

**TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

**JULY 17, 2019 7:00 PM**

**TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Approved August 21, 2019**

PRESENT: Council Chairman Toni Weinstein, Councilor Zachary Dumont, Councilor Jon Kiper, Councilor Helen Sanders, Councilor Casey Finch, Councilor Gretchen Kast (by speakerphone)

EXCUSED: Council Vice Chairman Amy Burns

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Steve Fournier, Environmental Services Director Sean Greig

**AGENDA**

Chairman Toni Weinstein welcomed everyone to the July 17, 2019 Newmarket Town Council Meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Weinstein stated that Vice-Chairman Amy Burns was excused and Councilor Kast would be participating by phone.

Councilor Dumont made a motion to seal the *Minutes of the Non-Public Session*, which was seconded by Councilor Finch. Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and the *Minutes of the Non-Public Session* were approved by a vote of 6-0.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Chairman Weinstein opened the Public Forum at 7:02 pm.

Michael Provo of 16 Beech Street said during his 2 decades of doing economic development in downtowns he had partnered with AARP Livable Communities. He said a study by AARP found 65% of people over 50 wished to age in place, and 85% of those wished to stay in their own home. He said in a State and in communities with an aging population, Newmarket has a 93% walkability score, 71% for livability for

younger people, and 58% for the aging population. He said becoming a Livable Community makes AARP Foundation Grants available, and asked the Council to think about the aging population going forward and consider contacting AARP for a presentation.

**PUBLIC HEARING – None**

**TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**Acceptance of the Minutes of the Goal-Setting Session of June 12, 2019**

Councilor Finch made a motion to approve the minutes of the Goal-Setting Session of June 12, 2019, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and the Minutes of the Town Council Goal-Setting Session of June 12, 2019 were approved by a vote of 6-0.

**Acceptance of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 26, 2019**

Councilor Dumont made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of June 26, 2019, which was seconded by Councilor Finch.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and the Minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of June 26, 2019 were approved by a vote of 6-0.

**REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

Town Administrator Steve Fournier stated that Newmarket had received a grant earlier this year for a Federal Government **Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan**, in the event something happens in government and the Town has to continue to operate. He said part of the Grant asks that it be mentioned in a Public Meeting to make sure there is no objection. He said they would be getting \$4,000 with an in-kind match of \$4,000 from the Town.

Town Administrator Fournier reminded the public to be aware of the **Extreme Heat Warning** for the upcoming weekend with anticipated temperatures over 100 degrees. He said they would be opening a cooling center at the Library both days from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and one could be activated at the Fire Station. He said if anyone needs one when the Library is closed they should call Police Dispatch at 603-659-6636 for assistance.

Town Administrator Fournier said the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee had recommended installing an **Electric Vehicle (EV) Car Charging Station** in Downtown. He said they would be taking a parking spot along the Library closest to Main Street to be set up as a “charging only” space, and would install a Siemens VersiCharge EV Charger at a cost of \$488.00. He said the cost to charge would be \$0.87/hour, but he recommended not charging a fee at this time and using this as a development tool to bring people to Downtown. He said grants were also available from Tesla.

Town Administrator Fournier said they would be replacing the **Town Hall Sign**, and said it would be black with gold lettering, similar to the one at the Tiger Hose Company.

Town Administrator Fournier said he had discussed a number of issues with the Council Chairman with regard to the Town Charter and Ordinances. He recommended they set up an Ad Hoc **Government Operations Committee** of no more than 3 members to review those items. Chairman Weinstein clarified that some were Charter Amendments and some were Ordinances. Town Administrator Fournier said an example was the title of the Chief Administrative Officer, whether he should be Town Administrator or Town Manager, as he had the statutory and legal authority of a Town Manager.

Discussion: Councilor Kast stated that she would like to volunteer for the Government Operations Committee. She also asked about promotion of the EV Charging Stations. Town Administrator Fournier said most people with electric vehicles use an App to locate the nearest charging station and that is how they would find the one in Newmarket. Councilor Dumont said he would also like to volunteer for the Government Operations Committee.

Chairman Weinstein said she was thrilled about the EV Charging Station and looked forward to expanding on that and moving Newmarket toward the future. She also commented on the use of body cameras by the Police force, and said originally there had been concerns about purchasing them. She said the process Chief True was going through was to first pilot the program before asking the Council to approve funding. Town Administrator Fournier said he spoke with him today and the program was working well and officers had no issues with the cameras.

Councilor Sanders said in looking at the Police Department report, she wanted to commend the Police Department for the numbers with regard to overdoses and their focus on recovery as opposed to arrest. Town Administrator Fournier said with this year half over there was only 1 overdose and no deaths so far.

### **Town Council Goal Setting Report 2019**

Town Administrator Fournier said they had received the report from Rick Alpers of Primex and did not see any errors with the goals for the coming year. Chairman Weinstein said the Town Council held a Workshop Meeting on June 12, 2019 with Primex and defined 3 workable goals: (1) Economic Development – discussed the Wilson Farm, Shared Services, developing the Waterfront, and continuing sidewalk improvements; (2) Quality of Life – discussed congestion and commuter traffic, ride-sharing opportunities, and parking; and (3) Sustainability – exploring renewable energy, start of community composting, new EV Charging Stations, and starting some solar projects. She said the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee was also talking about creating a carbon footprint then working on reducing it and increasing efficiencies.

Councilor Dumont made a motion to approve the three (3) Town Council Goals for 2019, which was seconded by Councilor Kiper.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and the Town Council Goals for 2019 were approved by a vote of 6-0.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Finch said the *Conservation Commission* had met and reminded everyone that Heron Point was open sunrise to sunset. He said the Commission met with the Living Shoreline person with regard to Schanda Park and they were looking at options there. He said it was likely that the tour of all Conservation sites scheduled for the weekend would need to be rescheduled because of the heat.

Councilor Dumont said he stood in for Councilor Kast at the *Planning Board Meeting* last week. He said they discussed the developing stages of a construction project happening at the top of Hersey Lane near Durrell Drive. He said there was also some discussion about Impact Fees and their role in Newmarket, and questions on whether they were helping or hindering communities over the past decade.

Chairman Weinstein said the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee met and said they were still talking about the weed control program and its costs versus options that may be available, which were few. She said they had previously had a demonstration of a steam machine, but said the City of Dover was struggling with the one they had purchased. She said they were working on a Greenhouse gas inventory, which was a big project one of their newest members was working on. She said they were also talking about doing another Button-Up presentation with Revision Energy to talk about options for homeowners.

Councilor Dumont asked if Dover was struggling with regrowth of weeds or the implementation of the program, and Chairman Weinstein said both. She said the machine was not working the way they thought and they were having a hard time with manpower.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 2<sup>ND</sup> READING**

#### **Resolution #2018/2019-46 Water & Sewer Truck # 12 Replacement**

Councilor Dumont made a motion to approve Resolution #2018/2019-46 Water & Sewer Truck # 12 Replacement which was seconded by Councilor Finch.

Environmental Services Director Sean Greig said vehicles were swapped out every 2 years, and said Truck #12 is a Ford F350 with a utility body on the back purchased in 2007. He said the Truck is used 50% by Water and 50% by Sewer and does all the plowing, and the utility body on the back has a crane and hydraulics. He said he took the truck to Auto Excellence and it would cost about \$5,000-\$16,000 for the vehicle to pass inspection. He said the State bid from Grappone Ford for the truck itself, a 2019 Ford F350 and the plow would be \$36,115 and the crane and hydraulics would be swapped over.

Discussion: Chairman Weinstein said it would be helpful to include the Capital Reserve Equipment Schedule for background and said she asked the Town Administrator to provide that. She said the information from Auto Excellence was also not included. Environmental Services Director Greig said there was over \$100,000 in each of the accounts for trucks and there was plenty of money available.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and Resolution #2018/2019-46 Water & Sewer Truck # 12 Replacement was approved by a vote of 6-0.

**Resolution #2018/2019-47 Agreement with Wright-Pierce Engineering Services for Bay Road Culvert Replacement Project**

Councilor Dumont made a motion to approve Resolution #2018/2019-47 Agreement with Wright-Pierce Engineering Services for Bay Road Culvert Replacement Project, which was seconded by Councilor Finch.

Town Administrator Fournier said for the past few years they had been working with the Nature Conservancy and Wright-Pierce on replacing a crushed corrugated metal culvert at Lubberland Creek on Bay Road with a 16-foot wide concrete box culvert. He said benefits included restoring aquatic connectivity of the ecosystem along the fish passage, enhancing the resiliency of the Lubberland Creek Saltmarsh by removing existing tidal restrictions, and remediating flooding hazard.

Town Administrator Fournier said they received a grant from the Department of Environmental Services (DES) totally \$275,553 to undertake this replacement project with the Nature Conservancy and the Department of Public Works (DPW). He said they received a proposal from Wright-Pierce to provide construction services for \$26,720 and to coordinate, monitor, and report on the Town's Wetland Permit to NH DES. He said they did not go out to bid since Wright-Pierce has been working on the project from the beginning. He said there would be no financial impact using the grant money, and the rest would be paid in-kind with DPW doing a lot of the work. He said he believed the definite starting date was August 12, 2019 until the end of September, and said Bay Road would be closed during that time.

Discussion: Councilor Dumont asked if the extensive timeline to get to the point of construction was typical, and Town Administrator Fournier said it was for this size of project. Councilor Sanders asked if Bay Road closure would affect School bussing in the area, and Councilor Kast asked about Emergency Services access. Town Administrator Fournier said he did not think there were any children north of the area and said for Emergency Services Mutual Aid would kick in.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and Resolution #2018/2019-47 Agreement with Wright-Pierce Engineering Services for Bay Road Culvert Replacement Project was approved by a vote of 6-0.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 3<sup>RD</sup> READING – None**

**ITEMS LAID ON THE TABLE – None**

**NEW BUSINESS /CORRESPONDENCE**

**TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS – None**

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> READING – None**

**CORRESPONDENCE – None**

**CLOSING COMMENTS**

Councilor Kast asked what the next step was for the Government Operations Committee proposed, and Town Administrator Fournier said if there is a third member and the Council agrees they would try to set up a meeting at some point. Councilor Sanders volunteered to be a member of the committee and Councilor Kiper said he was also interested but withdrew his name.

Councilor Dumont made a motion to form the Government Operations Committee and appoint Councilor Kast, Councilor Sanders and Councilor Dumont as members. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kast.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and the motion to form the Government Operations Committee and appoint Councilor Kast, Councilor Sanders and Councilor Dumont as members was approved by a vote of 6-0

Councilor Dumont said he and Councilor Sanders had their *Conversations with Councilors* event scheduled for September and asked for volunteers to help put the meeting together. He said he had Councilor Sanders and Town Administrator Fournier listed for the discussion of taxation and evaluation/assessment. Councilor Kiper said he would be happy to volunteer, as did Chairman Weinstein. Town Administrator Fournier said the topic may come too late as hearings may be starting next week.

Chairman Weinstein talked about the new program that would be starting in Town with which she and Councilor Sanders were involved. She said it was a new initiative to reduce items in the landfill and reduce single-use plastic bags and have the community get together to do some sewing. She said they were continuing to collect fabric and would have their first sewing event tomorrow at the Library from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, and meetings would continue to be held monthly on the third Thursday.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Regular Town Council Meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Town Council Chambers.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary