



CITY OF DOVER

CITY COUNCIL - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Workshop Session
Meeting Location: Council Chambers, City Hall
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, April 28, 2010**
Meeting Time: **5:30 pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Garrison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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. BUDGET OVERVIEW

A. SCHOOL

Superintendent O'Connor gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Council regarding the proposed FY2011 School Budget.

Deputy Mayor Trefethen asked about the summer school program being completely cut. Superintendent O'Connor talked about the summer school program continuing by passing the whole cost to the participants, which would double the fee.

Councilor Carrier started a discussion about increased class sizes.

Mayor Myers started a discussion regarding the variance in revenues.

Councilor Garrison referred to Slide 22 and asked about the curriculum.

Deputy Mayor Trefethen referred to Slide 13, Office Staff contract, and asked about the \$25,000 not reflected in the budget. He referred to Slide 16, enrollment, and asked about people choosing between public and private.

Councilor Weston started a discussion about there being no money for raises, and asked how the School Board was addressing this with the contracts.

Mayor Myers said there were no COLA raises, but there were STEP increases. He asked the City Manager, if the Council approved a contract, does it automatically mean an override of the tax cap.

City Manager Joyal said the Council can approve the additional funds, or tell the School Board to find the additional funds within their existing budget.

Mayor Myers referred to \$1.2 million in cuts, and asked if the School Board has prioritized what the School really needs.

Superintendent O'Connor said the School Board has determined that all the items are important. He said the School Board can come up with a list.

Mayor Myers said it will help, if the Council decides to override, to explain to the citizens why they decided to override.



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Superintendent O'Connor went over a few more slides showing the cost per student, which showed Dover as the lowest in the State.

B. DOVER CHILDREN'S CENTER LEASE

Mayor Myers referred the Council to the copy of an amended lease for the Dover Children's Center.

City Manager Joyal spoke about the tenants at the McConnell Center, and how some of them receive subsidies from the City because of their contribution to the community. He said the Dover Children's Center has fallen behind on their lease payments due to some tough times. He said the revised lease agreement formalizes the continuation of some subsidies. He asked Recreation Department Director Gary Bannon to address the Council regarding this recommendation.

Mr. Bannon discussed the new lease agreement for the Dover Children's Center.

City Manager Joyal said the Dover Children's Center provides a service for low to moderate income families. He said there was no one in the wings that was looking to rent the space, which would create a larger expense if they were evicted.

Councilor Hooper asked about current enrollment.

Mr. Bannon asked Christina Rockefeller, Member of the Board for the Dover Children's Center, to speak to the Council.

Ms. Rockefeller said current enrollment was 42 children. She said the new bus contract didn't allow children to be dropped off at the center, and that has had a significant impact on enrollment. She said they have resolved that problem, which has already resulted in three new enrollments. They have also started a "drop-in" program, which has resulted in some full-time enrollment.

Councilor Weston asked about the break-even number.

Ms. Rockefeller said they would need 5 more children to be sustainable for this year.

Councilor Weston asked about the current budget and the rent that hasn't been paid.

Mr. Bannon said there is a shortfall in this year's budget. He spoke about the tenant paying back the deficit over time.

Mr. Otis Perry, McConnell Center Advisory Board Chairman, spoke about their negotiations with the Dover Children's Center. He said there was no viable alternative if they were to be evicted. He said the Dover Children's Center seems to have a viable plan, but they will be held accountable.

Deputy Mayor Trefethen started a discussion about empty space in the McConnell Center.

6. CITIZEN'S FORUM

Citizens are invited to speak on the subject matter of the Workshop. Statements shall be limited to five minutes.

Edward Bleiler, 22 Isaac Lucas Circle: He referred to Superintendent O'Connor's comments regarding costs per student, and asked for test scores or SAT scores versus the cost to educate the children. He said money does not educate children, but rather it is motivated teachers who



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educate children. He said the School Board should be negotiating with the unions about not receiving raises, including STEP raises.

Kenneth Appel, 16 Isaac Lucas Circle, School Board Member: He compared the Dover School system to Portsmouth and Rochester. He referred to the quality of teachers in Dover, and said some teachers left to get more money somewhere else. He said the School Board had to create a budget that met the tax cap, but the Council had the harder position of doing something about it. He wasn't asking the Council to sacrifice themselves if the community really didn't want a tax cap override. He spoke about areas that will be hurt by these cuts, and their lasting effects. He said if the community really wanted the tax cap, then they wanted a Dover that wasn't livable.

H. Jerry Lynch, 26B Lincoln Street: He said the previous speaker was good at manipulating figures. He said the people have already decided on the tax cap. He said they now want the Council to override it. He said the Council also wants to override it.

David Scott, 220 Back Road: He said 90% of homeowners in Dover work in the private sector. He said there is no money, and the people cannot afford an override.

Mayor Myers, seeing no one else wishing to speak, closed the Citizen's Forum.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Garrison moved to adjourn to Regular Session; seconded by Councilor Nedelka.
Vote: 9/0.