



Town Council Regular Session

October 18, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

MINUTES

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Conley convened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Councilor White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Present: Council Chair Katanna Conley, Council Vice-chair Brian Ward, Councilor Scott Blackstone, Councilor Joe LaMattina, Councilor Colin White, Councilor Sonke Dornblut, Councilor Justin Glazebrook.

Staff Present: Town Manager Stephen Fournier, Community Development Director Bart McDonough, DPW Director Rick Malasky and Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary.

3. Public Forum

Chair Conley opened the public forum at 7:01 PM.

There was no one in attendance from the public.

Chair Conley closed the public forum at 7:01 PM.

4. Town Council to Consider Acceptance of Minutes

a. October 4, 2023 Work Session Minutes

Motion: Councilor Dornblut made a motion to approve the October 4, 2023 Work Session Minutes

Second: Councilor LaMattina

Vote: Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)

b. October 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Councilor White made a motion to approve the October 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Second: Councilor Glazebrook

Vote: Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)

5. Report of the Town Manager

a. Town Manager's Report October 18, 2023

CPCNH: Town Manager Fournier attended the online meeting for all communities that are coming on board with CPCNH in spring 2024.

ICMA Annual Conference: Town Manager Fournier attended the International

City Manager's Association annual conference in Austin, TX from September 28th - October 4th. Topics for discussion included multi-generational employees in the workplace and what some employees are expecting now, such as working remotely.

Lamprey River Footbridge Assessment: Wright-Pierce and JTC completed the cleaning and testing confirming that there is deterioration and section loss in the areas we expected. JTC will produce a formal report on loss/corrosion. Wright Pierce estimates the replacement cost to be \$1.5 million.

NHMA Conference: The 82nd Annual Conference is scheduled for November 15-16 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Downtown Manchester. The conference is live and in-person only this year. Anyone wishing to attend should email Wendy for registration.

Town Manager Fournier presented a PowerPoint presentation for the proposed FY2025 town operating budget.

Town Manager Fournier reminded everyone of the Budget Work Session on Saturday, October 28th beginning at 9:00 AM. He will be prepared to explain the rationale of his budget recommendations versus the Capital Improvement Plan Committee's recommendations.

b. Department Reports September 2023

Chair Conley commented on the various department's reports.

She congratulated Lieutenant Wayne Stevens on his retirement from the Police Department; congratulated Bethany Henry on her new position as the Sunrise/Sunset Senior Center Director; congratulated Michael Wernig on his promotion as After School Site Supervisor/Program Manager for the Rec Department. She thanked the town departments for the good work that they do.

Chair Conley asked when the Placework presentation regarding the Facilities Master Plan would take place and when the pilot/demo for the intersection of 108 and 152 would take place. Town Manager Fournier said that he is working on setting up a time for the Placework presentation and has no new information on the demo/pilot.

Chair Conley requested Environmental Services Director Sean Greig come to a future council meeting to update the council and residents on the thickener project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

c. Welfare Director's September 2023 Report

There were no comments.

6. Committee Reports

Councilor Blackstone reported on the Planning Board's October 10th Meeting:

The Planning Board has produced proposed zoning changes that will support regulations to preserve the downtown historical architecture.

Councilor Ward reported on the Conservation Commission's October 12th Meeting:

Jessica Cann was appointed as an alternate member. There is now a full complement of the Commission. Chair Ellen Snyder reviewed all the non-public minutes to unseal and make available to the public. The oyster bar event at the Historical Society went well and the caged baby oysters are big enough to be released into the Great Bay.

7. Old Business

8. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 2nd Reading

- a. Resolution #2023/3024-05 - Authorization to Grant Funds to Non-profit Newmarket300

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution #2023/3024-05 - Authorization to Grant Funds to Non-profit Newmarket300

Second: **Councilor LaMattina**

Discussion: Town Manager Fournier explained that the Newmarket300 Committee determined that it would be better to set themselves up as a non-profit organization. It has worked well for the cities of Portsmouth and Dover for their 400-year celebrations.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)**

- b. Resolution #2023/2024-12 Annual Lease Payment for Engine 5

Motion: **Councilor White** made a motion to approve Resolution #2023/2024-12 Annual Lease Payment for Engine 5

Second: **Councilor Glazebrook**

Discussion: Town Manager Fournier explained that town leased purchase equipment will be part of the operating budget once the current amounts in the Capital Reserve Funds are depleted. It makes much more sense to add it to the operating budget rather than adding funds each year to the capital reserve funds.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)**

- c. Resolution #2023/2024-13 Lease Purchase Trackless MT7 Sidewalk Tractor with Plow Equipment

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution #2023/2024-13 Lease Purchase Trackless MT7 Sidewalk Tractor with Plow Equipment

Second: **Councilor Glazebrook**

Discussion: Director Malasky explained that the current trackless sidewalk tractor is very old. He said that the accessories from it will be used on the new tractor.

Councilor Blackstone questioned why we didn't look into other manufacturers such as John Deer. Director Malasky explained that the size of the proposed tractor fits the town's sidewalks widthwise while being the most powerful.

The proposed tractor has the best visibility and doesn't roll over if you slide off the curb.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)**

d. Resolution #2023/2024-14 Amending Transfer Station Collection Fees

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution #2023/2024-14 Amending Transfer Station Collection Fees

Second: **Councilor White**

Discussion: Director Malasky explained that the rates have not increased since 2016. He said they are seeing many more dump trailers coming into the transfer station with heavy loads. The town is charged \$78.00 per ton to Waste Management.

Councilor LaMattina commented that he looked into the prices of what surrounding towns charge and the proposed amounts are significantly higher. He suggested the town offer a range of prices. Councilor LaMattina is concerned that with the higher prices, people are not going to use the transfer station, and instead dump elsewhere.

Councilor Blackstone asked if the town made any money from the metal collected at the transfer station. Director Malasky said the town makes very little money on metal. He said right now the town receives \$210.00 for 22 tons.

Vote: **Approved (6-1-0-) Councilor LaMattina opposed.**

e. Resolution #2023/2024-15 Strafford Regional Planning Commission Contract Services-Rezoning of the North Gateway

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution #2023/2024-15 Strafford Regional Planning Commission Contract Services-Rezoning of the North Gateway

Second: **Councilor Glazebrook**

Discussion: Director McDonough explained that the purpose of the contract is to assist the town with rezoning. Each town gateway was looked into and the town decided to concentrate on the north gateway (North Main Street). The Resolution is to authorize the Town Manager to use the funds.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)**

9. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

- a.** Resolution #2023/2024-17 - Proposed FY2025 Town Operating Budget
Chair Conley read Resolution #2023/2024-17 into the record.

10. New Business/Correspondence

- a.** Correspondence to the Town Council

There was no correspondence to the Town Council.

b. Closing Comments by Town Councilors

Councilor LaMattina reminded everyone not to feed the ducks at Schanda Park. Town Manager Fournier said the signs prohibiting feeding the ducks would be arriving soon.

Councilor Blackstone inquired whether or not the two 15-minute parking spots on Central Street would be striped. He said some people park in the middle and it takes up both spaces. Town Manager Fournier will talk to the Public Works Director and find out when they plan to stripe the two spots.

c. Next Meeting

i. October 28, 2023 Town Budget Workshop

ii. November 1, 2023

11. Adjournment

Chair Conley adjourned the meeting at 8:13 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase
Recording Secretary