



Town Council Regular Session

January 4, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

MINUTES

1. Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Roll Call

Present: Council Chair Toni Weinstein, Vice-chair Katanna Conley (remotely), Councilor Megan Brabec, Councilor Scott Blackstone, Councilor Brian Ward, Councilor Joe LaMattina, Councilor Colin White

Staff: Town Manager Stephen Fournier and Environmental Services Director Sean Greig

Absent: Recording Secretary

3. Public Forum

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

There was no one from the public in attendance.

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

4. Town Council to Consider Acceptance of Minutes

a. December 21, 2022

Motion: Councilor White made a motion to approve the December 21, 2022 meeting minutes.

Second: Councilor LaMattina

Discussion: Councilor LaMattina questioned the sentence in the Town Manager's report regarding the 15 minute temporary parking pilot program. The minutes were amended to reflect that the pilot program is not currently in effect and may include 2 parking spots on Central Street next to Crackskulls to allow 15 minutes of temporary parking.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved as amended**

5. Report of the Town Manager

a. Town Manager's Report January 4, 2023

- Amendment to the Historic Overlay District: The Town Manager, at the December 7th meeting, brought to the Council an amendment to the zoning ordinance proposed by Councilor Blackstone. The Town Manager

met with the Community Development Director to review the procedure for adoption. It was determined that our ordinances do not allow the Council to amend the Zoning Ordinance without Planning Board review. Because the Council agreed to the matter, the Town Manager has written to the Planning Board asking them to act on the proposed amendment.

Sec. 24-1. - Zoning Ordinance amendment procedure: (1) Submission to planning board. Other than changes to the zoning ordinance proposed by the planning board, all requests for amendments to the zoning ordinance, which shall be presented to the town council, shall be referred to the planning board for its consideration. The planning board shall submit its recommendations concerning such requests to the council within 90 days after the referral has been made by the town council.

Town Manager Fournier said that he will enforce the Council Rules and Town Charter and only act upon nominations, ordinances and resolutions as outlined in the rules and the Town Charter, making the process more accurate and official. Discussion ensued on how to introduce potential Resolutions to the Council. Town Manager Fournier explained that a Councilor may introduce a Resolution to the Town Council for a first and second reading or a Councilor, during closing comments on the agenda, or by emailing the Town Manager directly, may bring up a subject matter and ask the Town Manager to draft a Resolution to present to the Council. The Council can determine at the first reading whether or not the Resolution should be reviewed by another board or committee prior to the second reading. There should be no vote or consensus at a meeting unless it's a Resolution, Ordinance or Appointment.

- **Testing Wastewater for COVID and Other Illnesses:** The Town has volunteered to have the wastewater tested once per week for COVID receiving the results within a week. NH DES has taken over so we no longer receive the test results. Environmental Services Director Greig will contact NH DES to get the test results. To answer Councilor LaMattina's questions regarding testing, Director Greig is unaware of anyone testing wastewater for flu strains but it could be done at a substantial cost. The septage could be tested for COVID, but would be very costly. Currently, we cannot separate the septage from the town's wastewater; we will be able to once the septage receiving facility is constructed. The amount of septage the town receives each week compared to the population that the town's wastewater plant serves is small.
- **Budget Public Hearing/Town Meeting:** The Municipal Budget Committee Budget Public Hearing for the proposed school and town budgets will be Monday, January 9, 2023 at 6:30 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium. The Deliberative Session will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2023 in the Town Hall Auditorium. We don't have a set time for the deliberative session because the school session is scheduled first. The Town Elections will be held on March 14, 2023 from 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium. Town Manager Fournier noted that the town's borrowing warrant article does not require a public hearing because it is not in excess of \$100,000.
- Town Manager Fournier thanked and congratulated Librarian Kerry Cronin for her work at the Library and bringing the Library forward. Ms.

Cronin resigned to take a Librarian position in Stratham, NH. We do have an interim Librarian that we will soon meet.

Councilor Blackstone referred to the last meeting regarding the implementation of the two 15 minute temporary parking spaces on Central Street and asked when that would take place. Town Manager Fournier said that DPW Director Malasky, Chief Jordan and Community Development Director McDonough will stake out the spots during the nicer weather so they can draw up the lines and add signage.

