

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

November 4, 2020 7:00 PM

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Town Hall Auditorium and Zoom

The Town Council Meeting will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium. Those who wish to attend shall wear a mask and practice social distancing. The Meeting is also available via Zoom and you may join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/9117025727> Meeting ID: 911 702 5727, 1 646 558 8656. If you have difficulty connecting, please call 603-659-3617 Ext, 1321.

PRESENT: Council Chair Toni Weinstein, Council Vice-Chair Amy Burns, Councilor Helen Sanders, Councilor Megan Brabec, and Councilor Jonathan Kiper. Councilor Zachary Dumont and Councilor Scott Blackstone attended via zoom.

ALSO PRESENT: Town Manager Stephen Fournier and Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary

Approved Minutes 11/18/2020

MINUTES

PUBLIC FORUM

Chair Weinstein opened the public forum at 7:02pm. There was no public comment. The Chair closed the public forum at 7:03pm.

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

October 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *the October 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

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

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Fournier reported on information he just received regarding the proposed New Road Drainage Project. The Town submitted an application with NH DES for a loan program of \$1M for the project. He explained that in order for the Town to receive 10% forgiveness of the loan we have to submit a ballot question for the \$1M debt. A Resolution will be presented to the

Council prior to the ballot question.

Overview of the Town Manager's written report:

Election update – Town Manager Fournier thanked the Town Clerk and her Staff, Election Officials, Town Councilors, and Volunteers for their hard work resulting in a smoothly run State General Election. He reminded everyone the Resolution for the two polling places did sunset and the Council may want to discuss implementing it again in the future.

Deliberative Session - The legislature passed HB1129 allowing for an alternative Town Meeting during the state of emergency such as hosting a live virtual meeting and information session or moving the meeting out of town to a larger facility to allow for social distancing. He said the law is unclear and he would seek an opinion from the New Hampshire Municipal Association.

COVID-19 Update – As of October 27th Newmarket has 5 individual cases of COVID-19 and no official deaths. There are no known large quarantining groups that have recently been mentioned. The emergency management team makes sure we have correct figures and information.

Fire Truck – A large portion of the fire capital reserve fund will be used to pay for the truck and subsequent payments will be made from the same fund. The Resolution's first reading is on tonight's agenda.

Parking Commission – If established, a Parking Commission would review current parking situations and make recommendations to the Town Manager and Town Council.

Macallen Dam – The project is moving along well. During excavation for the precast block installation, a water line was damaged in the right abutment area. DPW worked with the construction company to repair it.

Solid Waste – With the uncertainty in the market, because of the pandemic, Town Manager Fournier will be requesting a one-year extension for the Casella agreement that is expiring in December and will go out to bid for a contract next fall.

Questions/Comments to the TM Report:

Chair Weinstein commended all those involved with the State General Election. She thanked the High School students that volunteered to help at the Election.

Chair Weinstein questioned why they were considering holding the deliberative session virtually when traditionally the sessions haven't been well attended. She commented that she would rather meet live and as a group.

Councilor Dumont asked whether or not the School would have to follow suit with the Town concerning the Deliberative Session.

Town Manager Fournier explained that traditionally the School holds its deliberative session the same day as the Town. He said they are an independent government and could do what they wanted while following the State's guidelines. As Emergency Management Director he advised against the School holding a public meeting if they could not guarantee that there would be room

enough for social distancing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Dumont reported that the Budget Committee met on October 26th and finalized a meeting schedule that he forwarded to the Councilors. He commented on the importance of showing support by attending the Budget Committee meetings when the Committee is reviewing and discussing the town's budget. He encouraged the Councilors to attend those meetings.

Committee Assignments

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *Councilor Blackstone to the Planning Board; Councilor Brabec to the Ordinance Oversight Committee and Chair Weinstein to the Planning Board as Alternate to the ex officio*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Town Manager Fournier stated that he is stepping down as Newmarket's Representative to the Coast Bus Board of Directors. He explained that the Board of Directors meet monthly on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am in Dover but they usually meet remotely. There were no Councilor appointments. The position will be advertised to the public.

Councilor Kiper expressed interest in serving on the parking commission if, and, when it is established and requested to step down as the Planning Board's Alternate to the ex officio. Chair Weinstein volunteered to take the Alternate position.

Councilor Blackstone volunteered to assume Councilor Matthew's position as Council ex officio to the Planning Board.

Councilor Brabec volunteered to assume Councilor Matthew's position on the Ordinance Oversight Committee

Motion was Passed by a vote of 7-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES IN THE 2ND READING

Resolution #2020/2021-10 Shared Facilities Director

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2020/2021-10 Shared Facilities Director*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Town Manager Fournier explained that School Superintendent, Susan Givens asked to have the prior MOU changed so that the position would be an employee of the School and the Town would basically contract the services from the School for live town projects, such as energy efficiencies. The budget formula would remain the same 70% School/30% Town. On the Town's side, the Town Manager would take a well-qualified staff person and elevate them to more of a "hands-on" Facilities Director to oversee the day to day operations. The School Board has

already approved the new MOU.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 7-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Michael Parkin - Housing Authority Commissioner - Term Expiration March 2023

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *Michael Parkin - Housing Authority Commissioner - Term Expiration - March 2023*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 7-0-0.

Cris Blackstone - Trustees of the Trust Funds - Term Expiration - April 2021

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *Cris Blackstone – Trustees of the Trust Funds – Term Expiration – April 2021*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

This is an elected position. This Appointment will be made to fill a vacant seat until the Town Election in March 2021.

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

Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

Resolution #2020/2021-11 - Water Plant Boiler Replacement

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2020/2021-11 into the record.

Resolution #2020/2021-12 - Adopting Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *Suspending the Rules*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 7-0-0.

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *Amending Resolution #2020/2021-12 - Adopting Fiscal Year 2022 Budget*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Town Manager Fournier asked the Council to amend Resolution #2020/2021-12 to include the \$50,000 the Council added into the budget for road reconstruction. The General Fund amount changed to \$8,769,292 and the total amount changed to \$13,729,433 to include the \$50,000.00.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 7-0-0.

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2020/2021-12 Adopting Fiscal Year 2022 Budget*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 7-0-0.

Resolution #2020/2021-13 - E-One Pumper Engine

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2020/2021-13 into the record

Resolution #2020/2021-14 - Creating a Parking Commission

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2020/2021-14 into the record

CLOSING COMMENTS BY TOWN COUNCILORS

Town Manager Fournier reminded the two new Councilors of the Council Orientation Session scheduled Monday morning at 9:00 am via Microsoft Teams.

Councilor Kiper commented on how smoothly the State General Election went and thanked everyone involved.

Councilor Blackstone said he went out during Halloween and was impressed with all the creative ways people had to dispense candy in a non-contact manner.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

November 18, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm without objection.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary