

**TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2019 7:00 PM
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Approved November 6, 2019

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

EXCUSED: Councilor Gretchen Kast

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Steve Fournier, Fire Chief/Public Works Director Rick Malasky

AGENDA

Chairman Toni Weinstein welcomed everyone to the October 16, 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 – None

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Acceptance of the Minutes of the Joint Town Council/School Board Meeting of September 25, 2019

Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Joint Town Council/School Board Meeting of September 25, 2019, which was seconded by Councilor Finch.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and the Minutes of the Joint Town Council/School Board Meeting of September 25, 2019 were approved by a vote of 6-0.

Note: A correction made by Councilor Sanders after the vote was included in the September 25th minutes.

Acceptance of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 2, 2019

Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 2, 2019, which was seconded by Councilor Finch.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 2, 2019 were approved by a vote of 6-0.

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town Administrator Steve Fournier stated that on November 20, 2019 a Joint Town Council/Planning Board Meeting would be held to discuss Economic Development and other issues, and Saturday, October 26, 2019 would be Police drug take-back day from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Budget Presentation

Town Administrator Fournier reviewed the **FY2021 Town Operating Budget** ending June 30, 2021 and started with Economic Indicators. He said the Consumer Price Index (CPI) had increased last year but was now slowing down with US total 1.7%, New England Regional 1.6%, and Boston 2.2%. He said oil prices are dropping and it looks like a softening of the economy due to uncertainty. Unemployment Rates for 2017 to 2018 saw a US decrease of 4.3% to 4.1%, State increased 2.5% to 2.7%, County increased 2.7%-3%, Portsmouth Metro decreased 2.5%-2.4%, and Newmarket increased 1.9%-2.1%, mostly due to normal seasonal fluctuations, and said unemployment is not an issue.

Town Administrator Fournier said the Current Tax Rate is *estimated* to be \$24.26/1,000 with Town \$5.41/1,000, Local School \$14.93/1,000, State School \$1.96/1,000, and County \$0.96/1,000. He said for the Town this Budget is 22% of the total tax rate with the largest percentage to the School, and reflects the new assessed valuation. He said the 5-Year Comparison of the Tax Rate shows the Town remaining fairly level-funded. He said the Town Assessed Value increased from \$722,476,271 in 2015 to \$977,203,228 in 2019, and shows the impact of the valuation.

FY2021 Town Operating Budget

Town Administrator Fournier stated that for FY2021 he was recommending a Budget of \$13,127,559 which is an increase of 8.59% over the previous year FY2020 of \$12,089,547, and Department Heads proposed \$13,870,136 or a 17.73% increase. He said the Total Budget Increase now is \$1,038,012, Enterprise increase of \$256,622, and all other funds \$781,350. Expenditures by Fund show General Fund tax revenues and motor vehicle revenues \$7,864,846, versus \$7,720,610 last year, and Department Heads proposed \$8,528,579; Special Revenues \$1,201,083, plus Enterprise Funds.

Town Administrator Fournier said as far where the increases were going, \$191,220 was debt service for Macallen Dam, \$28,727 for Finance Department employees, Police Salaries increase of \$48,806 for new officer, \$104,779 for Energy Impact Lease expenditures, Buildings & Grounds Salaries \$54,281, Solid Waste Disposal contract increase of \$29,000, and contribution to the Water Capital Reserve of \$105,503.

Town Administrator Fournier said he recommended the following contributions to Capital Reserves: Public Works \$75,000, Building Improvements \$15,000, Roadways \$250,000, Stormwater Management \$25,000, Macallen Dam zeroed out, Fire & Rescue \$50,000, Police Vehicles \$7.00 as this is an operational cost, Police Dispatch \$10,000, Veterans Memorial \$2,000, Master Plan \$10,000, Library \$10,000, and Recreational Facilities \$86,050. He said Department Heads requested a total of \$1.169 Mil or a 123% increase over last year and he recommended a total of \$535,057 or a 2% increase.

Town Administrator Fournier said the Town was seeing an uptick in revenues, estimating approximately \$7 Mil last year (revenues not including property taxes), and said the big ones are Motor Vehicle taxes, and Water & Sewer rate-payers fees. He said he was estimating \$7.2 Mil in revenues for next year's Budget.

Town Administrator Fournier stated that if everything passes, Gross Appropriations of \$13.1 Mil, less revenues of \$7.2 Mil, plus \$20,000 for Overlay and \$160,000 for War Service Credits, the Net Town Appropriation will be \$6,071,339. With the Town Assessed Value of \$977,203,228, the estimated tax rate, based on data as we have today, will be \$6.21/1,000 impact for next year or a \$0.78 increase over the previous year.

Town Administrator Fournier said the Environmental Services Director informed him that in order to receive a \$75,000 loan from the State revolving fund, they would need to get permission from voters to issue the debt, with 100% loan forgiveness and no impact on rates, to do a Sewer System Survey, and it would need to go on the Ballot. He reminded the Council that the Budget Workshop Meeting would be held on Saturday, October 26, 2019 at 9:00 am with Recreation first, followed by Fire & Public Works, Police, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, and he would fill in the rest.

Discussion: Chairman Weinstein asked if the funds just approved through the State Budget were factored in. Town Administrator Fournier said they were not, and said the \$200,000 just received could be used as unanticipated revenues for a purchase, but he recommended putting the \$200,000 toward Fund Balance. He said they will receive another check next year which is not unanticipated and he would probably recommend revising the revenue estimates by the amount of the check in the future.

Councilor Dumont asked if feedback had been received from the Police Chief regarding their decision to not use body cameras, and Town Administrator Fournier said he would ask the Police Chief to write a memo.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 2ND READING

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

Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to approve Resolution #2019/2020-04 Purchase of a 2019 Ford F-550 4x4 Type 1 Ambulance, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Fire Chief Rick Malasky said the Town has 2 ambulances which are rotated and traditionally kept for 10 years. He said the new ambulance would be replacing a 2009 E-450 Type 1 Ambulance which would be traded in, and said it takes 10 months to a year to build an ambulance and put it into service. He said he received 3 proposals and went with the lowest from PVC (Professional Vehicle Corp.) for \$197,303. He said all funds would come from the Ambulance Revolving Fund which has a balance of \$203,709.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and Resolution #2019/2020-04 Purchase of a 2019 Ford F-550 4x4 Type 1 Ambulance was approved by a vote of 6-0.

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

Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to approve Resolution #2019/2020-05 Creating an Ad-Hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Town Administrator Fournier said the Town would use the *Ad-Hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee* to help advise the Capstone Project with UNH. He said he would meet with students when he gets back from his conference to go over expectations of the students and the Town, review next steps, then meet with the Ad hoc Committee to review their ideas as well. Chairman Weinstein asked that councilors give some thought to participating if interested in serving on the Committee.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and Resolution #2019/2020-05 Creating an Ad-Hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee 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

Conservation Commission –

Candidate: *David Bell – Term Expires March 2022*

Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to approve the appointment of *David Bell – Term Expires March 2022* as a member of the *Conservation Commission*.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and *David Bell* was approved as a member of the *Conservation Commission* by a vote of 6-0.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 1ST READING

Resolution #2019/2020-06 Macallen Dam Engineering Services

Chairman Weinstein read Resolution #2019/2020-06 Macallen Dam Engineering Services in full.

Resolution #2019/2020-07 Ambulance Revolving Fund Increase

Chairman Weinstein read Resolution #2019/2020-07 Ambulance Revolving Fund Increase in full.

Resolution #2019/2020-08 Ad hoc Arts & Tourism Commission

Town Administrator Fournier read Resolution #2019/2020-08 Ad hoc Arts & Tourism Commission in full. He stated that the Commission would consist of 7 members, each with a 3-year term.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

CLOSING COMMENTS

Vice-Chair Burns wished Chairman Toni Weinstein a Happy Birthday!

Councilor Finch said the Conservation Commission photography exhibition would be on display at the Stone Church from November 2, 2019 to the end of November.

Councilor Kiper thanked the Police Department for increasing the parking enforcement on Main Street.

Chairman Weinstein said she had the opportunity to present the Boston Post Cane, awarded to the oldest living resident of a community, to Theresa Boisvert, 98 years old, on Friday. She said upcoming dates included: Craft Fair at Sunrise-Sunset Center, October 17, 2019, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm; Town Budget Workshop, Saturday, October 26, 2019 at 9:00 am, also Drug Take-Back Day; and Joint Town Council/Planning Board Meeting to be held November 20, 2019.

NEXT MEETING: The next Regular Town Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Town Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary