



Town Council Regular Session

June 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

MINUTES

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Conley convened the meeting at 7:00 PM and Councilor White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Present: Council Chair Katanna Conley, Council Vice-chair Brian Ward, Councilor Scott Blackstone, Councilor Joe LaMattina, Councilor Colin White, Councilor Sonke Dornblut, Councilor Justin Glazebrook.

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

3. Public Forum

Chair Conley opened the public forum at 7:01 PM and closed the public forum without public comment at 7:01 PM.

4. Public Hearing

a. Resolution #2022/2023-48 - Cable Franchise 10-year Extension Agreement

Chair Conley opened the Public Hearing at 7:02 PM.

Attorney Katherine Miller from Donahue, Tucker, and Ciandella explained that she worked with Town Manager Fournier on the Comcast Maine/New Hampshire 10 year Cable Franchise Agreement. There were four amendments made to the Cable Franchise Agreement:

1. Section 2.2, Term: Non-Exclusivity: is deleted in its entirety, and a new Section 2.2 is substituted in its place.
2. Section 3.3, Subscriber Network Cable Drops and Exhibit A to the Renewal Cable Television Franchise Agreement are hereby deleted in their entirety, and a new Section 3.3 and Exhibit A are substituted in their place.
3. Section 6.2, PEG Access Capital Support is hereby deleted in its entirety, and a new Section 6.2 is substituted in its place.
4. Section 9.4, Franchise Fee, Paragraph (d) is hereby deleted in its entirety, and a new Section 9.4, Paragraph (d) is substituted in its place.

Chair Conley closed the Public Hearing at 7:07 PM.

5. Town Council to Consider Acceptance of Minutes

a. June 7, 2023 Town Council Work Session Meeting Minutes

Motion: **Councilor LaMattina** made a motion to approve the June 7, 2023 Town Council Work Session Meeting Minutes
Second: **Councilor White**
Discussion: Councilor Dornblut will forward non-substantive typographical corrections to the recording secretary.
Vote: **Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)**

b. June 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion: **Councilor White** made a motion to approve the June 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes
Second: **Councilor Glazebrook**
Vote: **Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)**

6. **Report of the Town Manager**

a. June 21, 2023

Town Manager Fournier reported on the following:

Sewer Main Break: Originally it was thought that we would have to build a temporary service along the pedestrian bridge to the manhole on Chinburg property, estimated to cost approximately \$500,000. After reviewing the situation, it has been determined that the best course of action is to fix the existing forcemain. This repair would allow the Town the appropriate time to plan and install a new forcemain. The Town has hired Pepperrell Cove Marine to do the work. If they can do the work by hand, it will cost approximately \$108,000, if they need to bring in equipment, it will be closer to \$210,000.

FY23 Financials: 82% of the budget has been expended; 3% less than what was spent last year at that same time. The Town Clerk reported that there was an uptick in vehicle registrations, which is a promising sign of the current economy. We have collected approximately \$480,000 more in revenue than we did at this point in time last year.

There will be one council meeting in July (July 19) and one council meeting in August (August 16). We are looking to schedule a joint meeting with the School Board on August 30th.

Coastal Residency Grant: The Department of Planning and Community Development secured a \$37,300 grant to create a Master Plan chapter focusing on the Downtown Riverfront. The town will have to contribute \$18,015.

Town Manager Fournier reminded the Councilors that they should not have direct contact with town employees; everything should go through his office first. When becoming a Councilor certain resident's rights no longer exist. He referenced RSA 49-D:4 *Non-interference by the Elected Body*. The elected body shall act in all matters as a body.

b. Department Reports May 2023

Councilor Blackstone asked why the recreation sign was rejected by the sign company. Town Manager Fournier said that the Recreation Director is expecting

a call this week from the sign company to find out what happened.

7. Committee Reports

Council Vice-chair Ward reported on the June 8th Conservation Commission meeting:

The Conservation Commission had guest speaker Doug Cygan present to discuss identifying and managing invasive Japanese Knotweed. They discussed S.E.L.T's Piscassic Greenway management plan, and the Commission voted to adopt the new Conservation Commission Operating Guidelines.

8. Old Business

9. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 2nd Reading

- a. Resolution #2022/2023-49 - Amendment to the Arts, Culture & Tourism Membership

Motion: **Councilor Glazebrook** made a motion to approve Resolution #2022/2023-49 - Amendment to the Arts, Culture & Tourism Membership

Second: **Councilor Ward**

Discussion: The Commission has had interest in residents wanting to serve on the committee. They agreed to change the membership by adding two alternate positions.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)**

10. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 3rd Reading

- a. Resolution #2022/2023-48 Cable Franchise 10-year Extension Agreement

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution #2022/2023-48 Cable Franchise 10-year Extension Agreement

Second: **Councilor LaMattina**

Vote: **Motion Passed (6-1-0). Councilor White Opposed.**

11. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

- a. Resolution #2022/2023-50 - Town Hall Cabling Work
Chair Conley read Resolution #2022/2023-50 into the record.

- b. Resolution #2022/2023 - 51 Bay Rd Forcemain Repair
Town Manager Requests the Suspension of Rules
Chair Conley read Resolution #2022/2023-51 - Bay Road Forcemain Repair into the record.

Town Manager Fournier requested the Council suspend the rules and vote to approve Resolution #2022/2023-51 - Bay Road Forcemain Repair.

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to Suspend the Rules and vote to Approve Resolution #2022/2023 - 51 Bay Rd Forcemain Repair

Second: **Councilor LaMattina**

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)**

Motion: **Councilor Dornblut** made a motion to Approve Resolution #2022/2023 - 51 Bay Rd Forcemain Repair

Second: **Councilor Ward**

Discussion: Environmental Services Director Greig explained that the Bay Road forcemain under the Lamprey River bed is broken and leaking sewage into the Lamprey River. We hired Pepperrell Cove to dive, excavate and repair the leaking sewer forcemain. He said that this will be a temporary solution but will give us time to come up with a final solution. The main will have to be relocated, but this should give us a couple of years to get all the permitting into place and to review all options on the table.

He further explained that they cannot pinpoint exactly how much sewage is leaking into the river; it may be in the vicinity of 5,000 gallons per day.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)**

12. New Business/Correspondence

- a. Correspondence to the Town Council
There was no correspondence.
- b. Closing Comments by Town Councilors
Councilor LaMattina congratulated the Housing Authority for receiving a grant to install solar panels. Town Manager Fournier explained that the Housing Authority is a private body, but the Town Council appoints the Housing Authority Commissioners.

Councilor Blackstone thanked Town Manager Fournier for speaking to Public Works Director Malasky about the bright street light on Pine Street. Mr. Malasky agreed that it was the wrong bulb at that location and would replace it with the correct bulb. Councilor Blackstone also commented that there has been misinformation going around regarding Moonlight Brook. There are rumors that raw sewage is being pumped into the river and that is simply not true. They have found traces of bacteria in Moonlight Brook due to water runoff.
- c. Next Meeting
 - i. July 19, 2023

13. Adjournment

Chair Conley adjourned the meeting at 7:38 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase
Recording Secretary