



Town Council Regular Session

November 2, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

MINUTES

1. Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Roll Call

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

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

Absent: None

3. Public Forum

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

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

4. Town Council to Consider Acceptance of Minutes

a. October 19, 2022 Draft Minutes

Motion: **Councilor White** made a motion to approve October 19, 2022 Draft Minutes

Second: **Councilor LaMattina**

Discussion:

Vote: **Unanimously Approved**

5. Report of the Town Manager

a. Town Manager's November 2, 2022 Report

Election Day: Election Day is Tuesday, November 8 from 7AM to 7PM at the Newmarket Jr./Sr. High School. The majority of Councilors should be present since it is anticipated that there will be a large number of voters.

FY23 Tax Rate: The State of New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) has set the property tax rate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, for the Town. The tax rate is \$26.99, an increase of 63 cents per thousand of assessed valuation or 2.4%. Town: \$6.27; Local School: \$18.36; State School: \$1.42 and County \$0.92. Tax Bills will be issued soon with a due date of December 5, 2022.

Right to Know Law Policy: Pursuant to Ordinance 1-43 the Town Manager is enacting a Right to Know policy. The policy is intended to provide town personnel with guidance regarding the requests of citizens and others for information. All requests for information per RSA 91-A should be referred to or forwarded to the Town Manager's Office. The intent is to have one point of contact with our offices and one point of information dissemination.

FY23 Expense and Revenue Report: At the end of September, 30% of the operating budget has been expended, which is normal for this time of year. The Town Manager is concerned with overtime in the Fire Department and will continue to monitor it. Revenues are on target with motor vehicle registrations slightly lower than last year and building permits more than doubled.

6. Committee Reports

Councilor Ward reported on the CIP meeting:

The CIP Committee met with the school. The school is looking to renovate the High School and Elementary School, replacing tiles and carpets and windows. At some point, they would like to make upgrades to the athletic fields. They also want to do a playground study. The Committee agreed to the playground study and decided they needed more information on the roof and building system upgrades they would like to do. The school currently has enough money in their capital reserve fund to fund those upgrades.

Councilor Brabec reported on the Arts & Tourism Commission Meeting:

The Commission met last night. They have a new free library at Lamprey Health Center "Mother Goose on the Loose" with plenty of children's books. The pop-up library is generated by the Rotary Club. The Chair met with Eric Chinburg to discuss updates to the Elm Street Wall. They are going to get masonry quotes. The library is involved because they will be making some changes to the library side and would like it all to flow aesthetically. She said a question came up at the meeting regarding Ad hoc in the Commission title. Town Manager Fournier said that it was not intended for the Commission to sunset and that Ad hoc does not make a difference to the Commission's charge. Councilor Brabec reminded everyone that there is an open seat on the Commission.

7. Old Business

8. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 2nd Reading

a. Resolution #2022/2023-13 - FY2024 Budget Approval

Motion: **Councilor Conley** made a motion to amend Resolution #2022/2023-13 - FY2024 Budget Approval to reflect an \$85,000 increase.

Second: **Councilor Ward**

Discussion: Town Manager Fournier explained the suggested amendments made at the Council's Budget Meeting on October 29 to increase the budget by \$85,000.

1. An increase to the Employee Benefits Merit Pool budget line of \$30,000.
2. An increase to the Social Service Grant budget line of \$5,000.
3. An increase to the Fire Department's Capital Reserve Fund of \$50,000.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved**

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution #2022/2023-13 - FY2024 Budget

Second: **Councilor Conley**

Discussion: Town Manager Fournier stated the new amended budget total is \$16,240,017. He also mentioned that the Default Budget will be voted on at the next meeting.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved**

b. Resolution #2022/2023-14 - Fire Truck Lease Payment

Motion: **Councilor Conley** made a motion to approve Resolution #2022/2023-14 - Fire Truck Lease Payment

Second: **Councilor Brabec**

Discussion: Town Manager Fournier explained that this is money coming from the Capital Reserve Fund to pay the fire truck lease payment.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved**

9. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

- a. Resolution #2022/2023-15 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT FOR COMMUNITY POWER COALITION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE (CPCNH)

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2022/2023-15 in title only into the record, without objection. She stated that the Resolution is on the town's website for review.

10. New Business/Correspondence

- a. Correspondence to the Town Council

Councilor Weinstein received a letter from Trish Simon complimenting the gardens near the Library. Councilor Weinstein responded by letting her know that it was done by Blooming Newmarket Garden Club.

- b. Closing Comments by Town Councilors

Councilor Blackstone referred to all the water and sewer improvements made over recent years and spoke to Town Manager Fournier who suggested they set up tours for the Councilors to go and view the facilities' improvements. He said there were supposed to be ribbon cutting ceremonies but projects came to completion during the pandemic.

- c. Next Meeting

- i. November 16, 2022

11. Adjournment

Chair Weinstein Adjourned the Meeting at 7:18 PM without objection.