



Town Council Meeting Minutes



Thursday, March 22, 2012, at 7:00 PM, in the Town Hall Meeting Room

Chairman Rothhaus called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Present at the meeting were Chairman Rothhaus, Vice Chair Boyd, Councilor Yakuboff, Councilor Flood, Councilor Koenig, Councilor Mahon, Councilor Dwyer and Finance Director Paul Micali. Town Manager Eileen Cabanel was excused.

Pledge of Allegiance

Announcements

Chairman Rothhaus announced that April 2 will mark the 266th anniversary of Merrimack.

Upcoming meeting schedule: Regular Town Council meetings are scheduled for April 5 at 7:00 pm and April 19 at 7:00 pm.

Annual Meeting - Election Day: Tuesday, April 10 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. A reminder that the St. James polling place is no longer being utilized. Those residents that used to vote there should now go to JMUES.

The following announcements were made by Paul Micali:

- On March 26 at 7:00 pm, the Friends of the Library will host a Library Trustee Candidates Night here in the Town Hall Meeting Room. There are six individuals running for two 3-year slots on the Library Board of Trustees. Richard "Dick" Hinch has agreed to moderate the evening's proceedings. Each candidate will begin with a brief opening statement and then all will be given the chance to answer questions submitted by audience members. The event will also be replayed on local cable access TV before the election. The public is encouraged to attend. For more information contact Leslie Fish, President of the Friends at 424-4606.
- On March 27 at 7:00 pm at the Merrimack Public Library, volunteers from the Merrimack Community Gardens will lead a hands-on workshop on how to start vegetable and flower seeds indoors to jump-start the growing season. This workshop is open to Merrimack adults and children age 6+ with an adult. Prepare to get your hands dirty or bring gardening gloves. Space is limited to 30 participants; registration is required for planning purposes. The event is co-sponsored by the Merrimack Agricultural Commission and the Merrimack Library.
- The 20th Annual Easter Egg Hunt, hosted by the Merrimack Parks and Recreation Department and Merrimack Friends and Families, will be held at Wasserman Park on Saturday, March 31. This rain or shine event will start promptly at 11:00 am for Merrimack children, toddlers through age 10. We recommend you arrive by 10:45 to allow time to park and find the field set up for your children. The Easter Bunny will have several areas of Wasserman Park set up for various age groups and there will be volunteers ready to help you find your appropriate area. Parks and Recreation staff, easily identified by bright orange vests, will be available following the Easter Egg Hunt to offer tours of Wasserman Park and answer your questions about Naticook Day Camp and other Department programs. For more information on this event or any programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department, please call [882-1046](tel:882-1046).
- The 16th Citizen's Police Academy graduation is March 28 at the Police Station and all are invited to attend.
- Police P.A.C.T. Basketball game, April 13, 6:30 pm, JMUES Fundraiser for PACT program.
- Crimeline is sponsoring the Annual "Magic Show" fundraiser for "Gunny", the Police Department's K-9, at the American Legion on April 14 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Come see individual magic acts and stage performances. For more information contact Judy Eriksen at 424-8453.
- The DEA & Merrimack Police Department will be hosting a "Prescription Take-back Day" on April 28 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Police Station. Residents can drop off their old, unwanted or expired prescriptions for proper disposal.
- The Merrimack Police Department will be hosting its annual Open House on May 12, between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. There will be many exhibits from the Merrimack Police Department Investigation Bureau, Nashua and State Police, as well as a Taser Demonstration and a K-9 Demonstration from our very own K-9, "Gunny". For more information stay tuned to our website, or call Officer Rob Kelleher at 424-3774.

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Recognitions, Resignations and Retirements

Town Ice Rink Volunteer Recognitions [Tabled from the 3/8/2012 Town Council Meeting]

Submitted by Town Council Chairman Finlay Rothhaus and Vice Chair William W. Boyd, III

The Town Council recognized the volunteers that have participated in the maintenance and care of the Town ice rink located on O’Gara Drive behind the tennis courts. Chairman Rothhaus presented Bill Mackie, Dick Peters, Eugene Sizemore, Jim Bass, Lance Ford, Richard Maloon, Ron Gunn and Tom Panessiti with certificates of recognition. Richard Maloon explained the process behind maintaining the ice rink.

Appointments

None

Comments from the Press and Public

None

Public Hearing

None

Legislative Updates from State Representatives

None

Town Manager’s Report

- Turkey Hill Road bridge replacement: Audley Construction is back on site to complete the project, including restoring Weston Park.
- Marty Drive: Drainage work on Marty Drive will begin on Monday. This work is in advance of road repairs later this summer.
- Holts Landing: The contractor is working to complete the right of way improvements to Holts Landing. Funds for this work were obtained by calling the performance bond subsequent to the developer defaulting on the project.
- The Voters Guide is available on the Town’s website and the Finance Department is looking into mailing to every residence.
- Voting Day (Annual Meeting – Official Ballot Vote) is Tuesday, April 10 from 7am to 7pm.
- Polling Location Changes: All residents who voted at St. James Church will be receiving a yellow postcard in the mail telling them of the change.

Consent Agenda

Acceptance of Changes to Chapter A198 – Administrative Code [Final Reading]

Submitted by Police Chief Mark Doyle and Town Manager Eileen Cabanel

The Town Council considered final approval of the recommended changes to Chapter A198 by the Town Manager and the Police Chief that reflect a reorganization of some command positions in the Merrimack Police Department, pursuant to Charter Article 5-4.

Recommendation for Reappointment of the Merrimack Senior Citizens Club Representative Member to the Parks and Recreation Committee

Submitted by Town Council Chairman Finlay Rothhaus

The Town Council to consider the Merrimack Senior Citizens Club’s recommendation to reappoint Lorraine Lessard as the Merrimack Senior Citizens Club representative member to the Parks and Recreation Committee, pursuant to Article 6-1 of the Town Charter.

MOTION made by Councilor Mahon and seconded by Councilor Dwyer to move the items on the Consent Agenda. MOTION CARRIES 7-0-0

Discussion on the motion

Councilor Mahon expressed his gratitude to Tim Tenhave for helping with the editing of Chapter A198 – Administrative Code.

Old Business

None

New Business

Committee Appointments

Submitted by Town Council Chairman Finlay Rothhaus and Vice Chair William W. Boyd, III

The Town Council considered appointing recommended individuals to the Merrimack Conservation Commission, pursuant to Charter Article 4-8.

MOTION made by Vice Chair Boyd and seconded by Councilor Yakuboff to appoint Gage Perry as a full member of the Merrimack Conservation Commission and appoint Thomas Lehman as an alternate member of the Merrimack Conservation Commission, pursuant to Charter Article 4-8.

MOTION CARRIES 7-0-0

Discussion on the motion

Vice Chair Boyd spoke about Gage Perry and Thomas Lehman's experience and what they bring to the Commission. Chairman Rothhaus explained that long time full member Eber Currier has moved to an alternate position and Mr. Perry is assuming that full member position from an alternate position and Mr. Lehman is filling that vacant alternate position.

MOTION made by Vice Chair Boyd and seconded by Councilor Yakuboff to move Eber Currier from a full member to an alternate member of the Merrimack Conservation Commission, pursuant to Charter Article 4-8. MOTION CARRIES 7-0-0

Thomas Lehman was sworn in at this time.

Wasserman Park Community Garden Water Project Approval

Submitted by Agricultural Commission Chairman John Lastowka and Vice Chair Bob McCabe

The Town Council considered the approval of the Agricultural Commission's project proposal to extend the underground water pipes allowing easier access for the gardeners that rent the Community Garden plots located at Wasserman Park. Vice Chair Bob McCabe and Karen Swenson spoke about the Community Garden and explained that based on a survey by past gardeners, one of the biggest improvements that came up was having water closer to the garden. After consulting with Merrimack Village District, four proposals were developed to run an irrigation line closer to the Garden. The most appropriate option is to connect a 1" poly pipe after the water main off the hydrant, and sleeve the pipe under the road and then trench the pipe to four faucets in the Garden area. The proposal was brought to the Town Manager and Parks & Recreation Director Sherry Kalish and the funds have been raised by the Community Garden over the last 2 years. The total estimated cost is approximately \$888. The water usage is billed to the Agricultural Commission and last year the total cost was about \$25.

MOTION made by Councilor Mahon and seconded by Councilor Yakuboff to approve the Agricultural Commission's project proposal to extend the underground water pipes allowing easier access for the gardeners that rent the Community Garden plots located at Wasserman Park.

MOTION CARRIES 7-0-0

Acceptance of Donated Trail Marker Signs for Twin Bridge Park

Submitted by Rotary Club Member Peter Giacapuzzi

The Town Council considered the acceptance of a donation from the Rotary Club of trail marker signs with an estimated value of \$1,000 to be placed at Twin Bridge Park to aid hikers and Town staff, pursuant to Charter Article 8-15 and RSA 31:95-e. Peter Giacapuzzi of the Rotary Club of Merrimack explained that the Club pursued a \$1,000 grant for trail markers in the Twin Bridge Park area. He stated that they worked with Parks & Recreation Director Sherry Kalish and Highway Operations Manager Adam Jacobs on the project. They are also looking to put a Kids Kove sign on the Twin Bridge Park sign at the park entrance, since there currently isn't one there. He discussed what the sign and sign posts will look like and explained that the signs will also have GPS coordinates and will be installed by the Rotary. He stated the Rotary will supply the

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Posted: May 11, 2012

materials and labor. Councilor Flood, Vice Chair Boyd and Councilor Dwyer expressed their gratitude and support to the Rotary.

MOTION made by Councilor Mahon and seconded by Vice Chair Boyd to accept the donation from the Rotary Club of trail marker signs with an estimated value of \$1,000 to be placed at Twin Bridge Park to aid hikers and Town staff, pursuant to Charter Article 8-15 and RSA 31:95-e. MOTION CARRIES 7-0-0

Chairman Rothhaus called a brief recess

Chairman Rothhaus was excused at 7:51 pm and Vice Chair Boyd took over his duties for the remainder of the meeting

COPS Hiring Grant

Submitted by Lieutenant Denise Roy

The Town Council considered the Police Department's request to apply for the COPS Hiring grant available through the Department of Justice, valued at approximately \$516,859.50 (2 officers at 75% for 3 years each), pursuant to Charter Article 8-15 and RSA 31:95-b. Police Chief Mark Doyle expressed that the Merrimack Police Department's thoughts and concerns are with Officer Doherty and his family. Chief Doyle explained the details of the grant. The Federal Government will pay for 75% of benefits and salaries for 2 officers for 3 years up to a maximum federal share of \$125,000 per officer per year. The Town's 25% share for the 2 officers over 3 years is \$144,300 and the federal share would be \$429,900. At the end of the grant funding period, the Town will be required to maintain and retain those officer(s) hired through COPS funding for a period of 12 months. Positions must be filled with a person who qualifies as a military veteran. Councilor Yakuboff supports the grant but wishes it would have come at an earlier time to coincide more with the Outlet Mall opening. There was some discussion about the military veteran requirement. Councilor Koenig mentioned the fact that there wasn't money in the budget even for the Town's share for 2 officers, but that it is worth applying for and finding the money if the grant is awarded. Lieutenant Roy said that after applying, it could be September before the Department hears if they will be awarded the grant.

MOTION made by Councilor Mahon and seconded by Councilor Yakuboff to approve the Police Department's request to apply for the COPS Hiring grant available through the Department of Justice, valued at approximately \$516,859.50 (2 officers at 75% for 3 years each), pursuant to Charter Article 8-15 and RSA 31:95-b. MOTION CARRIES 6-0-0

Acceptance of Watson Park Donations

Submitted by Finance Director Paul Micali

The Town Council considered the acceptance of three donations totaling \$302.26 to be used for improvements at Watson Park, pursuant to Charter Article 8-15 and RSA 31:95-b. Finance Director Paul Micali explained that the Watson Park Committee was disbanded in July 2011. When this happened, no decisions were made on how to handle Watson Park donations.

MOTION made by Councilor Mahon and seconded by Councilor Dwyer to accept three donations totaling \$302.26 to be used for improvements at Watson Park, pursuant to Charter Article 8-15 and RSA 31:95-b. MOTION CARRIES 6-0-0

Minutes

MOTION made by Councilor Yakuboff and seconded by Councilor Mahon to approve the minutes from the January 26th Town Council meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIES 5-0-1 Councilor Dwyer abstained

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Comments from the Press

None

Comments from the Public

Lon Woods of 2 Arbor Street thanked the Town Council and staff for their service to the Town. He wished Councilor Yakuboff well and reminded residents of the April 10th election and that he is running for Town Councilor.

Comments from the Council

Councilor Yakuboff stated he thought this would be his last Council meeting so he prepared some words about each Councilor and Paul Micali. He thanked each of them for the work they do.

Vice Chair Boyd congratulated the Merrimack Tomahawks boys basketball team for their State Championship victory.

Councilor Mahon congratulated Police Chief Doyle for the Business Leader award that he received from the Chamber of Commerce.

Adjourn

MOTION made by Councilor Mahon and seconded by Councilor Yakuboff to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIES 5-1-0 Councilor Yakuboff voted in the negative