

TOWN OF DERRY

Town Council
Derry Municipal Center

March 18, 2014
Tuesday - 7:30 PM

7:25 PM Swearing in of newly elected Councilors

7:30 PM Call to order

Pledge of Allegiance, warning of fire exits, handicap access, & turn off all cell phones

Roll Call: Councilors Fischer, Bourdon, Katsakiores, Cardon, Osborne, Dimmock and Chairman Fairbanks

Chairman Fairbanks thanked the Town Council and staff for working with him over the last year as Chairman.

14-25 Election of Officers

Nomination for Chairman - Mark Osborne vote: 6-0-1 (Councilor Osborne)

Nomination for Chair Pro-Tem – Tom Cardon and Al Dimmock vote:

4 votes for Councilor Al Dimmock

3 votes for Councilor Tom Cardon

Council Chair – **Councilor Osborne**

Council Chair Pro-Tem – **Councilor Dimmock** (4-3-0)

Conservation Commission Council Representative – **Councilor Cardon**

Planning Board Council Representative – **Councilor Fairbanks**

Heritage Commission Council Representative – **Councilor Katsakiores**

Finance Committee Council Representative – **Councilor Osborne**

Audit Committee Council Representatives

1) **Councilor Fairbanks**

2) **Councilor Osborne**

Derry Housing & Redevelopment Authority Council Representative – **Councilor Katsakiores**

Derry Downtown Committee Council Representative – **Councilor Cardon**

Human Services Council Representative – **Councilor Bourdon**

Public Works Council Representative – **Councilor Dimmock**

Safety Departments Council Representative – **Councilor Dimmock**

Derry Public Library Council Representative – **Councilor Fischer**

Taylor Library Council Representative – **Councilor Cardon**

Energy / Environmental Advisory Committee Council Representative – **Councilor Cardon**

Legislative Delegation Council Representative – **Councilor Bourdon**

Southern NH Hazardous Materials Mutual Aid District

1) **Councilor Fairbanks**

2) **Chief Klauber**

School Board Council Representative – **Councilor Fischer**

Consent Agenda

14-26 Approve Non-Public Minutes – March 4, 2014

Accepted Vote: 6-0-1 (Councilor Fischer)

14-27 Approve Minutes – March 4, 2014

Accepted Vote: 5-0-2 (Councilors Bourdon, Fischer)

Approved as written

Chairman's Report – Mark Osborne

Councilor Bourdon – Acknowledged Nathan Mejia, 16, who recently moved to Derry and attends Pinkerton Academy. Two weeks ago he smelled smoke in his kitchen and was faced with a terrible situation. He quickly extinguished the fire and took the appropriate action in calling 911. He is a brave young man who identified a problem, acted quickly and saved his home. Councilor Bourdon welcomed Nathan and his family to Derry and stated that he respects and appreciated his bravery.

Chairman Osborne – Thanked Councilor Fairbanks for his leadership over the last year as chairman. He invited the community, staff and council for suggestions. He welcomed the new councilors and thanked them for running for these positions. Mr. Osborne stated that there is a lot of work to do and it will get it done. Some of his priorities are: hiring of the new Town Administrator and the Anti-Blight Ordinance. He hopes for civility and joy in coming to council meetings. Chairman Osborne also thanked Marc Flattes who also took the time to run for District #3.

Town Administrator's Report – Larry Budreau

Budget Workshops Schedule

April 1 – Regular Meeting (Present Budget to Town Council)

April 7 – Budget review workshop

April 15 – Regular Meeting

April 17 – Budget review workshop (room TBD)

April 22 – Budget review workshop

April 24 – Budget review workshop

April 29 – Budget & CIP Public Hearing

Public Forum

Steve Trefethen, North Shore - Thanked the three veteran councilors and welcomed the new councilors. He feels there is an opportunity to save money as the Town's Attorney contract is up in March. He feels that it is time to hire an in-house attorney – he believes this would save the Town money. (5 minutes)

John Burtis, Lorri Rd – Welcomed the new councilors. He is still concerned with the death from a fire on Island Pond Road, the use of the 911 dispatch and how it works. He believes it causes a delay in response. He also questioned the money paid to Rockingham County for this service. (13 Minutes)

John O'Connor, Arrowhead Rd – John is on the legislative County Executive Committee. He tried to explain 911 and the difficulties with incoming calls from different types of phones. There will be no budget increase for the County this year. (3 minutes)

Brian Chirichiello, Rollins St – Questioned why three Derry Town Councilors met with Londonderry Town Officials. (3 minutes)

Chairman Osborne replied by explaining they were looking for information on how Londonderry conducted their town administrator search.

Marc Flattes, Linlew Drive – Asked a question regarding an item on the agenda referencing the properties on Central Court. (3 Minutes)

Brian Chirichiello – He is on the Transportation Committee and wanted to share with the Council that the Route 28 Kilrea Road/Windham Road project will be completed in July. (1 minute)

Richard Griessel, Goodhue Rd- asked how property valuations are appraised. (2 minutes)

Public Hearing –

14-12 Review of Town Owned Property

Larry Budreau reviewed the list and the course of action needed by the Town Council. This meeting is for discussion only.

Open the Public Hearing by Chairman Osborne – all agreed

John O'Connor, Vice Chair, Planning Board – 45 Hunter Drive abuts East Derry Memorial School and 46 Scenic Dr. abuts Barka School. He is concerned because the school system refused to take this land.

Marc Flattes, Linlew Drive – Questioned Jewell Lane property not on the spreadsheet as non-evicted.

Steve Trefethen, North Shore – concern that these tax deeded properties go through an auction. Town should put real estate with real estate agents in Derry.

Dan Hunt, Gena Ave – regarding property at 23 Gena Avenue and it is an outlet to the lake. The lot is very small.

Karen Blandford- Anderson, Chair Heritage Commission – She believes Stark Road could be valuable as they had sawmills on this land according to an old 1827 map.

Don Burnham, Horseshoe Dr. – abutter to Barkland Drive property. He believes the prior owner went to the Zoning Board and was unable to build on this lot because it is all wetlands.

Kelly Martin, Bayberry Lane – Regarding Hunter Drive - this is 8 acres and the market should dictate whether it is a buildable lot or not.

Richard Griessel, Goodhue Rd – Questioned the valuation on this property as he tried to buy it before but the Town didn't have a clear title.

Larry Budreau explained the process of Town deeded property as state statute defines that these properties are sold at auction for the taxes owed to the Town and amount received over what is owed is returned to the prior owner. The next auction will be in July or August.

Councilor Dimmock questioned Mr. Budreau on property that has already been to auction once and not sold, could that property be sold by a realtor.

Marc Flattes, Linlew Drive – Asked for clarification of state statute regarding auctioning and why the Town is using two different systems.

Close Public Hearing Councilors Katsakiores/Dimmock 7-0-0

New Business –

- 14-28** Accept \$2,574 grant from NH Highway Safety Agency for seat belt enforcement

Capt. Vern Thomas, Derry Police Department - This is an annual grant "Join NH Clique". The purpose is to look for child restraints and persons under the age of 18 unbuckled. This encourages young people to wear seat belts. "Buckle Up Week" will be from May 12 - May 26, 2014. This grant is for \$2,574.00.

Move to grant authority to the Acting Town Administrator to apply for, accept and expend on behalf of the Town, grant funds associated with the NH Highway Safety seat belt enforcement campaign, titled "Join the New Hampshire Clique" and to execute on behalf of the Town all associated contracts or documents without further Town Councilor action.

Motion by Councilor Fairbanks, seconded by Councilor Katsakiores

Discussion

Councilors asked questions regarding how many other towns take part, timing, and by enforcing the grant what would officers do that they are not doing now?

Capt. Thomas stated this is a dedicated detail. This is to raise awareness and education.

Vote: 5-2-0 (Councilors Dimmock & Osborne)

Old Business –

- 13-122** Search for new Town Administrator

Chairman Osborne would like the Council to pick a course of direction whether to use an agency or task the Town Council.

Councilor Fischer – TA position is to move Derry forward. It is critical to the residents of community to have a pool of candidates. It is more transparent and it is important for Town Council to make final decision. This is too important of a position; the Town needs to use an agency.

Council Bourdon - Agrees that the use of a staffing firm is easy. He believes they owe it to the residents to take this on first, to give it a month with regards to getting qualifications out there on the internet and in national and local papers. If not happy with response then go to a staffing firm and save money.

Councilor Katsakiores – Echoed Councilor Fischer's remarks. Important to pick the right person for the town and to move Derry forward. She supports hiring a search agency.

Councilor Dimmock – He doesn't want to spend money. He cannot recommend search firm as he believes they have a poor reputation of picking wrong town administrators.

People elected the Council to this board. But there should be a citizen board to review applications.

Councilor Fairbanks – He can see advantages of both. He would like to extend the time frame for the Council to 60 days before going out for a search as there is time involved with Town staff and councilors for review. He is willing to work amongst Council first.

Councilor Cardon – He thinks the Council can do it on its own and agrees with the longer time frame to do this.

Councilor Osborne – Elected to do the work and if needed they can discuss the other option.

Chairman Osborne made the following motion:

Move that the Derry Town Council of its own accord advertise, solicit and accept resumes from interested candidates for the Derry Town Administrator and interview all qualified candidates.

Seconded by Councilor Dimmock

Vote: 5-2-0 (Councilors Katsakiores/Fischer)

Chairman Osborne suggested another motion to establish a sub-committee made up of three (3) Town Councilors to draft an advertising campaign. There was discussion and this motion was postponed / tabled to a special meeting

There will be a special Town Council meeting on Tuesday, March 25, 2014 @ 7PM to finish this discussion and to choose a date to be ready. All were in agreement.

The Chair asked Mr. Budreau to give the new councilors the survey that was previously done and to recompile the results to review at the special meeting.

14-23 Review Central Court/Central Street properties

Larry Budreau – stated the history on these properties as indicated on a chart. The Town acquired the properties in 2006-2009 and another piece in 2013. The Town did significant clean up on these areas. There is a report from the Derry Downtown Committee that was done in 2011, recommending private development of the property.

Councilor Cardon – said he would like to see a park on this property.

Councilor Fairbanks – said he would like to see additional parking or be developed and sold. Hire a developer to do something.

Councilor Dimmock – does not want to see a park as it would not bring money to Town. He would like to see it sold and for the properties to get back on the tax roll. He would like to have relator sell it for the Town.

Councilor Katsakiores – said she would like to sell it to recoup money and taxes. However she does like the idea of a park and extra parking.

Councilor Bourdon – stated that he would like to know what the original vision for this area was. Also, more business owners should get involved. There needs to be a vision.

Motion to extend 10 minutes was made by Councilor Fairbanks, seconded by Councilor Dimmock.

Councilor Fischer – said he would like to know how does this fit in with the Town's Master Plan? Do we need an assessment? Doing this piece meal doesn't make sense.

Councilor Osborne- said he would like to see the tax money but there needs to be goals.

Councilor Fairbanks questioned a fire station.

Mr. Budreau explained that in the future there may be a need for new central fire station. It is just a thought to consider that if downtown should have a future fire station, this is land that the Town already owns.

Council Requests / Open Discussion

Councilor Katsakiores read a letter from a West Running Brook student whose computer class went on a field trip to the Derry Historical Museum and then to the Library for history of our schools. The student thought Mr. Holmes was very interesting and knew a lot about Derry.

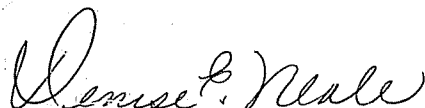
Councilor Fischer thanked everyone who supported him during the election.

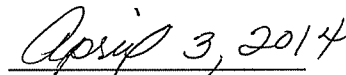
Councilor Bourdon said a new Spanish restaurant was opening on Friday, March 21st on Broadway call "DRAE". We need to support local business.

Councilor Dimmock – if we do the job the people elected us to do, we will have the people of Derry's support.

Chairman Osborne – thanked everyone on board.

Adjournment 10:10 p.m.


Denise E. Neale, Town Clerk


Date

Recording & transcription by Denise E. Neale, Town Clerk
Reviewed by Larry Budreau, Acting Town Administrator