

CITY OF LACONIA - CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
Finance Committee
6:15 P.M.

1/10/2022 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lipman called the meeting to order at the above date and time.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

3. RECORDING SECRETARY

Cheryl Hebert, City Clerk

4. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Hebert took a roll call vote with the following Councilors in attendance: Bruce Cheney, Henry Lipman, and Bob Hamel.

Chairman Lipman noted all three members were present and a quorum has been established.

5. STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Scott Myers, City Manager

Glenn Smith, Finance Director

6. FINANCE (Lipman (Chair), Hamel, Cheney)

6.A. Review of the City Welfare Guidelines

Chairman Lipman opened the meeting by suggesting the Committee take a look at the policies in the Welfare Guidelines that could help the homeless.

Councilor Cheney is concerned with just changing the policies, but be very careful on how we structure the policies.

Councilor Hamel said it isn't so much how it is written, but common sense also needs to be used.

Chairman Lipman just wants to make sure what we are doing in the Welfare Department is helping with the homelessness and substance abuse issues and not being counterproductive.

Finance Director Smith said we do pay for medications in an emergency situation. He explained what the RSA states is that we are to help people. The way the City helps is by putting them in touch with the correct agencies that can help in a way that we can not. Director Smith also explained the City does not have mental health workers on staff, so the way we help is by putting them in touch with the agencies that do have the appropriate staff. Director Smith explained a lot of the language comes from the RSA's. Director Smith also explained that in this book, there are no policy changes. The changes made are to keep up with COVID protocol.

In review of the revised Welfare Guidelines, some suggested changes would be to add the wording

"business day" in the necessary areas to clearly define the time frames.

Chairman Lipman questioned Application (Re-application) on page 4. Does this need to be defined better? City Manager Myers suggested using the word "updated" application.

Director Smith explained that on page 11, the change refers to adding the language to reflect that applications can be filled out online. This is to help with individuals that feel intimidated coming into the office or have a disability and are unable to come in in-person. City Manager Myers explained we also have applications available to the public outside of our building so they can be picked up after hours. These applicants will still be required to provide the necessary documents in order to review their application.

A discussion was had regarding number six on page 14. Director Smith will clarify the wording is consistent with the RSA.

Chairman Lipman asked about the wording on page 15. Does the job search pertain to people that are unable to work? It was explained that a person that is unable to work will not be required to do the job search.

Chairman Lipman also mention the NH Easy program. This is a program that allows people to apply for multiple benefits at once with one application.

A discussion was had concerning page 18 E. Home visits, the last line in the paragraph. Councilor Hamel would like to know why a city vehicle isn't used and is mileage paid?

Director Smith explained mileage is paid for the employee using their own vehicle. The reason for not using a city vehicle is to allow some privacy to the person applying for assistance.

Councilor Cheney is concerned with the safety of an employee visiting a home.

City Manager Myers explained that if an employee is concerned with their safety, an officer can accompany the employee to the visit.

Director Smith explained that arrears would not be paid (page 23), that assistance will only given when the applicant is determined eligible.

Pages one through 23 were reviewed during this evenings meeting. Chairman Lipman stated that another Finance Committee meeting will be held on January 24, 2022 at 6:15 pm to continue this discussion.

7. Any other business that may come before the Committee

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Committee and hearing no objection, Chairman Lipman adjourned the meeting at 6:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Hebert, City Clerk