



Town Council Regular Session

October 2, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

MINUTES

1. Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Roll Call

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

Excused: Councilor Colin White, Councilor Scott Blackstone.

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. September 18, 2024

Motion: Councilor Ward made a motion to approve the September 18, 2024 meeting minutes as written.

Second: Councilor Dornblut

Vote: Unanimously Approved (5-0-0)

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

a. Richard Alperin Reappointment to the Cemetery Trustees - Term Expiration April 2027

Motion: Councilor Ward made a motion to re-appoint Richard Alperin to the Cemetery Trustees with a term expiration of April 2027.

Second: Councilor LaMattina

Vote: Unanimously Approved (5-0-0)

6. Report of the Town Manager

- Town Manager Fournier emailed the councilors a sign-up sheet for the November 5th election. They are estimating a large voter turnout.
- He reminded the Councilors of the upcoming NHMA Conference on October 30th and 31st.

- The Town was awarded the Federal Justice Department COPS grant of \$358,000 to use to update the Dispatch Center software system. We have also applied for a grant to upgrade the equipment as well.
- We've been informed by the state that we've been approved for funding of \$1.44M loan with a 25% loan principle forgiveness for the Moody Point Stormwater Project. A resolution will be forthcoming.
- The MS 535 is finished and ready for Councilor signatures.
- The Town Manager met with the School Superintendent, and they have scheduled a joint meeting between the Town Council and School Board on October 16th at 6:00 PM in the Auditorium. The regular Council meeting will follow at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers.
- Town Manager Fournier asked for a brief non-public meeting at the end of this meeting to discuss a legal issue.

7. **Committee Reports**

Councilor Ward reported on the September 30th Budget Committee meeting:

The Town presented the fiscal year 2024 financial report. Expenditures were 91% and revenues were \$39,715,761; accrued \$3M more than last year.

The Fire Department is having a hard time filling the part-time firefighter position.

Councilor LaMattina reported on statistics from Newmarket Community Power:

There are 5,558 accounts in Newmarket and 3,910 of those use Newmarket Community Power. We went live in March 2024. We have 141 accounts that opted in and 62 accounts that opted out. The residential savings through the end of July is \$14,000 and there will be significant increases to savings going forward. Newmarket is part of a friendly competition called the seacoast challenge - the higher percentage of customers joining community power will win. Newmarket is in the lead by 1, with Dover right behind.

8. **Old Business**

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

- a. Resolution #2024/2025-10 - Establish Charter Commission Ballot Question

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution #2024/2025-10 - Placing a question to the voters to establish a Charter Commission

Second: **Councilor Glazebrook**

Discussion: Town Manager Fournier explained that one of the goals of the Council is to review the town charter periodically. There have been two charter commissions since 1991. The Charter Commission's job is to review the town charter to make sure the charter is still adapting to change and reflecting the community's needs. He further explained that

if the establishment of the Charter Commission passes, 9 registered voters will be elected at large to serve as a Charter Commission. A special meeting would have to be ordered by the Council 5 days after the recount period, then a special election is to be held between 35 and 60 days. The Commission would then have 170 days to come up with a final report. Prior to that, the report has to be filed with the Secretary of State, Town Clerk, Attorney General and Commissioner of the Department of Revenue Administration to make sure it is legal. After that, the final report goes on the next municipal ballot with any changes made. Those interested in serving on the Commission will need to file for candidacy.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (5-0-0)**

10. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

- a. Resolution #2024/2025-11 - Town Server Replacement
Chair Conley read Resolution #2024/2025-11 into the record.
- b. Resolution #2024/2025-12 - Septage Station Final Design Bidding
Chair Conley read Resolution #2024/2025-12 into the record.
- c. Resolution #2024/2025-13 - ARPA Grant Funds - Septage *The Town Manager requests the suspension of the Rules*

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to suspend the rules
Resolution #2024/2025-13 - ARPA Grant Funds - Septage
The Town Manager requests the suspension of the Rules

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

Discussion: Environmental Services Director Sean Greig explained the reason for the need to suspend the rules and vote on the resolution this evening is because the Governor moved up the timeline to secure the funds.

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (5-0-0)**

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution #2024/2025-13 - ARPA Grant Funds - Septage

Second: **Councilor Glazebrook**

Vote: **Unanimously Approved (5-0-0)**

- d. Resolution #2024/2025-14 - Bay Road Forcemain Prelim
Chair Conley read Resolution #2024/2025-14 into the record.
- e. Resolution #2024/2024-15 - Wastewater Collection System Repair Engineering
Chair Conley read Resolution #2024/2025-15 into the record.

11. New Business/Correspondence

- a. Correspondence to the Town Council
There was no correspondence to the Council.

- b.** Closing Comments by Town Councilors
Chair Conley commended the Arts, Culture & Tourism on the tremendous job they did with Willey Park and appreciates the work they do beautifying the town's public spaces.

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to enter Non-public session pursuant to RSA 91A-:3,II(e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation.
Second: **Councilor Dornblut**
Vote: **Unanimously Approved (5-0-0)**

Chair Conley reconvened the meeting at 7:44 PM.

- c.** Next Meeting

- i. October 16, 2024

12. Adjournment

Chair Conley adjourned the meeting at 7:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase
Recording Secretary