

LONDONDERRY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1 **April 15, 2019**

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

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

9
10 **CALL TO ORDER**

11
12 Chairman John Farrell called the Town Council special meeting to order and led the Pledge
13 of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence for all those who serve us here
14 and abroad.

15
16 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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18 Brian and Brenda MacDonald, 6 Picadilly Cr, presented to the Council books that they
19 have published that are available on Amazon. One book is Saratoga and the other is Bob
20 Hikes Mt. Monadnock, which is a children's book. The Council thanked the MacDonald's
21 for sharing their stories.

22
23 Deb Paul, 118 Hardy Rd, read a statement into the Council regarding the town's decision
24 to stop using the Londonderry Times for its legal notice. Paul gave a brief history of the
25 paper to the Council. The times started off as a monthly paper and eventually became a
26 weekly paper. Paul stated that she spoke to the Town Manager at the time who set up the
27 RFP for getting the legal notices posted in the Londonderry Times. Paul stated that the
28 town went out for RFP's a few times when new Town Managers were hired. Paul stated
29 that she was unaware that Kevin was looking to cut the cost of legals and that the Derry
30 News had been given the opportunity to post the legal notices. Paul stated that she was
31 shocked that she didn't get a call or an e-mail. Paul shared the circulation of her paper as
32 well as what the town has paid for legal notices in the past. Paul stated to the Council
33 stated that she is hoping they will reconsider and if not, why.

34
35 Clarissa Navarro, 2 Woodbine Dr, talked about the Londonderry Times. Navarro stated
36 that the Londonderry Times is a great paper and that the change to put the legal notices in

LONDONDERRY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

37 the Derry news is a disservice to the town. Navarro stated that she does not reach the
38 Derry News. Navarro stated that she hopes the Council reconsiders their decision.

39
40 Chris Oliverio, 1 Trolley Car Ln, stated that he always gets the Londonderry Times. He
41 gets the Derry News as well. Oliverio stated that he won't be going to the Derry News to
42 find a legal notice.

43
44 Martha Smith, 38 Shasta Dr, stated that she is concerned about this decision. Smith stated
45 that the local paper is the Londonderry Times and the Derry News doesn't go to all of the
46 households in Londonderry. Smith stated that she doesn't believe it is in the best interest
47 to change where the legal notices are posted.

48
49 Richard Bielinski, 89 Hall Rd, stated that he is also here to speak to the Council regarding
50 the paper change. Bielinski stated that he was Town Treasurer from 2001 to 2004 and
51 when he came on board there was no purchasing policy. Bielinski shared that it was the
52 first thing he asked for when he came on board. Bielinski stated that the policy was
53 adopted on June 2, 2002. Bielinski asked why it wasn't sent out for bid. Bielinski stated
54 that we should stick with the Londonderry Times.

55
56 Ray Breslin, 3 Gary Driver, stated that he looks forward to getting the Londonderry Times
57 every week. Breslin stated that a lot of people appreciate seeing their kids in the paper and
58 reading all of the stories. Breslin stated that he doesn't agree with the choice to go to the
59 Derry News.

60
61 Christine Patton, 145 Mammoth Rd, stated that she is speaking as a resident of the town
62 and not a Budget Committee member. Patton stated that she does receive the Derry News
63 but she thinks it should have gone out as an RFP and the Londonderry Times should have
64 been notified. It should have also gone in the paper that it is going to change.

65
66 Ann Chiampa, 28 Wedgewood Dr, stated that she would like the town to use the
67 Londonderry Times.

68
69 Chairman Farrell stated that the staff at the Town Hall, we have an extremely good staff
70 and great leadership from the Town Manager. Chairman Farrell stated that the Council
71 operates as the board of directors. Chairman Farrell stated that we work in accordance
72 with what the Town Charter is. Chairman Farrell stated that they hire a Town Manger to
73 work with the day-to-day operations. In the Town Charter it talks about non-interference

LONDONDERRY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

74 from the Town Council. The Town Manger makes the decisions day to day. Chairman
75 Farrell stated that the Council is in possession of the confidential memo about how the
76 Town Manager made the decision he did. It has been reviewed by the town attorney and it
77 meets all the legal and policy criteria's it needs to make a decisions. Chairman Farrell
78 stated that there has been a lot of bullying on social media over the weekend, from adults.
79 It is not right. Town Manager Smith grew up in Londonderry and loves this town.
80 Chairman Farrell stated that in the editorial, it was talked about a phone call. Assistant
81 Town Manager Lisa Drabik was on that phone call with Town Manager Smith as well.
82 During the call, the claim was made that they hung up. Chairman Farrell stated that this
83 was all in the memo. He did not hang up. The call took place, the documented the call in
84 detail. It came to a conclusion because multiple times the call went silent, and they
85 couldn't hear anything. So they discontinued the call. Before discontinuing it, they said to
86 call back is Mrs. Paul had any more questions. Chairman Farrell stated that everyone
87 needs to watch what they say on social media. Chairman Farrell stated that Town Manager
88 Smith made a decision, he has a reason and right to. He demonstrated why in a memo to
89 the Council.

90

91 Deb Paul made some statements as she was leaving the room.

92

93

PUBLIC HEARING

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95

NONE

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OLD BUSINESS

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NONE

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NEW BUSINESS

102

103 Chairman Farrell introduced Order 2019-09, an Order relative to the distribution of Fire
104 Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Fire Chief Darren O'Brien presented. Chief O'Brien
105 stated that this is for protective clothing. Motion to approve Order #2019-09 made by
106 Councilor Combes and second by Vice Chairman Green. Chair votes 5-0-0.

107

108 Chairman Farrell introduced Order #2019- 10, an order relative to the expenditure of
109 Maintenance Trust Fund for various projects. Presented by Steve Cotton. Motion to

LONDONDERRY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

110 approve Order #2019-10 made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor
111 Combes. Chair votes 5-0-0.

112
113 Chairman Farrell introduced Resolution #2019-03, a Resolution relative to the acceptance
114 of unanticipated revenue under RSA 31:95-b. Finance Director Justin Campo presented.
115 Campo stated that the fire department was worked hard on a grant in the amount of
116 \$6,000, which is reimbursement based. Motion to approve Resolution #2019-03 made by
117 Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor Combes. Chair votes 5-0-0. Chief O'Brien
118 stated that this is a 100% grant so no matching funds come from the town.

119
120 Councilor Dolan motioned that the Council accept Resolution #2019-04, a Resolution
121 relative to the discontinuance of a highway, Holmes Rd, and waive the first reading. A
122 public hearing will be scheduled for the next Council meeting on May 6th. Second by Vice
123 Chairman Green. Chair votes 5-0-0.

124

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

125
126
127 Motion to approve Town Council minutes from April 1, 2019 made by Councilor Combes
128 and second by Vice Chairman Green. Chair votes 4-1-0.

129

APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS

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131
132 The Council motioned to appoint Peter Commerford as an alternate member on SNHPC.
133 Motion to appoint Peter Commerford made by Councilor Dolan and second by Vice
134 Chairman Green. Chair votes 5-0-0.

135

ADJOURNMENT

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137
138 Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Dolan and second by Councilor Combes. Chair votes
139 4-0-0.

140

141 Notes and Tapes by: Kirby Brown Date: 04/15/2019

142 Minutes Typed by: Kirby Brown Date: 04/23/2019

143 Approved by: Town Council Date: 05/06/2019