



Town Council Regular Session

September 3, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

MINUTES

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Conley convened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Councilor Ward 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 Sonke Dornblut, Councilor Chase Eagleson (joined the Councilors after his appointment and taking the oath of office).

Excused: Councilor Justin Glazebrook

Staff Present: Town Manager Steve Fournier, Finance Director William Tappan, Environmental Services Director Sean Greig, Town Engineer Lyndsay Buter, and Recording Secretary Wendy Chase.

3. Public Forum

Chair Conley opened the public forum at 7:04 PM.

Chair Conley closed the public forum at 7:04 PM without public comment.

4. Town Council to Consider Acceptance of Minutes

a. August 20, 2025 Non-public Meeting Minutes

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve the August 20, 2025 Non-public Meeting Minutes as written.

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

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

b. August 20, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve the August 20, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

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

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

- a. Chase Eagleson - Appointment to the Town Council - Term Expiration April 6, 2025

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to appoint Chase Eagleson to the Town Council with a Term Expiration of April 6, 2026.

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

Discussion: Chase Eagleson introduced himself and explained that one reason he sought the Council seat was to represent the younger demographic and rental and housing challenges. Chase attended UNH and holds a BA in Environmental and Resource Economics and a Master in Community Development Policy and Practice.

Chase was welcomed by the Council.

Town Manager Fournier administered the Oath of Office to Chase Eagleson.

Chase was seated at the Dias to participate in the remainder of the meeting.

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

- b. Timothy Littlefield - Resignation from the Trustees of the Trust Funds

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to accept with regret, Timothy Littlefield's resignation from the Trustees of the Trust Funds.

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

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

6. Report of the Town Manager

- a. September 3, 2025

- Town Manager Fournier reported that our area is in a moderate drought. Surrounding towns have put in restrictions for water usage. Exeter is under a Stage 4 mandatory water restriction phase. Newmarket has no restrictions and no concerns. He congratulated the Environmental Services Department and the town to getting us to this point.
- Route 7 On Demand Service Expansion: COAST Bus has informed us that they have received increased support from a local foundation for the Route 7 On Demand service. This funding will continue to cover current services and also allow them to pilot an expansion that opens the service to any potential location within Newmarket and Exeter. To gather community input, COAST has scheduled two public information sessions in September: September 9th, Exeter Public Library 4:00-5:00 PM and September 11th, Newmarket Town Hall Auditorium 1:00-2:00 PM.

Councilor Dornblut said that designated stops have a big role, and it's important to place at least one designated stop on the route. He also reported that the

Wadleigh Falls Road Senior living apartment building residents will be included in the route.

Town Manager Fournier asked if the Council wanted him to write a letter of support to the route expansion pilot. The consensus of the Council was to have the Town Manager write the support letter.

Town Manager Fournier reported on the Leo Landroch Field Lighting: They have been working with Eversource to evaluate options for making the lighting at Leo Landroch Field more energy efficient and cost-effective. There may be opportunities through Eversource's Instant Rebate Program. Eversource is reviewing our billing to determine whether our current time-of-use rate remains the most cost-effective option.

Councilor Blackstone asked Town Manager Fournier the status on the Fire Department survey and the added line item in the budget. Town Manager Fournier said that he has written an RFP and forwarded it to the Fire Chief for his review. It will be included in the FY2027 budget.

7. Committee Reports

Councilor Ward reported on the August 25th Budget Committee Meeting: The School has hired a new Finance Director, Brian Lee. The School Board has created a new committee to look into health insurance options. They have allocated more money to the school improvement capital reserve fund. They will present their 4th quarter figures at the next Budget Committee meeting.

8. Old Business

9. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 2nd Reading

a. Resolution #2025/2026-07 - Firewall Systems Upgrade

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution #2025/2026-07 - Firewall Systems Upgrade

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

Discussion: Finance Director Tappan explained that the Department of Safety decided that there needed to be an update to their firewall system, which resulted in us needing an upgrade.

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

b. Resolution #2025/2026-08 Increasing the Disabled Veterans' Tax Credit

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution #2025/2026-08 Increasing the Disabled Veterans' Tax Credit

Second: **Councilor LaMattina**

Discussion: Town Manager Fournier explained that Governor Ayotte signed into law an increase to the disabled veteran's tax credit from \$4,000 to \$5,000. Currently the town provides a tax credit of \$4,000 and a \$750.00 veteran's credit for some qualifying veterans. With the new law, veterans may only receive the 1 tax credit of \$5,000; not the additional

\$750.00. There are 15 Newmarket residents currently receiving the disabled veteran's credit. The Town Manager recommends increasing the disabled credit from \$4,000 to \$5,000.00.

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

- c. Resolution #2025/2026-09 - Vactor Truck Replacement - Granite State Clean Fleets (GSCF) Grant

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution #2025/2026-09 - Vactor Truck Replacement - Granite State Clean Fleets (GSCF) Grant

Second: **Councilor LaMattina**

Discussion: Town Engineer Butler explained that the Vactor Truck is shared by the Public Works Department and the Environmental Services Department. It is used to vacuum out catch basins. The current Vactor truck is 21+ years old. The new truck costs \$635,000. She prepared a grant application and the town was selected to receive funding. The money difference will be \$30,000 and will come from the Public Works Capital Reserve Fund.

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

- d. Resolution # 2025/2026 - 10 Septage Receiving Phase 1 Construction

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution # 2025/2026 - 10 Septage Receiving Phase 1 Construction

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

Discussion: Environmental Services Director Greig explained that they will be moving septate receiving from the Creighton Street Pump Station to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Apex Construction submitted the lowest bid at \$1,964,000. to construct the new septage station. They will continue to use Creighton Street. Once Phase II is complete the new septage station will be used year round and the Creighton Street pump station will still be utilized but not to accept septage.

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

- e. Resolution # 2025/2026 - 11 HPZ Evaluation

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution # 2025/2026 - 11 HPZ Evaluation

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

Discussion: Environmental Services Director Greig explained that throughout the course of developing the new Water Master Plan it was recommended that we build an additional water tower to increase our water storage. This evaluation is the first step to evaluate where to locate another water tower. There is money in the Capital Reserve Fund. He said there are a limited band of houses that just barely make the 20 psi (pound force per square inch); by law we are not

allowed to go below 20 psi. He said there is a pressure zone at Folsom Drive to address lower psi.

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

- f. Resolution #2025/2026-12 - MS4 Outfall Screening (Dry Weather)

Motion: **Councilor Ward** made a motion to approve Resolution #2025/2026-12 - MS4 Outfall Screening (Dry Weather)

Second: **Councilor LaMattina**

Discussion: Town Engineer Butler explained that pursuant to the MS4 General Permit, all outfalls (end of the pipe) have to be inspected. She said there are 30 left to be inspected. It will cost \$25,000 for the test kits used for screening the outfalls for pollutants. The money will come from the stormwater capital reserve fund.

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

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 welcomed Chase Eagleson to the Town Council.

Councilor Lamattina reminded everyone of the Household Hazardous Waste Day on September 20th from 9:00am to 1:00pm at the Public Works Department's parking lot.

- c. Next Meeting
- i. September 17, 2025

11. Adjournment

Chair Conley adjourned the meeting at 7:53 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase
Recording Secretary