

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

October 20, 2021 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

Agenda

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

Councilors Excused: Councilor Jon Kiper and Councilor Brian Ward.

Staff Present: Town Manager Stephen Fournier and Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary.

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

AGENDA

APPROVED NOVEMBER 3, 2021

PUBLIC FORUM

There was no one from the public in attendance.

Chair Weinstein closed the Public Forum at 7:01 PM..

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

October 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *the October 6, 2021, Meeting Minutes*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Stephen Fournier's Report to the Council:

- The 2022 Town Meeting is Tuesday, March 8th, the Deliberative Session is scheduled for Saturday, February 5th with a snow date of Saturday, February 12th. Filing period for declaration of candidacy opens 1/19/2022 and closes 1/28/2022. The Budget will be presented to the Budget Committee on 11/29/2021.

- **Website:** The new town website is now online.
- **COVID-19 and Vaccination Update:** As of October 19, there are 9 active cases in the community and 710 cumulative cases. The Seacoast and Rockingham County both have substantial levels of community transmission. The Seacoast Health Region has seen a 5.6% increase in new cases over the past week; 60% of the community has been vaccinated by at least one shot.
- **USA 250 - Newmarket 300:** The Town will be celebrating the semi-quincentennial (250 years) of the United States in 2026 and Newmarket's tercentenary (300 years) in 2027. The Historical Society held a visioning session for ideas on how to celebrate these anniversaries. They decided that they would like to have the Town Council appoint a formal committee to organize these celebrations. The Town has a Capital Reserve Fund set up for these types of celebrations. There will be more meetings to plan the celebrations throughout the years.
- **Economic Development Plan:** There will be a joint meeting in November.

FY 2023 Proposed Budget Review

Town Manager Fournier presented the FY2023 Proposed Budget. It is estimated that there will be a 3-cent increase in the town's portion of the tax rate.

Department Reports September 2021

DPW Report:

Councilor Blackstone would like to see more pictures in the Public Works Department's monthly report. He said it would be more helpful to have a visual of the Department's activities. He commented that the Police Department Report is a good example.

Councilors Conley and Weinstein thanked the Pubic Works Department for finishing the paving on Bay Road and South Main Street. Chair Weinstein asked the Town Manager for a sidewalk plan.

Police Report:

Councilor Conley congratulated Dispatcher Quist and French for de-escalating a dangerous situation. She congratulated Officer Gott who will be the new Resource Officer at the Elementary School.

Fire Report:

Councilor Sanders congratulated the Department on both ambulances being certified at the paramedic level and more staff have become licensed paramedics.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ad hoc Arts and Tourism Commission – reported by Councilor Sanders

- The Commission will be sponsoring a booth at the Halloween Haunt at the Rec Center on

Saturday 10/23, 2-4 PM.

- The Historical Society is working on a self-guided audio tour scheduled to take place in spring 2022.
- Organizing a chocolate event for February 2023.
- Would like to reach out to poets, writers, and actors for scheduled performances at the "Art Walk" in the spring and would like to reach out to young people interested in the Arts to display their artwork.

Conservation Commission – Councilor Brabec

- SELT sent sample parking signs to Steve and Rick for approval for Neal Mill Road
- Steve will investigate the process to reclassify a portion of roadway to a Class A Trail.
- There were 15 volunteers cleaning up the trails at Heron Point on Saturday 10/16.

Planning Board – Councilor Blackstone

- The amendment to the previously approved site plan submitted by Walter Cheney Jr./Cheney Property Management Corp. was approved. The proposed 3-story mixed-use structure (28 residential units and commercial uses on the first floor) is located at 50-56 Exeter Road. The Board approved extending the timeframe of two years to four years for substantial development of the lots to be completed.
- The Board approved a condominium conversion on existing apartments at 11-13 Cedar Street.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

Resolution #2021/2022-10 - Capital Asset Policy

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2021/2022-10 - Capital Asset Policy, in title only, into the record without objection.

Chair Weinstein informed the public that they may review the proposed Resolution on the town's website.

Resolution #2021/2022-11 - Kingman Masonic Block Tax Incentive (RSA 79E)

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2021/2022-11 - Kingman Masonic Block Tax Incentive into the record.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

There was no correspondence to the Council.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Blackstone asked if there was a town sign replacement policy. He said that the directional sign on Exeter Street for the Recreation Department needs to be replaced along with

the directional sign "turn left" at the Elementary School. The Town Manager will look into implementing a sign replacement policy. Councilor Blackstone thanked Blooming Newmarket for the scarecrows placed around town in the flower beds.

There will be a Joint Town Council/Planning Board meeting on November 3, 2021, at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium.

Chair Weinstein said that Sarah Stinson has reached out to her regarding the UNH Transit Service. She has been involved in making sure the Newmarket route continues. Ms. Stinson will periodically give the Council updates. She said that there will be a joint Town Council/School Board Meeting after the March election on April 13, 2022, at 6:00 PM in the Auditorium.

Chair Weinstein reminded everyone of the Budget presentation on this Saturday at 9:00 AM and mentioned that if anyone had any procedural questions to please reach out to the Town Manager prior to the meeting.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

October 23, 2021 Town Council Budget Workshop

November 3, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary