

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

March 17, 2021 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium and Zoom

The meeting will be conducted in the Town Hall Auditorium and is available via Zoom. You may join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/9117025727> Meeting ID: 911 702 5727, 1 646 558 8656. If you have difficulty connecting, please call 603-659-3617 Ext, 1321.

Present: Council Chair Toni Weinstein and Councilor Zachary Dumont. Present Virtually: Vice-Chair Any Burns, Councilor Helen Sanders, Councilor Jonathan Kiper, Councilor Megan Brabec, and Councilor Scott Blackstone.

Staff Present: Police Chief Kyle True, Fire Chief Rick Malasky, and Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary. Present Virtually: Town Planner, Diane Hardy.

Staff Excused: Town Manager Stephen Fournier.

Chair Weinstein convened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Chair Weinstein read the virtual meeting guidelines preamble.

Recording Secretary Chase called the roll.

Chair Weinstein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

Approved April 7, 2021

PUBLIC FORUM

Chair Weinstein opened the public forum at 7:04 PM.

Bob Hassel of 6 Honeycomb Way spoke of the frontline workers and what they have been through over the past year dealing with COVID-19. He has joined a campaign to show his support to the frontline workers and has purchased flags with the Red Cross symbol on them to hand out for free to anyone wishing to display them to show their support. He has a few left and said that both Exeter and Portsmouth Libraries have a few flags left for anyone interested. The flags can also be purchased at High Flying Flags Company in Greenland NH.

There was no other public comment.

Chair Weinstein closed the public forum at 7:08 PM.

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

March 3, 2021

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *the March 3, 2021 meeting minutes*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

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

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Dale Pike

Dale Pike was in attendance via Zoom. Mr. Pike represents Newmarket on a committee associated with the Coastal Adaptation Workgroup (CAW). The CAW assists communities in New Hampshire's coastal watershed to prepare for the impacts of extreme weather and long-term climate change. Mr. Pike attends "CAW talks", a CAW discussion group. The latest talk addressed grant funding to support wetlands to be improved or protected. Newmarket benefited from such grants, along with the Nature Conservancy, on the successful Lubberland Creek project. Mr. Pike mentioned the wetlands and shoreline permitting process has become dramatically more complicating. He also mentioned a couple of wetlands areas on Ash Swamp Road that are important conservation areas.

Town Planner Diane Hardy commented that Newmarket is fortunate to be in a coastal program where we have access to NH Coastal Program funding and Coastal Resiliency funding along with the Strafford Regional Planning who has been helpful in putting up monies. She said the Town was glad to partner with the Nature Conservancy on the Lubberland Creek project; it was a tremendous success.

Chair Weinstein thanked Mr. Pike for his overview and commented that for those who did not know him, he was a Councilor for 6 years with 2 years as Chair. He also served on the Macallen Dam committee and other various conservation committees.

Town Manager's Report

Chief True read the Town Manager's report as follows:

- COVID-19 Update: As of February 24 there are 13 active cases and 426 cumulative cases. Over the last 16 days, there are 16 new cases.
- Vaccination: The State hopes to have phase 2A of the vaccination roll out by the end of March. The Town Emergency Management Team secured a clinic to be held for the Newmarket School District employees on March 19. This includes the Newmarket

Recreation Department employees. Phase 2B (ages 50-64) will start registration for appointments on March 22nd.

- Reopening: New guidelines relating to reopening. Restaurants can have 10 people to a table. Live music, karaoke, pool, and darts are returning with restrictions. We are extending the outdoor dining permits that were issued last year. We have not rescinded the letter for the Stone Church limiting outside music to 7 PM. We are looking at this and may extend the hours.
- Macallen Dam: The top curb wall at the East abutment was completed.
- Solar Array: Currently working with legal counsel on the right-of-way and easement issues.
- Economic Development Plan: Met with consultants recently. They are contacting stakeholders in the Recreation District to come up with a master plan of the area to come back to the Council with recommendations this summer.

The Chair took this opportunity to thank out-going Councilor, Amy Burns, for her 6 years serving on the Town Council and for serving as Vice-Chair the last two years.

Vice-Chair Burns remarked that she enjoyed that last 6 years serving on the Council and enjoyed working with every Councilor. She said that being a Councilor will not be her last term of service on a board or committee.

Chair Weinstein thanked the emergency response team for securing a vaccination clinic for the teachers. She also thanked the Town Clerk, Terri Littlefield, her Staff, Town Moderator, Chris Hawkins, and the election workers for all their work on the election.

Department Reports

Chair Weinstein commented on the Police, Code Enforcement, and Recreation Departments monthly reports and encouraged people to read all of the reports each month. They are very informative.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Dumont plans to schedule an Ordinance Oversight Committee meeting next week. He said that the Town Manager has sent comments on the idea of possible licensing for live music that the Committee should review and be ready to discuss at the next meeting.

Councilor Sanders said the Art Walk is scheduled for April 9th, 10th, 11th. Art will be displayed at downtown businesses. There are 6 Artists looking for a business to display their work. They have a new FaceBook page "Newmarket's Art and Tourism and encouraged everyone to visit it. They also have a website under construction - newmarketharts.com.

Councilor Blackstone reported on the Planning Board meeting:

- The 30+ acre lot on Neal Mill Road Application. There were many Newmarket and Newfields residents present in opposition to developing the lot. The land is surrounded by conservation land. The Town Council would have to approve the class VI road as a

driveway before it could be developed.

- The Hersey Lane condominium complex project has reduced the number of units and is coming to an end.
- There is a plan to develop the empty house lots on Exeter Road after the railroad tracks to build studio apartments.

Councilor Brabec said the Conservation Commission met last week. The Commission is proposing a roadside cleanup "Claim a Street" program related to Earth Day on April 17 - 24. The Commission also discussed the scholarship they offer seniors who plan to enter a field of study relating to conservation. They discussed allowing students who live in Newmarket and attend private schools to qualify and apply for the scholarship. In the past, it has typically been awarded to Newmarket High School graduates.

Councilor Kiper said the Parking Commission met to discuss the general parking in town. They discussed parking meters and their expense. Some members were more in favor of meters than others. The next meeting is scheduled for the 3rd Thursday in April and there will be a parking meter presentation at that meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES IN THE 2ND READING

Resolution #2020/2021-35 - Arts & Tourism Commission Trust Fund

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2020/2021-35 - Arts & Tourism Commission Trust Fund*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Councilor Sanders explained that the Committee is looking into fundraising and soliciting donations. A separate trust fund needs to be established to hold those monies. The money would be used for projects like fixing the muraled wall next to the Library. The Committee will control how the money is spent, but it will be in the hands of the Trustees of the Trust Funds.

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

Resolution #2020/2021-36 - Stryker Power Pro Ambulance Cot

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2020/2021-36 - Stryker Power Pro Ambulance Cot*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Fire Chief Malasky explained that all equipment on the ambulance must be inspected and certified. He said the ambulance was struck by another vehicle while en route to the hospital last year. Stryker Power Pro would not certify the ambulance cot because of the accident even though there was no damage to it. Primex would not cover the cost because there was no damage to the cot. They had no choice but to purchase a new one to replace the uncertified one.

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

Resolution #2020/2021-37 - Paramedic Service

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2020/2021-37 - Paramedic Services*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Fire Chief Malasky explained that there are two firefighters attending the paramedic program. Currently, the town depends on MacGregor Ambulance and Exeter Hospital when a paramedic is needed. Once the candidates finish the program we will no longer need these outside services. This will mean more revenue to the town and entice other firefighters and paramedics to want to work for the Town. There is a one-time fee to equip both of the ambulances totaling \$14,000.

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

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Sam Kenney - Reappointment to the Conservation Commission - Term Expiration April 2024

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *the Reappointment of Sam Kenney to the Conservation Commission with a term expiration of April 2024.*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

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

Philip Nazzaro - Reappointment to the Veterans War Memorial Trust Committee - Term Expiration April 2024

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *the Reappointment of Philip Nazzaro to the Veterans War Memorial Trust Committee with a term expiration of April 2024.*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

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

Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

Resolution #2020/2021-38 - Tucker Well Final Design.

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2020/2021-38 into the record.

Resolution #2020/2021-39 - Dewatering Improvements

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2020/2021-39 into the record.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

None

CLOSING COMMENTS BY TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Dumont and Councilor Sanders thanked Vice-Chair Burns for serving six years on the Council.

Newly elected Councilor Katanna Conley was present virtually. She was introduced by the Chair and said she is looking forward to serving and working with everyone on the Council.

Councilor Kiper praised the Stone Church for offering an opportunity to be outside during the pandemic. He would like them to be allowed to play music outside on the weekends until 8 or 9 PM. He stated that they've been a core part of the Town for many years and provide a great outlet to people during these unprecedented times.

Chair Weinstein said that she has organized a roadside cleanup for the past 6 or 7 years. This year the cleanup will be on April 25th from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The Conservation Commission will also conduct a weeklong roadside cleanup. Both events are a great way to celebrate Earth Day (April 22nd).

Chair Weinstein spoke to the Town Manager about returning to in-person meetings. At some point, things will be getting back to normal and she would like feedback from the other Councilors of their thoughts, questions, or concerns on the topic. The Town Manager mentioned ordering plexiglass dividers for added protection. Chair Weinstein said that she wants to make sure everyone is comfortable with every procedure put into place.

Chief True said that things are slowly changing back to normal.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

April 7, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 8:18 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary