

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

March 16, 2022 7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Draft Minutes

Councilors Present: Council Chair Toni Weinstein, Councilor Jonathan Kiper, Councilor Megan Brabec, Councilor Scott Blackstone, Councilor Katanna Conley, and Councilor Brian Ward.

Staff Present: Town Manager Stephen Fournier, Environmental Services Director Sean Greig and Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary.

Chair Weinstein convened the meeting at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM

Chair Weinstein opened the Public Forum at 7:01 PM.

Chair Weinstein closed the Public Forum at 7:01 PM without public comment.

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

March 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Conley made a motion to Approve *the March 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes*, which was seconded by Councilor Brabec.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-0.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Report Dedication

Retired Police Chief Kyle True was present as well as officers and staff members from the Police Department.

Chair Weinstein read the Town Report Dedication for retired Police Chief Kyle True and presented him with a hard covered copy of the 2021 Town Report.

Former Chief True voiced his appreciation for given the honor of having the 2021 Town Report dedicated to him. He thanked everyone who attended in show of support.

Town Councilor Helen Sanders Recognition

Former Councilor Helen Sanders was present, as well as, her husband Donald.

Chair Weinstein thanked Helen for her service as Town Councilor for the past 3 years and presented her with a inscribed mantel clock symbolizing the time she spent on the Council.

Helen said that she intended to complete her three-year term but had to resign a month and a half early after selling her home and moving out of town. She said she had lived in Newmarket for 20 years and already misses living here.

Town Councilor Jon Kiper Recognition

Chair Weinstein voiced appreciation to Councilor Kiper for serving the community and presented him with a mantel clock symbolizing the time he served as Town Councilor.

Councilor Kiper said it was a pleasure to serve his community and said that he learned a lot about the Town and how municipal government works. He said he will be back at some point to serve on a committee or board.

Town Manager's Report

COVID-19 and Vaccination Update: There are 5 active cases as of March 5; this is the minimum amount before we can no longer report the number of cases in town. We have had 1,634 (17.2% of the population) cumulative cases. NH Department of Health and Human Services have closed all state-run testing sites as of March 15.

FY22 Budget Update: At the end of February we have expended 68% of the operating budget. Areas of concern are road salt (\$65,000 over budget) and gas and oil prices. We are anticipating less road paving projects and increases in construction costs. Revenues are down with motor vehicles and up with building permits.

Town Council Orientation: Orientation for newly elected Councilors will be held this month and an abbreviated version will be presented to the entire Council at the April 6th meeting.

Sewer and Water Impact Fees: The System Development Charges for Water and Sewer Study is complete. This will replace the current water and sewer impact fee system. There will be a presentation to the Council at a later date.

Director of Planning and Community Development: Interviews have been completed; an announcement will be made soon.

Chair Weinstein commented that she was having trouble with audio when watching meetings on her computer. She said that a number of people have experienced issues with audio.

Town Manager Fournier said they have been working hard on the issues and gotten Comcast involved. He said he's going to inquire about going back to hard wired mics to see if that would make a difference.

Councilor Kiper asked the status of the Building Inspector's position. Town Manager Fournier said that they are waiting to hire the Planning and Community Development Director so that person can be a part of the hiring process. He has asked the Finance Director to write up a job description as well as a job description for a town engineer. He would like to be ready to hire an engineer in the beginning of July. He said we will probably have a wage study done this year as well.

February Department Reports

Chair Weinstein commented on the Fire Department's report and the new Fire Truck.

Town Manager Fournier said that they are going to set up a time for the Councilors to see the new truck.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Blackstone reported on the March 15th Planning Board meeting:

- Planning Board members Patrick Reynolds and Eric Botterman won the election on write-in campaigns.
- The Seacoast Pool application was continued to next month's meeting.
- Eversource applied to the Board to cut down trees on "scenic" Bay Road. The application was continued to next month's meeting giving the public a chance to see the tagged trees they intend to remove.
- The owner of the Depot would like to move the building 50 feet and put in a new foundation. He would like to put in a parking lot and allow access to the railroad bed trail.

Council Brabec reported that the Conservation Commission met last week but she was unable to attend.

Councilor Conley reported on the Arts and Tourism Commission meeting:

- The Commission has been challenged with holding meetings due to lack of a quorum. They solicited membership via FaceBook. The Commission did approve the recommendation to appoint a member.
- The Commission is working with Recreation Director Gigandet on a few projects for the summer.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES IN THE 2ND READING

Resolution #2021/2022-26 - Purchase of New UPS Devices for the Town

Councilor Ward made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2021/2022-26 - Purchase of New UPS Devices*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

Town Manager Fournier explained that the current Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) devices, that supply power prior to the generators starting, are at the end of life and need to be replaced. The \$4,000. will come out of the Technology Capital Reserve Fund.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-0.

Resolution #2021/2022-27 - New Road Watermain Replacement and Drainage Improvements Project Award

Councilor Conley made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2021/2022-27 - New Road Watermain and Drainage Improvements Project*, which was seconded by Councilor Ward.

Environmental Services Director Greig explained that they received 2 bids and Granese and Sons was the lowest. He thanked Diane Hardy, former Planning and Development Director for getting the Town \$500,000 from the Community Block Grant that the Town doesn't have to pay back. The Rural Development funds will also be used for the watermain replacement and the State Revolving funds and ARPA funds will be used for the drainage portion of the project.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-0.

Resolution # 2021/2022-28 - Bennett and Sewall Wells Improvements Project

Councilor Conley made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2021/2022-28 - Bennett and Sewall Wells Improvements Project*, which was seconded by Councilor Ward.

Environmental Director Greig explained that they will begin improvements to the Sewall and Bennett Wells. They will begin with Sewall Well and any funds left over will go toward the improvements to Bennett Well.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

There is no correspondence to the Council.

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Cris Blackstone - Conservation Commission - Term Expiration April 2025

Councilor Brabec made a motion to Approve *the reappointment of Cris Blackstone to the Conservation Commission with a term expiration of April 2025*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

Cris Blackstone was present. She is reapplying to the Conservation Commission.

Councilor Brabec is the Council Representative to the Conservation Commission and is appreciative of the work Cris does on the Commission. She said they would be lost without her.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-0.

David Bell - Conservation Commission - Term Expiration April 2025

Councilor Brabec made a motion to Approve *the reappointment of David Bell to the Conservation Commission with a term expiration of April 2025*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-0.

Eric Harter - Library Trustee - Term Expiration April 2025

Councilor Ward made a motion to Approve *the appointment of Eric Harter as Library Trustee with a term expiration of April 2025*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-0.

Amy Nicholson - Library Trustee - Term Expiration - April 2025

Councilor Ward made a motion to Approve *the reappointment of Amy Nicholson as Library Trustee with a term expiration of April 2025*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

Councilor Conley asked for background information on the Library Trustees.

Town Manager Fournier said that our library is not a traditional library where trustees are elected. The library was gifted to the town and the Selectmen appointed the trustees (now the Council). The Town has the authority over the bottom line of the library budget. Library Trustees were established to leave politics out of it so not to decide which books could be provided.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-0.

Wayne Rosa - Zoning Board of Adjustment - Term Expiration - April 2025

Councilor Ward made a motion to Approve *the reappointment of Wayne Rosa to the Zoning Board of Adjustment*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

Councilor Kiper commented that Wayne Rosa has served on the ZBA for many years and is happy to see him reapply for another term.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-0.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

There was no correspondence.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY TOWN COUNCILORS

Council Chair Weinstein reiterated her appreciation to Councilors Sanders and Kiper for their service to the community.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

April 6, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 7:42 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary