

LONDONDERRY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1 **October 16, 2017**

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

5
6 Present: Chairman Tom Dolan; Vice-Chairman John Farrell; Councilors Ted Combes, Jim Butler and Joe
7 Green; Town Manager Kevin Smith; Assistant Town Manager Lisa Drabik; Executive Assistant Kirby
8 Wade

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10 **CALL TO ORDER**

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12 Chairman Dolan called the Town Council special meeting to order. Chairman Dolan led the Pledge of
13 Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence for those who serve us both here and abroad.

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15 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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17 Chairman Dolan opened up public comment.

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19 Chris & Deb Paul, 188 Hardy Rd, discussed impact fees that were being returned to her. C. Paul stated
20 that when he paid impact fees he paid somewhere around \$3,500. C. Paul stated that what he is getting
21 back is significantly less than that. Paul stated that they are wondering where that difference is going or
22 where it went. D. Paul stated that she has original copies of the paperwork and check. Vice-Chairman
23 went through the breakdown of where some of the Paul's money went. Finance Director Doug Smith went
24 over where their money was spent, in the various roads category and for the police and how expired impact
25 fees work. D> Paul stated that she wants to know in detail how it was spent.

26
27 Mary Sing Soares, 2 Gail Rd, stated that she wanted to talk about the million dollars the Council was
28 talking about giving back to the residents. Soares stated that maybe the million would be better spent being
29 put into the large projects on the horizon like the communications system.

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31 Vice-Chairman Farrell read a letter into the record (see attached) correcting a statement that was made at
32 a previous meeting.

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34 **PUBLIC HEARING**

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36 Motion to open public hearing made by Councilor Green and second by Vice Chairman Farrell. Chair
37 votes 4-0-0.

38
39 Chairman Dolan introduced the acceptance of unanticipated revenue under RSA 31:95-b.

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41 There was no public comment.

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43 Motion to approve the acceptance of unanticipated revenues under RSA 31:95-b made by Councilor Green
44 and second by Vice-Chairman Farrell. Chair votes 4-0-0.

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46 Motion to close public hearing made by Vice Chairman Farrell and second by Councilor Green. Chair
47 votes 3-0-0.

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NEW BUSINESS

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51 Chairman Dolan introduced item #3, Resolution #2017-11, a Resolution relative to the acceptance of
52 unanticipated revenue under RSA 31:95-b. Finance Director Smith stated that he would prefer to approve
53 the disbursements before accepting the revenue. Smith stated that we should take the two Orders first.

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55 Councilor Butler entered the meeting.

56

57 Vice Chairman Farrell motioned for Order #2017-25, Order relative to expired impact fee refunds, and
58 Order #21017-26, an Order relative to transfer of impact fee to general fund. Second by Councilor Green.
59 Chair votes 5-0-0.

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61 Chairman Dolan brought it back to Resolution #2017-11. Motion to approve Resolution #2017-11 made
62 by Councilor Green and second by Councilor Combes. Chair votes 5-0-0.

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64

OLD BUSINESS

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66 The Council discussed the use of the fund balance and giving back to the taxpayers. Vice Chairman
67 Farrell recommended giving one million dollars back to the voters. The Council discussed the option of
68 putting money towards the communications project instead. The Council decided that would like to give
69 directly back to the voters instead. The Council has to make a decision tonight because the tax bills have
70 to go out. Councilor Green recommended giving back five hundred thousand to the voters in December.
71 Vice Chairman Farrell stated he just wants to keep the tax bill flat.

72

73 Councilor Green voted to use five hundred thousand dollars of the undesignated fund balance to reduce
74 the tax rate in December. Second by Councilor Butler. Chair votes 4-1-0. Chairman Dolan opposed.

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BOARD/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT/RE-APPOINTMENT

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79 Vice Chairman Farrell motioned to accept the resignation of Margaret Harrington from the Conservation
80 Commission. Second by Councilor Green. Chair votes 5-0-0.

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81

82 Chairman Dolan stated that there is an applicant for the Solid Waste and Environmental Committee.
83 Richard Darveau applied. Motion to appoint Darveau made by Vice Chairman Farrell and second by
84 Councilor Green. Chair votes 5-0-0.

85

86 Town Manager Smith announced the recommendation for the new member of the Manchester Airport
87 Authority. Mark Brewer recommended Senator Sharon Carson to the Airport Authority. Motion to
88 approve Carson made by Councilor Green and second by Vice Chairman Farrell. Chair votes 4-1-0.
89 Councilor Combes voted against the motion.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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93 Approval of Town Council minutes from October 2, 2017 made by Vice Chairman Farrell and seconded
94 by Councilor Green. Chair votes 5-0-0.

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TOWN MANAGER REPORT

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98 Town Manager Smith reminded the public about the upcoming GMO workshop on Saturday and the
99 budget workshop on November 4th.

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ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER REPORT

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NONE

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ADJOURNMENT

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107 Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Green and second by Vice Chairman Farrell. Chair votes 5-0-0.

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109 Notes and Tapes by: Your name Date: 10/16/2017

110 Minutes Typed by: Kirby Wade Date: 10/25/2017

111 Approved by: Town Council Date: 11/06/2017

It is critically important to our governmental process that the community participates in order for us to be successful. We strongly encourage that the all citizens of Londonderry feel comfortable coming to meeting with the Town Council, Planning Board, ZBA, School board and all other forms of government.

During a recent Growth Management workshop an influential member of the community, the publisher of the Londonderry times stated that the town needed to be more like the surrounding communities like Derry, Windham and Manchester regarding workforce housing. Ms. Paul commented that these communities have declared that they have their fair share of Workforce housing and will no longer be accepting new projects and that they will challenge state's direction. Additionally, she stated the town of Windham had lost one court case and won another and are now in the position to declare that this type of housing does not fit the ambiance or character of the town they desire. Londonderry has been extremely proactive in this area seeking remedies to the understanding of this law. We have found it to be confusing, vague and a moving target. Once we learned of this new information we wanted to find out what we missed and learn from it. We contacted the communities and the Southern New Hampshire Planning commission. The email response from Derry was as follows.

"Hi Sylvia,

This is the first I've heard of such a statement! We never said that as well as we would not be accepting any additional projects. The newspaper has not spoken to staff here in the Planning Department. Also we never spoke to the state!! Hope this helps.

George"

We received similar statements from Windham town officials and the Planning Board Chairman. Windham took it upon themselves to contact Ms. Paul directly. We received the following email.

"Gentlemen,

I received a telephone call today from Deb Paul responding to an email I sent yesterday asking her to identify the source of her statement made in the public meeting, "Growth Management Workshop" in Londonderry this past week and regarding Windham's Workforce Housing position.

Ms. Paul informed me that she "didn't speak to any agency" (in Windham).

Therefore, she has confirmed her statement was not accurate as it was not conveyed by a Town official or any acting board member in Windham. She indicated it was her opinion based on reading Windham's history with Workforce Housing."

When in a position of influence such as a public official, member of the media and or community member we must all be careful to present factual statements. Opinions and emotions influence all of us when something hits close to home, but we need to be careful to present accurate information.