



Town Council Regular Session

February 5, 2025 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 Fournier, Recording Secretary Wendy Chase

3. Public Forum

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

Chair Conley closed the Public Forum at 7:02 PM without public comment.

4. Town Council to Consider Acceptance of Minutes

a. January 15, 2025

Motion: **Councilor White** made a motion to approve the January 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Second: **Councilor Ward**

Vote: **Motion Passed 6-0-1** Councilor Blackstone abstained

b. January 29, 2025 Warrant Article Public Hearing

Motion: **Councilor Dornblut** made a motion to approve the January 29, 2025 Warrant Article Public Hearing Meeting Minutes

Second: **Councilor Ward**

Vote: **Motion Passed 4-0-3** Councilors White, Blackstone and Ward abstained

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

a. Chesnie York - Swearing In to the Police Department by Town Clerk Terri Littlefield

Newly hired Police Officer Chesnie York received the Notice of Appointment from Chief Jordan and took the Oath of Office from Town Clerk Terri Littlefield. Members of the Police Department and members of Officer York's family was present for the swearing-in ceremony.

- b. Benjamin Buckley - Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission - Transfer Membership from Full-time Member to Alternate Member - Term Expiration April 2026.
Benjamin Buckley and Doug Spicher emailed the Council to request a swap in membership. The Council agreed that the member would need to follow procedure and resign from one position and apply for the other position. The appointments were not acted upon by the Council.
- c. Doug Spicher - Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission - Transfer Membership from Alternate Member to Full-time Member - Expiration April 2025.
The appointment was not acted upon by the Council due to improper procedure.
- d. Wayne Rosa - Reappointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment - Term Expiration April 2028

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Wayne Rosa's reappointment to the Zoning Board of Adjustment - Term Expiration April 2028

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

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

- e. Rebecca Camire - Resignation from the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee

Motion: **Councilor LaMattina** made a motion to approve Rebecca Camire's resignation from the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee

Second: **Councilor Ward**

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

- f. Julia Sinclair - Appointment to the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee - Term Expiration April 2025

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Julia Sinclair's appointment to the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee - Term Expiration April 2025

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

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

6. Report of the Town Manager

- a. February 5, 2025
Town Manager Fournier announced that school is cancelled tomorrow due to inclement weather.

FY25 Expense and Revenues: We are halfway through the fiscal year and have spent 55% of the operating budget.

Federal Grants: On January 27, 2025, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) instructed Federal agencies to pause disbursing funds for all open awards starting January 28, 2025, at 5:00 PM ET, to review financial assistance programs. We don't know if the Federal Court has issued a temporary stay. The Department of Justice assured us that the dispatch center grant is unaffected as

the money was already awarded.

Double Utility Poles: Poles that are side by side to transfer wires from an old pole to a new one. In 2020 Newmarket joined in a formal complaint against the utilities alongside Dover, Somersworth, Exeter Portsmouth, Durham, Hampton and Newington requesting the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) remove old poles within 30 to 60 days post-installation of new poles. A pilot program will commence in Hampton in mid-February, followed by North Hampton in March ensuring completion before the summer season. Exeter and Newmarket will be addressed subsequent to the completion of work along the seacoast.

7. Committee Reports

Councilor Glazebrook reported on the Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission's February 4th meeting:

The Commission discussed a mural project on the Library building. They discussed exploring different possibilities regarding the Elm Street concrete wall mural. They plan to apply for the T-Mobile \$50,000 home town grant. Other projects they discussed included the Pocket Park and coordinating with the Rec Department to be included in their annual garden tour by showcasing local artists' work.

Councilor LaMattina reported on Newmarket Community Power:

Community Power Directors met and raised the rates to 9.7 cents per kW from March to July which is more than Eversource rates by 8/10th, costing the average household \$5.00 per month. Residents may opt out anytime by calling 866-603-7967. He said House Bill 760 is likely to pass. HB 760 is a bill that clarifies certain policy principles regarding electric utility default service, including default service rates and recovery for over or under collection. Councilor LaMattina has been a Director and Council Rep for 3 years and will not be seeking reappointment once his term is up.

8. Old Business

9. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

There were no Resolutions in the first reading.

10. New Business/Correspondence

a. Correspondence to the Town Council

There was no correspondence to the Council.

b. Closing Comments by Town Councilors

Councilor Ward was asked by the Newmarket300 Committee if there could be a Council Representative to the Business Association again.

Councilor Glazebrook explained that he was the last Council Representative and because there was already representation by a town employee attending the meetings there was no need for a Council Representative.

c. Next Meeting

- i. February 19, 2025

11. Adjournment

Chair Conley adjourned the meeting at 7:39 PM without objection.

Sincerely,

Wendy V. Chase
Recording Secretary