



Town Council Regular Session

February 7, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

MINUTES

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Conley convened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Councilor White lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Present: Council Chair Katanna Conley, Council Vice-chair Brian Ward, Councilor Colin White, Councilor Justin Glazebrook, Councilor Joe LaMattina, Councilor Sonke Dornblut, Councilor Scott Blackstone.

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

3. Public Forum

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

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

4. Town Council to Consider Acceptance of Minutes

a. January 16, 2024 Public Hearing Minutes

Motion: Councilor Dornblut made a motion to approve the January 16, 2024 Public Hearing Minutes
Second: Councilor White
Vote: Approved (6-0-1) Councilor Dornblut abstained because he was not present at the 1/16/24 public hearing.

b. January 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Councilor Dornblut made a motion to approve the January 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes
Second: Councilor Blackstone
Vote: Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)

5. Report of the Town Manager

a. Town Manager's Report for February 7, 2024

Exemption - State law allows municipalities to provide people over the age of 65 an exemption on the value of their property if they qualify by having income and assets below a certain level. Newmarket levels are as follows:

Age 65-74 - \$125,000 exemption; Age 75-79 - \$150,000 exemption; Age 80+ \$175,000 exemption. Town Manager Fournier recommends increasing the exemption amounts as follows: Age 65-74 - \$200,000 exemption; Age 75-79 - \$225,000 exemption; Age 80+ \$250,000 exemption. As for the income limits of \$35,000 - Single and \$50,000 - Married, we are comparative to the other surrounding communities. As for asset limits we are slightly lower than surrounding communities. The Town Manager will have a resolution written up this spring for the Council to take action on.

Recycling Agreement with Newfields - The Town of Newfields Board of Selectmen is interested in having Newmarket provide the same recycling agreement that we've had in the past. The agreement outlines:

1. Residents of Newfields may only dispose of recyclables in an approved container.
2. Residents of Newfields will pay \$5 per 18 gallon container that they bring to the Newmarket Transfer Facility.
3. The Newmarket Transfer Facility will not accept cash or checks for disposal. Residents of Newfields must purchase prepaid punch cards.
4. Newmarket reserves the right to change the fee or any of these procedures after communication with Newfields.

The Town Manager informed the Council that the goal setting session with Primex will be held on May 6th at 6:00 PM in the town hall auditorium.

The Town Manager requested a non-public meeting at the end of this meeting pursuant to RSA 91A:3.II(e).

Councilor Dornblut requested more information on the elderly exemption, and said he would like the information made available to the Council well before the proposed resolution is introduced to the Council for approval.

Town Manager Fournier informed the Council that the next meeting, February 21st will begin with a work session at 6:00 PM to discuss public transportation with Rad Nichols from COAST transit.

6. Committee Reports

Councilor Glazebrook reported on the February 6th Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission (ACT) meeting:

The Commission met with Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) and Community Development Director Bart McDonough to start working on the ACT Chapter of the Master Plan. The ACT Commission will devote the next 6 meetings working on the Chapter. The unveiling at the Pocket Park will take place on May 30th to coincide with the Memorial Day Parade.

Councilor Ward reported on a meeting with the Sons of the American Legion and Sons of the American Revolution:

Councilor Ward met with John Herman, Mike Provost and members of the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) and Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).

There will be a celebration in 2026 for the 250th anniversary of America and the SAR wanted to conduct a commemorative event around the raid at Fort William and Mary and heard about the Wentworth Cheswill efforts and they wanted to know if they could coordinate an event including Wentworth Cheswill in their 250th celebration.

Newmarket owns the historical crowbar that was used to pry open the doors at Fort William and Mary. It was decided to bring out the crow bar for the commemorative events for the 250th celebration of America and to have a rededication of one of Wentworth Cheswill's proclamations read by the Governor at the town's 300th celebration.

Councilor LaMattina reported on the January 31st Community Power Information Session:

There were approximately 30 people present. He said the meeting went well. He asked people how they found out about the meeting and most said that they heard about it through the mailing they received as opposed to FaceBook and the town's website.

7. Old Business

8. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 2nd Reading

a. Resolution # 2023/2024 - 32 WWTF Launder Covers

Motion: Councilor Ward made a motion to approve Resolution # 2023/2024 - 32 WWTF Launder Covers

Second: Councilor Glazebrook

Discussion: Environmental Services Director Greig explained that currently the Wastewater Treatment Plant has a problem with algae growth on its secondary clarifiers. Secondary launder covers will eliminate algae growth and decrease chemical and labor cost while increasing water effluent quality.

Vote: Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)

9. Town Council to Consider Nominations, Appointments, and Elections

a. Edward Hicks - Alternate Position Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission - Term Expiration April 2026

Motion: Councilor Glazebrook made a motion to appoint Edward Hicks to the Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission as an Alternate Member with a term expiration of April 2026.

Second: Councilor Ward

Discussion: Councilor Glazebrook said that Mr. Hicks attended last night's Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission meeting. He said he is an artist and has lived in Newmarket for a while

and thought he would make a good addition to the Commission.

Vote: Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)

10. New Business/Correspondence

- a. Correspondence to the Town Council
There was no correspondence to the Council.
- b. Closing Comments by Town Councilors
Councilor Blackstone said that he was downtown today and saw that new crosswalk signs were being installed and thought that was terrific.

Chair Conley reminded everyone of the February 21st Council Work Session and Meeting.

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to enter Nonpublic Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II(e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against this board or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her membership therein, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled.

Second: **Councilor White**

Vote: Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)

Public Session was reconvened at 7:41 PM.

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to seal the February 7, 2024 Nonpublic minutes indefinitely because it is determined that divulgence of this information likely would render a proposed action ineffective.

Second: **Councilor LaMattina**

Vote: Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)

11. Adjournment

Chair Conley adjourned the meeting at 7:43 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase
Recording Secretary