

# **TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

## **TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

February 2, 2022 7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Approved February 16, 2022

Councilors Present: Chair Toni Weinstein; Vice-chair Helen Sanders (via zoom); Councilor Megan Brabec; Councilor Scott Blackstone; Councilor Katanna Conley; and Councilor Brian Ward (via zoom).

Councilors excused: Jonathan Kiper.

Staff Present: Town Manager Stephen Fournier and Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary.

Chair Weinstein convened the meeting at 7:00 PM and led the pledge of allegiance.

## **AGENDA**

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no one from the public in attendance.

Chair Weinstein closed the Public Forum at 7:01 PM.

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

#### **January 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *the January 19, 2022 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**

- **COVID-19 and Vaccination Update:** As of January 28, there are 83 active cases in the community, a decrease of 37% since the last report. The Seacoast region has seen a 15.8% increase in new cases over the past week; this is down 8.3% from the previous report. There is a slight increase in vaccinations.

- **FY22 Budget Update:** Deliberative Session will be Saturday, February 5th at 9:00 AM in the Town Hall Auditorium. The school district will be at 10:00 AM.
- **Update Pole Licenses:** Pole licenses are licenses that we grant to utilities to allow them to be located in the Town's right-of-ways. Terri Littlefield is going to present a resident impacted petition for the Council to act on; there will be a public hearing and later a resolution to adopt.
- **Letter of Audit Findings:** The Auditors are recommending a number of changes we need to make which is normal and welcomed. The Town Manager and Finance Director will be working to address them.
- **Providing Drinking Water to Newfields:** The Newfields Water & Sewer District Commissioners contacted the Town manager inquiring about Newmarket selling drinking water to the Town of Newfields. The request is for an average of 40,000 gallons per day. In comparison, Newmarket uses 400,000 gallons per day. This could require a new connection between the two systems, paid for by the Newfields Water District. There will be more information coming later.
- **Director of Planning and Community Development:** The period to apply will be closed this Friday. Interviews will be conducted shortly after.
- **Deliberative Session:** The Deliberative Session is Saturday, February 5th at 9:00 AM; School at 10:00 AM. Mandatory mask wearing in town buildings will not be in effect at the Deliberative Session. Masks will be encouraged but not mandatory.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Brabec reported on the Riverfront Advisory Committee –

- The design teams will present their draft of the Schanda Park living shoreline proposal to the Committee at their February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting in the Council Chambers at 4:00 PM. The Committee will then seek guidance from the Council as to what next steps to take.

Councilor Blackstone reported on the Planning Board meeting –

- The Planning Board drafted an ordinance to change the B1 Zone on North Main Street to a M2-A Zone. They will be presenting it to the Town Council for approval. The Planning Board would like to know the status of the Class A Trail on Neal Mill Road and would like a response to the question of removing impact fees.

Chair Weinstein reported on the Energy & Environment Committee meeting –

The Committee had a quorum for the first time in a long time. There are 3 open seats on the Committee. The Solarized Newmarket Campaign driven by ReVision Energy has kicked off. There are 65 homes in Newmarket using solar power and they wish to double that number.

## OLD BUSINESS

## NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

## TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

## **Michael Hoffman - Ad hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee - Term Expiration June 30, 2024**

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *the appointment of Michael Hoffman to the Ad hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee as a non-voting Newmarket Commercial/Business Owner Member*, which was seconded by Councilor Ward.

Chair Weinstein commented that the Council recently approved the amended resolution to change the makeup of the Committee to include a non-voting, Newmarket Commercial/Business Owner Member.

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

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

### **Resolution #2021/2022-23 - Creating an Advisory Committee on Racial Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights**

Chair Weinstein read the Resolution #2021/2022-23 in title only and noted that the full resolution is available to review on the town's website, [www.newmarketnh.gov](http://www.newmarketnh.gov).

## **CORRESPONDENCE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL**

Town Manager Fournier read Councilor Helen Sanders' letter of resignation.

Councilor Conley made a motion to accept Councilor Helen Sanders' resignation with sincere regret, which was seconded by Councilor Brabec.

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

## **CLOSING COMMENTS BY TOWN COUNCILORS**

Chair Weinstein said that Councilor Sanders wanted to fill her whole term and she appreciated that commitment. She believes that Councilor Sanders helped strengthen the relationship between the Council and the business community as well as with the Ad hoc Arts and Tourism Commission.

Chair Weinstein reminded everyone of the Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 5th at 9:00 AM in the Town Hall Auditorium. She emphasized that at the deliberative session residents are given the opportunity to vote what will be placed on the Warrant for the town election.

## **NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

**February 16, 2022**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 7:27 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary

