

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

March 2, 2022 7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Approved March 16, 2022

Councilors present: Council Chair Toni Weinstein, Councilor Jonathan Kiper, Councilor Megan Brabec, Councilor Scott Blackstone, Councilor Katanna Conley and Councilor Brian Ward.

Staff Present: Finance Director William Tappan, Environmental Director Sean Greig and Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary.

Chair Weinstein convened the meeting at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Weinstein explained that Finance Director William Tappan was sitting in for Town Manager Fournier this evening.

AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM

Chair Weinstein opened the Public Forum at 7:03 PM.

Chair Weinstein closed the Public Forum at 7:03 PM without public comment.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Progress of the CDBG-Covid project that provides funding to the municipality and service provider subapplicants for costs in preparing for, responding to, or recovering from Covid-19. Participating organizations include: Newmarket General Assistance, Newmarket Housing Authority, Newmarket Recreation Sunrise Sunset Activity Center, Newmarket Recreation Department Childcare and Newmarket Community Church.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are available to municipalities through the NH Community Development Finance Authority. Up to \$500,000 annually is available for Economic Development Projects, up to \$500,000 for Housing Projects, up to \$500,000 for Public Facility Projects, up to \$500,000 in Emergency Funds, up to \$25,000 per Planning Study grant, and up to \$1,000,000 available for each housing project under the CDBG-CV allocation due to COVID-19. Up to \$500,000 was available for CDBG-Covid services. All projects must directly benefit a majority of low and moderate income persons (LMI).

Chair Weinstein opened the Public Hearing on the progress of the CDBG-Covid Project at 7:04 PM.

To date \$150,471 of the \$325,060 CDBG-CV grant has been spent primarily on staffing, a van,

emergency assistance, supplies, scholarships and administration. Currently the projects have until 6/22/22 to incur costs.

Chair Weinstein closed the Public Hearing at 7:06 PM without public comment.

2. Progress of the Newmarket Housing Authority's upgrade project, 34 Gordon Avenue, that includes replacement piping and energy savings improvements. The majority of the 50 residential units are occupied by low and moderate income households.

Chair Weinstein opened the Public Hearing on the progress of the Newmarket's Housing Authority's Improvement Project at 7:06 PM.

According to the current schedule the contractor will have completed the new piping in the buildings by April 2022. The kitchen upgrades, in some units, along with energy improvement items are expected to be complete in summer 2022.

Chair Weinstein closed the Public Hearing at 7:08 PM without public comment.

Chair Weinstein was excused.

Councilor Conley assumed the Chair.

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

February 16, 2022 Non-public Meeting Minutes

Councilor Blackstone made a motion to Approve *the February 16, 2022 Non-public Meeting Minutes*, which was seconded by Councilor Ward.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

February 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Blackstone made a motion to Approve *the February 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes*, which was seconded by Councilor Ward.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager's Report

Finance Director Tappan read the Town Manager's report.

- COVID-19 and Vaccination Update: As of February 24, there are seven active cases in the

community, a decrease of 84% since the last report. We have had 1,622 cumulative cases. The Seacoast Health Region has seen a 5.6% increase in new cases of the past week. This is down 6% from the previous week.

- The NH DPHS is no longer recommending universal face mask use and recommends that decisions on face mask use be based on individual choice. Face masks continue to be required under federal regulations in certain situations including on public transportation and entering a healthcare facility.
- There has been a slight increase in percentage vaccinated.
- Town Election: Tuesday, March 8 is Town Election Day. At least one Councilor must be present at the polls at all times. The sign-up sheet is with the Town Clerk.

Water & Wastewater Energy Audits

Steve Bolles, Process Energy Services, LLC, gave a PowerPoint presentation on Energy Audits they conducted for the Newmarket Water and Wastewater systems.

In summary

- The Water and Wastewater Systems are operated very efficiently based on the benchmarking data.
- Staff "energy related" capabilities are exceptional compared to other municipalities (data collection, fine tuning equipment operation, interested in improving system efficiency).
- The proposed energy saving measures will help optimize equipment operation, reduce energy costs and improve benchmarking values.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Brabec's report of Riverfront Advisory Committee –

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The design teams on the Schanda Park living shoreline met with the Riverfront Advisory committee and will present the final design to them next month.

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Councilor Blackstone's report of the Planning Board meeting –

The Planning Board did not have a quorum for their February 22nd workshop meeting, so they were unable to meet.

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Councilor Ward's report of the Budget Committee –

The Budget Committee did not have a quorum for their February 28th meeting, so they were unable to meet.

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Councilor Conley's report of the Arts and Tourism Committee –

The Arts and Tourism Committee did not have a quorum for their February meeting, so they were unable to meet.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES IN THE 2ND READING

Resolution #2021/2022-24 - Tucker Well Project Award

Councilor Blackstone made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2021/2022-24 - Tucker Well Construction Project Award*, which was seconded by Councilor Ward.

Environmental Services Director Grieg explained the award is to increase Newmarket's water supply. They received 4 bids and this was the lowest, but also the best. It was vetted by Wright Pierce Engineering. Director Greig recommends the Council award the bid to Hampstead Area Water Services Company for \$1,969,674 along with the \$195,000 for contingencies.

Councilor Blackstone asked if we worked with this company before and Director Greig said that we have not, but Wright Pierce did a thorough background check on the company resulting in a positive report.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

Resolution #2021/2022-25 - Tucker Well Dredge and Fill Permit

Councilor Blackstone made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2021/2022-25 - Tucker Well Dredge and Fill Permit*, which was seconded by Councilor Ward.

Environmental Director Greig said that he has to construct a small access road to the wellhead. According to the regulations for the dredge and fill application; the town will have to contribute \$16,678.15 to the Aquatic Resource Fund to construct the road. The fund is used to restore wetlands. The Town may apply for the money in the fund if or when the town needs money to restore wetlands.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 5-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading

Resolution #2021/2022-26 - Purchase of New UPS Devices for the Town

Councilor Conley read Resolution #2021/2022-26 into the record.

Resolution #2021/2022-27 - New Road Watermain Replacement and Drainage Improvements Project Award

Councilor Conley read Resolution #2021/2022-27 into the record.

Resolution # 2021/2022-28 - Bennett and Sewall Wells Improvements Project

Councilor Conley read Resolution #2021/2022-28 into the record.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

There was no correspondence.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY TOWN COUNCILORS

Councilor Kiper said he was disappointed that the Planning Board didn't have a quorum to meet last week. Especially because of the important agenda item regarding accessory dwelling units. He commented that if those running for office are not going to be able to commit enough to attend the meetings then they should reconsider running for office. He wondered if committees could be established in a non town affiliated manner so that they didn't have to adhere to the strict meeting guidelines and could continue to meet even if they didn't have a quorum.

Councilor Blackstone commented that this was the first time the Planning Board could not meet because they didn't have a quorum in the two years he has been the ex officio member.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

March 16, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Conley adjourned the meeting at 8:02 PM.

Dean Adams, New Road asked when the New Road project would begin. He was advised that public comment takes place at the beginning of the meeting under public forum. Ms. Chase took his number and will call him with information regarding the New Road project.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary