

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MAY 7, 2007

Call to Order

Mayor Palfrey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall. Salute to the Flag was said.

In Attendance

Councilor Rabinowitz, Councilor Boyd, Councilor Starkweather, Councilor Feener, Councilor Gasset, Councilor LaFever, Councilor Merrifield, Councilor Bowers, Councilor Andreozzi, City Manager Doyon and Mayor Palfrey.

Public Hearings

Ordinance #07-07 – An ordinance related to Chapter 306, Offenses of the Franklin Municipal Code, which concerns Registered Sex Offender Restrictions. Mayor Palfrey opened the public hearing, no one came forth to speak. The public hearing was closed.

Ordinance #008-07 – An ordinance related to Chapter 4, Article IV, Boards, Commission and Committees, Section 4-26.1 Capital Improvement Plan Committee (CIP). Mayor Palfrey opened the public hearing, no one came forth to speak. The public hearing was closed.

Resolution #12-07 – A resolution related to a supplemental appropriation not to exceed an amount of \$150,000 for road improvements in the Franklin Industrial Park. Mayor Palfrey opened the public hearing, no one came forth to speak. The public hearing was closed.

Comments from the Public

None

Council Acknowledgement

Councilor Bowers announced that there will be a benefit auction and dinner for the Animal Shelter Saturday, June 2, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. at the TRIP Center. Tickets are \$12.00.

Mayor's Update

Mayor Palfrey commented that he had enjoyed throwing the ball out at the Little League game even though he had to throw it out twice as the first throw didn't make it. He further commented that the LEADS meeting with the council was successful. Councilor Merrifield commented that concerning the feedback from that evening one of the

questions was how do you get in touch with your Mayor or Councilor. He stated that was not discussed that night but that the public should know that the phone numbers for the Mayor and Councilors is published on the City's website or contact can be made at City Hall to get the numbers.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Councilor Merrifield that the Franklin City Council approve the minutes of the April 2, 2007 City Council Meeting. Motion seconded by Councilor Feener. All in favor, motion passes.

Ash Landfill

Mr. Jim Presher, Director of the Co-Op was in attendance to answer questions regarding the expansion of the ash landfill on Punch Brook Road. Manager Doyon advised that a public hearing was held on the expansion of the landfill, DES extended the written comment period 30 days for us to make sure all concerns get back to DES before they make their final decision on the expansion.

Mr. Presher addressed the Mayor and Council stating that they have operated the landfill on Punch Brook Road since 1989, and have expanded through 3 different phases and just recently completed phase 4 which takes the landfill through 2009. He advised they have now made application with DES to expand the ash landfill which would be phase 5 which would take them through the most current extension of the contract, 2014. He advised a public hearing was held and public comment is open until the end of this week.

Councilor Merrifield stated that most of the Council was not at the public hearing so he would reiterate some of his comments. Councilor Merrifield stated he mentioned at the public hearing there were 3 significant violations cited by DES for cadmium emissions. He requested that Mr. Presher discuss that a little bit. Mr. Presher responded that this violation took place in February, 2006 due to heavy rainfall at that time and that it has been corrected. He also advised that nothing escaped from the landfill. The situation was resolved by raising the pumps and they also do monthly testing and since March of 2006 they have not exceeded the standards. Prior to this the landfill had not exceeded any metals in 18 years. Councilor Merrifield advised there is no policy for notification to the City of violations and Mr. Presher advised that is correct but that they will be happy to advise the City in the future.

Councilor Merrifield asked what kind of seismic event would the landfill withstand. Mr. Presher advised he is not an engineer, however, testing is done by placing information in a computer and he further advised that the lining used at the landfill is thicker than what is required by DES. The landfill meets the quake standards required by DES. Councilor

Merrifield stated since Central New Hampshire does rest on an earthquake fault, this should be kept in mind. He stated he believes there is risk to the community with the facility being here and that expansion of the facility means expanded risk.

Councilor Merrifield stated it is correct that the City has an agreement with the Co-Op that generates revenue for the City and governs rates as well. Mr. Presher stated it does not govern rates but there is a host agreement that has been in place since 1989 and goes to 2009 and if the expansion is put in that agreement will have to be renegotiated. The original contract ends in 2009 and expansion is not covered in the agreement. Councilor Boyd asked if that renegotiation will take place with the City Council. Mr. Presher stated he assumes the Manager, City Attorney and the Council would be involved. Councilor Merrifield stated he would like to see the agreement prior to the commentary period being closed at DES. Manager Doyon asked for clarification, do you want a copy of the agreement or a renegotiated agreement. Councilor Merrifield stated the existing agreement. Mr. Presher advised that he believes it is about \$90,000 annually right now.

School Board Report

Mrs. Fuller, Chair of the School Board addressed the Mayor and Council advising that this is Teacher Appreciation Week. She expressed thanks to Ms. Emily Kaplan a recent graduate of Franklin High School who now attends the University of New Hampshire and assisted with her class to get a \$25,000 for the Franklin Parks and Rec Playground Equipment. She advised that the school has signed an agreement for the First Alert System. Spring sports are underway. June 4, 2007 is the Class Day Parade. Other safety/security items they have under a purchase agreement are a door entry system at Rowell School, new entrance door and an entry door system for Paul Smith School, and the Middle School a door entry system. The High School and the Middle School more outside lightings will be installed at both as well as blinds. The Finance Committee will be coming to the School Board on May 21st with a proposed budget. Councilor LaFever asked why there is no outside lighting in the parking lot at Rowell School as the lot is pitch black. Mrs. Fuller advised she believes lighting is part of the paving project. Councilor Boyd asked in connection with the total security scheme at the schools, has it been considered to bring back the School Resource Officer. She advised that it has been discussed and in the past the expense was shared with the City and unfortunately the school can't afford to fund it completely themselves. Councilor Boyd stated they use to have very good success with this program and statistics have proven that a Resource Officer is an excellent deferent for problems. She stated she could ask the Finance Committee and the Superintendent to request that the City Manager cost out a Resource Officer at this point in time. Councilor Merrifield advised that during Youth Government the students expressed a lot of concern about that position being restored. Councilor Rabinowitz stated is it correct that the principal at the high school has resigned. Mrs. Fuller advised that is correct and Councilor Rabinowitz asked what the status is on that

job search. They received 18 applications and have reduced that down to 7 applications and will shortly be interviewing candidates. Councilor Gassett stated someone had asked him about teachers being given pink slips and Mrs. Fuller stated not in the Franklin School District.

Resolution #12-07 – Supplemental Appropriation not to exceed \$150,000 for road improvements in the Franklin Industrial Park.

Councilor Merrifield made a motion that the Franklin City Council authorize City Manager Doyon to execute a Development Agreement between the City of Franklin, FBIDC and F.I.P. Expansion, L.L.C. Motion seconded by Councilor LaFever.

Councilor Feener asked if the City has received copies of any minutes with reference to Franklin Industrial Park Expansion, LLC authorizing Mr. Aberg to sign for the LLC. He advised in the agreement it is sort of a liability on the LLC regarding the road and any future repairs. Does the City have on file minutes that state Mr. Aberg can sign for the LLC for that liability. Mrs. Sharlow, the Executive Secretary for FBIDC advised that she can provide that. She advised they are not minutes but Mr. Aberg is the Manager for the LLC which gives him the authority. Councilor Merrifield stated that in an LLC there are articles of incorporation of some kind that identify who the officers are. Mrs. Sharlow stated that is correct and she can provide that information. Councilor Feener commented that within those articles typically any liabilities that are taken on still require a vote by the members of the LLC. Mrs. Sharlow stated she believes at the annual meeting of Franklin Development, Inc. they had put in the minutes that Mr. Aberg is authorized to go forward with the road.

