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City of Keene  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

August 28, 2014

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee

SUBJECT: **RESOLUTION: R-2014-25: Relating to *Citizens United* v. Federal Elections Committee**

On 5-0 vote, the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee recommends the adoption of Resolution R-2014-25.



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Chairman/Designee

Background:

Chair Greenwald stated that this matter has been discussed at length and at the direction of the Council the City Attorney has prepared a Resolution. For the benefit of the audience in attendance, the Chair read the language from the Resolution.

Councilor Roberts stated that he is in support of this Resolution. Councilor Clark agreed.

Gebhardt Bedding addressed the Committee next and stated that having brought the original idea to Keene he is delighted with the language. He indicated that there are hundreds of cities that have passed similar Resolutions. He indicated that he would like to read for the record language

that was passed in Gainesville, Florida which supports corporate personhood (which is addressed in Keene's version) and whether money equals speech.

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Gainesville, Florida supports an amendment to the Constitution to establish that only human beings, not corporations are endowed with constitutional rights and that money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.*

Joanna Laurie was the next speaker. Ms. Laurie stated that she too is impressed that language from our constitution has been used in this Resolution. She added her husband is familiar with constitutional law pointed out to her that that last enumerated power of Congress is to limit the agenda of the Supreme Court so that if enough municipalities went before Congress it could strike down Citizens United because ultimately they are the ones that make the law.

Mr. Peter Espiefs of School Street thanked the Committee not only for himself but also for the future so that special interest does not have a say in running this country.

Councilor Jacobs asked what the process would be to make an amendment as suggested by Mr. Bedding. Chair Greenwald stated that he would like to give the City Attorney time to review this item and if he feels it is appropriate it could come up as an amendment on the floor.

Councilor Clark stated that he would like to encourage the City Attorney to consider this language.

Councilor Clark made the following motion which was seconded by Councilor Roberts.

On 5-0 vote, the Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee recommends the adoption of Resolution R-2014-25.