

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 2, 2019 7:00 PM
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Approved October 16, 2019

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

EXCUSED: Council Vice Chairman Amy Burns

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Steve Fournier

AGENDA

Chairman Toni Weinstein welcomed everyone to the October 2, 2019 Newmarket Town Council Meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

As no one from the public was present, Chairman Weinstein closed the Public Hearing at 7:01 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING – Resolution #2019/2020-03 *Accepting the Report of the Government Operations Committee on Proposed Charter Amendments*

Chairman Weinstein opened the Public Hearing at 7:01 pm.

Town Administrator Fournier explained that a Government Operations Sub-Committee, appointed by the Town Council, submitted a report on the following 2020 Proposed Charter Amendments:

- (1) Adding Section 1.5 School District allowing the School District, Town Manager, and Town Council to enter into voluntary agreements for Shared Services as approved by the Town Council.
- (2) Section 3.2 Oaths of Office/Organizational Meeting: To change the date of swearing-in of councilors from the first Monday following the second Tuesday in March to the first Monday in April. First regular meeting following for adopting rules and choosing officers.
- (3) Section 4.1 Town Manager: To change the title of Town Administrator to *Town Manager* to more accurately reflect the actual position.

(4) Section 4.6 Powers & Duties of Town Administrator: Chief Administrative Officer of the Town, supervises and directs administration of all Town departments, has no authority over Town Elections; Town Moderator is Chief Elections Officer.

(5) Section 5.2 Budget Procedure: If the Town Council fails to adopt a budget by November 15th, the Town Manager's Budget would move forward to Budget Committee.

(6) Section 5.3 Budget Hearing: Date of Budget Hearing changes from at least 25 days before first annual meeting to on or before the third Tuesday in January.

(7) Section 5.7 Capital Improvement Plan: CIP Committee to prepare and submit Capital Improvement Plan to Town Council and Budget Committee one month prior to the final date for submission of the Administrator's budget to the Town Council.

(8) Section 11.3 Terms of Office: Terms of office of all elected officials and members of administrative committees shall begin the first Monday in April following elections, and end on first Monday in April of following year.

Chairman Weinstein closed the Public Hearing at 7.07 pm.

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Acceptance of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 18, 2019

Councilor Finch made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 18, 2019, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Changes/Corrections: Councilor Kast changed "donation" to *application* on line 102, and changed "they" to *Town Council* on line 108.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 18, 2019 were approved as amended 6-0.

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town Administrator Fournier said the Town was asked to partner with students from UNH and with AECm, a local architecture/engineering firm, on two **Capstone Projects**. He said Capstone Projects were multi-layered assignments done by students at the end of their academic careers. The two projects were to produce a feasibility study on *Newmarket Waterfront Improvements*, and develop a *Durham to Newmarket Recreation Trail* for pedestrians and bicycles.

Town Administrator Fournier stated that Wednesday, September 25, 2019 the NH House and Senate passed a compromise **State Budget**. He said Newmarket would receive \$420,851, with \$195,076 going to the Town and rest to the School. He said there were delays in the manufacture of the culvert for **the Bay Road/Lubberland Creek** project, and the road would not be reopened until October 18, 2019. He reminded the public that the area was still an active construction site and trespassing was not permitted. He said the last recipient of the **Boston Post Cane** passed away, and Theresa Boisvert (98 years old) has agreed to accept the Boston Post Cane Award; ceremony to be scheduled at a later date.

Discussion: Councilor Kast asked about the Capstone Project, specifically if a route had been determined for the Recreation Trail, and Town Administrator Fournier said that was what they would try to figure out. Councilor Sanders asked if the State Budget funds met expectations, and Town Administrator Fournier said they were above and beyond expectations. Chairman Weinstein asked about working with students on the Capstone Project, and Town Administrator Fournier said there was a resolution on the agenda tonight for the Town Council to form an Ad Hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee to work with the students.

Councilor Kiper asked if the Capstone Project end-product would be of usable quality, and Town Administrator Fournier said that was the purpose of working with the architectural firm. Councilor Kast asked how the State Budget Funds compared with the past. Town Administrator Fournier said it was not even close and they were still not getting retirement funds, though the State had said they would never go back on their promise of revenue sharing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Finch said the *Conservation Commission* was still accepting submissions for the photography exhibit at the Stone Church now through the entire month of November.

Chairman Weinstein said the *Energy & Environment Advisory Committee* hosted a presentation by Revision Energy last night about having renewable homes and using solar power.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 2ND READING

Resolution #2019/2020-03 Accepting the Report of the Government Operations Committee on Proposed Charter Amendments

Councilor Kast made a motion to approve Resolution #2019/2020-03 Accepting the Report of the Government Operations Committee on Proposed Charter Amendments, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Discussion: Chairman Weinstein asked for clarification on 3.2 *Oaths & Organization Meetings*, and Town Administrator Fournier said those changes would not take effect until the following year, but everything else would take effect immediately. Chairman Weinstein asked if there were any specific plans for new councilors, and Town Administrator Fournier said possibly holding a day-long class and taking Town tours of facilities the same day.

Councilor Finch asked if the changes would be codified somewhere, and Town Administrator Fournier said the Town Charter states that at least every 10 years a comprehensive review of codification should be done but not the Charter. Chairman Weinstein asked about wording, and Town Administrator Fournier said each of the questions would have to be passed separately and the Town Attorney would check with the Secretary of State on the wording. He said the Attorney General and the Secretary of State would review and approve the report within 45 days, and if not it was approved out of hand. Chairman Weinstein

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asked the Government Operations Sub-Committee if they looked at ordinances as well as resolutions, and Councilor Dumont said there were no ordinances of significant concern at that time.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and Resolution #2019/2020-03 *Accepting the Report on Proposed Charter Amendments* was approved by a vote of 6-0.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 3RD 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 1ST READING

Resolution #2019/2020-04 Purchase of a 2019 Ford F-550 4x4 Type 1 Ambulance

Chairman Weinstein read Resolution #2019/2020-04 *Purchase of a 2019 Ford F-550 4x4 Type 1 Ambulance* in full.

Resolution #2019/2020-05 Creating an Ad-Hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee

Chairman Weinstein read Resolution #2019/2020-05 *Creating an Ad-Hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee* in full.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

CLOSING COMMENTS

Councilor Kiper asked the town Administrator to look into some radar-controlled speed limits in Town to slow traffic and Councilor Kast said she and Councilor Sanders would be participating in Conversations with Councilors at the Loft, 125 Main Street, at 6:30 pm on Monday, October 7, 2019.

Chairman Weinstein said a Joint Town Council/School Board Meeting was held last week and councilors toured both School facilities and met with the School Board to share concerns. She said October 19, 2019 would be the Fall Craft Fair at the Sunrise-Sunset Center and October 26, 2019 would be the Town Budget Workshop at 9 am.

Councilor Kiper thanked the CIP Committee for all their hard work, Councilor Kast said she took part in the ribbon-cutting at the Stone Church to celebrate their new solar array, and Chairman Weinstein said another EV Charging Station would be installed at the Mills and possibly at the Stone Church.

NEXT MEETING: The next Regular Town Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Town Council Chambers.

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ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary