



Town Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM, in the Matthew Thornton Room

Chairman Koenig called the meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Koenig led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis, and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Council is authorized to meet electronically.

Chairman Koenig noted, as stated on the agenda, the meeting was being aired live on Merrimack TV and the Merrimack TV Facebook Live page (<http://www.facebook.com/merrimacktv>). Telephone access was available for members of the public wishing to provide comment; 1-312-626-6799 US - 929-205-6099 US - Meeting ID: 994 1682 3831. Also identified on the agenda was the opportunity for public comment to be submitted leading up to the start of the meeting via email to TCPublicComments@MerrimackNH.Gov.

Members of the Town Council and Administration were participating via Zoom. Each member of the Council was asked to state, for the record, where they were, why their attendance in person was not reasonably practical, who, if anyone, was with them, and whether or not they were able to hear the proceedings.

Chairman Koenig

Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, he was alone in the room he was in, and could hear the proceedings.

Councilor Woods

Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, he was alone in the room he was in, and could hear the proceedings.

Councilor Harrington

Stated she was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, she was alone in the room she was in, and could hear the proceedings.

Councilor Rothhaus

Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, he was alone in the room he was in, and could hear the proceedings.

Councilor Albert

Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably practical due to COVID-19, he was alone in the room he was in, and could hear the proceedings.

1 **Councilor Healey**

2
3 Stated she was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably
4 practical due to COVID-19, she was alone in the room she was in, and could hear the proceedings.
5

6 **Vice Chairman Boyd**

7
8 Stated he was participating electronically from home, attendance in person was not reasonably
9 practical due to COVID-19, he was alone in the room he was in, and could hear the proceedings.
10

11 It was acknowledged all members participating electronically could be heard. The Council was
12 reminded all votes would be taken by Roll Call.
13

14 **Announcements**

15
16 The next meeting of the Town Council is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2020.
17

18 At this time, the election is scheduled for Thursday, June 23, 2020. Voters wishing to vote by absentee
19 ballot should contact the Town Clerk’s office at 424-3651 or see the Elections and Voting section of
20 the Town Clerk’s website for an application and information regarding absentee ballots.
21

22 All voters are advised that in light of the current public health state of emergency, Emergency Orders
23 #16 and #26, and current public health guidance on social distancing and avoiding being in public in
24 groups of 10 or more, all voters have a reasonable ground to conclude that a “physical disability” exists
25 within the meaning of RSA 657:1. Therefore, all voters may request an absentee ballot on that basis.
26 Anyone can apply for an absentee ballot. It has been determined by the Attorney General’s Office and
27 the Secretary of State that this is a qualifying situation.
28

29 The Town Clerk is looking into sending out a mailer, that would include a request for an application, to
30 all registered voters with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The State form cannot be altered in any
31 way. The item to be checked as the reason why you are unable to vote in person, and therefore
32 requesting an absentee ballot, would be disability.
33

34 Councilor Albert noted this to be Police Officer Memorial Week during which we honor those police
35 officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The Merrimack Police Department sent a
36 contingent to Washington where the names of officers who were killed in the line of duty last year
37 have been engraved on the wall.
38

39 Councilor Albert informed the Council of the passing of a former employee and Town resident, Joan
40 Vasco. Joan was a secretary at the Police Department for many years. He expressed condolences to
41 her family.
42

43 **Comments from the Press and Public** - None

1 **Recognitions, Resignations and Retirements**

2
3 **1. Recognition of Town Committee Member**

4 Submitted by Town Council Chairman Tom Koenig and Vice Chair Bill Boyd

5 The Town Council to accept the resignation and present a certificate to the following individual for
6 his volunteer service to the Town of Merrimack:

7
8 Dan Ricker – Planning Board

9
10 The Council recognized Dan Ricker for his volunteer service as a full-time member of the Merrimack
11 Planning Board.

12
13 **MOTION made by Councilor Woods and seconded by Vice Chairman Boyd to accept, with
14 regret, the resignation of Dan Ricker from the Merrimack Planning Board, effective April 1,
15 2020**

16
17 **ON THE QUESTION**

18
19 Vice Chairman Boyd commented on the different and fresh perspective Dan brought to some of the
20 applications that came before the board. He was nothing less than the consummate professional.

21
22 *A Roll Call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:*

23
24 Yea: Chairman Koenig, Councilor Woods, Councilor Harrington, Councilor Rothhaus,
25 Councilor Albert, Councilor Healey, Vice Chairman Boyd

26 7

27 Nay: 0

28 **MOTION CARRIED**

29
30 **Appointments** - None

31
32 **Public Hearing** - None

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34 **Legislative Updates from State Representatives** - None

35
36 **Town Manager’s Report**

37
38 Town Manager Cabanel informed the Council of questions posed by Matthew Casparius, Director,
39 Parks and Recreation Department resulting from inquiries he has received from the community
40 concerning the opening of Town facilities.

41
42 Regarding the beach volleyball courts at Watson Park, he and Kyle Fox, Director, Public Works
43 Department (PWD) are agreeable to opening the courts. Town Manager Cabanel stated agreement.
44 Director Casparius views beach volleyball to be similar to tennis in terms of the ability for social
45 distancing noting organized leagues would not be permitted.

1 Director Casparius is of the belief the skate park should be opened. The Town Manager stated she
2 does not oppose that.

3
4 Director Casparius is receiving guidance from the National Recreation and Parks Association and the
5 CDC that states playgrounds should remain closed until Phase 3.

6
7 With regard to athletic fields, the CDC currently recommends that people do not participate in
8 organized activities or sports. Although he believes it acceptable for a family to kick around a soccer
9 ball while social distancing, it is not believed appropriate for a team or sports league to hold practices
10 or games at this point. The recommendation is that they remain closed until there is no widespread
11 community transmission.

12
13 Councilor Woods stated concern with the social distancing aspect with what would appear to be an
14 exception, e.g., if not encouraging basketball, Kids Kove. He does not believe there to be the
15 opportunity for social distancing in a game such as volleyball.

16
17 Town Manager Cabanel noted the decision to open the tennis courts, which is similar although more
18 enclosed than beach volleyball would be. No organized leagues would be permitted. Kids Kove is
19 different given it is a physical structure.

20
21 Councilor Healey remarked when going up to the net when playing volleyball, there is no social
22 distancing. Until we get direction from the Governor and the task force that they are okay with
23 opening up the parks and not maintaining social distancing, she is not comfortable with it. You should
24 not wear a mask if engaging in heavy exercise, and if playing volleyball you can get up close and
25 personal and heavily into exercise.

26
27 Councilor Albert stated agreement noting volleyball is a contact sport.

28
29 Vice Chairman Boyd stated there to be a difference between beach volleyball and indoor volleyball.
30 Beach volleyball is usually one on one or two on two. With indoor it is two rows of 5. The question
31 will become if we open up the volleyball courts could we have the ability to limit it to 2 participants
32 per team. Town Manager Cabanel responded there is no means of policing social distancing. If the
33 will of the Council, they will simply not set up the nets.

34
35 Vice Chairman Boyd commented on having been in Mine Falls Park in Nashua over the weekend. The
36 City has posted signs emphasizing social distancing on the trails. He questioned if signage would be
37 posted if going down this path. Town Manager Cabanel stated that could be done.

38
39 Councilor Rothhaus commented on understanding the closing of Kids Kove; a lot of hands on
40 structures. He is more inclined, with beach volleyball, to put up signs reminding people we encourage
41 social distancing. Asked if he feels the same around opening of basketball and the skate park, he
42 indicated he does. He reiterated Kids Kove is a different scenario where it is a structure children climb
43 on.

44
45 Councilor Albert spoke of being in month 2 of this situation and questioned why signage around social
46 distancing is needed. Chairman Koenig commented people are starting to forget. If you look out on
47 the roads, traffic is increasing, etc. We need to do what we can to remind folks that this problem is still
48 here, it is still real, and of the importance of social distancing.

49

1 Asked when the ban on fields might be lifted, Town Manager Cabanel responded all she can go by is
2 what she is hearing from Director Casparius who receives his guidance from the CDC. They suggest
3 we do not allow people to participate on our fields in organized activities or sports at this time.

4
5 Chairman Koenig remarked as long as the Governor's stay at home order is in place, he does not
6 believe the Town should be promoting organized sports. Town Manager Cabanel noted Denise Roy,
7 Chief, Merrimack Police Department, weighed in stating her belief the Town should not open any of
8 these things until additional guidance is provided by the Governor. Councilor Healey commented it is
9 okay to get guidance from the CDC, but what is regulating and calling the shots here in New
10 Hampshire is the Governor and his task force. She suggested we contact 211 to find out what the
11 Governor's thoughts are on this issue. She commented on the no parking signage out at Wildcat Falls
12 not working and the uncertainty an expenditure on signage would work as hoped.

13
14 Councilor Harrington stated appreciation for the freedom and self-responsibility issue, but the bottom
15 line is we are just not there yet. That does not mean it will not happen; we just will not put the nets up.

16
17 Town Manager Cabanel stated what she is hearing from the majority is the opinion to not open up
18 anything new at this point in time. Chairman Koenig agreed.

19
20 Town Manager Cabanel spoke of the number of calls being received concerning summer camp.
21 Summer camp guidance is being vetted by the Department of Public Health. The expectation is that
22 concrete information will be available by early next week. As soon as the information is available, it
23 will be made public.

24
25 The Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) will meet virtually on June 2nd to hear a portion of the
26 currently submitted items on the April/May agenda. The Planning Board will meet virtually on June
27 16th. A second ZBA virtual meeting will be held on June 24th to handle remaining existing cases and
28 anything new submitted by June 9th.

29
30 The PWD would like to welcome back Patrick Hill, Mechanic II for our Equipment Maintenance
31 division, from his military deployment. Patrick has been a member of the Army Reserves for over 20
32 years. He joined the Reserves out of High School in March of 2000 and is now a Staff Sergeant. He
33 has been deployed five times during his service; 2010/11 Iraq, two deployments Stateside in New
34 Jersey, 2016/17 Kuwait and his latest 2019/20 Qatar. During Patrick's service his roles included
35 chemical warfare weaponry, Mechanic and 88Mic Truck Driver.

36
37 Public Works Operations Manager, Lori Barrett, on behalf of the Town of Merrimack, was the
38 recipient of the Patriotic Employer Award, which is sponsored by the Employer Support of the Guard
39 and Reserve (ESGR). The Patriotic Award is given to an employer of an armed service member who
40 has been nominated by that employee for going above and beyond in supporting the soldier in civil
41 duties as well as in his obligations to serving our nation. This award recognizes supervisors and
42 managers nominated by the National Guardsman employee for support provided to the
43 nominator. Recognizing supportive employers is vital to ESGR's mission. Patrick Hill, Mechanic II
44 of the Equipment Maintenance division nominated Lori due to the support he received from her, the
45 department, and the Town, and for the Town's stance as an employer who embraces hiring veterans,
46 and openly supports officers who choose to serve their country.

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48

1 The PWD will host a virtual Public Information Meeting for the Old Blood Road reconstruction
2 project on Wednesday, May 20th at 6:00 p.m. The meeting can be viewed on cable channel 20 and
3 MerrimackTV's Facebook Live page. Anyone wishing to participate in the meeting by phone should
4 follow the instructions on the Town's website.

5
6 The Town's 2020 paving is underway with crack sealing operations started this week. Details of the
7 program can be found on the Public Works website and daily updates can be received by liking the
8 Public Works Facebook page - Facebook.com/MerrimackDPW.

9
10 Work has begun on the sewer line reconstruction in Baboosic Lake Road between McQuestion Road
11 and Jessica Drive. Around June 1st, the corridor will be closed to through traffic for approximately 3
12 months while the sewer reconstruction is completed. Questions should be referred to the PWD at 424-
13 5137.

14
15 The Fire Department is in the process of applying for two significant grants through FEMA. The first
16 is the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), which is intended to fund capital equipment and
17 projects. Merrimack Fire's AFG grant request is for approximately \$500,000 for the purchase of a new
18 fire engine. This grant application was submitted in early March, and awards are anticipated to begin
19 in late June/early July. The second is the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response
20 (SAFER) grant. The Fire Department is in the final stages of completing that application, which is due
21 at the end of the week. SAFER application requests are just over \$750,000 to help fund 4 additional
22 Firefighter positions for 3 years. It is expected that awards for this grant will also start in July.

23
24 **Consent Agenda** - None

25
26 **Old Business**

27
28 *There being no objection, the Council went out of the regular order of business to take up Item, #2.*

29
30 **2. Continuation of Town Election Discussion**

31 Submitted by Town Moderator Lynn Christensen

32 Town Moderator Lynn Christensen to continue the discussion with the Town Council on the date
33 and polling locations for the upcoming Town Election.

34
35 Lynn Christensen, Town Moderator, noted, as of this time, the election is scheduled for June 23rd.

36
37 Chairman Koenig commented at the time of the last discussion, the election was planned to take place
38 at the 3 polling locations to remain constant with the way we do our elections. A few suggestions have
39 come forward relative to other options, e.g., move to a single polling location, drive-thru voting at a
40 single location (highway garage), and drive-thru voting at the 3 polling locations.

41
42 Ms. Christensen stated there to be pros and cons for each of the options. Having now seen how other
43 communities have handled drive-thru voting, she can see how that would work for Merrimack.

1 Councilor Albert stated his preference to stay with the 3 polling places with drive-thru voting.

2
3 Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali provided diagrams and an explanation of how drive-
4 thru voting would be handled at each of the polling locations. As an example, at St. John Neumann,
5 voters would come off of 101A/Continental Boulevard intersection, come down the road, and drive
6 into the church parking lot. At the beginning, there would be a place where voter ID would be
7 checked, and a number placed on the car (# of people in the car) under the windshield. The vehicle
8 would be directed to either lane 1 or 2 to pick up the number of ballots for the car. They could park,
9 fill out the ballots then exit their lanes and go to the exit where they could place their ballots in the
10 ballot boxes.

11
12 For those who are not registered, there would be a spot/tent available for same day registration. They
13 could pull in, stay in their car where a registration form would be brought to them. They would fill it
14 out, give it back, and be given a ballot. They would exit the lane, and go to the ballot box.

15
16 For those that do not want to show ID, there would be a tent available; they would drive in, get their
17 affidavit signed, etc., get their ballot, and exit the same way. If the first two lanes were to fill, there
18 would be overflow behind the building. There is one way in and one way out.

19
20 The proposal was vetted by legal counsel who has included language relative to the vote itself. It is
21 understood the proposal is not perfect and there remain logistical items to be worked out, but it is
22 believed to be a good point to move forward and address other items that can be addressed at this time,
23 e.g., registering voters (ambulance bay), ballot boxes certified, counting ballots, etc. What would have
24 to be worked out is where the tallying would occur at the conclusion of the voting.

25
26 Chairman Koenig commented on the concern around weather conditions. On a nice day you could do
27 this almost exactly the way it has been laid out. When asked what would occur in the event of
28 inclement weather, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali indicated the intent to have tents
29 in all areas where there is a spot that a person is standing. Since people are voting in their cars,
30 inclement weather would not impact the vote itself.

31
32 Councilor Albert questioned if the tents would be large enough to accommodate vehicles driving
33 through, and was told the desire was to avoid that not wanting to have to drive stakes through
34 pavement to support the tents.

35
36 Chairman Koenig commented on the concern if voters were in the position of having to leave their
37 vehicle to hand something over. There would be the need for some kind of an overhang or something.

38
39 Ms. Christensen stated there to be an issue with weather with regard to the ballot. There have been
40 issues with the ballot in hot/humid weather. Looking at the experiences in Bow and Conway, they had
41 ballots that jammed the machines resulting in the need to take them offline.

42
43 Town Manager Cabanel spoke of a voicemail she received from Bud Fitch, Attorney General's Office.
44 He basically said according to his records, Merrimack's voter checklist contains 20,779 people.
45 Conway, while he did not say how many voters are on their checklist, had a total of 1,457 people who
46 voted. Of the 1,457 voters, 921 of them voted by absentee ballot leaving only 536 people who voted in
47 person. She extrapolated from that that he thought Merrimack was too large.

48 Ms. Christensen remarked Conway typically gets 1,500 - 2,000 people voting in their town election
49 regardless of how many they have on the checklist (about 9,000).

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In the past 20 years, Merrimack has typically had (unless something extremely controversial) 2,000 - 2,500 on the voting list. Merrimack typically has about 30 absentee ballots. Currently there are 125 requests for absentee ballots, which is a number she believes will increase. Town Manager Cabanel noted in 2018, there were 3,016 Merrimack residents who voted and in 2019 there were 3,325. Over the past 5 years, voting in Town elections has been, on average, 2,400.

Councilor Healey asked if there would be access to the schools (bathrooms, etc.). She spoke of concern with privacy when voting in a car, and questioned the plan for promoting absentee ballots.

Chairman Koenig stated his understanding absentee applications will be mailed to all registered voters. Councilor Healey suggested utilizing all means possible, e.g., electronic signs, to inform the citizenry of the mailing.

Councilor Rothhaus commented on the many moving parts; weather being one. He likes the idea of encouraging residents to utilize absentee ballots. With lower numbers participating in person, he questioned if voting could be accommodated in our polling places the way we normally do.

Ms. Christensen reiterated there are pros and cons for all of the options. Although she has a preference, the decision is that of the Council. Her perspective is that of the safety of the election officials and the voters. Normally she would say she does not like changing voting locations because people are accustomed to their location. But, given the situation we find ourselves in, townspeople are wanting to understand what we are going to do, and will adjust. We can inform the citizenry of the decision via electronic signs, community television promotion, etc. Sending out absentee voter request forms to all registered voters in Town may result in additional requests.

Vice Chairman Boyd stated concern with the PWD site in that it would be a change from the 3 locations that have been dedicated as voting sites. Depending on the number of voters, you could see cars queueing onto Turkey Hill Road trying to get into the PWD garage to be able to vote. He is not enthralled with voting being held at the PWD garage. He is pleased with the drive-thru voting proposal for the 3 sites. He spoke of the need to utilize any and all means of informing the citizenry the absentee ballot is a viable option.

Councilor Harrington commented on having reviewed the request form for an absentee ballot. She had believed it had to be notarized. Ms. Christensen stated it does not. There is a spot for a witness, which the Attorney General and Secretary of State have both stated there is no need to be concerned with.

Councilor Harrington commented the social distancing will be more problematic if we consolidate into a single location. Ms. Christensen stated that would be the case with the exception of St. John Neumann because of its small size. Maintaining social distancing there is an issue. It can be done, but is an issue at that location. Councilor Harrington agreed the key to any of the options is to have the number of absentee ballots as high as possible. Councilor Harrington stated her preference to continue with 3 polling locations.

1 Ms. Christensen reiterated if utilizing drive-thru at the 3 locations and handling ballots outdoors, there
2 is concern with the machinery malfunctioning. The result will be hand counting. She suggested, if
3 wishing to utilize 3 polling locations, that it be in-person, and hope for a large number of absentee
4 ballots. Social distancing can be managed with in-person voting at the 3 locations. She also
5 recommended if the desire is for drive-thru, that it be a single location where the ballots can be handled
6 indoors.

7
8 Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Micali stated there has not yet been a push for absentee
9 ballots. It has not been put out on Nixle or electronic signs, social media, etc. That will happen
10 beginning tomorrow. Announcements will be put up on Channels 20, 21, and 22, and they will begin
11 talking about sending out the absentee ballot forms as soon as possible. Ms. Christensen spoke of
12 utilizing community television to inform residents how voting will be conducted so that there would be
13 an understanding of what is to be expected, and explain the opportunity to utilize an absentee ballot.

14
15 Councilor Albert stated the desire for in-person voting at the existing 3 polling locations adhering to
16 social distancing guidelines.

17
18 Councilor Woods stated his preference for utilizing the PWD as a single drive-thru location. He
19 believes the voters understand the circumstances we are faced with, and that changing from 3 to 1
20 polling location will not be that bothersome. To move forward in a typical fashion he believes would
21 be unsafe.

22
23 Chairman Koenig questioned the will of the Council relative to a drive-thru or in-person vote.

24
25 Councilor Rothhaus remarked vulnerable populations should do an absentee ballot, and he is hopeful
26 others can be encouraged to take advantage of absentee ballots, which would reduce the number of in-
27 person voters. If able to do that, and putting the focus on social distancing, he believes it will be safe
28 for in-person voting. He is in support of continuing with the typical manner in which voting occurs.

29
30 Chairman Koenig opened the floor for any Councilor wishing to put forward a motion should there be
31 a desire to move away from what the Town currently does with 3 polling locations and in-person
32 voting.

33
34 Town Manager Cabanel noted any decision to change the location of the polling place(s) has to occur
35 at least 30 days prior to the election, per Town Charter.

36
37 **MOTION made by Councilor Albert and seconded by Vice Chairman Boyd to continue with**
38 **three (3), in-person polling places**

39
40 *A Roll Call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:*

41
42 Yea: Councilor Woods, Chairman Koenig, Councilor Harrington, Councilor Rothhaus,
43 Councilor Albert, Vice Chairman Boyd

44 6

45 Nay: Councilor Healey

46 1

47 **MOTION CARRIED**

48 ***The Council returned to the regular order of business.***

1 **1. Extension of Emergency Ordinance**

2 Submitted by Town Council Chair Tom Koenig and Vice Chair Bill Boyd
3 The Town Council to revisit, discuss and consider extending the Emergency Ordinance currently in
4 place for designated Town facilities and operations during the COVID-19 pandemic situation,
5 pursuant to Charter Article V.
6

7 On March 18, 2020, the Town Council enacted Emergency Ordinance #1 (EO1). Per Town Charter,
8 the Ordinance “shall automatically stand repealed on the 61st day following the date of adoption.”.
9 That time period is nearing.

10
11 **MOTION made by Councilor Albert and seconded by Councilor Healey to extend the**
12 **Emergency Ordinance currently in place for designated Town facilities and operations during**
13 **the COVID-19 pandemic situation, pursuant to Charter Article V**

14
15 **ON THE QUESTION**

16
17 Councilor Albert stated the desire to follow suit with the direction taken by the Governor and watch
18 the data.

19
20 *A Roll Call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:*

21
22 Yea: Councilor Woods, Chairman Koenig, Councilor Harrington, Councilor Rothhaus,
23 Councilor Albert, Councilor Healey, Vice Chairman Boyd

24 7

25 Nay:

0

26 **MOTION CARRIED**

27
28 **New Business**

29
30 **1. Governor’s Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) Coronavirus Relief Fund**
31 **Grant Agreement**

32 Submitted by Town Manager Eileen Cabanel and Finance Director Paul T. Micali
33 Town Council to allow the Town Manager to apply for the GOFERR Coronavirus Relief Grant.
34

35 Chairman Koenig stated the Governor has released up to \$605,000 to the Town of Merrimack to
36 recover costs associated with the COVID-19 shutdown, including costs such as increased election
37 costs. In order to receive the funding, there is the need to make application. We have to first apply to
38 be accepted into the grant and then for each of the next 3 months make application showing where we
39 have expended funds.
40

41 Asked if the task would be overwhelming, Town Manager Cabanel stated it would not. There are very
42 few things that are included in the reimbursement. Most of the costs we have incurred have been
43 related to overtime (Fire Department); 75% of which will be reimbursed by FEMA. We cannot apply
44 for the remaining 25% out of this grant funding. Additional costs include items such as legal fees,
45 mailings, signage, and other modifications to public facilities to provide protections for employees and
46 public.
47
48

