



Town Council Regular Session

March 20, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

MINUTES

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Conley convened the Meeting at 7:00 PM.

Councilor White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

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

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.

Chair Conley closed the Public Forum at 7:01 PM without public comment.

4. Town Council to Consider Acceptance of Minutes

a. March 6, 2024 Draft Meeting Minutes

Motion: **Councilor Dornblut** made a motion to approve the March 6, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Second: **Scott Blackstone**

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

5. Report of the Town Manager

a. March 20, 2024

- **Town Election:** All articles passed on Election Day, and they will be implemented on July 1. Town Manager Fournier congratulated Chair Conley, Vice-Chair Ward and Councilor Glazebrook on their reelection and reminded them to take their oath of office on the first Monday in April. April 3 will be the Council's organizational meeting to elect a chair, vice-chair and the adoption of new rules of proceedings for the new year. Town Manager Fournier will propose a few changes to the rules to make them more efficient, including comments by visitors, communications to the town council and appointments. He asked if any Councilor would like

to explore changes to the rules, to please email him the proposed changes before the April 3rd meeting.

- **FY24 expense and Revenue Report:** 67% of the budget has been expended, which is in line with last fiscal year. Revenues are still on track. Motor vehicles have rebounded and are higher than last year. Building permits are softening. The Public Works Department is looking at their budget to use money saved from lack of plowing due to the mild winter to pave parking lots.
- **FY25 Congressionally Directed Spending:** Town Manager Fournier and several Department Heads participated in a webinar put on by NHMA and Senator Shaheen's office to discuss Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS), commonly known as earmarks, that allow Members of Congress to request that federal funds be set aside for specific projects in their states. We are currently submitting two requests, (1) to upgrade the police dispatch equipment. This is going through Congressman Pappas' office. (2) to fund the Lamprey River Sewer Force Main Replacement Project from Senator Shaheen's office.
- Newmarket Main Street Corporation Committee will receive a grant from timberland for a size 16 bronze timberland boot to be displayed in town. A tribute to the town because Timberland was founded in Newmarket.
- Community Development Director McDonough reported that the town has received 13+ million dollars in grants and forgivable loans since 2008; almost equivalent to the cost of the wastewater treatment plant.
- The Council may want to think about forming a committee to vet committee member applicants. As it stands now, the Council votes to appoint based solely in their application.

b. Department Reports - February 2024

Councilor LaMattina congratulated Police Department Custodian Flavia Soares Fonseca Duarte for passing her United States Citizenship test.

Chair Conley also congratulated Flavia and congratulated Police Officer Ruby for his first solo shift and Peter King for his promotion to EMS Fire Lieutenant. She thanked Officer Ferland for his service to our Country.

Environmental Services Director Greig explained that pfas testing shows no pfas in the public water system. They are now beginning to test pfas on the wastewater on a quarterly basis and those tests are submitted to NH Environmental Services. He said that the wastewater has tested positive for pfas and is certain it is from Newmarket not from other towns trucking in septage because we tested prior to the trucks coming in and wastewater tested positive for pfas.

Chair Conley congratulated Susan Jordan on her recent retirement as Planning & Zoning Administrator.

Councilor LaMattina asked Environmental Services Director Greig if he could set up a tour at the Wastewater Treatment Plant sometime in June or July this year.

Mr. Greig said that they have given tours in the past and would be glad to set that up.

6. **Committee Reports**

Councilor Ward reported on the March 14th Conservation Commission Meeting:

- The Commission received a check from LCHIP for monitoring in the amount of \$550.00.
- They had a presentation from Lauren White on ways to reduce turtle mortality on New Hampshire roads.
- They reviewed the checklist of potential future conservation lands to acquire.
- The Wiggin kiosk will be raised on Earth day in April.

Councilor Blackstone reported on the March 19th Planning Board Meeting:

- The Board approved the 41 unit residential with commercial space apartment building on Railroad Ave. The owner has 3 years to begin construction. The units will be 1-bedroom, 500 square-foot units rented at market rate.

7. **Old Business**

8. **Resolutions/Ordinances in the 2nd Reading**

a. Resolution # 2023/2024 - 34 Water Treatment Plant Acid Room

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution # 2023/2024 - 34 Water Treatment Plant Acid Room

Second: **Councilor White**

Discussion: Environmental Services Director Greig explained that the Water Department received a settlement agreement for \$245,000 to replace equipment and make improvements to the acid room. They went out to bid and TBUCK Construction submitted the lowest bid for \$253,000. He said it was an absolute necessity to make these improvements.

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

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

a. Tom Jones - Appointment to the Conservation Commission as a Full Board Member - Term Expiration April 2027

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve the appointment of Tom Jones to the Conservation Commission as a Full Board Member with a term expiration of April 2027.

Second: **Councilor White**

Discussion: Councilor Ward explained that Mr. Jones is currently an alternate member of the Conservation Commission and has

attended every meeting since Councilor Ward has been the Council Representative to the Commission.

Vote: Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)

- b. Michael Pelczar - Reappointment as Cemetery Trustee - Term Expiration April 2027

Motion: Councilor LaMattina made a motion to approve the reappointment of Michael Pelczar as Cemetery Trustee with a term expiration of April 2027

Second: Councilor Ward

Discussion: Councilor LaMattina commented that Mr. Pelczar is a long-time resident and is the owner of the Funeral Home in town, which makes him a great candidate.

Vote: Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)

- c. Sam Kenney - Reappointment to the Riverfront Advisory Committee - Term Expiration April 2027

Motion: Councilor Ward made a motion to reappoint Sam Kenney to the Riverfront Advisory Committee with a term expiration of April 2027.

Second: Councilor LaMattina

Discussion: Councilor LaMattina commented that Mr. Kenney is currently the Chair of the Committee and is also on the Conservation Commission and makes an excellent choice as a committee member.

Vote: Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)

- d. John Reddy - Reappointment Housing Authority Commissioner - Term Expiration April 2029

Motion: Councilor Ward made a motion to approve the reappointment of John Reddy as Commissioner to the Housing Authority with a term expiration of April 2029.

Second: Councilor LaMattina

Vote: Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)

10. New Business/Correspondence

- a. Correspondence to the Town Council

There was no correspondence to the Council.

- b. Closing Comments by Town Councilors

Councilor LaMattina asked the Town Manager the status on a note he sent earlier regarding a resident that would like to donate land to the town to be used as a solar array garden. Town Manager Fournier said that he will meet with the Town Engineer to discuss and then get back to him with an answer.

Councilor LaMattina commented that the 10th annual town trash roadside

cleanup will be on Sunday, April 21st. Trash bags and street sign-ups will be held at the Library.

Councilor Blackstone commented on the Town Manager's suggestion about vetting committee members. He said that it is difficult to get people to serve on committees and suggested a better approach would be to get an opinion from the Committee/Board or Commission Chairs before appointing an applicant.

Chair Conley suggested Councilor Blackstone put the proposed rule change together and submit it to the Town Manager to be discussed and voted on at the next meeting.

Councilor White said that the process would not encourage people to volunteer. If a resident wants to volunteer their time to serve on a Committee/Board or Commission they should be granted that opportunity.

c. Next Meeting

i. April 3, 2024

11. Adjournment

Chair Conley adjourned the meeting at 7:34 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase
Recording Secretary