

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
January 16, 2012

The Town Council meeting was held in the Moose Hill Council Chambers, Town Hall, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry.

PRESENT: Town Council: Chairman, Sean O’Keefe; Vice Chairperson, Joe Green; Councilors: Tom Dolan, Tom Freda; Town Manager Dave Caron; Executive Assistant, Margo Lapietro. Absent: John Farrell.

Call to Order

Chairman O’Keefe opened the meeting at 7:16 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence for the men and women fighting for our country as well as for the victims of the cruise line disaster in Italy.

Public Comment

Town Service Recognition Awards:

David Kelley & John Wissler - Solid Waste and Environment Committee

Vickie Keenan and Mike Gallagher – ZBA

Mark Oswald – Conservation Commission

Open Space Committee Members –

Mike Speltz, Art Rugg, George Herrmann, Bill Manning, Jeff Locke, Tim McKenney, Stella Tremblay, John Curran, Lisa Whittemore, Bob Saur, Martin Srugis, Lynn Wiles, Dana Coons.

Jack Falvey, 22 Cortland Drive gave the background of Woodmont (copy attached) and the mixed-use of the area. He stated his reasons for his opposition to the plans currently under consideration. He said the town is not doing its due diligence for this massive development. Chairman O’Keefe asked the Town Manager where he was with the presentation J. Falvey did last week. Town Manager Caron responded he is currently reviewing it, and did note that a number of the questions/comments posed will be considered as the project goes through the third party review process.

Public Hearing

(None Scheduled)

Old Business

(None Scheduled)

New Business

Order #2012 – 01 – Relative to Expenditure of Maintenance Trust Funds for Various Projects - Councilor Dolan made a motion to adopt, second Councilor Green. Council's vote was 4-0-0.

Order #2011-02 – Relative to a Grant to the Londonderry School District for Cable Related Purposes - Councilor Green made a motion to adopt, second Councilor Dolan. Town Manager Caron explained the purposes of the grant, which includes equipment for video curriculum and Distant Learning opportunities; he explained the town usually provides the school with an equipment grant every year for \$7,500. Council's vote was 4-0-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Council's Public Meeting of 12/19/11, 12/28/11 and 1/7/12. Councilor Dolan made a motion to approve all the meeting minutes, second Councilor Freda. Council's vote was 4-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Liaison Reports: Councilor Dolan said due to the MLK Holiday there is no delay in the trash pickup.

Councilor Freda said there was a Planning Board meeting last week they narrowed down the selection for the Woodmont third party review to four firms; interviews of the finalists are being scheduled.

Councilor Green attended the Library meeting, where circulation and usage were discussed.

Chairman O'Keefe said he attended a brief meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission, with nothing to report.

Town Manager – Town Manager Caron said he has been notified by the Municipal Association today that there is a bill being proposed by local representatives which will authorize the Commissioner of NH Department of Transportation to establish the speed limit on local roads like Royal Lane. There apparently have been complaints with speeding in that area. He asked the Municipal Association to testify against the bill, as these issues should continue to be locally through Traffic Safety Committee recommendations to the Town Council. It does not set a good precedent for the State Commissioner of Transportation to become involved in establishing speed limits on local roads. Hopefully the bill will be defeated and he asked the residents of Royal Lane to communicate with him or the Chief of Police so they can investigate. Councilor Dolan asked if there was a default state speed limit. Town Manager Caron responded there is a default of 35MPH unless otherwise supported by traffic or engineering data. The Chief of Police has received 3 calls from a resident of Royal Lane since 1/1/12; the police have issued 2 traffic citations for speeding but that is the only communication they have had.

Board/Committee Appointments/Reappointments – Appointment of Martin Srugis from an Alternate on the Solid Waste and Environment Committee to a Full Membership, term expiration of 12/31/13. **Councilor Dolan made a motion for the appointment, second Councilor Green. Council’s vote was 4-0-0.**

Chairman O’Keefe reminded the public that the Deliberative Session will be held at 7:00PM at the Londonderry High School Cafeteria on Monday, February 6. The School District is having their meeting on Friday, February 10.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Dolan made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 PM, second Councilor Green. Council’s vote was 4-0-0.

Notes and Tapes by: **Margo Lapietro** Date: **01/16/12**

Minutes Typed by: **Margo Lapietro** Date: **01/19/12**

Approved by: **Town Council** Date: **02/27/12**

Woodmont Background.

(Jack Falvey 1/16/12 Town Council Meeting.)

In order to try and force industrial development at the airport and at exit 5, town staff against the advice of the LHRA proposed mixed use development.

Mixing 18 wheelers and soccer Moms is crazy.

Mixed use is for urban development such as Manchester's Millyard where it makes perfect sense.

Commercial and industrial development is not the business of government. It is the business of real estate professionals.

Governments roll is to respond and be reactive not proactive. That is what works.

Being out of town government at the time I viewed the PUD as a futile attempt to foster commercial development by offering residential mixed use in areas where that type of zoning was inappropriate.

Twenty five years in development in Londonderry qualified me to make that judgment. It appeared from newspaper reports to be for the exit 5 and airport areas. Town wide mixed use was not mentioned. (Or was not apparent to the casual reader.)

I felt the PUD was ill-advised and harmless. I was right on one and wrong on the other.

Woodmont became the first use of the PUD with 6 per acre dwellings and 1300 total units. No infrastructure improvements were offered and a total disregard of place or character let alone local economics made the project a dangerous mess as it stands today.

The economy of the entire town of Londonderry will be changed dramatically by this ill-advised super density super subdivision.

I stand in opposition to the plans as presented and as on the table.

I have called upon town staff and the Planning Board to reconsider the Woodmont proposal, get the facts and figure out in the open so the consequences to the town can be calculated. This has not been done. The developer has not been forthright in his proposal and the town is not doing the due diligence required in order to protect all taxpayers from the consequences if this project goes forward in its present form.