

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

January 5, 2022 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

Approved January 19, 2022

Councilors Present: Council Chair Toni Weinstein, Council Vice-chair Helen Sanders (via zoom), Councilor Jonathan Kiper, Councilor Megan Brabec, Councilor Scott Blackstone, Councilor Katanna Conley and Councilor Brian Ward (via zoom).

Staff Present: Town Manager Stephen Fournier, Environmental Services Director Sean Greig and Wendy Chase Recording Secretary.

Chair Weinstein convened the meeting at 7:05 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM

Chair Weinstein opened the Public Forum at 7:07 PM.

There was no one from the public present.

Chair Weinstein closed the Public Forum at 7:07 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the Municipal Finance Act, RSA Chapter 33, the Newmarket Town Council will hold a public hearing pursuant to RSA 33:8-a to discuss the issuance of a bond or note in the amount of \$75,000 loan to conduct a Sludge Thickening & Supplemental Carbon Upgrade Survey.

Town Manager Fournier explained that the Public Hearing is only a formality. Town Counsel confirmed that a Public Hearing was not required because the amount of the loan is under \$100,000. The Resolution was approved by Town Council on December 15, 2021.

Chair Weinstein opened the Public Hearing at 7:08 PM.

There was no one from the public present.

Chair Weinstein closed the Public Hearing at 7:08 PM.

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

December 15, 2021

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *the December 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

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 and Vaccination Update: As of December 30, there are 58 active cases in the community and 1,056 cumulative cases. There have been a 19.6% increase in new cases over the past week in our health region. There is a slight increase in vaccinations. Town Manager Fournier placed a mandatory wearing of masks in all town facilities regardless of being vaccinated. He also stated that we will continue to follow DHHS' protocols for the time being. (Self isolation for at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first start and at least 24 hours have passed since having a fever).
- Code Enforcement Officer: The Position was offered to an individual who declined to take a position in another community. The Position will be re-advertised.
- Casella: Town Manager Fournier signed a one-year extension with the solid waste contract. He explained that it made sense to continue this agreement due to the ongoing pandemic and inflation costs. There is a slight increase from last year's contract to cover higher fuel costs.
- Town Manager Fournier announced that Community Development Director Diane Hardy has indicated her retirement in early March 2022.

Chair Weinstein commended the Public Works Department employees for working on Christmas day plowing/salting and sanding the roads. Town Manager Fournier said that they were down one truck due to a near miss rollover. (No one was hurt).

Chair Weinstein commented that Diane Hardy has done a lot of work for Newmarket for a long time. She congratulated her.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Ward reported on the December 27th Budget Committee Meeting. The January 3, 2022 Budget Committee Public Hearing for FY2023 Town Budget was rescheduled to January 10, 2022 at 6:30 PM in the auditorium. The Library presented their budget. There was discussion of having a Town Council or Budget Committee Representative to the Library. He opined that there may not be a need for that, but if the Council thought it necessary he would agree to be the Representative.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES IN THE 2ND READING

Resolution #2021/2022-22 - Amendment to the Ad hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee Membership

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2021/2022-22 - Amendment to the Ad hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee Membership*, which was seconded by Councilor Brabec.

Town Manager Fournier explained that there was a town employee as an advisory member on the Committee who recently retired and is not a town resident but is a Newmarket commercial and business owner. This individual would be beneficial to the advisory committee. It is a non-voting membership position.

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

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

There was no correspondence.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Kiper referred to an article he read on wbur.org [Some Towns are making money on recycling than they have in years; what's changed?](#) Towns like Derry and Hooksett have been making some money off of recycling. The recycling is sorted at the transfer station instead of curbside pick up.

Chair Weinstein said that the Energy and Environment Committee has spent a lot of time researching solid waste and recycling; they toured Eliot Maine's operations. She said there are issues like space and staffing. There may be a savings on recycling when sorted, but there may be an increase in labor costs. The Council should look into what would be cost effective.

Councilor Conley wished everyone a Happy New Year and encouraged people to get vaccinated and to stay safe.

Chair Weinstein reminded everyone the filing period for elected positions begins January 19th through January 28th. There are multiple positions available. She wished everyone a Happy New Year.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

January 19, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary