

LONDONDERRY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2021

The meeting took place in the Moose Hill Council Chambers, 268B Mammoth Rd, Londonderry, NH 03053.

Present: Chairman John Farrell; Vice Chairman Joe Green; Councilor Tom Dolan, Deb Paul, and Jim Butler; Town Manager Kevin Smith; Assistant Town Manager Lisa Drabik; Absent: Executive Assistant Kirby Brown

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Farrell called the Town Council meeting to order. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence for those who serve us both here and abroad and for former Assessor Rick Brideau.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Farrell stated that he has made some changes to the agenda given the large snow storm.

Town Manager Smith stated that he would like to express profound disappointment that he feels compelled to address the editorial that was published in last week's issue of the Londonderry Times. Smith stated that the employees fully expect to receive constructive criticism from time to time. The inflammatory characterizations that were leveled at them in the editorial are holy without merit. Smith stated that the employee's know that the owner of the times is also a Town Councilor, who is essentially one of their bosses. Smith quoted some of what was written in the editorial about how "no one listens", "we have excuses for everything". Smith stated that it's a false distortion of the great work the employee's do day in and day out to meet the needs to the residents we work with every day. Smith stated that this is bullying. Smith stated that every time Councilor Paul has contacted Town Hall, the Police Department and the Fire Department, she has received a timely response every time, often with many follow-ups. This is all public record. Smith stated that the editorial also stated that employee's should be receive wage increases, etc. Smith stated that most employee's fall under contracts that the voters vote on. Smith also mentioned that it stated

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35 taxes have gone up, when in fact the tax rate has gone down on three different occasions in
36 the last seven years, during non-evaluation years. Town Manager Smith stated that everyone
37 also continued to work throughout all of Covid-19.

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39 Councilor Paul addressed the issue and stated that the editorial wasn't based toward
40 Londonderry totally. Councilor Paul stated that she is sorry Town Manager Smith took it
41 personally. Councilor Paul stated that she covers five towns and there are a lot of things
42 going on in different towns and that editorial was covering and pointing out a couple issues
43 that were going on in another town. Councilor Paul stated that she is a strong believer that
44 if you are not guilty of something, you shouldn't take it that it's toward you. That editorial
45 was for all five of the towns, Derry, Sandown, Chester, Hampstead and Londonderry.
46 Councilor Paul stated that if someone asked, she would have gone into detail about which
47 town that was about. Councilor Paul stated that she can't write five different editorials
48 specifying five different towns. Councilor Paul stated that she spoke in generalities.
49 Councilor Paul stated that it wasn't geared toward Londonderry. It was geared toward
50 another town. Councilor Paul stated that in terms of tax rates going up, it may not be tax
51 rates and maybe that was the wrong word, but the tax bill, the amount you pay every year
52 does go up in some fashion. Councilor Paul stated that the tax dollar amount that she pays
53 every year does go on a constant move upwards. Councilor Paul stated that she believes
54 what she said was correct.

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56 Vice Chairman Green stated asked Councilor Paul if that editorial was seen in all of the
57 other newspapers the exact way. Councilor Paul stated that yes it is. It's the same editorial
58 in all of the papers and she doesn't have time to write separate editorials for separate papers.

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60 Councilor Butler stated that being a Town Councilor and an owner of the town newspaper
61 indicates that she has a platform and it's a conflict of interest. Councilor Butler stated that
62 she should have been sensitive enough to qualify the statement. Councilor Butler asked what
63 town had the problem. Councilor Paul stated Hampstead. Councilor Butler asked why that
64 wasn't clarified in the article. Councilor Paul stated that everyone has an opinion. Councilor
65 Butler stated that the paper is a platform.

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67 Chairman Farrell stated to Councilor Paul that in the future she should just be a little more
68 careful and qualify some things when you put them in the paper. Councilor Paul stated she
69 only gets 480 words so it's hard to. Chairman Farrell stated that even if she puts "I'm a

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Town Councilor and this isn't about Londonderry", just so we don't run into this issue again. Councilor Paul stated that she is a firm believer of it you are not guilty of something you shouldn't take it personally. Councilor Paul stated that if the town employees are doing a great job they shouldn't take it personally because it's not them. Councilor Paul stated that she has one day to write them.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Farrell introduced Order #2021-04 which is an Order relative to the expenditure of Maintenance Trust Fund for various projects. Town Manager Smith presented. Smith stated that this is for two winter maintenance items. Motion to approve Order #2021-04 made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor Dolan. Chair votes 5-0-0.

Assistant DPW Director John Trottier and Environmental Engineer Bob Kerry presented the Inter-Municipal Agreement between the Town of Derry and the Town of Londonderry wastewater service. Trottier stated that this IMA is for the area near exit 4 where the sanitary from Londonderry flows to Derry. Derry has a wastewater treatment plant that has a capacity of four million gallons a day. Trottier went over the new calculations. It's a fifteen year term with a five year automatic renewals. That hasn't changed from the existing IMA. We will be billed quarterly, the same rate as any other Derry user. The second cost is the capital cost. In July 2021, we will be charged annually for 25,000 gallons per day addition. Current rate is \$3.40 per gallon. It's not coming out of the General Fund, it's coming out of the Enterprise Fund that handles the sewer bills. Motion to adopt the agreement made by Councilor Dolan and second by Vice Chairman Green. Chair votes 5-0-0. Motion to authorize the Town Manager and Chair to sign it made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor Butler. Chair votes 5-0-0.

Chairman Farrell introduced Resolution #2021-03, a Resolution relative to creation of the PFAS Task Force. Assistant Town Manager Lisa Drabik presented. Chairman Farrell stated that he is hoping to move swiftly with this. Councilor Dolan Motion to approve Resolution #2021-03 made by Councilor Dolan and second by Vice Chairman Green. Chair votes 5-0-0.

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OLD BUSINESS

NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the Town Council minutes from January 18, 2021 made by Councilor Dolan and second by Councilor Butler. Chair votes 5-0-0.

APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

Resignation of Snehal Patel from the Heritage Commission made by Councilor Dolan and second by Councilor Butler. The Council thanked Patel for his service.

Motion to re-appoint Krys Kenney to the Heritage Commission made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor Butler. Chair votes 5-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor Dolan. Chair votes 5-0-0.

Notes and Tapes by:	Kirby Brown	Date: 2/01/2021
Minutes Typed by:	Kirby Brown	Date: 2/08/2021
Approved by:	Town Council	Date: 2/16/2021