

**TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 4, 2019 7:00 PM
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Approved September 18, 2019

PRESENT: Council Chairman Toni Weinstein, Council Vice Chairman Amy Burns, Councilor Zachary Dumont, Councilor Jon Kiper, Councilor Gretchen Kast, Councilor Casey Finch, Councilor Helen Sanders

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Steve Fournier, Environmental Services Director Sean Greig

AGENDA

Chairman Toni Weinstein welcomed everyone to the September 4, 2019 Newmarket Town Council Meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Weinstein asked the Council to remain standing for a moment of silence for *Larry Pickering*, a lifetime resident and longtime Council Member who had recently passed away.

PUBLIC FORUM

Chairman Weinstein opened the Public Forum at 7:01 pm.

As no one from the public came forward, Chairman Weinstein closed the Public Forum at 7:01 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING – None

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Acceptance of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 21, 2019

Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of August 21, 2019, which was seconded by Councilor Kast.

Changes/corrections: Councilor Sanders made a change to line 100 to correct “Conservation” to *Conversations*.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 21, 2019 were approved as amended by a vote of 6-0 (*Councilor Dumont was not present for the vote*).

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town Administrator Steve Fournier first addressed **Economic Development**. He said he and the Community Development Director, with a representative of NCDC, met with the Economic Development Consultant on August 28th and identified 3 potential plans for gateway districts to encourage development. He said these ideas would be discussed at the Joint Town Council/Planning Board Meeting.

Town Administrator Fournier said the **Government Operations Committee** met and reviewed potential changes to the Town Charter, and he had received an update from the Attorney regarding the Charter review. He said the main one was on the article for sharing services with the School that any agreement would be negotiated by the Town Administrator and approved by the Town Council. He said there was a reference in one of the amendments of Article 12 and there is no longer an Article 12.

Town Administrator Fournier said a committee report is considered an official document which goes to the Town Council, and they have 7 days to schedule (not hold) a Public Hearing on proposed Charter Amendments. He said he proposed the Public Hearing for the first meeting in October, which would trigger the Town Clerk to send copies of the report to the Attorney General’s Office, Secretary of State, and Department of Revenue Administration. He said they then have 45 days to review the report and approve or deny; if denied the Amendment would go on the Ballot as a separate question.

Town Administrator Fournier said the amendments were as follows: (1) Memorializing the School and Town’s efforts to share services, (2) Oath of Office and organizational meeting date change from first Monday following the election to the first Monday in April; (3) Change the title of the Town Administrator to Town Manager; (4) Correct the State Statute to have the Town Moderator as Chief Elections Officer; (5) Clarify procedure if the Town Council fails to adopt a Budget by November 15th; (6) Change the Budget Process to hold the Public Hearing on or before the third Tuesday in January; (7) CIP Committee must submit its final plan one month prior to the final submission of the Town Administrator’s Budget; (8) Terms of office for all other appointed/elected officials would be the first Monday in April.

Chairman Weinstein asked if they would be voting on these individually, and Town Administrator Fournier said they would have to “recommend” like any other article on the Ballot, and said they would be listed as separate questions.

Town Administrator Fournier said the State created a **Coastal Resilience and Cultural and Historic Reserve District Commission** to identify and develop policies on assessing vulnerability of cultural and historic resources and protecting them. He said he was appointed by the New Hampshire Municipal Association to serve on the Commission.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice-Chair Burns said the *CIP Committee* had their first meeting last night and set up a timeline. She said forms are due back from Department Heads on Friday, next week the Committee would take facility tours, and the following week holding meetings with Department Heads. She said the week of September 23rd the CIP Committee would deliberate and finalize by the 26th. She said Russ Simon was the CIP Committee Chairman and she was the Vice-Chair.

Chairman Weinstein said the *Energy & Environment Advisory Committee* met last night and the biggest item was the upcoming presentation scheduled with Revision Energy on creating a 100% renewable home. She said the meeting would be held on October 1st at 6:00 pm in the Auditorium, and said there was also an event scheduled in Exeter for September 15th on electric vehicles.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 2ND READING

Resolution #2019/2020-01 Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Debt for Water Projects in the Amount of \$6,850,000 from the US Department of Agriculture

Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to approve Resolution #2019/2020-01 Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Debt for Water Projects in the Amount of \$6,850,000 from the US Department of Agriculture, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Environmental Services Director Sean Greig said they had gone through the long process of applying for a Rural Development Loan, and they received a package of \$6.8 Mil in loan and \$1.4 Mil as grant. He said the interest rate was 2.75%, and they were currently negotiating the Moody Point contribution.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and Resolution #2019/2020-01 Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Debt for Water Projects in the Amount of \$6,850,000 from the US Department of Agriculture was approved by a vote of 7-0.

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

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 1ST READING

Resolution 2019/2020-02 Community Church LCHIP

Chairman Weinstein read Resolution 2019/2020-02 Community Church LCHIP in full.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

CLOSING COMMENTS

Councilor Kast said she attended the Lubberland Creek event today and there was a walk-through of the culvert being replaced and a presentation by the Nature Conservancy. She said it was a highly cooperative project which benefitted the community as a hurricane path for exiting a severe storm, economically by saving future costs, and the environment as a fish waterway. She said it was also important to the Wetlands as sea levels rise to provide an inland pathway.

Councilor Dumont asked about the assessment hearings, and Town Administrator Fournier said there was nothing controversial and it went smoothly.

Chairman Weinstein reviewed upcoming dates with the Joint Town Council/School Board Meeting scheduled for September 25th with a tour of the new School facilities at 6:00 pm followed at 7:00 pm by the meeting in the Auditorium. She said they were working on an agenda.

Chairman Weinstein said October 1, 2018 would be the solar presentation by Revision Energy at 6:30 pm in the Auditorium, October 7th would be Conversations with Councilors at the Loft, and October 19th would be a Fall Fair at the Senior Center. She said the Town Council Budget Workshop was scheduled for October 26th starting at 9:00 am.

NEXT MEETING: The next Regular Town Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Town Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 7:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary