



CITY OF DOVER

CITY COUNCIL - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Workshop Session
Meeting Location: Council Chambers, City Hall
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, February 6, 2013**
Meeting Time: **7:00 pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Spuler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

Present: Mayor Trefethen, Deputy Mayor Carrier, Councilor Cheney, Councilor Crago, Councilor Hooper, Councilor Spuler, and Councilor Weston.

Absent: Councilor Garrison and Councilor Weeden.

Also Present: City Manager Joyal, General Legal Counselor Krans, and City Clerk Lavertu.

5. DISCUSSIONS

A. LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

Mayor Trefethen asked the State Senator and State Representatives to introduce themselves, talk about committees they are working on. He asked the Councilors to wait with their questions until the end.

Senator David Watters: He thanked the Council and said he was honored to serve Dover in the State Senate. His committee assignments include Executive Departments & Administration and Transportation. He said his primary concerns were jobs and economic development in New Hampshire. He said the Senate just passed a Senate Bill to double the research and development tax credit. He is co-sponsoring the complete rewrite of the Business Corporation Act. He is co-sponsoring a bill to streamline permitting for development. He is also working on wastewater treatment. He said the budget is very tough. He said the Governor has stated that there will be no new taxes, but there will be an increase in some fees. He spoke about gambling and using the revenue for education and roads. He spoke about Medicaid enhancements of managed care.

Representative Marcia Pelletier: She thanked the Council and said she has served as Representative on and off for the past 20 years. She spoke about the County and said she was Chairperson of the committee in charge of revenues, capital expenditures, and special projects. She is part of the Legislative Administrative Committee and she explained what they're working on.

Representative Greg Burdwood: He thanked the Council and said he was honored to serve the citizens of Dover and Somersworth. He was newly elected and spoke about his initial impressions. He said he serves on Fish & Game and Marine Resources, which was a great learning experience.



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Representative James Verschueron: He said he's newly elected and is watching and learning to the process. He serves on the Municipal and County Government Committee. He said he was interested in school funding issues. He said he has spoken with Superintendent Briggs Badger and will be looking into the adequacy funding issue where Dover is being shortchanged.

Representative William Baber: He said he's newly elected and felt the environment in the capitol was positive. He is serving on the Science, Technology and Energy Committee, which is a good fit for his background.

Representative Janice Gardner: She said she's newly elected. She is serving on the Environment and Agriculture Committee.

Representative Dot Hooper: She thanked Ward 4 for putting her back into the job. She said it is rewarding. She serves on the Municipal and County Government Committee and discussed several issues being discussed. She said it's in the committees where the work gets done and she's proud of the one she serves on.

Representative Peter Bixby: He said he's newly elected. He is serving on the Environment and Agriculture Committee, which was his first choice. He spoke about the House Bills that he is co-sponsoring.

Representative Peter Schmidt: He said he has served for 11 years. He serves on the Executive Departments and Administrative Committee. He discussed the many issues coming before the Legislature.

Mayor Trefethen told the Senator and Representatives that Councilor Garrison was the Council Legislative Liaison. He said the City would like less downshifting to the local level. He said out of every dollar the State saved the City had to spend \$0.80 to cover the services and in some areas the full 100%. He asked for their support with the water quality issue in Great Bay. He asked that they address the disparity in the school adequacy funding for Dover and other communities affected by the cap. He asked that they support State aid for infrastructure, House Bill 623. He asked Senator Watters further discuss the streamlining in the permitting process and how it might affect Dover if it passed.

Senator Watters said he will send the Senate Bill to the Mayor. It would allow for a one stop permit process with a time limit. He said it was something that would be opted into by the developer.

Mayor Trefethen asked about the boat ramp at Hilton Park being redone. He asked that Councilor Burdwood keep an eye on that issue.

Councilor Crago spoke about the Great Bay Estuary EPA issue with wastewater treatment. He asked how the Council can help them to get the EPA to reconsider or reevaluate the science.



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Senator Watters said the City has been very effective taking the lead with this issue. He said he has delayed the hearing for a few weeks to give time for more contact. He said there is a new EPA Director.

Representative Schmidt said he has been looking into this since last June. He said Newmarket and Exeter have negotiated with EPA. He said EPA has legal obligations and does have the science behind it.

Councilor Cheney discussed the presentation the Council received regarding the Great Bay study and that the EPA restrictions were unattainable.

Deputy Mayor Carrier asked Representative Pelletier about revenue stream and gambling.

Representative Pelletier said they were issues that were being brought up.

Councilor Hooper said she has seen several issues regarding revenue and gambling, but has seen nothing that overcomes the social issues that would arise.

Councilor Weston asked Councilor Hooper for clarification regarding a bill that would affect City Clerks.

Councilor Hooper said there was a bill where City Clerks have to be elected by the elected body, and a resident of the City. She said she planned to speak against it.

Councilor Weston started a discussion regarding the tax credit vouchers to private schools. She said this would negatively impact Dover public school systems. She also talked about changing the formula for school adequacy funding.

Representative Verschueren said the public hearing was yesterday, and voiced his opinion, but said very few came to the hearing. He said he suspects the Bill will pass, which would favor the City. He also spoke about casinos being considered in the north country and Salem.

Representative Schmidt also talked about the vouchers and said the House might let the law stand because they don't want to appear to be going back and forth.

Councilor Cheney said she supported keeping the voucher system in place, because it didn't affect that much of the budget. She spoke about gambling and how it should be addressed.

She said the Council has requested a peer research group to study the Great Bay Estuary issue.

Councilor Hooper explained the process of Bills. She said the citizens have to go to Concord to testify. She recommended that they look at the State Representative's website to view upcoming bills.

Councilor Weston referred to the citizen that wishes to speak during Citizen's Forum regarding transportation and State funding. She wondered if there was anything they can do to help her.

Mayor Trefethen said the Council will be sending their general position on legislative policies to them.



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CITIZEN'S FORUM

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

Shellie Lemilin: She spoke about COAST bus lines and her inability to use it because they stop the routes by her house. She stated it would cost the taxpayers more for alternative transportation. She talked about the condition of the sidewalks because of the snow. She asked for their support for funding the FastTrans.

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

6. ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Mayor Carrier moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Weston.
Vote: 7/0.