TOWN OF
NEWMARKET
NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHARTER COMMISSION
Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Town Hall, Council Chambers
PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: John Bentley, Phil Nazarro, Patrick Reynolds, Russ Simon, Dan Smith, Al Zink. Chair Toni Weinstein and Scott Blackstone were excused. Chris Hawkins arrived at 6:40 PM.

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Public Hearing**

   The Chair opened the meeting for public comment at 7:02 PM. No member of the public was present. The Chair closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. **Consider Acceptance of Minutes**

   The draft minutes of the September 2, 2025 meeting were introduced for comment. There were no comments or changes. A motion was made to approve the minutes and was seconded. The September 2, 2025 meeting minutes were approved 6-0. Mr. Hawkins was absent at the time of this vote.

4. **Discussion of Section 11 of Charter**

   As a general matter, there was discussion of adding RSA references to each paragraph to make the Charter more transparent and user-friendly.

   Discussion of Section 11.1(A) of whether a seat on the Planning Board should be reserved for the School District. Discussion of inviting member of School Board to serve on Planning Board. The intent is to ensure that the School District has a view of potential developments that may impact the student population. Motion by Russ Simon, seconded by John Bentley to add a school board member to the Planning Board. Vote failed 2-5.

Discussion of Section 11.1(B). The Commission discussed the size of the Budget Committee – currently eleven (11) members. The Commission discussed balancing the difficulties of obtaining 11 members vs. the risks of too small a Committee possibly not presenting a fair cross section of opinion in the community. This issue was highlighted for further discussion. An amendment was proposed to state that the Budget Committee would present the Town and School budgets at the Deliberative Sessions.

Discussion of Section 11.1(C). An amendment was proposed that one member of the Conservation Committee would be appointed by the Town Council and one member by the Planning Board. This amendment reflects current practice.

Discussion of Section 11.1(D). Cross reference to Section 5.7(E) propose changes to ensure publication of capital improvement projects and funding mechanisms.

Discussion of Section 11.1(F). This article was discussed to ensure that the Chairs of all standing committees, and not the Town Council reps, meet with the Council at least annually to review the work of the Committees and anticipated activities. This change is intended to highlight the good work done by volunteers on the Committees. An amendment was proposed to remove the words "in February" to allow the Council flexibility in scheduling such meetings. There was discussion of aligning the reporting with the publication of the Town report to ensure the public has the latest information from each Committee on voting day.

Discussion of Section 11.1(G). Further extended discussion of the need and desirability for joint planning and coordination of activities between School Board and Town Council.

5. Discussion of Article 5

The Commission discussed Article 5. Section 5.2 was discussed. An amendment was proposed to add a new sentence to clarify that the Budget Committee shall review and adopt the budget as described in Article 5 and RSA 32:5 and 32:16.

An amendment was proposed to Article 5.3 to clarify that notice of the budget hearing shall be posted in two public places, one of which shall be Town Hall. There was discussion whether Section 5.4(E), which is currently marked "Repealed" may be removed from the document entirely.

Section 5.5. An amendment was proposed to specify that the Town Manager shall submit the budget to the Budget Committee as well as the Town Council.

Section 5.7(E). An amendment was proposed that the budget presentation at Deliberative Session shall include the projects proposed in the updated CIP with the proposed funding mechanism for each item and the current and projected balances of each account. Further discussion of Section 5.7 was deferred to the next meeting.

Section 5.11. The Commission will seek legal guidance on whether Section 5.11 can be amended to streamline the acceptance of grants in the form of loan forgiveness.

6. New Business

There was no new business.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Zink made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bentley seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.