



CITY OF DOVER

CITY COUNCIL - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Special Meeting
Meeting Location: Council Chambers, City Hall
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, May 5, 2010**
Meeting Time: **7:00 pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Moment of Silence was held during the Workshop Session.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was held during the Workshop Session.

4. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

Present: Mayor Myers, Deputy Mayor Trefethen, Councilor Carrier, Councilor Cheney, Councilor Cruikshank, Councilor Garrison, Councilor Hooper, Councilor Nedelka, Councilor Weston.

Also present: School Board Member Kenneth Appel, City Manager Joyal, City Attorney Krans, and City Clerk Lavertu.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Trefethen made a motion to remove the Citizen's Forum from the Agenda; seconded by Councilor Cruikshank.

Vote: 8/1; Passed. Councilor Cheney was opposed.

Councilor Hooper made a motion to accept the Agenda as amended; seconded by Councilor Weston.

Vote: 9/0.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. RESOLUTION: FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS, FEES AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM – SCHOOL PORTION ONLY SPONSORED BY MAYOR MYERS BY REQUEST

Mark Geuther, 30 Lisa Beth Circle: He disclosed that his wife is a teacher in the Dover School system, but added that he has always been a supporter of education, serving on the Chamber Education Committee, Search Committees for both the Woodman Park School and the School Superintendent, and serving on the Horne Street School Joint Building Committee. He said Dover has a wonderful school system, but they can and must do better. He said it is not all about the teacher's salary, but providing the necessary resources that the students need in order to succeed. He spoke about the costs of being a teacher in supplying their students with pencils, paper, and crayons. He said the tax cap was voted in by a majority, but don't be fooled into thinking that the majority of the citizens voted in the tax cap. He said in the last municipal election the citizens of Dover put a Council in place that they felt would look at the needs of Dover, the resources needed to fulfill those needs, and after consideration he would override the tax cap if necessary to maintain the City's services.



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Kenneth Appel, 16 Isaac Lucas Circle, School Board Member: He spoke about the Mayor's comment at the last meeting that if there was a possibility of an override, that he would like a prioritized list from the School Board. He said he thought it was a good idea, but has since come to the conclusion that it was a dangerous path. He said the School Board should ask you for as much of the \$1 million that was cut as possible. He said a list would set a precedent. He said most on the School Board are very compassionate and tried hard to save jobs, but in the process were forced to make sacrifices, going backwards in technology, and weakening the curricula. He said this will hurt the kids.

April O'Keefe, Dover High School Regional Career Technical Center Employee and Member of the Advisory Committee for the Firefighter Academy: She spoke about the Firefighter Academy program in Dover. She said they have had 26 students apply. She said the first year they would need \$35,000 to \$39,000 to fund the cost of a part-time teacher, and the transportation costs to bring the students to the Northend Fire Station. She said the second year the costs would double to pay for a full-time teacher. She said they have already heard from two colleges, Lakes Region Community College and Southern Maine Community College, who had agreed to give the students the Firefighter I Academy Certification, and will grant them 3 college credits if they enter into their programs. She said the students in their second year will be receiving additional certifications and will learn everything they will need to be an EMT and to take the test. She said the colleges will give them another 3 credits for completing their second year. She asked the Council to support this program.

Michelle Holt-Shannon, 14 Florence Street: She spoke in favor of overriding the tax cap, and said she would personally campaign for any Councilor who votes to override the tax cap. She commended the people who want to work on public/private partnership. She said they will give the Council a list of what they cannot live without. She asked the people in the audience to wave if they supported an override.

Edward Bleiler, 4 Isaac Lucas Circle: He said there is no need for an override. He complimented Superintendent O'Connor for his budget that met the tax cap. He spoke about the \$100 million surplus at the LGC, \$2 million belonging to Dover. He said the School Department is not part of the LGC, getting their own insurance a lot cheaper. He asked the Mayor and City Manager why they were forcing these cuts on people knowing they don't want them. He said he felt they are trying to force an override, but the citizens cannot afford it.

Richard Walker, 8 Greenhill Road, Barrington; Barrington Fire Chief and Member of the FireFighter Advisory Committee

Councilor Cheney made a motion to allow a non-resident to speak during Citizen's Forum; seconded by Councilor Hooper.

Roll Call Vote: 8/1; Passed. Deputy Mayor Trefethen was opposed.

Mr. Walker said as a department head he understood the position the Council is in. He fully supported the Firefighter Academy program and hoped the Council will find the money to put this program together.



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Ellen Barton, 133 Garrison Road: She said the School Budget is bare bones. She said the classrooms are already too full, and they're looking to increase class size, which will decrease student achievement. She said they were also cutting funding for sports, and it shouldn't be only those that can afford sports who can play. She said the City needed quality schooling for families moving to Dover. She asked the Council to override the tax cap and increase the School's budget.

Lisa Spurling, 10 Isaac Lucas Circle: She said she and her husband chose to move their two children into the Dover School system this year. She hoped the teachers who greeted her children every morning wanted to be there and take care of her children. She said the teachers help children to grow up. She asked what the city will look like in a few years. She understood that the Council had a tough job, but asked what type of citizens we wanted to raise. She asked the Council to give the money to the schools and give students what they need.

Eric Spurling, 10 Isaac Lucas Circle: He spoke about his wife's comments, and said they really need to look at the long-term impacts. He said he finds it ludicrous that teachers he feels are underpaid have to go out and pay for school supplies for his children. He said it's true that Dover is at a crossroads. He said the pools are great, maybe they're necessary. He wasn't asking outright for a tax cap override. He was asking the Council to think outside the box and become creative. He said they need to tap resources, sell back energy from the mills, and look at alternate sources of revenue. He said they need to treat teachers as professionals. He thanked the Council for their time and he told the City Manager that he does a great job.

H. Jerry Lynch, 26B Lincoln Street: He said the answer is not overriding the spending cap, but he told the Council to go ahead and do it.

Mayor Myers, seeing no one else wishing to speak, closed the Public Hearing.

7. CITIZEN'S FORUM

This item was removed from the Agenda.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

9. NEW BUSINESS – None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Mayor Trefethen moved to adjourn the Special Meeting to continue the Workshop Session; seconded by Councilor Hooper.

Vote: 9/0.