

1 **TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

2 **TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

3 June 15, 2022 7:00 PM

4 Council Chambers

5 Draft Minutes

6
7
8
9 **Councilors Present:** Council Chair Toni Weinstein, Council Vice-chair Katanna Conley,
10 Councilor Megan Brabec, Councilor Scott Blackstone, Councilor Brian Ward, Councilor Joe
11 Lamattina and Councilor Colin White, Sr.

12
13 **Staff Present:** Finance Director William Tappan (seated for Town Manager Fournier),
14 Environmental Services Director Sean Greig, and Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary.

15
16 **Staff Excused:** Town Manager Stephen Fournier.

17
18 Chair Weinstein convened the meeting at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

19
20 Councilor Ward made a motion *to seal the minutes of the June 15, 2022, non-public meeting,*
21 *which was seconded by Councilor White.*

22
23 Motion was Passed by a vote of 7-0.

24
25 **AGENDA**

26 **PUBLIC FORUM**

27
28 Chair Weinstein opened the Public Forum at 7:02 PM.

29
30 Representative Ellen Read, 283 Lita Lane spoke in favor of Resolution #2021/2022-37 –
31 Sustainable Energy Goals for the Town of Newmarket. She explained that Hanover and Concord,
32 NH have passed similar resolutions and would like to do a presentation for the Town Council at
33 the July 20, 2022 Council meeting.

34
35 Jane Sanders spoke in support of Resolution #2021/2022-37.

36
37 Bill Reilly, 25 Packers Falls Road spoke in support of Resolution #2021/2022-37.

38
39 Sara Stinson, 9 Maplecrest spoke in support of Resolution #2021/2022-37.

40
41 Anthony Read, 283 Lita Lane spoke in support of Resolution #2021/2022-37

42
43 Joan DeYoreo, spoke in support of Resolution #2021/2022-37.

44 Emily Jones, 631 Bennett Way, spoke in support of Resolution #2021/2022-37.

45

46 Chair Weinstein closed the Public Forum at 7:11 PM.

47

48 **PUBLIC HEARING**

49

50 Ordinance No. 1 – 2021/2022 – Amending Chapter 1 of the Code of the Town of Newmarket, NH;
51 Clarifying the Authority of the Town Manager

52

53 Chair Weinstein opened the Public Hearing at 7:12 PM.

54

55 Chair Weinstein closed the Public Hearing at 7:12 PM without public comment.

56

57 **TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

58

59 **May 25, 2022 Goal Setting Session Minutes**

60

61 Councilor Conley made a motion to approve *the May 25, 2022 Goal Setting Session Minutes*,
62 which was seconded by Councilor White.

63

64 Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-1. Councilor Brabec abstained.

65

66 **June 1, 2022**

67

68 Vice-chair Conley made a motion to approve *the June 1, 2022 meeting minutes*, which was
69 seconded by Councilor LaMattina.

70

71 Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-1. Councilor White abstained.

72

73 **REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER**

74

75 Finance Director Tappan commented that the Councilors were in receipt of the Town Manager's
76 June 15th report and if there were questions, he would be happy to answer them.

77

78 Councilor LaMattina questioned the Newmarket Housing Authority Community Development
79 Block grant contract signed by the Town Manager. It was determined that it was for the piping
80 work at Great Hill Terrace.

81

82 Councilor LaMattina commented on fuel and salt being over budget.

83

84 Finance Director Tappan said that they are looking at ways to mitigate that and explained that it's
85 a "bottom line" budget.

86

87 Councilor Weinstein commented that she liked the additional information in the Town Manager's
88 report regarding contracts signed by the Town Manager.

89

90 Councilor Brabec said she appreciates the time and effort the Department Heads put into their
91 monthly Department Reports. She voiced concerns over the Recreation Department’s difficulty
92 in hiring camp counselors and the Welfare Department’s report of homelessness and the rental
93 challenges in town.

94
95 Councilor Blackstone thanked the Police Department for their bravery and protection. He
96 commented that he likes the late-night police patrols in the downtown area.

97
98 Councilor Conley echoed Councilor Brabec’s concerns on the financial issues community
99 members are facing. She congratulated Officer Aaron Hurlburt for finishing his field training with
100 the Police Department and congratulated Officer Matthew Pefine for successfully graduating from
101 the Police Academy in May.

102
103 Chair Weinstein wondered if Chief Jordan was making any progress on the regional mental health
104 taskforce he spoke about starting. Finance Director Tappan said he will let the Chief know of the
105 inquiry.

106
107 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

108
109 Councilor LaMattina reported on the Riverfront Advisory Committee Meeting. The Lamprey
110 River Advisory Committee gave a presentation at their last meeting. There may be grant money
111 available to them. The Committee discussed projects regarding Heron Point, the town dock and
112 expanding Schanda Park toward the Wastewater Treatment Plant. There will be a Resilient
113 Shoreline Tour scheduled on June 22, 2022, 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM. Planning Director Bart
114 McDonough has been making connections and is a great resource for the Town.