Councilor Bowers inquired about Article XI. of the agreement concerning the Franklin Street Parking Lot, he stated at a Municipal Service Committee Meeting we had heard that this project would not be done. Mrs. Sharlow advised that is false, that project will go forward.

Councilor Andreozzi inquired about Section IV. of the agreement, it breaks down the costs and the last number is site inspections, that money is in addition to the total because if you add the \$12,000 for the parking lot to the \$138,000 that makes \$150,000 and the City's \$150,000, who is going to be responsible for the \$2,800 for site inspections which are necessary. Manager Doyon advised that would be split, so each would be accountable for \$1,400. \$150,000 is coming from FIP Expansion, and \$150,000 coming from the City for a total of \$300,000, the \$290,800 includes the site inspections. Councilor Andreozzi asked for it to be explained because she advised when she adds the \$12,000 for the parking lot to the \$290,800 it exceeds the \$300,000. Councilor Bowers commented if you read Article X it states the Franklin Industrial Park Expansion LLC

will pay an additional \$12,000 which is in addition to the \$300,000. Councilor Merrifield commented regardless the Council has agreed to an amount not to exceed \$150,000. Councilor Bowers inquired of Municipal Services Director if he was okay with everything, was everything worked out with reference to this project at the May 1, 2007 meeting. Director Sullivan stated the only thing he would like to point out that the Council needs to be aware of that under the gravity sewer main force sewer main, the force main has been put in all the way to the end, but depending on how the development occurs, gravity sewer main is going to be installed off of the road to get it back to where the pump station is going to be. So, this does not include the pump station or the gravity sewer main for the lots beyond the two that are located in the front. Councilor Bowers asked would that be done when someone develops that property, would the developer do that. Director Sullivan responded typically all utilities are put in prior to the road, the way it is going to have to happen is the end of the road they will have to put in a pump station chamber along with a manhole on each side of the road and those manholes will have to be tied in to the pump chamber and depending on the configuration of the lots and Director Sullivan stated he would assume that would be an additional cost that would be borne by whoever buys those lots.

Councilor Andreozzi commented on Article VII wherein it states that the developer will have sole responsibility for ensuring the quality of the construction, has this been worked out so there will be no problems. She stated she is aware there has been some question with all the levels of the road, has it been worked out that we will not be paying until we are assured that the quality is up to the City standards? Manager Doyon responded that the roads is to be constructed in accordance with what was approved by the Planning Board and meet those specs. Manager Doyon advised that FBIDC had a difficult time with this section and Director Sullivan, Administrator Lewis and myself went over this section several times and many reviews with the City Attorney and the opinion was this section would be left as is and this is why this clause remains in the agreement but as to enforcing it, we need to make sure that once we adopt the road, the City has been able to assess it to an extent that if there are any problems they will be identified early on. He further stated it will take a lot of coordination, cooperation and communications with Dick Edmunds who is performing the majority of the work and to continue with on-site inspections.

Councilor Andreozzi asked if she is correct when the Council votes on these things we will be adopting the road tonight even though it isn't to a standard yet that we can say it will be completed up to the specs the Planning Board set because it isn't finished enough. Manager Doyon responded the Council is taking on an incomplete road, however, Manager Doyon advised the City will not pay anybody until it is certain that the City is on the right track with the developer and can assure what has been done has been done satisfactorily before a potential error could be compounded.

Councilor Starkweather commented that on page 3 of Director Sullivan's memo to the City Council it states that an engineer has been hired by the City to oversee the project.

