



Town Council Regular Session

July 15, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

MINUTES

1. **6:00 PM Non-Public Session Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II (a),(c) - Personnel**

The Councilors came out of non-public session at 6:40 PM.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Ward convened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Councilor LaMattina led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Roll Call**

Newmarket Town Song written and sung by David Ripley. Mr. Ripley sang the Newmarket song he had written while playing his guitar.

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

Excused: Councilor Stella McShera

Staff Present: Town Manager Stephen Fournier, Environmental Services Director Sean Greig, Director of Planning & Community Development, Bart McDonough, Recording Secretary Wendy Chase.

4. **Public Forum**

Chair Ward opened the Public Forum at 7:08 PM.

Chair Ward closed the Public Forum at 7:09 PM without public comment.

5. **Town Council to Consider Acceptance of Minutes**

a. June 17, 2026 Non-public Meeting Minutes

Motion: **Councilor LaMattina** made a motion to approve the June 17, 2026 Non-public Meeting Minutes.

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

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

b. June 17, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion: **Councilor LaMattina** made a motion to approve the June 17, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

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

6. **Report of the Town Manager**

a. TM Report July 15, 2026

- **Creighton Street Boundary Adjustment:**

- The town is adjusting the boundary at 11 Creighton Street to expand Schanda Park, retaining a small lot for sale to help recover acquisition costs. The remaining lot will be nonconforming and requires ZBA relief and Planning Board review.

- **Coastal Resiliency Grant Award:**

- The town received a Coastal Resilience Grant for the Schanda Park Redevelopment Strategy: \$41,657 in federal funds and \$10,000 from the Strafford Regional Planning Commission. The project will run for about 18 months starting January 2027, pending contract finalization and compliance with federal and state requirements.

2. Community Events

- **Annual Backyard Bash:**

- Scheduled for August 7, 2026, at the Rec fields (rain date: August 10). Expected attendance: 3,000–5,000. Activities include music, beer garden, touch-a-truck, water balloon toss, and fireworks at 9:15 p.m.

Town Manager Fournier presented a preliminary unaudited expense and revenues report.

Town Manager Fourmieri reminded the Councilors that there is a joint Town Council/School Board meeting scheduled on August 12, 2026, in the Auditorium.

Councilor LaMattina commended Environmental Services Director Sean Greig, Town Engineer Lyndsay Butler and Director of Planning & Community Development Director Bart McDonough for their efforts in receiving the Coastal Resiliency Grant Award. \$41,657 in federal funds and \$10,000 in non-federal funds.

b. June 2026 Department Reports

7. Committee Reports

Councilor Glazebrook reported on the July 14th Planning Board Meeting:

The Board reviewed the 14 Elm Street design review. The meeting was well attended by residents and neighbors of 14 Elm. They voiced concerns with parking, width density, traffic and visibility. The Applicant received non-binding feedback from the Board.

The Master Plan finalization was continued to the next meeting on August 11th. If there are no major changes by then; the Board will finalize the Master Plan.

Councilor Blackstone reported on the July 9th Conservation Commission Meeting:

The Commission discussed restoring Lubberland Creek Marsh on Bay Road. The sea level keeps rising, and high tide brings in a lot of water which doesn't drain out during low tide. The Commission is considering getting rid of trenches to help draw the water out.

Councilor LaMattina reported on Community Power:

The new rates will come out August 1st and good until January 2027. Anyone who has Community power can opt out at any time for free by calling 1-800-603-7697 and providing their account number. The Energy & Environment Committee will have representatives from another vendor at their July 22nd meeting to make a presentation.

Chair Ward reported on Newmarket300 Committee Meeting:

They are looking for volunteers for the 300th Celebration. They collected \$4,700 from the Hometown Hero banners. There will be commemorative beer for the 300th birthday from Deciduous Brewery at the Backyard Bash at the beer tent this year. There will be an event on September 16th for the Elm Street Mural that is being repaired. The images will not be repainted on the concrete but rather, they will be put on metal plates and installed directly onto the concrete.

Councilor Dornblut reported on the June 24th COAST meeting and the July 8th Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) meeting:

COAST: The rates for the Newmarket/Exeter Connector will increase from \$3.00 per ride to \$4.00. They secured a significant grant to contribute to the facility upgrades.

PTAC: There was a presentation from contractors about the wayfinding signs. The Committee finalized their recommendations to the Council for Parking Management. He suggested the Council meet in a Work Session to discuss the Management report.

8. Old Business

9. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 2nd Reading

a. Resolution #2025/2026-51 - Master Plan Contract Amendment

Motion: **Councilor LaMattina** made a motion to approve Resolution #2025/2026-51 - Master Plan Contract Amendment

Second: **Councilor Dornblut**

Discussion: Planning & Community Development Director McDonough explained that they needed additional funds from the Capital Reserve Fund to finish the Master Plan and finalize the new website. He encouraged everyone to visit the new website.

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

10. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

- a. Resolution #2026/2027-01 - Investment Policy
Councilor LaMattina read Resolution #2026/2027-01 in title only.
- b. Resolution # 2026/2027 - 02 Lead Water Service Line Replacement II

Town Manager requests suspension of the Rules.

Motion: Councilor Dornblut made a motion to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution # 2026/2027 - 02 Lead Water Service Line Replacement II.

Second: Councilor LaMattina

Discussion: Town Manager Fournier explained that the crew is already working on the project, and it would be costly to remove them from the job and wait until August 19th for a second reading and approval of the resolution.

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

Motion: Councilor LaMattina made a motion to approve Resolution # 2026/2027 - 02 Lead Water Service Line Replacement II

Second: Councilor Conley

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

- c. Resolution #2026/2027-03 - Legal review CPCNH Agreement
Councilor LaMattina read Resolution #2026/2027-03 into the record.
Motion: Councilor Blackstone made a motion to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution #2026/2027-03 - Legal review Community Power Coalition New Hampshire (CPCNH) Agreement.
Second: Councilor LaMattina
Discussion: Councilor Blackstone explained his reasoning for the motion to suspend the rules. CPCNH customers are paying 2 cents more per kWh than Eversource customers. There are cheaper options available to save Newmarket residents money. They shouldn't wait any longer to begin the legal review and end the relationship with Community Power.
Vote: Unanimously Approved (6-0-0).
Motion: Councilor LaMattina made a motion to approve Resolution #2026/2027-03 - Legal review CPCNH Agreement
Second: Councilor Dornblut
Vote: Unanimously Approved (6-0-0).
- d. Ordinance No. 01-2026/2027 - Amending Chapt 2 Art III Establish Heritage Comm

Councilor LaMattina read Ordinance No. 01-2026/2027 into the record in title only.

There will be public hearing at the second reading of Ordinance No. 01-2026/2027 at the August 19th Council Meeting.

11. New Business/Correspondence

- a. Correspondence to the Town Council
There was no correspondence to the Council.
- b. Closing Comments by Town Councilors

Town Manager Fournier commented that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the country and the Northeast region increased by 4%.

Councilor Dornblut said the paving improvements on Grant Road make for great cycling conditions.

Mr. Ripley received appreciation for his musical contribution.

Next Meeting:

- August 12th with the School Board
- Next regular meeting on August 19th

- c. Next Meeting

- i. August 19, 2026

12. Adjournment

Chair Ward adjourned the meeting at 7:58 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase
Recording Secretary