

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

February 17, 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 Weinstein and Councilor Zachary Dumont. Councilors Present Virtually: Vice-Chair Amy Burns, Councilor Jonathan Kiper, Councilor Helen Sanders, Councilor Megan Brabec, and Councilor Scott Blackstone.

Staff Present: Town Manager Stephen Fournier, Police Chief Kyle True, Police Lieutenant Greg Jordan, Police Officer Wilson Wardana, Environmental Services Director Sean Greig, and Wendy Chase Recording Secretary.

Chair Weinstein called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Town Manager Fournier read the virtual meeting preamble.

Recording Secretary Chase called the roll.

Chair Weinstein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

DRAFT MINUTES

MINUTES

PUBLIC FORUM

Chair Weinstein opened the public forum at 7:05 PM.

Chief True introduced the Police Department's newly hired Police Officer Wilson Wardana followed by his bio:

Officer Wardana graduated from Dover High School, attended Great Bay Community College, and enlisted in the US Army. He currently serves as a US Military Police Officer and is fluent in Indonesian.

Chair Weinstein asked about the hiring process for a new recruit.

Chief True explained the lengthy hiring process:

- Pick a candidate from Great Bay College

- Fingerprint process
- Physical agility test
- Interview with Chief
- Full background check
- Polygraph test
- Psychological test
- Occupational health tests including blood tests and a physical exam to determine if there are any preexisting conditions.

Officer Wardana said he was looking forward to working for the Town of Newmarket.

Chair Weinstein closed the public forum at 7:10 PM.

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

January 19, 2021 Public Hearing Minutes

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *the January 19, 2021 Public Hearing Minutes*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

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

February 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *the February 3, 2021 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 Update:** As of February 10 there are 19 active cases and 387 cumulative cases. Over the last 14 days, there are 35 new cases. 5,498 PCR tests have been issued and tests have been taken.
- **Vaccination:** The Governor has announced that the State is partnering with Walgreens to distribute more doses of the vaccine. These doses are in addition to what the State already has. The Walgreen vaccines will be available to individuals that have already signed up for the vaccine.
- **Newfields Village Water & Sewer District:** A letter was received from the NVWSD Commissioners regarding their town's future water needs. The District is exploring purchasing all or a portion of their water from an outside source, namely Newmarket. Newmarket averages about 370,000 gallons of water per day; Newfields averages between 37,000 and 60,000 gallons per day. It could be a significant revenue source for Newmarket. Any inter-municipal agreement would come before the Council. Highlight: 9

years ago there was barely enough water to provide our community with water. Due to the investment of the town, we are now able to offer water to more portions of our community as well as others.

- **Return of Room and Meals Tax Funding:** Senate Bill 99-FN - removing the limit on the amount of room and meals tax placed on municipalities has been introduced. Room and Meals tax replaced other taxes the state and municipalities collected - the State would receive 60% and local governments 40%. Since the 1990s this has been continuously reduced and limited. Members of the Council are encouraged to contact our legislative delegation to support returning these funds to the local government.
- **FY21 Financial Report:** We have completed 58% of the fiscal year and have expended 62% of the operating budget. We have collected 92% of our estimated revenues. Motor vehicles are on track at 61% collected and we have only collected 39% of the estimated budget.
- **Macallen Dam:** Renovations to Macallen Dam are on schedule.

Department Reports

Town Manager Fournier referred to the Fire Chief's report which states that within the next couple of months the Department will have 5 paramedics. Fire Chief Malasky will present a proposal to the Town Manager and Town Council in early April outlining the benefits.

Chair Weinstein asked how the DPW's budget was affected by the February snow events. The Town Manager will find out and report back.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Brabec reported that the Conservation Commission met on February 11th. The Commission received grant funds to do habitat work on the Wiggin Farm Conservation land. The Commission inquired how they go about hiring an organization to complete the work. Town Manager Fournier said that if the project is over a certain amount of money it will need Council approval. He said he will review the purchasing policy and make sure the Conservation Commission will be able to accept the grant.

Councilor Blackstone reported that the Planning Board met on February 9th. An applicant has a purchase and sales agreement for 75 Neal Mill Road. There was opposition to the plan including the Conservation Commission and Southeast Land Trust because the land is surrounded by conservation land and a walking trail. The road is a Class V road and will eventually require the Council to make a decision on whether or not to authorize the issuance of building permits on a Class V Road.

Chair Weinstein said that the Energy and Environment Committee met last night. There is an RFP in the works for a solarized program. The idea is to increase the number of residential solar projects. The Committee is working on a Resolution to present to the Council that will ask the Council to support transitioning to renewable energy by the year 2030 for electricity, and the year 2050 for fuel.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES IN THE 2ND READING

Resolution #2020/2021-31 - Purchase of UPS Units for Dispatch

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2020/2021-31 - Purchase of UPS Units for Dispatch*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Lieutenant Greg Jordan explained that the UPS Units are basically a battery backup with uninterruptible power allowing the upkeep of power to radio frequencies and phones.

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

Resolution #2020/2021-32 - New Road Water and Drainage Improvements

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2020/2021-32 New Road Water and Drainage Improvements*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

Environmental Services Director Sean Greig explained that this resolution is to finish the engineering for the water and drainage projects. There are two parts to the project. The water portion of the project has been approved and the drainage portion of the project is on the March town ballot for approval. If the drainage portion does not pass by town vote they will still complete the water portion. He pointed out that the engineering is for both portions of the project. He estimates that if the drainage passes in March they should have the project finished this summer and have the road paved by the fall.

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

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Richard Alperin - Cemetery Trustee - Term Expiration April 2024

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *the Reappointment of Richard Alperin to the Cemetery Trustees for a term expiration of April 2024*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

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

Michael Pelczar - Cemetery Trustee - Term Expiration April 2024

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *the Reappointment of Michael Pelczar to the Cemetery Trustees with a term expiration of April 2024*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

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

Nancy Eaton - Reappointment to the Veteran's Memorial Trust Committee - Term Expiration April 2024

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *the Reappointment of Nancy Eaton to the Veterans Memorial Trust Committee with a term expiration of April 2024*, which was seconded by Councilor Dumont.

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

Derek Fisher - Non-resident Business Owner member to the Parking Commission - Term Expiration December 2023

Councilor Burns made a motion to Approve *the Appointment of Derek Fisher as a non-resident business owner 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.

Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

Resolution #2020/2021-33 - Acceptance of Boulder Drive as a Town Road

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2020/2021-33 into the record.

Resolution #2020/2021-34 - South Main Street, Bay Road, and Cushing Road Water Project

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2020/2021-34 into the record.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

None

CLOSING COMMENTS BY TOWN COUNCILORS

Chair Weinstein mentioned that there are plenty of board vacancies for any town resident interested in getting involved with the community.

Councilor Dumont reiterated what Chair Weinstein said and added that there are 15 board/committee vacancies and encouraged people to volunteer.

Councilor Kiper mentioned that Wentworth Cheswill will be featured on NH Chronicle at the end of the month and there is an article on his life coming out in NH Magazine, also at the end of the month.

Chair Weinstein said that she reached out to the Business Association and asked if they planned to host a Candidate's night as they have done in the past. If they do host it, it will most likely be via Zoom.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

March 3, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary