

# **TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

## **TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

**September 15, 2021 7:00 PM**

**Town Council Chambers**

Councilors Present: Council Chair Toni Weinstein, Council Vice-chair Helen Sanders, Councilor Jon Kiper, Councilor Scott Blackstone, Councilor Katanna Conley, and Councilor Brian Ward.

Councilors Excused: Councilor Meghan Brabec.

Staff Present: Finance Director William Tappan and Wendy Chase Recording Secretary.

Staff Excused: Town Manager Stephen Fournier.

Chair Weinstein convened the meeting at 7:05 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **AGENDA**

**MINUTES APPROVED OCTOBER 5, 2021**

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

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

Alexander Remtumis, 1 Church Street Apt. #1 said there should be home inspections for rental units in town. He explained that Manchester has a policy in place that all apartments have to be inspected every three years and would like Newmarket to implement a similar policy. He said there are landlords renting units in Newmarket that are substandard and not up to code and there should be some mechanism in place to hold property owners accountable for insuring their rental units are adequate. He said he spoke with Diane Hardy, Susan Jordan, and Peter Rowell who were all very helpful. Peter is the interim Building Inspector and referred him to RSA 48-A:14 where municipalities that have not adopted ordinances, codes, or bylaws pursuant to this RSA use the minimum standards outlined within it as a guide to inspecting apartments.

Chair Weinstein closed the Public Forum at 7:09 PM.

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

#### **September 1, 2021 Non-public Meeting Minutes**

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *the September 1, 2021 Non-public Meeting Minutes*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

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

### **September 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *the September 1, 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 from the Town Manager's Report:

**COVID-19 and Vaccination Update:** As of September 13, there are 16 active cases in the community and 646 cumulative cases. The Seacoast Health Region has seen a 6.1% increase in new cases over the past week and Rockingham County has seen an increase of 7.9%.

On Monday, September 13th the Town Manager reinstated a mandatory mask rule for employees that are not vaccinated. 60% of the community is vaccinated by at least one shot. The lowest numbers of people in Newmarket vaccinated are between the ages of 12-19, 20-29, and 40-49. Lamprey Health Care hosted a mobile vaccination clinic and two people were vaccinated. The Community Church will be holding a vaccination clinic on September 23 from 1-6 pm at the Community Church.

**FY22 Budget:** 22% of the budget has been expended which is normal because we pay several one-time items at the beginning of the fiscal year.

**Code Enforcement Officer-Zoning Administrator:** We have begun advertising for a full-time Code Enforcement Officer-Zoning Administrator. This position will cover all of the duties previously carried out by the Building Official, plus they will also serve as the Zoning Administrator. This will allow the Community Development Director to focus more on planning board and development issues.

**Economic Development Plan:** The consultants will be coming to a potential joint Town Council and Planning Board Meeting in October.

#### **Department Reports August 2021**

Councilor Kiper commented on the increased number of mental health-related calls in the Police Department's August report. He said it might be a good idea to look at hiring a full-time mental health professional or social worker to work along with the Police regarding these incidents.

Councilor Conley echoed Councilor Kiper's remarks and suggested finding ways to help support the mental health of our community.

Chair Weinstein concurred and also remarked that the tracking of mental health cases is a new addition to the Police Department report so that may play into why that number is rising. She agrees that there needs to be a conversation about it. Chair Weinstein recognized the following individuals:

- Commended Officer Schmidt on a Police call handled very well
- Congratulated Officer Hankin on his retirement
- Congratulated Officer Wardana for graduating from the Police Academy
- Welcomed newly hired Dispatcher Sun Vangvanh
- Welcomed Brian Jarosz hired as a full-time firefighter/EMT

Chair Weinstein will reach out to the Town Manager and ask what the impact will be to the Police Department relating to the delay in the new police cruisers. She mentioned that the Water Main projects and blending facility project are wrapping up and appreciates all the work Environmental Director Sean Greig has done on these projects.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Conley reported that the CIP Committee is wrapping up their work and have completed recommendations for all the capital improvement project requests. She said that the Committee requested a meeting with the Town Manager and Finance Director to give the Committee clarification on leasing vs. purchasing vehicles.

Councilor Kiper said there was a lot of discussion from the Department Heads at the CIP Meetings concerning the lack of a Facilities Director. There is critical information they need to establish how much money they need to make certain capital improvements to buildings. He wondered if the position should be shared with the school or separate.

Councilor Blackstone said the Planning Board met last night to discuss the Exeter Road project submitted by Walter Cheney Jr., It is located next to the railroad tracks on Route 108. It is a 3-story building with retail on the bottom and residential on the two top levels. The Planning Board continued the application to their October meeting.

Chair Weinstein said the Energy & Environment Committee did not meet this month because they did not have a quorum. There are two open positions on the Committee. She mentioned that the Pathways to Resilience Committee plans to hold a webinar on November 4th from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. All Boards and Commissions are invited to join in. They will be discussing past current and future town projects concerning climate change and sea-level rise.

Chair Weinstein plans to meet with the Town Manager, School Superintendent, and School Board Chair to discuss the shared Facilities Director position.

Chair Weinstein said that there will be a joint meeting between the Town Council and Planning Board in the near future.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES IN THE 2ND READING**

## **Resolution #2021/2022-08 ReVision Energy as Preferred Vendor for the Solarize Newmarket Project**

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2021/2022-08 Revision Energy as Preferred Vendor fo the Solarize Newmarket Project*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

Chair Weinstein said the Energy and Environment Committee put out an RFP and received 3 responses. They chose ReVison Energy. Revision Energy will offer incentives within a specified period of time to residents interested in installing solar panels on their homes. This offer will be for residential buildings; not commercial.

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

## **NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE**

### **TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS**

#### **Chris Wolfe - Member-at-Large CIP Committee - Term Expiration August 2022**

The Application was withdrawn.

#### **Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading**

#### **Resolution #2021/2022-09 - Naming the Town Manager as Agent for the Storm Water CRF**

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2021-2022-09 into the record.

## **CORRESPONDENCE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL**

There was no correspondence to the Council.

## **CLOSING COMMENTS BY TOWN COUNCILORS**

## **NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

**October 6, 2021**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary