

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

June 15, 2022 7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Minutes

Approved July 20, 2022

Councilors Present: Council Chair Toni Weinstein, Council Vice-chair Katanna Conley, Councilor Megan Brabec, Councilor Scott Blackstone, Councilor Brian Ward, Councilor Joe Lamattina and Councilor Colin White, Sr.

Staff Present: Finance Director William Tappan (seated for Town Manager Fournier), Environmental Services Director Sean Greig, and Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary.

Staff Excused: Town Manager Stephen Fournier.

Chair Weinstein convened the meeting at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor Ward made a motion *to seal the minutes of the June 15, 2022, non-public meeting*, which was seconded by Councilor White.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 7-0.

AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM

Chair Weinstein opened the Public Forum at 7:02 PM.

Representative Ellen Read, 283 Lita Lane spoke in favor of Resolution #2021/2022-37 – Sustainable Energy Goals for the Town of Newmarket. She explained that Hanover and Concord, NH have passed similar resolutions and would like to do a presentation for the Town Council at the July 20, 2022 Council meeting.

Jane Sanders spoke in support of Resolution #2021/2022-37.

Bill Reilly, 25 Packers Falls Road spoke in support of Resolution #2021/2022-37.

Sara Stinson, 9 Maplecrest spoke in support of Resolution #2021/2022-37.

Anthony Read, 283 Lita Lane spoke in support of Resolution #2021/2022-37

Joan DeYoreo, spoke in support of Resolution #2021/2022-37.
Emily Jones, 631 Bennett Way, spoke in support of Resolution #2021/2022-37.

Chair Weinstein closed the Public Forum at 7:11 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance No. 1 – 2021/2022 – Amending Chapter 1 of the Code of the Town of Newmarket, NH;
Clarifying the Authority of the Town Manager

Chair Weinstein opened the Public Hearing at 7:12 PM.

Chair Weinstein closed the Public Hearing at 7:12 PM without public comment.

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

May 25, 2022 Goal Setting Session Minutes

Councilor Conley made a motion to approve *the May 25, 2022 Goal Setting Session Minutes*, which was seconded by Councilor White.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-1. Councilor Brabec abstained.

June 1, 2022

Vice-chair Conley made a motion to approve *the June 1, 2022 meeting minutes*, which was seconded by Councilor LaMattina.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-1. Councilor White abstained.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Finance Director Tappan commented that the Councilors were in receipt of the Town Manager's June 15th report and if there were questions, he would be happy to answer them.

Councilor LaMattina questioned the Newmarket Housing Authority Community Development Block grant contract signed by the Town Manager. It was determined that it was for the piping work at Great Hill Terrace.

Councilor LaMattina commented on fuel and salt being over budget.

Finance Director Tappan said that they are looking at ways to mitigate that and explained that it's a "bottom line" budget.

Councilor Weinstein commented that she liked the additional information in the Town Manager's

report regarding contracts signed by the Town Manager.

Councilor Brabec said she appreciates the time and effort the Department Heads put into their monthly Department Reports. She voiced concerns over the Recreation Department's difficulty in hiring camp counselors and the Welfare Department's report of homelessness and the rental challenges in town.

Councilor Blackstone thanked the Police Department for their bravery and protection. He commented that he likes the late-night police patrols in the downtown area.

Councilor Conley echoed Councilor Brabec's concerns on the financial issues community members are facing. She congratulated Officer Aaron Hurlburt for finishing his field training with the Police Department and congratulated Officer Matthew Pefine for successfully graduating from the Police Academy in May.

Chair Weinstein wondered if Chief Jordan was making any progress on the regional mental health taskforce, he spoke about starting. Finance Director Tappan said he will let the Chief know of the inquiry.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor LaMattina reported on the Riverfront Advisory Committee Meeting. The Lamprey River Advisory Committee gave a presentation at their last meeting. There may be grant money available to them. The Committee discussed projects regarding Heron Point, the town dock and expanding Schanda Park toward the Wastewater Treatment Plant. There will be a Resilient Shoreline Tour scheduled on June 22, 2022, 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM. Planning Director Bart McDonough has been making connections and is a great resource for the Town.

Councilor LaMattina reported on the Energy & Environment Committee Meeting. The Committee met with a representative from the Community Power Coalition. The Coalition is working on getting renewable energy available in 19 municipalities. The next step for Newmarket is to develop an energy plan. There is a free webinar available on how to save energy. Councilor LaMattina asked if the Council would be willing to co-sponsor the webinar. The only thing it would entail is to add the Town of Newmarket to the title as the co-sponsor. There was no objection from the Council to co-sponsor the webinar.

Councilor Blackstone reported on the Planning Board meeting. The site plan for the depot at Rockingham Junction was approved. The building will be relocated onto a new foundation and moved further from the rail line. They plan to begin renovations and moving the building in November. The owner of 3 Railroad Ave (old depot station) presented a site plan review application to tear down part of the old depot and put in an 8-unit residential building where some of the units will qualify as workforce housing units. The Planning Board gave the applicant permission to move forward. The Planning Board expects to have the report on accessory dwelling units complete in August.

RESOLUTIONS IN THE 2ND READING

Ordinance No. 1 – 2021/2022 – Amending Chapter 1 of the Code of the Town of Newmarket, NH - Clarifying the Authority of the Town Manager.

Vice Chair Conley made a motion to approve *Ordinance No. 1 – 2021/2022 – Amending Chapter 1 of the Code of the Town of Newmarket, NH; Clarifying the Authority of the Town Manager*, which was seconded by Councilor White.

Finance Director Tappan explained that the purpose of the ordinance is to allow the Town Manager to create rules and policies for the conduct of departments, negating the necessity to bring town policies to the Council for 2 readings and approval. He gave an example of a work from home policy. With the ordinance change the Town Manager would be allowed to approve it right away instead of going through the resolution process of two readings which leads to weeks waiting for approval.

Councilor Brabec said that she was under the impression that that was the normal procedure and questioned why there needed to be a change to the Code.

Finance Director Tappan said that as it stands any policies would have to be approved by the Town Council. He mentioned that the Council has not had many policies presented to them recently for approval.

Councilor Blackstone asked if the Council could approve the policies in one meeting rather than two readings.

Chair Weinstein said that is possible if the Council approves to amend the Council's Rules of Procedure and allow a resolution to be passed with one reading in one meeting.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 7-0.

Resolution #2021/2022-34 – Water & Sewer Rate Increases 2023.

Vice-chair Conley made a motion to approve *Resolution #2021/2022-34 – Water & Sewer Rate Increases 2023*, which was seconded by Councilor Brabec.

Director Greig explained that they will not be increasing the sewer rates, just the water rates. He did advise that if the state aid and grants we've been receiving comes to an end we will have to revisit increasing the sewer rates. The water rate will increase from \$6.25 to \$6.75. A gallon of tap water is less than 1 cent.

Councilors voiced appreciation to Director Greig for all the hard work that he does.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 7-0.

Resolution #2021/2022-35 – To select a vendor to conduct a Salary Survey and Compensation

Study for the Municipal Government.

Councilor Ward made a motion to approve *Resolution #2021/2022-35 – To select a vendor to conduct a Salary Survey and Compensation Study for the Municipal Government*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

Finance Director Tappan explained that it is customary to conduct a survey study every 3 years. He said that the intent is to have the survey completed to use in the 2023/2024 budget.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 7-0.

RESOLUTIONS IN THE 1ST READING

Resolution #2021/2022-36 – Request funds from Library Capital Reserve Fund for Roof Repair.

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2021/2022-36 into the record.

Resolution #2021/2022-37 – Sustainable Energy Goals for the Town of Newmarket.

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2021/2022-37 into the record.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE COUNCIL

A letter from the Town Manager to the Historical Society inviting them to attend a work session meeting on July 20th at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers to discuss Historic District.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY THE TOWN COUNCILORS

NEXT MEETING

July 20, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 8:03 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase
Recording Secretary