

**TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 21, 2019 7:00 PM  
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

***Approved September 4, 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

**AGENDA**

Chairman Toni Weinstein welcomed everyone to the August 21, 2019 Newmarket Town Council Meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Chairman Weinstein opened the Public Forum at 7:00 pm.

As no public was present, Chairman Weinstein closed the Public Forum at 7:00 pm.

**PUBLIC HEARING** – None

**TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**Acceptance of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 17, 2019**

Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of July 17, 2019, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and the Minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of July 17, 2019 were approved by a vote of 6-0, with 1 abstention.

### **Acceptance of the Minutes of the Non-Public Meeting of July 17, 2019**

Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Non-Public Session of July 17, 2019, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and the Minutes of the Town Council Non-Public Session of July 17, 2019 were approved by a vote of 6-0, with 1 abstention.

### **REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

Town Administrator Steve Fournier said one of the goals of the Town Council for this year is to encourage more access to the river with a potential Riverwalk. He said the Newmarket Community Development Corp (NMCDA) will provide the Town with a grant of up to \$10,000 to have a firm write up a report to construct a **Pedestrian Bridge to Heron Point** from Downtown. The report would provide a recommended location, potential design, and estimated cost. He said they were also working with the Conservation Commission and the Recreation Department to secure additional funding.

Town Administrator Fournier said **Senate Bill 22: Commercial Development Tax Exemption** has been approved by the State to better promote commercial and industrial development by permitting cities and towns to grant Property Tax Exemptions of up to 50% to companies for up to 10 years. He said if adopted by the Town Council, businesses seeking to build, rebuild, modernize, or enlarge within the municipality would be eligible, with the Council determining “public benefit” criteria. He said he intended to recommend that a special district along North Main Street be designated, with tax exemptions to be granted by the Council on a case-by-case basis. He said he would work with the Town Attorney to draft the legislation and work with the Economic Development Consultant and the Community Development Director to identify the district.

Town Administrator Fournier said the Public Works Director and the Librarian identified **9 Additional Parking Spaces on Weavers Row**. He said they would do a pilot study to make Weavers Row one-way and use the other side of the street for parallel parking spaces, and said a one-way sign coming from Main Street had been installed. He said if the flow of traffic does not work they will flip the pattern the other way, and he would eventually come to the Council to amend the Ordinance, though it would remain a pilot for now.

Town Administrator Fournier provided an **Update on Revaluation** and said the hearing process had ended and he wanted to clarify some misconceptions. He said people were taking their new values and using their old tax rate to estimate their new tax bill, and said that is not always the case. He explained that the current tax rate of \$29.24 is based on the total Town-wide value of \$762,112,692, and since the revaluation the new Town-wide value is \$979,805,428. He said using the exact same budget figure as last year the new Town tax rate would be *estimated* at \$24.20. He said the previous average house was approximately \$300,000, and is now \$384,000 based on an increase of 28%.

Discussion: Councilor Dumont asked where exactly the designated parking on Weavers Row would be. Town Administrator Fournier said right behind the Library that lane would be gone. Councilor Dumont asked if there was an update on the AT&T Monopole, and Town Administrator Fournier said construction would probably begin this fall. Councilor Kiper asked about possibly getting some parking near Schanda

Park as they would be developing there, and Town Administrator Fournier said the Town did not own the land between Schanda Park and the Pump Station and it would need more research.

Chairman Weinstein said she thought the Weavers Row parking was a very creative solution and would make a big impact to Downtown. She commented on the Police Report that what Chief True wrote about his new policy is proactive and she appreciated that he cleared it with the ACLU.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Vice-Chair Burns stated that the *CIP Committee* was looking to schedule meetings in the next two weeks, with more information to come.

Councilor Kast said the *Planning Board* is looking to schedule a Joint Meeting before the end of the year. Town Administrator Fournier said probably at the second Town Council meeting in September, and they would also have the Economic Development Consultant provide an update.

Chairman Weinstein said she had confirmed with the *School Board* to hold their Joint Meeting on September 25, 2019.

Councilor Sanders said another *Conversations with Councilors* was being planned with Town Administrator Fournier and herself and any other councilors who wished to join them to discuss taxes. She said no date had yet been set.

Councilor Dumont said the *Budget Committee* would be holding their next meeting on August 26, 2019. He said the *Government Operations Ad hoc Committee* planned to have their first meeting on Wednesday, August 28, 2019, at 6:00 pm.

Chairman Weinstein said the *Energy & Environment Advisory Committee* had been working on the glyphosate issue, and would soon be making a recommendation to the Council, not changing much at this point. She said the EV Charging Station would be going in soon. She said the *Committee* had also undertaken a greenhouse gas inventory project to get a baseline to know where to make reductions and how to measure. She said there would be an event with Revision Energy about residential use of solar in homes at 6:30 pm on October 1, 2019.

Chairman Weinstein said one *Committee* member, who works with creating living shorelines, connected with the Conservation Commission. She said the *Committee* met today with Conservation Commission Chairman Patrick Reynolds and a person from DES at Schanda Park about ways to control erosion there. She said she was working with the Conservation Commission Chair and Town Administrator Fournier to draft a first read for a resolution to create a committee to address those issues, as well as expanding the waterway, the parking lot, and increasing access to Heron Point.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 2<sup>ND</sup> READING – None**

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 3<sup>RD</sup> READING – None**

**ITEMS LAID ON THE TABLE – None**

**NEW BUSINESS /CORRESPONDENCE**

**TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS**

**Library Trustee Appointment**

Candidate: *Sarah Stinson – Term to Expire March 2022*

Vice-Chair Burns made a motion to approve the appointment of *Sarah Stinson – Term to Expire March 2022* as a *Library Trustee*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Town Administrator Fournier polled the Council and the appointment of *Sarah Stinson* as a *Library Trustee* was approved by a vote of 7-0.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> READING**

**Resolution 2019/2020-01 Rural Development Loan for Water Projects**

Chairman Weinstein read *Resolution 2019/2020-01 Rural Development Loan for Water Projects* in full.

**CORRESPONDENCE – None**

**CLOSING COMMENTS**

Councilor Kiper thanked the Recreation Department for putting on an awesome Arts in the Park this summer, and said there was one more event scheduled for Tuesday.

Vice-Chair Burns also thanked the Recreation Department for hosting the National Water Balloon Celebration a few weeks ago, and said it was a great event with 10,000 balloons filled.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Regular Town Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Town Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary