

Londonderry Town Council Minutes
Monday, November 7, 2022
7:00 PM
Moose Hill Council Chambers

Attendance: Present: Chairman John Farrell; Councilor Jim Butler, Chad Franz, and Deb Paul; Town Manager Michael Malaguti; Finance Director Justin Campo; Absent: Vice Chairman Joe Green; Kirby Brown, Executive Assistant

Call to Order

Chairman Farrell called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge was led by Councilor Franz. Councilor Franz held a moment of silence for the Veterans and all those who have served us and honoring Veterans Day.

Public Comment

Londonderry Police Chief Bernard introduced new promotions that have been made at the PD. Chief Bernard stated that the four men standing in front came to Londonderry from other agencies. Det. Andrew Phillips to Patrol Sergeant; Officer Ryan Maclean to Patrol Sergeant; Sergeant Keith Lee to Patrol Lieutenant; and Sergeant Garrett Malloy to Patrol Lieutenant. The Council congratulated the officers on their promotions.

Chairman Farrell read a Town Council Proclamation in honor of Small Business Saturday.

Chairman Farrell stated that tomorrow, November 8th, is Election Day. The polls open at 6 AM and close at 8 PM. The Council urged te public to get out and vote.

Name: John Grennon

Address: 14 Jewel Ct., Londonderry

Grennon stated that he was going to ask what the process was for a warrant article, to increase the police department presence at the schools for the SRO program. Grennon stated that LPD does an amazing job and they all make parents feel more comfortable. Grennon stated that he is unsure if the department is allowed to increase staffing at the schools, but what happens when one officer is gone or out sick. How do they backfill when someone is not there? Grennon stated that everyone should think about not defunding the police department.

Chairman Farrell stated that once public comment is closed, he will answer Grennon's question.

Name: Martha Smith

Address: 38 Shasta Drive, Londonderry

Smith stated that at the last Town Council meeting, Mike Speltz gave a presentation about the Energy Task Force. Smith asked what the status of the task force is. Smith stated that there's a group of active volunteers. Chairman Farrell stated that it is number seven on the agenda.

Name: Kristine Perez

Address: 5 Wesley Drive, Londonderry

Perez stated that she may not stay for the whole meeting, but she would like to speak in favor of the Energy Task Force that has worked so hard. To have new and different people on it now would hurt the committee. Why start over again.

Name: Justin Campo, Finance Director

Campo stated he reached out to DRA and he received the current preliminary tax rate. Campo asked the Council what they would like to do to use the UFB to lower the tax rate. Right now the tax rate is at \$18.48 per thousand. It is up ten cents from the previous years. Campo stated that the UFB is not as healthy as it normally would be. Chairman Farrell stated that \$1M was used last year to off-set the tax rate. Campo stated that right now there is two-hundred thousand set to lower it. Councilor Paul stated that the Council should wait a bit since they just got the numbers. It's hard to decide she's not opposed; the Councilor should just digest it first. Chairman Farrell stated that his opinion is to ride a year out. Chairman Farrell stated that if the Council doesn't decide tonight, it will push the tax bills out an extra week.

New Business

Chairman Farrell addressed the comment in regards to citizen petitions. Chairman Farrell stated that no one is defunding the police, that is a political word. Chairman Farrell said he doesn't personally believe we should remove first responders, but hard discussions need to be had. Town Manager Malaguti showed how to file a citizen petition through the town's website, on the Finance Department's page. Malaguti stated that there is a deadline in January for submitted a warrant article. Campo shared the budget calendar with all of the deadlines. The deadline if you require a bond, is Friday January 6th. If you do not require a bond, it is January 10th. Campo stated that they do offer, free of charge, for the petition to be looked at. All of the pages must state the same thing and there should be more than twenty-five signatures just in case.

Resolution #2022-10 – Acceptance of Unanticipated Revenue (Under RSA31:95-b) Londonderry Concerts on the Common Graft

Presented by: Finance Director Justin Campo

Campo stated that Concerts on the Common applied for the grant that they've received for the past two years. They have been awarded it in the amount of \$5,100. It helps with their expenses and to bring in the talent that they do. They worked hard to apply for the Grant.

Motion: Vice Chairman Green

Second: Councilor Franz

Chair votes 5-0-0

Order #2022-17 – An Order Relative to the Distribution of Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Funds

Presented by: Bruce Hallowell and Fred Heinrich

Hallowell stated that this is for turnout gear, in the amount of \$26,045.00. The cost has significantly increased over the last few years. Hallowell stated that what they do is rotate gear down now to new firefighters. Hallowell stated that they have had supply chain problems and you can't get certain things. Hallowell thanked the Council for their support

Motion: Vice Chairman Green

Second: Councilor Franz

Chair votes 5-0-0

Orders #2022-18, #2022-19, #2022-20, and #2022-21 – Order Relative to Expenditure of Maintenance Trust Fund for Various Projects

Presented by: DPW Director, Dave Wholley

Wholley went through each of the Orders. Chairman Farrell took a motion to approve Orders #2022-18, #2022-19, #2022-20, and #2022-21 together.

Motion: Vice Chairman Green

Second: Councilor Butler

Chair votes 5-0-0

Energy Task Force Workshop Discussion

Chairman Farrell stated that usually a Task Force has a start date and end date and specific goals. Chairman Farrell stated that something that has been discussed is that the Energy Task Force is to narrowly focused, and it should be something more like a utilities commission. A permanent committee that all utilities can fall under. Councilor Paul stated that the task force was something she came up with and she thinks it should be permanent and it should be the same people who have been on it, maybe get some help from some staff. Councilor Paul suggestion going from a task force to a committee. Chairman Farrell stated that the Council will have to decide what the committee will look like as a group, and the positions will need to be advertised, even if the Council decides to appoint the same group of people. The Council decided that it will be discussed how to move forward.

123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136
137
138
139
140
141
142
143
144
145
146
147
148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155
156
157
158

Tax Bill Discussion

Chairman Farrell stated that the tax bills are going up a dime. Councilor Franz asked how much is one cent. Campo stated that fifty thousand is roughly one cent on the tax rate. According to DRA, to get us to where we were last year, it would be \$514,406.00. Campo stated that had the town not used the \$800,000.00 last year from the UFB, the town would be looking at a tax rate decrease this year. Campo stated that sooner or later, you're going to run out of money to put at the at the tax rate. Councilor Paul stated that she would like to keep it the same, just for this year, since so many families are struggling right now. Chairman Farrell stated that the Council has given back four times, but now members are looking to give back five times. The Council decided to wait until the 14th to decide, but it will put the tax bills back a week. Chairman Farrell stated that it is a lot of money that is being discussed.

Motion: Councilor Butler

Second: Councilor Franz

Chair votes 5-0-0

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from October 17, 2022: Vice Chairman Green

Second: Councilor Franz

Chair votes 5-0-0

The Council voted to lift the water restrictions now that the drought status has ended. Motion made by Councilor Franz and seconded by Vice Chairman Green. Chair vote 5-0-0.

Adjournment

Motion: Vice Chairman Green

Second: Councilor Franz

Chair votes 5-0-0

Minutes taken by Kirby Brown on 11/07/2022
Minutes typed by Kirby Brown on 11/14/2022
Minutes approved by Town Council on 11/14/2022