Councilor Gassett stated his only comment is that from the beginning the way this is being paid for coming out of fund balance, he stated he does not feel it is right for the City to put their money up to do a road for the industrial park when there is so much other work in the City that is needed. He stated he went down to see the road about a week ago and it is not done and until the road could be brought up to grade, have testing done and get the road paved, the City should not be accepting anything. Councilor Gassett stated until the City Manager or Director Sullivan can come to the Council and say everything is done and it meets all criteria the City should not accept the road. Councilor Bowers stated he agrees with some of what Councilor Gassett is saying but that this is a unique situation to encourage commercial/industrial development in Franklin which will help offset taxes. He further stated he has to offset the residential growth with more commercial/industrial growth.

Councilor Starkweather advised that he drove down the road this evening and it has been extended out the full width and the ditches graded and compacted down past to where Cody is building their building. He stated he understands that they plan to continue further down past the area where Aluminum Structures plans to build so it would be somewhat up to grade and defined within the next few days. Councilor Merrifield commented that almost immediately this project will pay for itself in increased tax revenues.

Vote on Motion: 7 Yes Votes 2 No Votes

Motion made by Councilor Merrifield that the Franklin City Council accept the Warranty Deed from F.I.P. Expansion, L.L.C. contingent upon receipt of the property's mortgage release for a tract of land designated as Lot 2 on a Subdivision Plan for F.I.P. Expansion, L.L.C. dated June 28, 2006 prepared by Lepene Engineering. Motion seconded by Councilor Bowers. Vote: 7 Yes Votes, 2 No Votes

Motion made by Councilor LaFever that the Franklin City Council adopt Resolution #12-07, a supplemental appropriation of \$150,000 from undesignated fund balance for new road construction in the Franklin Industrial Park by a roll call vote. Motion seconded by Councilor Bowers.

Councilor Merrifield asked if we have an idea of what our undesignated fund balance is. Finance Director Ouellette advised approximately 2.1 million. Councilor Merrifield reminded the Council that by a previous vote the City had expressed the intention to allocate the \$150,000 to this project.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Rabinowitz – Yes
Councilor Merrifield – Yes
Councilor Boyd – Yes
Councilor Andreozzi – Yes
Councilor Starkweather – Yes

Councilor LaFever – Yes
Councilor Bowers – Yes
Councilor Feener – No
Councilor Gassett – No

Resolution #12-07 passes, 7 Yes Votes, 2 No Votes

Ordinance #07-07

This ordinance concerns Chapter 306 of the Franklin Municipal Code, Offenses, Registered Sex Offender Restrictions.

Mayor Palfrey read the ordinance in its entirety due to the fact it contained revised language.

ORDINANCE #07-07

AN AMENDMENT TO THE FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL CODE:

In the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Seven.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Franklin that the Franklin Municipal Code, Chapter 306, Offenses be added to the Municipal Code as outlined below.

**Chapter 306
Offenses**

Chapter 306 Registered Sex Offender Restrictions. [Added May 7, 2007 by Ord. No. 07-07]

A. Definitions.

1. Registered Sex Offender – This Chapter shall apply to offenders who have been convicted of the crime against a person under the age of 18 and as a result, are required to register for life pursuant to RSA 651-B:6 I.

2. School/Day Care – Any public or private educational facility that provides services to children in grades K-12 or licensed day care facility that is clearly marked.

3. Premises – Shall mean the property, building structure, playground area, athletic field or court, public beach, or municipal ski area.

4. Radius – Distance shall be measured from the property boundary lines.

B. Restrictions

1. Any person who is a registered sex offender as defined in Section A-1, above and is required to register for life, shall not reside within a 2500 foot radius of the property line of a school, day care center or public park.

2. Any person who is a registered sex offender involving a minor, and is required to register for life as defined above is prohibited from entering upon the premises of a school or day care center, unless specifically authorized by the school administration or day care center administration.

3. A deeded property owner shall not knowingly allow a registered sex offender as defined in Section A-1, to reside at the owner's property, should the property be within the 2500 foot radius of the property lines referenced in Section B.1.

C. Exceptions.

A registered sex offender residing within 2500 feet of a school or day care is not in violation if the residency was established prior to the date of passage or in the event of a new facility being established after the date of residency.

D. Penalties

Any person violating the provisions of this Chapter shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$500 for the first offense and shall relocate within 30 days. Any subsequent violations of this chapter by the same person shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$1,000.

Motion made by Councilor LaFever that the Franklin City Council adopt Ordinance #07-07 by a roll call vote, motion seconded by Councilor Feener.

Councilor Feener made a motion to amend the original to remove under B. Restrictions, No. 3 which reads "A deeded property owner shall not knowingly allow a registered sex offender as defined in Section A-1, to reside at the owner's property, should the property be within the 2500 foot radius of the property lines referenced in Section B.1", amendment motion seconded by Councilor Merrifield.

Councilor Feener explained that more research needs to be done on No. 3 and when additional research is completed the Legislative Committee will come back to the Council to add something similar to No. 3.

Councilor Rabinowitz stated that he will vote for the ordinance but that he has not seen one single piece of evidence that this ordinance will protect the children. He stated it will give a false sense of protection.

All in favor of the amendment, amendment motion passes.

Councilor LaFever commented that this ordinance won't solve all the problems but it is a step and we must take steps to make it happen.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Rabinowitz – Yes
Councilor Starkweather – Yes
Councilor LaFever – Yes
Councilor Gassett – Yes
Councilor Andreozzi – Yes

Councilor Boyd – Yes
Councilor Feener – Yes
Councilor Bowers – Yes
Councilor Merrifield – Yes

Motion passes by a unanimous vote.

Ordinance #08-07

This ordinance concerns Chapter 4 of the Administrative Code in reference to the Capital Improvement Plan Committee (CIP).

Motion made by Councilor Bowers that the Franklin City Council waive the second reading of Ordinance #08-07 and adopt by title only, motion seconded by Councilor Andreozzi. All in favor, motion passes.

Motion made by Councilor Bowers that the Franklin City Council adopt Ordinance #08-07 by a roll call vote, motion seconded by Councilor Andreozzi.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Rabinowitz – Yes
Councilor Starkweather – Yes
Councilor LaFever – Yes
Councilor Gassett – Yes
Councilor Andreozzi – Yes

Councilor Boyd – Yes
Councilor Feener – Yes
Councilor Bowers – Yes
Councilor Merrifield – Yes

Motion passes by a unanimous vote.

Resolution #13-07

This resolution is a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$4,500 representing grant funds from NH DES.

Mayor Palfrey read the resolution in its entirety:

RESOLUTION #13-07

A Resolution Relating to a Supplemental Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2007.

In the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Seven.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin has adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2007 which began July 1, 2006, and;

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Franklin wishes to appropriate the Business United Grant funds in the amount of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and no cents (\$4,500) for Water Security, which was accepted by the Council on October 2, 2006;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that at the scheduled meeting of the City Council on Monday, June 4, 2007, the Franklin City Council of Franklin, New Hampshire does hereby authorize a Supplemental Appropriation and an increase in General Fund Transfers In account #01-39141-050002, and General Fund Transfers Out Account #01-49141-050002 in the amount of \$4,500 by a roll call vote:

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council schedule a public hearing on Resolution #13-07 for Monday, June 4, 2007 at 7:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall. Motion seconded by Councilor LaFever. All in favor, motion passes.

Lease Agreement with Veteran Memorial Wireless Association

Motion made by Councilor Bowers that the Franklin City Council renew its Non Exclusive Lease with the Veteran Memorial Wireless Association from July 1, 2007 through July 1, 2008 and authorize the City Manager to execute the lease. Motion seconded by Councilor LaFever.

Councilor Andreozzi asked what is this operation and Manager Doyon advised that it is an amateur ham radio operation.

All in favor, motion passes.

Ordinance #09-07

This ordinance concerns Chapter 160 of the Municipal Code, fees charged for service provided by the City.

