

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

December 2, 2020 7:00 PM

Auditorium and Zoom Meeting

The meeting will be conducted in the Town Hall Auditorium and is available via Zoom. 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, Councilor Zachary Dumont, and Councilor Jon Kiper.

PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Council Vice-Chair Amy Burns, Councilor Helen Sanders, Councilor Megan Brabec, and Councilor Scott Blackstone.

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

Approved December 16, 2020

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

Chair Weinstein mentioned a few requests regarding meeting etiquette:

- Please do not speak unless recognized by the Chair
- Virtual attendees stay muted unless recognized by the Chair and be mindful that it is a public meeting viewed on channel 13
- Raise a hand when wishing to speak, or Councilors use NovusAgenda request to speak

MINUTES

PUBLIC FORUM

Chair Weinstein opened the Public Forum at 7:05 PM.

Chris Hawkins, Town Moderator, gave a recap of the recent State General Election. Preprocessing ballots allowed by state law in light of COVID 19 was helpful time-wise on election day. 90% of the ballots were preprocessed the Friday before the election. He mentioned that if preprocessing will continue to be allowed, even after the pandemic, he asks that the Council consider supporting that effort. Mr. Hawkins thanked the Town Clerk and her staff as well as the many volunteers and High School Students that participated in the Election.

Chair Weinstein thanked Mr. Hawkins for his work at the Election and closed the Public Forum at 7:12 PM.

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

November 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *the November 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

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

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Fournier said the Council should receive guidance from the Attorney General's Office soon regarding how to safely conduct the deliberative session and town meeting with Covid restrictions. He reached out to the School Board Chair to discuss the situation so everyone is on the same page

Highlights of the Town Manager's Report:

- COVID-19 - As of November 30th, less than 0.04% of the population active cases; 0.8% cumulative cases and 21% have been tested.
- Newmarket was awarded the community block grants - \$500,000 for New Road water line upgrade; \$500,000 for heating and water supply for Great Hill Terrace; \$25,000 to study establishing a daycare with Linked Together; \$45,000 for the Rec Department afterschool program and a van for the senior center.
- Giving Tree - will be limited to only those people who will speak at the event. It will be online live via Channel 13 Facebook on December 5th at 5:00 PM.
- Revision Energy is providing the Town with two Nissan electric vehicle charging stations. They will be located at the Town Hall and Community Center. The Town is responsible for the installation fee. The Nissan brand plugs are not Nissan specific.
- Casella Waste put together a one-year proposal for the collection of MSW and recycling. The agreement will be forthcoming at the next meeting and he will ask the Council to suspend the rules and sign it. He also mentioned that the trash bags will increase in price.
- Noise Ordinance - there have been several complaints received about noise from the Stone Church. The Town Manager, Police Chief, and Business Owner will meet to determine what can be done to lessen the impact on the neighbors. The Town Manager will ask the Town Council Ordinance Committee to review the noise ordinance. The outdoor eating permit was not designed with noise restrictions. Town Manager Fournier commented that this is the first complaint received during the pandemic, and allowing the restaurants outdoor eating during the pandemic has been very successful in this town as well as the surrounding communities.

Chair Weinstein asked for questions or comments on the Town Manager's Report.

Councilor Kiper asked if the Council should establish a Committee to look at different options for recycling because of the costs involved. Such as looking into the costs of sorting versus single-stream recycling.

Chair Weinstein said that the Energy and Environment Committee doesn't have the bandwidth to look into it. Curbside pickup is a huge cost and is a good idea to look into it.

Councilor Blackstone said he lives close to the Stone Church and has no complaints. He said he appreciates the Town Manager working with the Business Owners.

The Ordinance Oversight Committee will meet to discuss the noise ordinance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *the Appointment of Councilor Megan Brabec as Councilor Representative to the Conservation Commission in Councilor Jon Kiper's stead*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Councilor Kiper asked Councilor Brabec to take over his Conservation Commission Committee Assignment for the remainder of the term. Town Manager Fournier informed the Council that there would have to be a motion and vote for such a change.

Councilor Dumont said that the Budget Committee met on November 30th and reviewed the proposed budget for the Town. Their next meeting is Monday, December 7th and the Public Hearing for the proposed town budget is scheduled for December 14th. Town Manager Fournier said there will be a separate Public Hearing on the proposed \$1M Bond for the New Road project.

Councilor Weinstein reported that the Energy and Environment Committee met last night and the members are formulating goals for the Committee. A Resolution will be presented to the council soon that would ask for support to a commitment to using all renewable energy by 2030.

The vote on the Motion to Appoint Megan Brabec to the Conservation Commission.

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

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES IN THE 2ND READING

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Gerald Martin - Council Nomination to the Lamprey River Advisory Committee

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *to nominate Gerald Martin to the Lamprey River Advisory Committee*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

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

Ann Cudworth - Ad hoc Arts and Tourism Commission - Term Expiration December 2021

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *the appointment of Ann Cudworth to the Ad hoc Arts and Tourism Commission with a term expiring December 2021*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Ms. Cudworth was present virtually and said that she has a background in art and design.

Councilor Sanders said that Ms. Cudworth attended the last Arts and Tourism meeting and will make an excellent member to the Commission.

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

Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

Resolution # 2020/2021-15 - Access Route to Tucker Well

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2020/2021-15 by title only into the record without objection.

Resolution # 2020/2021 -16 - Vac Truck Repair

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2020/2021-16 into the record.

Resolution #2020/2021-17 - Downtown TIF

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2020/2021-17 into the record.

Resolution #2020/2021-18 - South Main Street Reclassification from 108 to Grant Road

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2020/2021-18 into the record.

Resolution #2020/2021-19 - Include \$1M Bond on 2021 Town Warrant for Stormwater Improvements on New Road

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2020/2021-19 into the record.

Ordinance No. 3 - 2020/2021 Reaffirming Wearing Face Covering in Town

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *Ordinance No. 3 - 2020/2021 Reaffirming Wearing Face Covering in Town*, which was seconded by Councilor Kiper.

Town Manager Fournier explained that the Ordinance is to continue the emergency ordinance adopted this past summer for another 61 days expiring February 6, 2021. He said the Governor enacted a mandatory face-covering executive order. The Council always has the option to rescind the Town's Ordinance if need be.

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

Ordinance No. 4 - Floodplain Protection Overlay District Amendments

Chair Weinstein read Ordinance No. 4 - Floodplain Protection Overlay District Amendments into the record by title only without objection.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Dumont received a complaint about the noise at the Stone Church and encouraged anyone who felt they had an issue to contact the Town Manager.

Councilor Kiper said the Stone Church has done a great job adhering to the COVID restrictions. He said the owners have made a concerted effort to lower the volume of the music and believes the music ends by 9:00 PM. He suggested showing a little grace towards the owners during the Pandemic.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

December 16, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 7:58 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary