

Londonderry Town Council Minutes
Monday, November 14, 2022
7:00 PM
Moose Hill Council Chambers

Attendance: Present: Chairman John Farrell; Vice Chairman Joe Green; Councilor Chad Franz, and Deb Paul; Town Manager Michael Malaguti; Finance Director Justin Campo; Absent: Councilor Jim Butler and 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 Chairman Farrell. This was followed by a moment of silence for the Veterans and all those who have served us both here and abroad.

Public Comment

Name: Doug Thomas

Address: 143 Mammoth Road

Thomas thanked Katie Sullivan and all of the students for a great Veterans Breakfast event.

Name: Dan Bouchard

Address: O'Connell, Londonderry

Bouchard stated that he wanted to talk about the Saturday's budget workshop. Bouchard mentioned that Town Manager Malaguti did a great job presenting the budget. Bouchard stated that he doesn't want to see any positions cut, at the police department or anywhere.

Name: Kristine Perez

Address: 5 Wesley Drive, Londonderry

Perez stated that she wants to talk about the tax rate issue. Perez stated that it was already brought up that we've given the veterans back money by increasing the credit that they get. Perez stated that there is nothing that we can give our veterans to pay the back for what they have done for us. Perez stated that she believes there's around 24,000 people in Londonderry, roughly, and money has already been put into the UFB. Perez stated that the town went up by nine cents, it got six cents back from the county. We may not get that six cents back from the county again next year. Perez stated that she understands the school went up by fifty-four cents, but the state gave them forty-seven. The state may not be able to give them that forty-seven. That would mean right now our tax rate would actually go up by sixty-three cents, on the thousand. Perez stated to take the five hundred thousand away from the reserve and lower the tax rate, and she understand when it comes

time for the warrant articles in March, it may not say zero on our tax rate. Perez stated that she doesn't think people understand that it's their tax money. Perez stated that we don't know what next year is going to be and things are tough everywhere right now. Perez asked the Council to think about bringing the tax rate down for those who really need it this year.

Name: Tony DeFrancesco

Address: 1 Cheshire Ct, Londonderry

DeFrancesco stated that taking ten cents off the tax rate makes no sense. DeFrancesco stated that the town has a financial adviser who said at the last meeting not to do it. DeFrancesco said it makes no sense to reduce the tax rate when not many people need it and it will take a while to recover if we continue to do it.

Name: Bob Slater

Address: 1 Stonehenge Rd, Londonderry

Slater stated that he is also a School Board member. Slater stated that the school department is fighting a double edge sword as well. Some of the buildings are old, so there's a plan in place for the next twenty-five years to start taking care of them. Slater stated that he knows a brunt of the budget is the school district.

Name: Ann Chiampa

Address: 28 Wedgewood Drive, Londonderry

Chiampa stated that no everyone can whether this storm and people are struggling. Chiampa also asked the Council about rules and regulations for committees. Chiampa stated that she was surprised by one thing, on the Traffic Safety Committee, and Councilor Franz seemed to have a personal interest in something that was discussed so how can he vote and act on the subject. Chairman Farrell stated that he won't discuss rules and regulations during public comment.

Name: Ray Breslin

Address: 3 Gary Drive

Breslin asked the Council where we are with water and sewer.

Name: Jonathan Kipp

Address:

Town Moderator, Jonathan Kipp, provided the Council with an update on the election. Kipp stated that there were 18,764 voters on the checklist and 729 who registered on the day at the polls. There were 12,063 voters that voted, which includes 1,112 absentee ballots that were counted. Kipp stated that traffic was consistent all day.

81 **New Business**

82
83 **Tax Rate Discussion**

84 Chairman Farrell spoke about the tax rate. Chairman Farrell reminded the Council that Finance
85 Director Justin Campo strongly advised that we should square things up this year. The town gave
86 back over one million dollars last year, and about nine million over the past three years through all
87 three forms of government; town, library and school. Right now, there's about five million dollars
88 in the Undesignated Fund Balance and we are looking to take five hundred thousand out. Campo
89 stated that to make it zero, it would need to be a little over five hundred thousand. Chairman Farrell
90 stated that the UFB has been cut in half over the years. Chairman Farrell opened it up to the
91 Council. Motion to reduce the tax rate to last year's figure made by Vice Chairman Green. Second
92 by Councilor Paul. Vice Chairman Green stated that he doesn't think five hundred thousand is
93 going to break us. Councilor Paul stated that this is the right thing right now. Chairman Farrell
94 stated that Councilor Butler is out and not voting tonight, but he favors the Finance Directors
95 recommendation. Chairman Farrell stated that the UFB is in the red zone now and the savings has
96 been cut in half. Chairman Farrell called for the vote. Councilor Paul and Vice Chairman Green
97 votes for using money from UFB and Chairman Farrell and Councilor Franz voted against. Motion
98 fails 2-2. Tax rate is \$18.48.

99
100 **Discussion on Eligibility Requirements – Commercial/Industrial Incentive Program**

101 Town Manager Malaguti stated that a few meetings ago he discussed the threshold for the
102 commercial and industrial incentive program. Malaguti stated that to participate in that program
103 currently, it sits at fifteen million dollars. There's a second tier that entitles a taxpayer to additional
104 tax relief and that is currently set at thirty million dollars. Malaguti stated that to date, we haven't
105 had an application under the existing criteria. This was adopted by the Council in June. Malaguti
106 stated that economic stated has gone downhill since June. We may be pricing everyone out of it
107 based on the current eligibility. Malaguti stated that in the current economic state of affairs, it may
108 be a good time to reevaluate the eligibility. Malaguti went over the program scope again. Chairman
109 Farrell stated that as long as the Council is okay relooking at this, it can be discussed at the next
110 meeting.

111
112 **Resolution #2022-20 – Dissolve Exit 4A TIF District**

113 Town Manager Malaguti presented and stated that there is currently an authorization for a TIF
114 district on the east side of I-93 in the Exit 4A area. It was never fully implemented. Malaguti stated
115 that at this point, the authorization is just an empty skeleton. Malaguti stated that himself, and the
116 town attorney, don't think that this should be floating around without an actual TIF. Malaguti
117 stated that it would be his recommendation, and the town attorneys, to adopt Resolution #2022-
118 20, rescinding that authority, with the option to come back and do it when there's an actual
119 proposal and project in front of the Town Council. Motion to adopt Resolution #2022-20 made by
120 Councilor Franz. Second by Vice Chairman Green. Chair votes 4-0-0.

121
122 **Speed Limit Discussion – Calla, Sunflower, Sandy Brook and Acorn**

123 Town Manager Malaguti invited up Director of Engineering and Environmental Services, John

Trottier, as well as Traffic Safety Committee Chair, Bob Ramsay. Malaguti stated this stem from a discussion that took place at the October 3rd Traffic Safety meeting. There were residents who came to talk about the speed limit on Calla Rd, where there is not speed limit posted, so it's the default speed of 35 MPH. There was a motion and vote that carries to be brought in from of the Town Council tonight, a discussion about lowering the speed limit to 25 MPH. There was also discussion to lower the speed limit on Sunflower, Sandy Brook and Acorn. Chairman Farrell stated that there have been two warrant articles on the ballot in the last few years to lower the speed limit and they were both voted down. The Council discussed options. Councilor Paul stated that a lot of the people who speed are the ones who live in these neighborhoods. Chairman Farrell stated that if we are going to change the speed limit, change it in the entire town.

Police Chief Kim Bernard mentioned at the Traffic Safety meeting that there's upwards of five hundred roads in town and it's hard to memorize all the speed limits in town. The motion did fail for town-wide 30 MPH. You can't change the state roads, so Mammoth Rd, 102, 28, those would all stay the same.

The Council gave direction to the Town Manager to work with the Town Engineer to give them some sort of ball park for the level of effort to understand this. What are we really talking about trying to undertake, for a future discussion.

Budget Workshop

Chairman Farrell asked Finance Director Justin Campo what things he's been able to follow up on. Chairman Farrell stated that next Monday he would like to start peeling the budget back. Chairman Farrell stated that if the Budget Committee is going to be making recommendations on where we should be looking, are we cutting or adding personnel, services that should be changed, he would like the committee members to bring it with them to the next meeting. Finance Director Campo stated that the budget has remained the same and there are no changes. Campo supplied a report of overtime for the PD and FD to the Council.

The Council discussed police department overtime and adding new officers.

Approval of Minutes

The Council will review the minutes and approve them at the November 21st meeting.

Town Manager Malaguti stated that he heard something in public comment that is appropriate for him to comment on as the Town Manager. Malaguti stated that the question was raised on whether Councilor Franz has a conflict of interest for voting on a matter at the Traffic Safety Committee. Malaguti stated that Councilor Franz has not asked him to address this, but under the town ethics code, a conflict is when a committee official, votes or acts on a matter in which they have a direct interest which is capable of being demonstrated under our town charter. A conflict of interest is

166 defined in section 6.2 and 6.3.

167

168 **Adjournment**

169

170 **Motion:** Vice Chairman Green

171 **Second:** Councilor Franz

172 Chair votes 4-0-0

173

174 Minutes taken by Kirby Brown on 11/14/2022

175 Minutes typed by Kirby Brown on 11/17/2022

176 Minutes approved by Town Council on 11/21/2022