115
116 Councilor LaMattina reported on the Energy & Environment Committee Meeting. The Committee
117 met with a representative from the Community Power Coalition. The Coalition is working on
118 getting renewable energy available in 19 municipalities. The next step for Newmarket it to develop
119 an energy plan. There is a free webinar available on how to save energy. Councilor LaMattina
120 asked if the Council would be willing to co-sponsor the webinar. The only thing it would entail is
121 to add the Town of Newmarket to the title as the co-sponsor. There was no objection from the
122 Council to co-sponsor the webinar.

123
124 Councilor Blackstone reported on the Planning Board meeting. The site plan for the depot at
125 Rockingham Junction was approved. The building will be relocated onto a new foundation and
126 oved further from the rail line. They plan to begin renovations and moving the building in
127 November. The owner of 3 Railroad Ave (old depot station) presented a site plan review
128 application to tear down part of the old depot and put in an 8-unit residential building where some
129 of the units will qualify as workforce housing units. The Planning Board gave the applicant
130 permission to move forward. The Planning Board expects to have the report on accessory dwelling
131 units complete in August.

132
133 **RESOLUTIONS IN THE 2ND READING**

134
135 **Ordinance No. 1 – 2021/2022 – Amending Chapter 1 of the Code of the Town of Newmarket,**

136 **NH - Clarifying the Authority of the Town Manager.**

137
138 Vice Chair Conley made a motion to approve *Ordinance No. 1 – 2021/2022 – Amending Chapter*
139 *1 of the Code of the Town of Newmarket, NH; Clarifying the Authority of the Town Manager,*
140 which was seconded by Councilor White.

141
142 Finance Director Tappan explained that the purpose of the ordinance is to allow the Town Manager
143 to create rules and policies for the conduct of departments, negating the necessity to bring town
144 policies to the Council for 2 readings and approval. He gave an example of a work from home
145 policy. With the ordinance change the Town Manager would be allowed to approve it right away
146 instead of going through the resolution process of two readings which leads to weeks waiting for
147 approval.

148
149 Councilor Brabec said that she was under the impression that that was the normal procedure and
150 questioned why there needed to be a change to the Code.

151
152 Finance Director Tappan said that as it stands any policies would have to be approved by the Town
153 Council. He mentioned that the Council has not had many policies presented to them recently for
154 approval.

155
156 Councilor Blackstone asked if the Council could approve the policies in one meeting rather than
157 two readings.

158
159 Chair Weinstein said that is possible if the Council approves to amend the Council’s Rules of
160 Procedure and allow a resolution to be passed with one reading in one meeting.

161
162 Motion was Passed by a vote of 7-0.

163
164 **Resolution #2021/2022-34 – Water & Sewer Rate Increases 2023.**

165
166 Vice-chair Conley made a motion to approve *Resolution #2021/2022-34 – Water & Sewer Rate*
167 *Increases 2023,* which was seconded by Councilor Brabec.

168
169 Director Greig explained that they will not be increasing the sewer rates, just the water rates. He
170 did advise that if the state aid and grants we’ve been receiving comes to an end we will have to
171 revisit increasing the sewer rates. The water rate will increase from \$6.25 to \$6.75. A gallon of tap
172 water is less than 1 cent.

173
174 Councilors voiced appreciation to Director Greig for all the hard work that he does.

175
176 Motion was Passed by a vote of 7-0.

177
178 **Resolution #2021/2022-35 – To select a vendor to conduct a Salary Survey and Compensation**
179 **Study for the Municipal Government.**

180
181 Councilor Ward made a motion to approve *Resolution #2021/2022-35 – To select a vendor to*

182 *conduct a Salary Survey and Compensation Study for the Municipal Government, which was*
183 *seconded by Councilor Conley.*

184
185 Finance Director Tappan explained that it is customary to conduct a survey study every 3 years.
186 He said that the intent is to have the survey completed to use in the 2023/2024 budget.

187
188 Motion was Passed by a vote of 7-0.

189
190 **RESOLUTIONS IN THE 1ST READING**

191
192 **Resolution #2021/2022-36 – Request funds from Library Capital Reserve Fund for Roof**
193 **Repair.**

194
195 Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2021/2022-36 into the record.

196
197 **Resolution #20212022-37 – Sustainable Energy Goals for the Town of Newmarket.**

198
199 Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2021/2022-37 into the record.

200
201 **CORRESPONDENCE TO THE COUNCIL**

202
203 A letter from the Town Manager to the Historical Society inviting them to attend a work session
204 meeting on July 20th at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers to discuss Historic District.

205
206 **CLOSING COMMENTS BY THE TOWN COUNCILORS**

207
208 **NEXT MEETING**

209
210 July 20, 2022

211
212 **ADJOURNMENT**

213
214 Chair Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 8:03 PM without objection.

215
216 Respectfully submitted,

217
218 Wendy V. Chase
219 Recording Secretary

220
221
222
223
224