Mayor read Ordinance #09-07 in its entirety:

**ORDINANCE #09-07
AN AMENDMENT TO THE FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL CODE:**

In the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Seven.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Franklin that the Franklin Municipal Code, Chapter 160 Fees, 160-1 Fees charged for service provided by the City of Franklin be changed as follows:

<u>Description of Fee</u>	<u>Fee</u>	
Transfer Station		
Residential Construction and Demolition Materials		
First 20 pounds	N/C	
After first 20 pounds	\$90.00 per ton	\$130.00 per ton
Commercial Haulers and all others		
Asphalt Shingles		\$113.00 per ton
Commercial construction and demolition materials		\$130.00 per ton
Out-of-Town Contractors	\$44.00 ton, plus \$10.00 per	
week		

Refuse/Solid Waste

Contractors; Industrial and Commercial Businesses; Stores and Apartment Complexes that dispose of refuse/solid waste generated within the corporate limits of the City of Franklin and using the Transfer Station in accordance with “Solid Waste Rules” 257-8 (b) and (c) of the Franklin City Code, will be charged the prevailing per ton tipping fee, as established by the Concord Regional Solid Waste/Resource Recovery Cooperative, plus a \$1.50 per ton Administrative Fee. Out-of Town Contractors will be charged a \$100.00 per year application/user fee in addition to the prevailing per ton tipping fee and the Administrative Fee. Fees will become effective July 1, 2007 and adjust annually, as needed, at the beginning of each calendar year.

Commercial Hauler Disposal Charges

Commercial Disposal Companies that pickup refuse/solid waste, generated within the corporate limits of the City of Franklin, and dispose of it at the Wheelabrator Company Trash to Energy Facility in Penacook, New Hampshire under the City’s Gross Annual Tonnage, will be charged the prevailing per ton tipping fee as established by the Concord Regional Solid Waste/Resource Recovery Cooperative, plus a \$5.00 per ton Administrative Fee and a \$100.00 per year application/user fee. Fees will become effective July 1, 2007 and adjust annually, as needed, at the beginning of each calendar year.

Motion made by Councilor Merrifield that the Franklin City Council schedule a public hearing on Ordinance #09-07 for Monday, June 4, 2007 at 7:06 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall. Motion seconded by Councilor Bowers. All in favor, motion passes.

Disposition of Surplus Equipment

Motion made by Councilor Bowers that the Franklin City Council authorize the City Manager to dispose of the equipment detailed on the attached “List of Surplus Property – Spring 2007” at the May 2007 State of New Hampshire Surplus Property Auction. I further move that proceeds from the sale of Surplus Water Department Property be returned as revenue to the Water Fund. Motion seconded by Councilor LaFever.

Manager Doyon advised there are two departments participating in the auction, the Water Department and the Police Department. The Police Department has two old Crown

Vics and the equipment in the Water Department, any revenue derived from that equipment will be put back in the water fund and any revenue derived from the cruisers will be put back in the general fund.

Councilor Merrifield questioned if this information should not be reflected in the motion. Councilor Bowers withdrew his motion and Councilor LaFever withdrew her second.

Motion made by Councilor Bowers that the Franklin City Council authorize the City Manager to dispose of the equipment detailed on the attached "Revised List of Surplus Property – Spring 2007" at the May 2007 State of New Hampshire Surplus Property Auction. I further move that proceeds from the sale of Surplus Water Department Property be returned as revenue to the Water Fund. Motion seconded by Councilor LaFever. All in favor, motion passes.

Ordinance #10-07

This ordinance concerns Vehicles and Traffic, Chapter 284 of the Municipal Code, 284-31 Issuance of Temporary Orders.

Mayor Palfrey read the ordinance in its entirety:

ORDINANCE #10-07

AN AMENDMENT TO THE FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL CODE:

In the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Seven.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Franklin that the Franklin Municipal Code, Chapter 284 Vehicles and Traffic, 284-31 Issuance of Temporary Orders be changed as follows:

284-31 Issuance of Temporary Orders

Temporary traffic control orders may be issued by the Chief of Police.

Add the following paragraph:

The Chief of Police, in consultation with the Municipal Services Director or designee, may issue temporary traffic control orders for the purpose of posting temporary weight restrictions on certain roads during spring freeze/thaw conditions, in accordance with 284-33.

Motion made by Councilor LaFever that the Franklin City Council schedule a public hearing on Ordinance #10-07 for Monday, June 4, 2007 at 7:07 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Franklin City Hall. Motion seconded by Councilor Feener. All in favor, motion passes.

Sewage Treatment Works Grant Documents/Route 3/11 Sewer Main Project

Motion made by Councilor Feener that the Franklin City Council authorize Mayor Palfrey to sign, negotiate, and accept any State Aid in connection with Sewage Disposal Facilities for the Route 3/11 Sewer Main Replacement Project in the City of Franklin, New Hampshire. Motion seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

Councilor Merrifield thanked the staff for their work on this grant and commented if you read the memorandum from Director Sullivan this grant saved the Sewer rate payer almost \$157,000.

All in favor, motion passes.

Committee Reports

Councilor Bowers announced that the next CIP Meeting will be Tuesday, May 22, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Manager's Update

Manager Doyon advised that he has been in contact with the Finance Committee and has advised them of the need for the City to update and change its fund accounting software. The current software will not perform all that is needed and in some cases it doesn't even add correctly. The Finance Director has contacted several software companies and is currently working with one that appears to have met all the requirements. Manager Doyon stated unless the Council would object he would like to move forward with the purchase of the new software. Manager Doyon stated they are still negotiating with the software company but stated he believes there will be adequate funds in some of the lines to purchase the software. Councilor Feener commented some of this came to light as long as 4 or 5 years ago and there was a real concern from the auditors about the software. Councilor Feener also stated that hopefully getting a new software package will reduce the costs of the audits in the future. Councilor Bowers commented that he agrees that in the long run it will save the City funds on audits and also give Director Ouellette and the Department Heads accurate figures. Councilor Starkweather stated that Director Ouellette has done an excellent job and if the City goes forth with new software it is bound to help all the departments. He did ask if the computer in the Finance Office has sufficient capacity to run the new software. Manager Doyon responded that whatever software is purchased the computer consultants will be apprised of and they will make sure everything is compatible. Councilor Boyd inquired if more hardware is needed or is what the City has adequate. Manager Doyon advised the cost is in the \$30,000 range and will require annual maintenance fees. He advised the package that is being considered will do more than what the City currently has and will do it more accurately. Councilor

Merrifield commented that the City has had on-going problems with the current software for years and if there are funds in the current budget to go forth with new software, it should be done as soon as possible.

Manager Doyon stated it is time for the budget preparation and he would like some input from the council on budget workshops. Manager Doyon asked if the preference would be to do a Saturday session and if so he would target the 19th with a follow-up session on the 21st of May. Saturday would run in the morning until around 2:00 p.m. The following Monday would be outside agencies, the school will have their budget prepared at the end of the month so we will schedule a meeting at a different time to meet with the school. Councilor Bowers stated the problem he has with Saturdays is he would have to leave before 2:00 p.m. Councilor Boyd stated Saturdays don't work for him and Councilor Feener stated he is not available on the 19th.

Tuesday, May 29th and Wednesday, May 30th at 6:00 p.m. were scheduled for budget workshops.

Mayor Appointments

Mayor Palfrey appointed Robert J. Morin, Jr. to the Conservation Commission as a regular voting member. Term of Service to September, 2010.

Mayor Palfrey appointed Jonathan Klatt to the Highway Safety Committee as a regular voting member. Term of Service to September, 2009.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor LaFever, seconded by Councilor Bowers. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue E. May