



Town Council Regular Session

February 19, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

MINUTES

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Council Vice-chair Ward convened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Councilor White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

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

Absent: Council Chair Katanna Conley

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

3. Public Forum

Vice-chair Ward opened the Public Forum at 7:01 PM.

Vice-chair Ward closed the Public Forum at 7:01 PM without public comment.

4. Town Council to Consider Acceptance of Minutes

a. February 5, 2025

Motion: **Councilor White** made a motion to approve the February 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

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

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

a. Sarah Wrightsman - Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC)

Motion: **Councilor LaMattina** made a motion to appoint Sarah Wrightsman to the Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) Representative of Newmarket

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

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

6. Report of the Town Manager

a. February 19, 2025

Town Manager Fournier responded to a federal funding question from Councilor LaMattina. We are in pre-executive state because the President withdrew the memorandum, but we won't know what state we'll be in 3 months from now, nor

does the New Hampshire Municipal Association. If we are in the middle of a project and federal funding stopped, we will either have to use our fund balance to finish the project or stop the project. There are many uncertainties. Our Legislative Delegation has been very helpful.

FY25 Expense and Revenue: The operating budget usage is at 61%, consistent with last year's figures. There is an increase in direct assistance, and the rental assistance expenditure has reached 222%. Fire-related expenses are at 73%, largely due to per diem salaries.

Town Election Day: March 11 is the Town Election from 7 AM to 7 PM at Town Hall. Councilors may sign up to work that day. Councilors LaMattina and White will not be allowed to work because they are on the ballot for reelection.

Urban Compact: A formal letter was sent to the Commissioner of Transportation requesting the reclassification of NH 108, Gerry Ave, Packers Falls and Grant Road from state to town ownership and maintenance. The town will work with NH DOT to establish a memorandum of understanding outlining responsibilities and coordination efforts regarding road closures, detours, and traffic-related modification.

- b. Department Reports - January 2025
No comments.

7. **Committee Reports**

Councilor LaMattina reported on Newmarket Community Power Coalition and the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting:

The rates will increase on March 1 and will be 8/10 of a cent higher than Eversource. 1 customer has opted-out and 12 customers have opted-in since the announcement. Between April 2024 and December 2024 the coalition has saved rate payers \$148,000.00.

The Energy and Environment Committee is finishing up work on the Master Plan.

Councilor Dornblut reported on the Public Transportation Advisory Committee meeting:

Councilor Dornblut was not in attendance at the PTCA meeting. He said that the Committee finished up the Transportation Chapter of the Master Plan. COAST bus responded to the request to expand the bus route to include the Wadleigh Falls Senior Apartment building. COAST would like the town to consider paying the additional costs COAST would endure if they did expand to include that area.

Councilor Ward reported on the Newmarket250/300 meeting on February 12:

There was discussion on the budget and revenues and different options for those. There was discussion about the new website. They discussed a mural at the library to be displayed during 2027.

Councilor Ward reported on the February 13th Conservation Commission Meeting:

Mr. Larkin reported to the Conservation Commission that there is a proposed 42-lot subdivision going in at 200 New Road for a 55+ community. He has concerns about water runoff into vernal pools. Melissa Sharples resigned, and Cris Blackstone was appointed Vice-chair. Heron Point was discussed and adding a ship-building plaque at Schanda Park was also discussed. Wiggin Farm upgrades will begin in the spring.

8. Old Business

9. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

- a. Resolution #2024/2025-29 - Library Architectural Feasibility Study
Vice-chair Ward read Resolution #2024/2025-29 into the record.
- b. Resolution #2024/2025-30 - Cybersecurity Audit
Vice-chair Ward read Resolution #2024/2025-30 into the record.
- c. Resolution #2024/2025-31-To Authorize the Town Manager to Enter into a Professional Service Agreement with Stafford Regional Planning Commission for \$92,500.00 to Assist the Town in Developing Zoning Recommendations via the Housing Opportunity Planning Grant Program.
Vice-chair Ward read Resolution #2024/2025-31 into the record.
- d. Resolution #2024/2025-32 - Acceptance of Tanner Circle as a Town Road
Vice-chair read Resolution #2024/2025-32 into the record.

10. New Business/Correspondence

- a. Correspondence to the Town Council
There was no correspondence to the Town Council.
- b. Closing Comments by Town Councilors
Councilor LaMattiina suggested removing Chair Conley as the Community Power Coalition Alternate and appointing Councilor Dornblut.

Town Manager Fournier said that he is the alternate.

c. Next Meeting

- i. March 5, 2025

11. Adjournment

Vice-chair Ward adjourned the meeting at 7:28 PM without public comment.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase
Recording Secretary