6. Committee Reports

Councilor Brabec reported on the Arts & Tourism Commission:

The Commission did not have an official January meeting. The Commission is working on writing a dynamic plan on arts, culture and tourism. They want to know if they should present it to the Council as a resolution or come to the meeting to present it to the Council. Town Manager Fournier suggested the Commission contact the Community Development Director. He said many communities have an arts chapter in their Master Plan. As part of the Master Plan the plan will be a living document reviewed and updated every so often. Councilor Brabec was directed to email the Director and copy the Town Manager. Chair Weinstein asked if the suggested route would make the process take longer. Councilor Brabec said she was concerned about that also, but she doesn't think it would prevent the Commission's ability to work on future projects.

Councilor LaMattina reported on the Energy & Environment Committee:

Councilor LaMattina said that the Committee did not meet in December due to illnesses. The Committee will be meeting twice in January; January 11th and January 25th. They hope to finalize the energy aggregation plan and later present it to the Council.

7. Old Business

8. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 2nd Reading

- a. Resolution # 2022/2023-16 Thickener Project Award Authorization for T-Buck Construction

Motion: Councilor Ward made a motion to approve Resolution # 2022/2023-16 Thickener Project Award Authorization for T-Buck Construction

Second: Councilor LaMattina

Discussion: Environmental Services Director Greig explained that they received 3 bids and recommended that the Council approve the bid from T-Buck Construction. They presented the lowest bid. They are a well-sized firm and have very good references. The Town has never worked with T-Buck Construction.

Councilor Blackstone asked if there was Pfas in the polymer used in the Thickener. Director Greig was not sure but said by using the Thickener they would be using less polymer overall.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved**

- b. Resolution # 2022/2023 - 26 Authorizing the Issuance of Refunding Bond

Motion: Councilor Ward made a motion to approve Resolution # 2022/2023 - 26 Authorizing the Issuance of Refunding Bond

Second: Councilor LaMattina

Discussion: Environmental Services Director Greig explained that the town entered into an agreement with USDA Rural Development for \$6.819 Million Dollars with \$1.43 Million as grant money. We first had to borrow the money through TD Bank and now that we have spent the \$6.8 Million, we are able to pay off TD Bank and enter into a 26-year loan agreement with USDA Rural Development. This resolution was drawn up by Bond Counsel. He recommends approving this Resolution to finalize the agreement.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved**

- c. Resolution #2022/2023-27 - Approval of Police Collective Bargaining Agreement Local 215

Motion: Councilor Ward made a motion to approve Resolution #2022/2023-27 - Approval of Police Collective Bargaining Agreement Local 215

Second: Councilor LaMattina

Discussion: Town Manager Fournier explained that the 3-year agreement will include increases of \$3.50 across the board for every member of the collective bargaining union for the first year, with a 5% increase for the last 2 years. There will also be 1 hour of paid overtime for field training officers and communications officers that provide training each shift. The detail rate will increase but that amount gets passed on to the contracted individual. Call back for hours worked that exceed 4 hours will be guaranteed 8 hours pay and anything over 8 hours will be compensated time and 1/2 of the rate of pay. The increase will equate to \$167,385 for fiscal year 2024, amounting to 17 cents on the tax rate.

Town Manager Fournier explained the process: If the Council votes in favor of the Resolution the Town Manager will sign a tentative agreement with the Police Collective Bargaining Unit and it will appear on the ballot for the voters to decide. If the Warrant Article fails, there is no agreement; if the Warrant Article passes, the new agreement begins July 1.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved**

9. Town Council to Consider Nominations, Appointments, and Elections

- a. Al Zink - Zoning Board of Adjustment - Term Expiration April 2025
Motion: Councilor LaMattina made a motion to appoint Al Zink - Zoning Board of Adjustment - Term Expiration April 2025
Second: Councilor White
Discussion: Chair Weinstein commented that Mr. Zink has served on numerous Boards and Committees and appreciates his continued service to the Town.
Vote: **Unanimously Approved**

10. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

- a. Resolution #2022/2023-28 - Renaming the Arts & Tourism Commission
Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2022/2023-28 into the record.

11. New Business/Correspondence

- a. Correspondence to the Town Council
No correspondence.
- b. Closing Comments by Town Councilors
Chair Weinstein wished everyone a happy new year. She reminded everyone of the January 9th Budget Committee Public Hearing at 6:30 PM in the auditorium.
- c. Next Meeting
- i. January 18, 2023

12. Adjournment

Chair Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase
Recording Secretary