



Town Council Regular Session

April 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

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

Excused: Council Chair Katanna Conley

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

2. 6:30 PM Work Session

- a. Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission Update to the Town Council
Vice Chair Ward convened the Work Session at 6:30 PM.

Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission Chair Debra Smith presented a PowerPoint presentation about the Commission's upcoming events.

Willey House Central Park Project -

The Willey House project is funded in part by grants from the NH State Arts Council, Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) and the Town of Newmarket.

The project is located in the green space in front of Willey House, land donated to the town by the owner for public use via an easement.

Project Components:

Mural - a collage of photos digitally printed on the side of the Durgin Block building (life span 15-20+ years)

Educational Services & interactive displays - permanent weir art installations at the Library, Senior Center, Town Hall and MillSpace; mini art gallery and public seating donated by the Historical Society.

Sculpture - A sculpture will be added once the easement to the front part of the green space is secured.

The \$12,600 project is fully funded by the NHSCA Grant (\$5,100), LRAC Grant (\$4,500), Town Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission (\$3,000)

The ACT Commission will work on the project throughout the summer and plan

to have it complete by the end of the September 2024.

Other Events -

April - Photography Education Series

May - Herring Aid Event

June - Historic Photography Scavenger Hunt

July - Life is an adventure on the River

August - downtown ice cream social

September - Why We Love Newmarket at the Rivers Edge Sidewalk Photo Exhibit

Vice-chair Ward recessed the meeting at 6:55 PM.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-chair Ward reconvened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Councilor White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Election of Officers, Adoption of Town Council Rules, and Committee Assignments

a. Committee Assignments

Motion: Councilor LaMattina made a motion to approve Committee Assignments as written

Second: Councilor Dornblut

Discussion: The Town Manager will become the liaison to the Business Association and appoint staff members to attend Business Association meetings on a revolving basis.

Vote: Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)

5. Public Forum

Vice-chair Ward opened the public forum at 7:04 PM.

Vice-chair Ward closed the public forum at 7:04 PM without public comment.

6. Town Council to Consider Acceptance of Minutes

a. April 3, 2024 Non-public Meeting Minutes

Motion: Councilor LaMattina made a motion to approve the April 3, 2024 Non-public Meeting Minutes.

Second: Councilor Dornblut

Vote: Approved (5-0-1) Councilor White abstained because he was not present at the April 3, 2024 meeting.

b. April 3, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion: **Councilor LaMattina** made a motion to approve the April 3, 2024 Meeting Minutes as amended

Second: **Councilor Glazebrook**

Discussion: Councilor Glazebrook requested the minutes reflect that there was no action taken on the proposed amendment to public forum. The rules for public forum remain status quo.

Vote: **Approved (5-0-1) Councilor White abstained because he was not present at the April 3rd meeting.**

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

- a. Bruce Fielding - Reappointment to the Newmarket Housing Authority Commission - Term Expiration April 2026

Motion: **Councilor White** made a motion to reappoint Bruce Fielding to the Newmarket Housing Authority Commission - Term Expiration April 2026

Second: **Councilor LaMattina**

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)**

- b. Shannon Culpepper - Reappointment to the Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission - Term Expiration April 2027

Motion: **Councilor White** made a motion to reappoint Shannon Culpepper to the Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission - Term Expiration April 2027

Second: **Councilor Glazebrook**

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)**

8. Report of the Town Manager

- a. April 17, 2024

- 71% of the budget has been expended, which is in line with last fiscal year.
- There are overages in the welfare line due to an increase in rental assistance.
- The Town Manager attended the International City Manager's Regional Conference. The focus this year was on Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI should be used as a tool, not a replacement for employees. The City of Lebanon is currently using it in the land use office.

- b. March 2024 Department Reports

9. Committee Reports

Vice-chair Ward reported on the April 11th Conservation Commission Meeting:

Ellen Snyder was appointed as Chair and Melissa Sharples was appointed as Vice-chair. The Commission continues to work on the Masterplan and they approved the reserved dates for Arts in the Park for the summer.

10. Old Business

11. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 2nd Reading

- a. Resolution #2023/2024-35 - Public Transportation Advisory Committee

Motion: **Councilor LaMattina** made a motion to approve Resolution #2023/2024-35 - Public Transportation Advisory Committee

Second: **Councilor White**

Discussion: Discussion ensued regarding the make up of the committee members. It was decided to solicit volunteer members immediately and that one member would be a Town Councilor.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (6-0-0)**

12. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

- a. Resolution 2023/2024-36 Purchase of Police Cruiser
Vice-chair Ward read resolution 2023/2024-36 into the record.

13. New Business/Correspondence

- a. Correspondence to the Town Council
There was no correspondence to the Council.
- b. Closing Comments by Town Councilors
Councilor LaMattina reminded everyone that the town-wide cleanup is Sunday, April 21. Volunteers may pick up trash bags and street assignments at the Library at 9:00 AM.

Councilor Dornblut commented that he was glad the Public Transportation Advisory Committee Resolution passed and volunteered to be the Town Council representative to the Committee. There was no objection from the Council.

Councilor Blackstone congratulated the Recreation Department for the widely attended family dance. It was a huge hit. He said that there is a housing focus group today and tomorrow and to contact Community Development Director McDonough if anyone wishes to attend.

- c. Next Meeting

- i. May 1, 2024

14. Adjournment

Vice-chair Ward adjourned the meeting at 7:24 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase
Recording Secretary