

## TOWN OF DERRY

**Town Council Meeting**  
Derry Municipal Center

**December 2, 2008**  
Tuesday 7:30 p.m.

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Staff Present: Janice Mobsby, Frank Childs, Chief Garone, Chief Klauber

Salute to Flag, Warning of Fire Exits, Handicap Access, Turn off all Cell Phones and Pagers

Roll Call: Councilors: Wetherbee, Fairbanks, Carney, Coyle, Chirichiello, Benson  
and Chairman Metts

### **Consent Agenda**

**08-141** Acceptance of Non-Public Minutes – November 18, 2008

**08-142** Acceptance of Minutes – November 18, 2008

**08-143** Schedule Public Hearing – January 6, 2009 – No Parking  
Restriction – Courthouse Lane

**08-144** Schedule Public Hearing – January 6, 2009 – Stop Sign –  
Courthouse Lane @ Rollins Street

### **Amendment:**

**08-141 Add Councilor Chirichiello to minutes**

**08-142 Correct vote: 08-134 abstaining vote 5-1-0 (Coyle)**

**Correct vote: 08-130 abstaining vote 5-1-0 (Chirichiello)**

### **Addition:**

**08-146 Schedule a Public Hearing – December 16, 2008 – Proposed  
Charter Commission to adopt a new municipal charter. (RSA 49-B:3 I)**

### **Approved with Corrections and Additions**

Move the Downtown Study to January 6, 2009 meeting. TA Stenhouse to provide Downtown  
report to Council before January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting

### **Chairman's Report**

There is a new deadline for the Community Surveys the date is this Friday, 12/5/08. Completed  
surveys can be placed in the drop box on the first floor near the Town Clerk's Office, on the third  
floor in Administration or at the Derry Public Library.

Thanked all participants of the Holiday Parade and Town departments, particularly Fire, Police,  
Public Works, Parks and Recreation and Cable 17.

Congratulations were extended to EMS Chuck Hemeon and his staff for the Ambulance  
accreditation award they were presented at the last Town Council meeting.

### **Administrator's Report**

- 2007 Life Safety Achievement Award – Fire Department: TA Stenhouse presented the  
award to Chief Klauber  
12/11/2008 is the Employee Recognition Luncheon – please let Sheila know if you will be  
attending.
- The "Giving Tree" is in the lobby. We encourage residents and members of the Council  
to take a tag for children and adults on the tree. Tax deductible contribution can be made  
to the "Derry News Santa Fund", Coats are needed. You may place them under the tree

in the lobby. Human Services, The Community fund and the Sunshine Soup Kitchen are in need of donations.

- Winter Parking: 14 designated spaces are in the Abbott Street parking lot for citizens who live downtown; these spaces were designated a number of years ago by vote of the Town Council and unless Council objects the T.A. will designate these spaces again this winter. At the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will need to discuss a revision to the parking ordinance so that there can be a limited amount of Town off street parking available to downtown residents during the winter months. There are 20 spaces on McAllister Ct that could also be utilized.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Report: CFO Childs gave a brief update on the audit for FY08. Janice Mobsby highlighted the amount of cash on hand of \$27.4 million of which \$22 million was available to fund future obligations of the town. Compared to last year, cash on hand appeared lower due to the timing difference of an \$8 million dollar payment to the school district. She also noted the trend that the town is collecting current year taxes at a stronger pace than the prior year and cited that this may be the result of banks requiring taxes to be escrowed. Collection of general billing receivables have also been strong resulting in an 8% decline in outstanding general billing owed to the town. She stated that liabilities were in line with last year at this time and that the Town continues to be in good financial shape. Frank Childs then reviewed the revenue and expenses in this quarter, highlighting 4 areas of concern with respect to revenue...motor vehicles registrations, building permits, Transfer Station recycling revenue and interest earned on invested funds. He further stated that it presently appears that Ambulance revenue will exceed the amount budgeted. Collection of property taxes during the first quarter of FY2009 were 95% collected versus 92% for the comparable prior year period. In light of the revenue concerns, expenditures are being closely monitored by department heads, though we are running in line with the budget for expenditures during the first quarter.

#### **Public Forum – non agenda items**

##### **Open PF 7-0-0**

Al Dimmock, High St – Citizens in Derry expect the Town Council to do their best coming into the budget season to keep our taxes low

##### **Close PF 7-0-0**

#### **New Business**

##### **08-145 FY2010 Budget Discussion**

TA Stenhouse requested ideas and input on the FY10 budget from the Town Council. The Budget will be in the vicinity of the “Tax Cap”.

Chairman Metts questioned when the CPI would be ready.

TA Stenhouse believes it's going to be in the 4% range. You will receive it in January.

Councilor discussion included the following:

- Level funding or a below the tax cap budget
- Zero tax increase
- Keep the staffing levels as they presently are
- Look at revenues (creative options to increase revenues)
- Core vs. Discretionary services
- Department consolidations or re-organization
- Relook at Economic Development
- Appropriating a certain dollar amount from the Fund Balance
- Pension Issues
- Health Care Costs

- Privatization of some services
- Town Vehicles taken home

**Move to direct the Town Administrator to provide a budget option for FY2010 which has a zero tax increase. Motion by: Councilor Carney, seconded by Councilor Fairbanks.**

**Vote: 7-0-0**

**Public Forum – non agenda item**

**Open PF 7-0-0**

Al Dimmock, High St – Congratulated the Town Council on their budget discussion and ideas.

**Close PF 7-0-0**

**Council Requests/open discussion**

**Councilor Chirichiello motioned to order a hiring freeze until the end of FY09 unless overridden by Town Council, seconded by Councilor Coyle.**

TA Stenhouse discussed the open position, the ones that he allowed to be filled and why, and those that he has not allowed to be filled. He felt that he should be allowed to manage this process, as he's been doing since July.

**Vote 3-4-0 (Wetherbee, Fairbanks, Benson and Metts) Motion failed.**

Councilor Wetherbee will hold a constituents meeting at the Marion Gerrish Center Room 6 on December 13, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Councilor Carney is awaiting the EIS study. (*TA Stenhouse has not received it as yet*). In the spring Council was told by fall staff recommendations on the TIF district would be available. (*TA Stenhouse, Mike Fowler is completing engineering now however he asked him to hold off on the TIF Report because in the next 90 days there may be government funds available for Public Works projects.*) Questioned if some of the monies could be used for running sewer up Rte 28. Questioned where the RFP for the fire department and where it stands. He would like a copy of the minutes from the meeting he believes that the Council voted for another RFP. Also he would like the Economic Development Coordinator to present a comprehensive plan with long/short term goals.

Council Fairbanks questioned the updates from the Economic Development Coordinator. TA Stenhouse stated that a number of updates had been provided in his weekly reports to the Council. She asked that they be resent to her.

Councilor Coyle is disappointed in the vote on the hiring freeze. He participated in the Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving hosted by the Greater Derry Track Club. There were 1,000 runners. He would like to thank the GDTC and Derry Parks & Recreation for their work.

**Adjournment: 9:30 p.m.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

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Date

Recording by Town Clerk Denise Neale  
Reviewed by Town Administrator Gary Stenhouse  
1<sup>st</sup> qtr Financial Report by Frank Childs & Janice Mobsby

