

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

July 21, 2021 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

6:30PM NON-PUBLIC MEETING PURSUANT TO RSA 91-A:3,II(d) CONSIDERATION OF THE ACQUISITION, SALE OR LEASE OF REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY

Councilors Present: Council Chair Toni Weinstein, Council Vice-Chair Helen Sanders, Councilor Jonathan Kiper, Councilor Megan Brabec, Councilor Scott Blackstone, and Councilor Katanna Conley.

Councilors Excused: Brian Ward

Staff Present: Finance Director William Tappan, Environmental Services Director Sean Greig, Public Works Director Rick Malasky and Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary.

Staff Excused: Town Manager Stephen Fournier

Chair Weinstein convened the meeting at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance,

Chair Weinstein stated that Councilor Ward was excused.

Vice-chair Sanders Moved and Councilor Conley Seconded the Motion to come out of Non-public Session at 6:45 PM. Call of the role; the Motion passed unanimously in favor of the Motion (6-0).

Vice-chair Sanders Moved and Councilor Conley Seconded the Motion to Seal the Non-public Minutes of July 21, 2021. Call of the role; the Motion passed unanimously in favor of the Motion (6-0).

AGENDA

APPROVED AUGUST 18, 2021

PUBLIC FORUM

Chair Weinstein opened the Public Forum at 7:05 PM.

Chair Weinstein closed the Public Forum at 7:05 PM without public comment.

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

June 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *the June 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

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

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager's Report

Finance Director William Tappan read the Town Manager's report into the record.

Highlights of the Town Manger's Report:

- **COVID-19 Update:** As of July 12 there are no active COVID-19 cases in Newmarket. There are 571 cumulative cases.
- **Vaccination:** As of July 13 817,033 (60%) people in New Hampshire have received their first dose of the vaccination and 747,865 (55%) are fully vaccinated. There are a number of places in the area including Rite Aid in Newmarket offering the vaccine.
- **State Budget Update:** The Governor signed the State budget into law. In FY22 it is anticipated that Newmarket will receive \$643,556 in meals and rooms tax; the \$100 million reductions to the state education property tax (SWEPT) will result in a reduction of approximately \$.56 on the tax rate. The highway block grants will be 2.8 million less than the amounts distributed in the current budget. \$1 million will be distributed for matching grants to local law enforcement agencies to assist with the purchase, maintenance, and replacement of body-worn and dashboard cameras.

Department Reports June 2021

Chair Weinstein commented on the informative department reports. She highlighted the following:

- **Police** - The Governor's LEACT Commission has now mandated 24 hours of annual training for every certified law enforcement officer in the State versus the current 8 hours annually. She commented that it will cause a bump up in overtime hours and something to think about with the upcoming budget season. She commended Officer Stevens for his quick actions that resulted in saving two homes from fire in the Sleepy Hollow MHP.
- **Fire Department** - The ladder truck assisted a child on Beech Street who was stuck in a tree attempting to put a baby bird back in its nest.
- **Recreation Department** - Recreation Director Aimee Gigandet received the NCEP Nicolas Popov Award. The Splash Pad is now open.
- **Welfare Director** - Chair Weinstein commented that she is happy to see this report back in the monthly packets.
- **Channel 13** - In the month of June Channel 13 covered 13 events and meetings as well as graduation and awards night. Tim and Hilary work hard and always with a smile on their faces.

- The wastewater facility performed unbelievably well during the month of June. The facility discharged an average of 1.8 mg/L of total nitrogen for June. For the fiscal year 2021, the facility discharged 4,080 pounds of total nitrogen to the Lamprey River. That is a 93% reduction from the old wastewater treatment process that would discharge an average of 62,000 pounds of total nitrogen per year.

Vice-chair Sanders said the Splash Pad ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on August 11th.

Chair Weinstein read two Proclamations into the record. Theresa Boisvert (the current recipient of the Boston Post Cane) who is turning 100 years young on July 27th and Mike Hoffman who will be retiring at the end of this month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice-chair Sanders reported that the Arts & Tourism Commission met on Monday and they are continuing to work on the gift acceptance policy. She said Arts in the Park is going well. They are highlighting an artist every week and raffling off a piece of art every week. The next meeting will be held on August 16th at 7:00 PM at Schanda Park and it will be open to the public. The Commission is looking for a new project. They will be talking to Recreation Director Aimee Gigandet to discuss minor renovations to Arbor Park.

Councilor Brabec reported that the Conservation Commission met last week and said that an Eagle Scout will be doing a project at Heron Point over the next year. There is additional signage going up at Wiggin Farm to encourage the public to keep their dogs on the trails. They are in the process of completing the grant application. Chair Weinstein said she received concerns of bacteria in the water at Schanda Park and inquired whether the Conservation Commission is aware and if they would consider putting up signage regarding it.

Councilor Blackstone said the Planning Board met and the Board approved a planning board application to allow four 1-bedroom apartments and 2 studio apartments in the Masonic Building above the Crack Skulls restaurant.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES IN THE 2ND READING

Resolution # 2020/2021 - 52 Environmental Services Department Truck 2 Replacement

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2020/2021-52 - Environmental Services Department Truck 2 Replacement*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

Environmental Services Director Greig explained that the old truck will be replaced with a similar truck. 50% of the money will come out of the Water Capital Reserve Fund and 50% will be coming out of the Sewer Capital Reserve Fund.

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

Resolution #2020/2021-54 - DPW International Dump Trucks Lease Purchase

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2020/2021-54 - DPW International Dump Trucks Lease Purchase*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

DPW Director Malasky explained that they typically replace the snow removal trucks every 12 years but they have had these two trucks for 13 and 16 years. The purchase of the two new trucks will be a lease purchase. The current trucks will be offline in September and the new trucks will not be available until December. He said he will come before the Council each year requesting money be taken out of the Capital Reserve Fund for the yearly lease payment. He said as far as plowing snow the crew will have to work with what they have from September until the new trucks are delivered. It will take longer to do the routes so there will probably be an increase in overtime.

Director Malasky said the renovations to the dam are complete and it is working really well. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will be on August 4th at 4:00 PM.

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

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Peter Nelson - Strafford Regional Planning Commission Representative - Term Expiration March 1, 2025

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *the nomination of Peter Nelson to the Strafford Regional Planning Commission*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

Mr. Nelson commented that he is a part of the organization Pathways to Play and they created a recreational map for the Town of Newmarket. They also mapped all the recreation sites in the Strafford Region. He said that the Town is represented by one of the better regional planning commissions in the State.

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

John Greene - ZBA Member - Expiration April 2022

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *the appointment of John Greene to the Zoning Board of Adjustment with an expiration date of April 2022*, which was seconded by Councilor Brabec.

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

Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

Resolution 2021/2022-01 - Establishing Juneteenth as a Holiday

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2021/2022-01 into the record.

Resolution #2021/2022-02 Community Power Coalition Joint Powers Agreement

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2021/2022-02 into the record.

Resolution #2021/2022-03 Change in Solid Waste Fees

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2021/2022-03 into the record.

Resolution #2021/2022-04 - Investment Policy Review and Adoption

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2021/2022-04 in title only with no objection into the record.

Resolution #2021/2022-05 - Huber Thickener Project

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2021/2022-05 into the record.

Resolution #2021/2022-06 - Reinstate the Ad hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2021/2022-06 into the record.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

There was no correspondence.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY TOWN COUNCILORS

Vice-chair Sanders encouraged those who have not yet received the Covid-19 vaccine and who are eligible to seriously consider getting it.

Chair Weinstein said there will be pop-up mobile vaccine stations available in the area and reminded residents that they can get the vaccination at Rite Aid Pharmacy.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

August 18, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary