

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL
MEETING
JUNE 9, 1999
DOVER CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 PM

1. MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Berry led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Councilor Berry, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Landry, Mayor Pro Tem Perry, Councilor Rawding, Councilor Reese, Councilor Wilson, Mayor Boc.

4. CITIZEN'S FORUM

The Mayor opened the Citizen's Forum.

Erv Sparkman – 232 Tolend Road. Mr. Sparkman spoke on behalf of the Dover Citizens for Responsible Government. He mentioned two (2) position statements presented earlier to the council. Mr. Sparkman stated the second item is the budget in general and how they disagree with certain items in the budget. He re-emphasizes what was stated before.

Mr. Sparkman spoke as a resident of Dover (see handout # 1). He read the entire handout.

Seeing no other speakers, the Mayor closed the Citizen's Forum.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Resolution RE: Fiscal Year 2000 Budget Appropriations, Property Taxes and Fees. Sponsored by Mayor William E. Boc, by Request.

Perry moved to adopt, seconded by Berry.

Perry moved to substitute in its entirety, seconded by Berry.

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The City Manager stated this \$4,400,000 is the result of an adequate education grant from the State of New Hampshire.

Motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-1. Wilson opposed to the substitution.

Berry stated he has reviewed the budget and he would like to pass it in its entirety, as presented.

Rawding stated he respects Berry, but does not share his opinion. As much as he would like to not reduce it, he will anyway.

Rawding moved to reduce the budget by \$500,000; \$250,000 from the city side and \$250,000 from the school side, seconded by Wilson.

Rawding stated by not taking the Claremont Issue into consideration, he would like to run a tighter ship. Rawding stated he feels there is too much opportunity for waste. He stated this increase is not affordable for the citizens of Dover.

Landry asked Rawding to clarify and to see if he wants to offer a friendly amendment. He stated he wouldn't right now because it will change the use of the fund balance.

The Mayor comments. He supports the motion by Berry, when you invest in your City, you increase your taxes. The Mayor stated it's a good City, he likes living here.

The Mayor stated he had asked the School Board to come with only what they need and they did. He says they passed a unanimous budget so he believes them. He then did the same with the City Manager.

Johnson shares Mr. Sparkman's concerns. He stated he is very reluctant to make cuts now that they have not gone line by line. Johnson stated it was pointed out to him that he did not run for election saying he would cut the taxes, so he will support this resolution.

Wilson stated he has a problem with the Mayor's statement of going over it line by line. He stated, he feels we have been successful in all previous workshops by not looking at the budget line by line. Wilson stated he doesn't feel the Chief should get all six (6) police cars. He also stated we have not updated the curriculum for 10 years. Wilson stated he is disgusted by the process.

Rawding responded to some of the points that have been made. He stated he did run for four (4) years on the platform that he would reduce the size of the government, as well as, maintain the services. Rawding stated he has knocked on a lot of doors and the people just cannot afford more taxes. He stated his understanding of investment is if we take less money from the people, then they have more money to spend out there at the businesses.

Rawding stated his \$500,000 decrease would only be in the proposed budget. He stated his is only a reduction in the increase.

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Schmidt stated we are faced with a difficult decision tonight. He stated he agrees with Johnson that the city has lived on lean budgets for years. Schmidt stated because of the lean years, he will support this.

Schmidt stated this is an opportunity to restore. He stated he feels if we do not adequately fund the services, we are kidding ourselves. He stated he sees the old public works building as an eyesore. Schmidt went on to say we have good economic times, we have Claremont funds. He stated he will support the entire budget as proposed.

Landry stated one and one-half (1 ½) years ago seems like a long time ago.

He said he only ran on four (4) things:

- 1) conduct himself in a professional manner
- 2) responsible zoning
- 3) investing in infrastructure
- 4) fiscal responsibility

Landry stated his conscience won't allow him to pass this budget as is! He stated how many times will we say "we have been the beneficiary because of Liberty, MBNA, and Chili's". Landry has toyed with the suggestion of a \$550,000 decrease in the budget. He stated he feels an 11% increase in the water fund is incredible. He stated he would like to remove \$45,000 from the water fund.

Landry stated he doesn't like line by line; he would like department by department. He stated with a \$550,000 reduction in the increase, Our spending increase would be 8% rather than 9.4%.

Landry stated passing the budget as is has already got five (5) votes right now.

Schmidt spoke to an amendment. He stated discussions of the past have not worked out with regards to the public works building; this is the time to pass the budget as is!

Landry comments he is wrangling back and forth, but is it worthwhile? He stated we are only the stewards of this money. It is not our money.

Berry points out it is really a \$1.43 reduction in the tax rate not a \$2.32 increase.

Rawding makes it perfectly clear with regards to Claremont money. He stated this really is our money, this money will HIDE the real increase. Rawding stated, when the Claremont money shrinks down the line in 3, 4 or 5 years; that is the cost that will come back to haunt us.

Johnson stated he doesn't feel Rawding's headline is correct. He stated he wants to forget Claremont for tonight. Johnson stated he can justify the \$2.32 increase tonight.

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Amendment failed on a vote of 4-5. Landry, Reese, Rawding, Wilson in favor.
Johnson, Schmidt, Berry, Perry opposed and
Mayor Boc voted opposed to break the tie.

The budget passed on a roll call vote of 5-4. Landry, Reese, Rawding, Wilson
opposed.

6. COUNCIL MATTERS OF INTEREST

Berry commented on violence at Dover High School. He stated our Police Chief did everything in a professional manner in regards to an unsigned letter that was passed out recently.

Rawding adds to Berry's comment, he received it also. He stated he investigated it, he was not at the meeting. He stated the tone of the letter was uncharacteristic of our Police Chief. Rawding stated we have one of the finest Police Chief's in this state; he has a tough job.

Wilson asked the City Manager about the Department of Safety recommendation he is working on.

The City Manager answered, he would have it for the next regular meeting.

Rawding stated he had had the pleasure of touring the new Dover Middle School. He stated there will be a special write-up in the Dover Times.

The Mayor thanked his friends for voting in the budget.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

JUDY GAQUETTE
CITY CLERK