

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

January 6, 2021 7:00 PM

Town Hall Auditorium and Zoom

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.

Councilors Present: Council Chair Toni Weinstien and Zachary Dumont. Present Virtually: Council Vice Chair Amy Burns, Councilor Helen Sanders, Councilor Jon Kiper, Councilor Megan Brabec and Councilor Scott Blackstone.

Others Present: Town Manager Stephen Fournier and Wendy Chase Recording Secretary

Chair Weinstein convened the meeting at 7:00PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Manager Fournier read the meeting access preamble.

DRAFT MINUTES

MINUTES

PUBLIC FORUM

Chair Weinstein opened the public forum at 7:04PM.

Chair Weinstein closed the public forum at 7:05PM without public comment.

PUBLIC HEARING

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

December 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *the December 16, 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 reported on the following:

- COVID-19 - As of January 5th there are 36 active cases and 279 cumulative cases; of the 279 cases, 37 are associated with an institutional (senior care) setting. Many first responders and emergency response team have received their first inoculation of the vaccine. The Town Manager asks residents not to call the town hall, but instead call their healthcare provider for vaccine information.
- Deliberative Session/Optional Town Meeting - The Council will hold two virtual meetings to inform the voters about the proposed optional meeting procedures. After the first meeting voters have the opportunity to comment on the articles by Email: townmeeting@newmarketnh.gov; Mail: Town Meeting Comments, 186 Main Street, Newmarket, NH 03857; Phone: (603)659-3617 extension 1301; Drop off comments at Town Hall in the dropbox on the Church side of the building. All comments must include your name and address and be submitted by February 2nd at noon. The Council will review all comments at the second meeting on February 2nd and deliberate any changes suggested by the comments. The Town will hold its regular municipal election on March 9th at the Town Hall from 7AM to 7PM. those not feeling safe should request an absentee ballot as soon as possible. Town Clerk's phone: 603-659-3717 extension 4070. After the election of officers and bond issue, the first question will be to see if the voters approve of the optional town meeting procedures. If this question is not proved, all questions will not pass except for the election of officers. Manager Fournier has been working with the Superintendent of School to have a comment process for both. A mailer will be sent to all registered voters.
- New Road Bond - There will be a virtual special town council public hearing on January 19 at 7PM for the New Road Bond. The public hearing pursuant to RSA 33:8-a is to discuss the issuance of a bond or note in the amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for the purpose of upgrading the stormwater system on New Road.
- Facilities Director Position - The first rounds of interviews have been conducted.
- Great Bay Half Marathon - Manager Fournier has been working with Loco Sports to begin the return of the Great Bay Half Marathon and 5K road race this April.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Dumont reported that the Budget Committee met on January 4th and they passed the School Budget.

Chair Weinstein said the Energy and Environment Committee met on January 5th and they are working on the Resolution suggesting the Town Council commit to renewable sources of energy by 2030. It will be presented to the Town Council within the next month or so.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES IN THE 2ND READING

Resolution #2020/2021-20 - Elderly Exemption Increase

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2020/2021-20 - Elderly Exemption and Asset Limit Increase*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Town Manager Fournier explained the recommended increases to the tax exemption and asset limit amounts. He said that the current income limit is comparable with surrounding communities and does not recommend changes to that.

The exemption amounts recommended increase by \$25,000 off the total assessment and the Asset Limits increase from \$150,000 to \$175,000.

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

Resolution #2020/2021-23 - FY2022 Default Budget

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2020/2021-23 FY2022 Default Budget*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Town Manager Fournier said that pursuant to state law, the Town Council has to provide a default budget in case the proposed budget does not pass at the town meeting. The default budget reduces the proposed budget by \$236,852.

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

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES IN THE 3RD READING

ITEMS LAID ON THE TABLE

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Warren Basch - Parking Committee - Term Expiration December 2023

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *the Appointment of Warren Basch to the Parking Commission with a term expiration of December 2023*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

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

William Barr - Parking Committee - Term Expiration December 2023

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *the Appointment of William Barr to the Parking Commission with a term expiration of December 2023*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

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

Melissa Brogle - Conservation Commission Alternate Position - Term Expiration - April 2023

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *the Appointment of Melissa Brogle as an Alternate Member to the Conservation Commission with a term expiration of April 2023*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Melissa Brogle was in attendance via Zoom and introduced herself and explained that she has lived in Newmarket for seven years and decided applying for an alternate position to the Conservation Commission would be a good way to get involved.

Chair Weinstein thanked her for her interest.

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

Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

Resolution #2020/2021-25 - Audit Services

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2020/2021-25 - Audit Services into the record.

Resolution #2020/2021-26 - Splash Pad & Restroom Facility installation and build on Leo Landroche Field

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2020/2021-26 - Splash Pad and Restroom Facilities at the Leo Landroche athletic fields into the record.

Resolution #2020/2021-27 - Approve Optional Town Meeting Guidelines

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *Suspending the Rules to act on Resolution 2020/2021-27 to Approve Optional Town Meeting Guidelines*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

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

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2020/2021-27 Approve Optional Town Meeting Guidelines*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Town Manager Fournier explained that for the safety of the residents he recommends the Council approves the Optional Town Meeting Guidelines Resolution. There is a surge in Covid case numbers and the Town must be prepared in case a large crowd wishes to attend the Deliberative Session. He also explained that the Department of Revenue did not give an opinion on the matter and the Town's Attorney is working with the Bond Counsel to get them to agree with this recommendation.

Chair Weinstein asked if any other municipality is taking this route. Town Manager Fournier said that North Conway did for their 2020 town election but had a full drive-thru voting in place. He said that we will hold the election in the auditorium at the Town Hall, but will also offer drive-thru voting per the guidelines and will reserve parking spaces for that purpose.

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

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

Planning Board 12/22/2020 Letter - re: Impact Fees

Town Manager Fournier read a letter from the Planning Board to the Town Council regarding a change to the Zoning Ordinances to rescind water and sewer impact fees.

The Planning Board is holding a Public Hearing on the subject in January and will present a new ordinance and recommendation to rescind the current ordinance to the Town Council soon after that.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Kiper commented that he is excited for the Recreation Department with the Splash Pad coming into fruition.

Chair Weinstein reminded everyone that the filing period for candidacy begins January 20, 2021, and ends Friday, January 29, 2021. The Town Clerk is open on that Friday from 3PM-5PM. The open positions are as follows:

Town Council: two 3-year terms and two 2-year terms

Budget Committee: three 3-year terms; two 2-year terms and one 1-year term

Planning Board: two 3-year terms

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: one 3-year term

Trustees of the Trust Funds: one 3-year term

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Public Hearing January 19, 2021; Regular Meeting January 20, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary