



Town Council Regular Session

September 4, 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 Scott Blackstone, Councilor Joe LaMattina, Councilor Colin White, Councilor Sonke Dornblut, Councilor Justin Glazebrook.

Staff Present: Town Manager Stephen R. Fournier and Public Works Director/Fire Chief Rick Malasky.

3. Public Forum

Bert John Allen, III, Smith Garrison Road spoke to the Council about Non Profits and how they can help the town economically.

Jan Knox, 505 Piscassic Street, about the elderly exemption income limits. She commented that a slight increase in social security benefits put her over the income limit, and she lost the exemption. She wanted to know how the Council arrived at the new income limits. She said that there are many senior citizens dealing with the same issue. Town Manager Fournier explained that public forum is not a back and forth conversation with the Council; it is for public comment to the Council unless the Council agrees to suspend the rules and allow discussion.

Councilor LaMattina made a motion to suspend the Rules to dismiss the 3-minute rule and to allow the Council to comment.

Councilor Dornblut seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-2-0. Councilors Dornblut and Blackstone voted against.

Councilor LaMattina explained that he researched 50 NH cities and towns regarding the income limits for the elderly exemption. Based on those towns and cities the income limits adopted are in the middle. He said that he would be happy to share the information with her.

Town Manager Fournier explained that the money for all exemptions and credits has to be made up by the town's taxpayers that do not receive credits and exemptions. The Council worked hard to ensure fairness for all taxpayers. Town Manager Fournier said that he would supply the data to Ms. Knox.

4. Town Council to Consider Acceptance of Minutes

- a. August 21, 2024

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve the August 21, 2024 meeting minutes.

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

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

5. Town Council to Consider Nominations, Appointments, Elections, and Resignations

- a. Appointment of Scott MacGrath - Energy and Environment Advisory Committee

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to Appoint Scott MacGrath to the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee with a term expiration of April 2027.

Second: **Councilor LaMattina**

Discussion: Councilor LaMattina said that Mr. MacGrath has an extensive background in recycling and the Committee will be tackling that subject and Mr. MacGrath would be a good addition to the Committee.

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

6. Report of the Town Manager

- a. *Town Manager's Report September 4, 2024*

Committee Membership: Addressing Councilor LaMattina's inquiry, the Town's application for board/committee membership requires the applicant to be a US Citizen and a registered voter. There is no law requiring advisory committee members to be registered voters. Many other communities require residency but allow non-residents to serve in an advisory capacity. Those boards or committees created by state statute require residency and US Citizenship.

NH State Primary Schedule: The schedule for Council coverage for the primary was presented.

Failed Septic System: The property owner at 10 North Main Street has been notified of a failed septic system and is required to connect to the municipal sewer, pump and cap the septic tank and remove contaminated soil. Penalties for non-compliance include fines and possible municipal intervention.

NHMA Annual Conference: NHMA has opened registration for its Annual Conference on October 30-31, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Downtown Manchester. This year's theme is "From Conflict to Conservation." Registration is due by October 16, 2024. Councilors may contact Wendy or Town Manager Fournier to register for the event.

Reappraisal: MRI will present the finalized figures to the Town Council at its upcoming meeting.

Clay v Town: The town is in receipt of Mr. Clay's notice of appeal.

International City Manager's Annual Conference: Town Manager Fournier reported that he will be at the Annual Conference in Pittsburgh from September 18 to 30, and Director of Finance and Administration will be acting Town Manager at the next Council meeting.

7. Committee Reports

Councilor Glazebrook reported on the September 3rd Arts, Culture & Tourism Meeting:

The final mural design was accepted by artist Alex Edgerly. The unveiling is scheduled for September 28th at 10:00AM at Willey Park.

The community interweave mosaic canvas print project is complete. It involved 63 participants.

The September 14th Vision Session will address Arts and Recreation and it is being held at the High School from 9:00AM-12:00PM. Residents are encouraged to attend.

Councilor LaMattina reported on the August 28th Energy & Environment Committee Meeting:

The Committee received the Strafford Regional Planning update on the energy chapter of the Master Plan. The September Visioning session at the High School is open to the public and will also be addressing energy.

Councilor Ward reported on the August 26th Budget Committee meeting:

The Committee met on the school's financial reports. The final numbers were accurate to the amount they budgeted. They are working to lower the FY26 budget by 2%.

8. Old Business

9. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 2nd Reading

- a. Resolution #2024/2025-04 - Annual Lease Payment for Two International Dump Trucks with Plow Equipment

Motion: Councilor Ward made a motion to approve Resolution #2024/2025-04 - Annual Lease Payment for Two International Dump Trucks with Plow Equipment

Second: Councilor Dornblut

Discussion: Public Works Director Malasky explained that the resolution is to allow the release of funds from the Public Works Department's Capital Reserve Fund to make the lease payment.

Vote: Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)

- b. Resolution #2024/2025-05 - Annual Lease Payment for Trackless MT7 Sidewalk Tractor

- Motion:** **Councilor White** made a motion to approve Resolution #2024/2025-05 - Annual Lease Payment for Trackless MT7 Sidewalk Tractor
- Second:** **Councilor Ward**
- Discussion:** Public Works Director Malasky explained that the Resolution is to allow the release of funds from the Public Works Department Capital Reserve Fund to make the lease payment.
- Vote:** **Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)**
- c. Resolution #2024/2025-06 - Annual Lease Payment for Engine 5
- Motion:** **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution #2024/2025-06 - Annual Lease Payment for Engine 5
- Second:** **Councilor Glazebrook**
- Discussion:** Fire Chief Malasky explained that the Resolution is to allow the release of funds from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund to make the lease payment.
- Vote:** **Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)**
- d. Resolution #2024/2025 - 07 - Purchase of Stryker Power Pro Cot & Two Power Load Systems
- Motion:** **Councilor White** made a motion to approve Resolution #2024/2025 - 07 - Purchase of Stryker Power Pro Cot & Two Power Load Systems
- Second:** **Councilor Ward**
- Discussion:** Fire Chief Malasky explained that the Department is in need of replacing one of the Stryker Power Pro Cots and would like to upgrade both ambulances to a power load system.
- Vote:** **Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)**
- e. Resolution #2024/2025-08 - Paving Improvements
- Motion:** **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution #2024/2025-08 - Paving Improvements
- Second:** **Councilor LaMattina**
- Discussion:** Public Works Director Malasky explained that \$200,000 was to come out of the operating budget and \$200,000 to come out of the Municipal Transportation Fund to fund the road management plan.
- Vote:** **Unanimously Approved (7-0-0)**
- f. Resolution #2024/2025-09 - Purchase of Two Ford Trucks
- Motion:** **Councilor Dornblut** made a motion to approve Resolution #2024/2025-09 - Purchase of Two Ford Trucks
- Second:** **Councilor Ward**

Discussion: Public Works Director Malasky explained that he received state bid quotes for a new Ford F-150 and F-350 and the money will come from the Public Works Capital Reserve Funds.

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

10. New Business/Correspondence

a. Correspondence to the Town Council

There was no correspondence.

b. Closing Comments by Town Councilors

Councilor Ward reported that he is trying to start a community volunteer day in conjunction with the Historical Society and Cemetery Trustees to take care of untended cemeteries in town - A Newmarket Cemetery Day. Dozens of small cemeteries in town are uncared for and the town is unable to provide regular maintenance due to funding or because they are on private land without public access. He is soliciting volunteers to mow, prune, rake and repaint metal gates. Volunteers will not be touching or cleaning gravestones. After the volunteer day is done, the Historical Society will put on a presentation about the history of the cemetery, describing what life was like in the 1800's. He is hoping to schedule the community service day before winter; if not, in the spring. Those interested should reach out to Councilor Brian Ward bward@newmarketnh.gov.

Chair Conley reminded people to vote at the State Primary on September 10th. Voting is at the Town Hall Auditorium from 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM. She said that School Board member Gary Swanton reached out to her to possibly schedule a meeting between the School Board and Town Council. Town Manager Fournier is aware and will be working on scheduling that.

c. Next Meeting

i. September 18, 2024

11. Adjournment

Chair Conley adjourned the meeting at 8:07 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase
Recording Secretary