

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

November 17, 2021 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

Approved Minutes 12/2/2021

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

Staff: Town Manager Stephen Fournier, Finance Director William Tappan, and Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary.

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

AGENDA

Approved December 2, 2021

PUBLIC FORUM

Chair Weinstein acknowledged that there was no one from the public in attendance.

Chair Weinstein closed the Public Forum at 7:03 PM.

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

November 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *the November 3, 2021, Meeting Minutes*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

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

November 3, 2021 Town Council/Planning Board Joint Meeting Minutes

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *the November 3, 2021, Town Council/Planning Board Joint Meeting Minutes*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

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

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager's Report

- **Tax Rate** - The new tax rate is \$25.26, a 3.5% increase over last year. The Town reduced by 17 cents; the Local School increased by \$1.12; State School decreased by 6 cents and the County increased by 1 cent.
- **COVID-19 and Vaccination Update:** As of November 12, there are 21 active cases in the community with 758 cumulative cases. The Seacoast and Rockingham County region has seen a 6.1% increase in new cases over the past week; this is up 2.4% from the previous week.
- **Vaccines for 5 to 11-year-olds:** The Town is working with Lamprey Health Care - there will be a vaccination clinic for children in that age group on Saturday, November 20 at the Newmarket Elementary School. The second dose will be administered on December 11.
- **FY22 Update:** We have completed the first third of the year at the end of October; 36% of the operating budget has been expended. There is an uptick in revenues due to building permits and motor vehicle registrations.
- **Facilities Update:** We will need to address space issues for Town Hall as well as electrical and energy issues. There are a few underutilized facilities, such as the Beech St. Community Center and the Packers Falls Water Facility. The Town Manager will be working with the Facilities Director to issue a request for proposal to hire a firm to review our current facilities and space needs.
- **Water and Sewer Lines Upgrades - "The Hill" Section:** With Bay Rd. and South Main St. upgrades being completed, the Environmental Services Department is looking to upgrade the utility lines under "the Hill" section of town. These streets are in the area bounded by Spring, South, Elm, and Main Streets. This will be a major undertaking due to the age of the system and how developed the area is. At the same time, we should upgrade the streetscapes and sidewalks to match the streetscapes of Main Street. The Environmental Services Director has asked an engineering firm to provide an estimate just for the design phase in order to allow us to plan for the coming years.

Department Reports

Councilor Blackstone commented on the Department Reports regarding pictures of equipment and projects. He had previously requested that more pictures and descriptions be added to the Department reports. He suggested that more in-depth descriptions be added to the included pictures to get a better understanding of each picture.

Town Manager Fournier will inform the Departments of Councilor Blackstone's request.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Sanders reported that the Arts & Tourism Commission plans to add "Mistletoe Selfie Spots" at 3 or 4 locations on Main Street for Merry Main Street. People are encouraged to take selfies and upload pictures onto the FaceBook page.

Councilor Blackstone reported on the November 9th Planning Board meeting. A member of the public was present to compliment the Board, specifically Town Planner Diane Hardy for the work that they do for the Town. He also mentioned that the Planning Board members were

disappointed with the joint meeting held on November 3rd with the Town Council. They would like to hold another joint meeting after the March elections and have an approved agenda for that meeting. The Council was agreeable to that.

Chair Weinstein informed the Council that the letter she was authorized to draft was sent to the Planning Board.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES IN THE 2ND READING

Resolution #2021/2022-12 - Newfields Dispatch Agreement

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2021/2022-12 - Newfields Dispatch Agreement*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

Town Manager Fournier explained that Newmarket provides Dispatch services to the Town of Newfields and the towns sign a three-year agreement. There were no changes made to the original agreement.

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

Resolution #2021/2022-14 - Authorizing the Issuance of Refunding Bond

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2021/2022-14 - Authorizing the Issuance of Refunding Bonds*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

Finance Director Tappan explained that they will be refinancing two separate bonds from the Environmental Services Department saving the Town \$322,000 over a number of years. He also mentioned that he is trying to get a bond rating for the Town. Councilor Blackstone said that there are some advantages to that but also disadvantages.

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

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Julianna Tyson - Conservation Commission Alternate Member - Term Expires April 2024

Julianna Tyson's Application was tabled to the December 1, 2021 meeting pending on further information by the Applicant.

Julianna Tyson - Energy & Environment Committee - Term Expiration April 2022

Julianna Tyson's Application was tabled to the December 1, 2021 meeting pending on further information by the Applicant.

Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

Resolution #2021/2022-15 - Tucker Well Construction Engineering

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2021/2022-15 into the record.

Resolution #2021/2022-16 - New Road Watermain Replacement and Drainage Improvements Project

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2021/2022-16 into the record.

Resolution #2021/2022-17 - Route 108 Sewermain Bottleneck Replacement

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2021/2022-17 into the record.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

There was no correspondence to the Council.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Blackstone thanked S.E.L.T. for putting up the new signs at the Neal Mill Road Trail.

Councilor Ward announced that there will be an event at the Mill Space honoring Wentworth Cheswill on Friday, November 19th at 7:00 PM. They will be discussing designs for a statue of him.

Councilor Weinstein congratulated the High School Girl's Soccer Team for their Division IV Championship win. She also congratulated the Girl's Track Team for their Divisional win. Senator Rebecca Perkins Kwoka plans to introduce a Resolution on the Senate Floor in support of the Girls. Councilor Weinstein reached out to the School Board Chair to see what plans they had on recognizing these accomplishments and thought the Town could get involved.

The Town Manager and some of the Councilors attend the NHMA Conference and attended some of the workshops. Discussion ensued on the Right to Know Law regarding when a meeting is considered a public meeting. Town Manager Fournier explained that a shared document on google drive where members make changes to it is a violation of the Right to Know Law. He reminded committee members to send documents by pdf and to save comments for their public meetings.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

December 1, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Weinstein wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and adjourned the meeting at 7:41 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary