Joyal said the residents are picking up the biggest tab for taxes but they are not being taken care of; we are still taking care of the downtown businesses that are not paying their fare share. He wants to take care of the people that are paying the bills in Dover.

Joyal does not want people to be left thinking the status quo is acceptable as they are always trying to find a better way to do this.

Steve Stancel continued with the transportation portion of the master plan presentation and the reason why we should continue to build new sidewalks. He noted this document tells us a system of safe and accessible sidewalks is a safe alternative to automobiles; (see copy of power point presentation in City Council folder of 11-2-2005). They promote a sense of community and livability. He explained the current problem is the sidewalks and the proposed projects and because of the connectivity issue of the connection of job centers and school centers and how they are trying to fill the blanks in on the current sidewalks. Trefethen wonders if the time is coming to re-do our master plan; maybe in the current master plan we created some items that we did not intend to. Dover has changed since the last master plan was created.

2) Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

Joyal noted the TIF resolution that was on the agenda tonight and he wants to make them aware that they did send this to a public hearing on November 16th to coincide with the adoption of the CIP on December 7th. A portion of the financing of the CIP anticipates that we will form a tax increment financing district in the downtown area to support some of the transportation projects and look at a parking facility and if all goes well build it within a couple of years. This does not form the district; before this what we need to do is adopt the enabling legislation. We are required to bring it to a public hearing 7 days after notice which is November 16th and then there will be a vote on the bonding authorization and the implementation of the enabling legislation on December 7th as part of the CIP. This does not form the district; it only puts enabling legislation in place in the City. The second part of it forms a committee which eventually comes back to the council for approval. Colwell asked who will the committee be comprised of. Joyal confirmed it will be 5 people that will be appointed by the Mayor

B. OTHER

C. ADJOURN

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

Judy Gaouette
City Clerk