1 **MOTION** made by Vice Chairman Boyd and seconded by Councilor Albert to authorize the
2 **Town Manager or her designee to apply for the Governor’s Office for Emergency Relief and**
3 **Recovery (GOFERR) Coronavirus Relief Grant and, furthermore, that the Town Manager or**
4 **her designee be authorized to sign the paperwork necessary to get the process moving forward**
5

6 *A Roll Call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:*
7

8 Yea: Councilor Woods, Chairman Koenig, Councilor Harrington, Councilor Rothhaus,
9 Councilor Albert, Councilor Healey, Vice Chairman Boyd

10 7

11 Nay: 0

12 **MOTION CARRIED**
13

14 **2. Public Works Week Proclamation**

15 Submitted by Public Works Director Kyle Fox

16 The Town Council to designate the week of May 17 - 23, 2020, as National Public Works Week.
17

18 Town Manager Cabanel spoke of the dedication of the employees, and expressed gratitude and
19 appreciation for all they do every day.
20

21 Members of the Council commented on the level of commitment and dedication to the Town displayed
22 by the employees, and expressed sincere appreciation for the work they do.
23

24 *The Proclamation reads as follows:*
25

26 **“National Public Works Week**
27 **Proclamation**
28 **May 17 - 23, 2020**

29 **“The Rhythm of Public Works”**
30
31

32 **WHEREAS**, public works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities and services that are of vital
33 importance to sustainable and resilient communities and to the public health, high quality of life and
34 well-being of the people of **MERRIMACK, NH**; and,
35

36 **WHEREAS**, these infrastructure, facilities and services could not be provided without the dedicated
37 efforts of public works professionals, who are engineers, managers and employees at all levels of
38 government and the private sector, who are responsible for rebuilding, improving and protecting our
39 nation’s transportation, water supply, water treatment and solid waste systems, public buildings, and
40 other structures and facilities essential for our citizens; and,
41

42 **WHEREAS**, it is in the public interest for the citizens, civic leaders and children in **MERRIMACK,**
43 **NH** to gain knowledge of and to maintain a progressive interest and understanding of the importance
44 of public works and public works programs in their respective communities; and,
45

46 **WHEREAS**, the year 2020 marks the 60th annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the
47 American Public Works Association, be it now,
48

1 **RESOLVED, WE, THE MERRIMACK TOWN COUNCIL**, do hereby designate the week May 17
2 - 23, 2020, as National Public Works Week; we urge all citizens to join with representatives of the
3 American Public Works Association and government agencies in activities, events and ceremonies
4 designed to pay tribute to our public works professionals, engineers, managers and employees and to
5 recognize the substantial contributions they make to protecting our national health, safety, and quality
6 of life.

7
8 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set the Seal of the Town of Merrimack to be affixed, on
9 this 14th day of May 2020.”

10
11 **MOTION made by Councilor Woods and seconded by Vice Chairman Boyd to proclaim the**
12 **week of May 17 - 23, 2020, as National Public Works Week**

13
14 *A Roll Call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:*

15
16 Yea: Councilor Woods, Chairman Koenig, Councilor Harrington, Councilor Rothhaus,
17 Councilor Albert, Councilor Healey, Vice Chairman Boyd

18 7

19 Nay: 0

20 **MOTION CARRIED**

21
22 **Minutes**

23
24 April 23, 2020

25
26 **MOTION made by Vice Chairman Boyd and seconded by Councilor Woods to approve the**
27 **minutes of the Town Council meeting of April 23, 2020, as presented**

28
29 *A Roll Call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:*

30
31 Yea: Councilor Woods, Chairman Koenig, Councilor Harrington, Councilor Rothhaus,
32 Councilor Albert, Councilor Healey, Vice Chairman Boyd

33 7

34 Nay: 0

35 **MOTION CARRIED**

36
37 Town Manager Cabanel informed the Council of the hiring for the positions of Assistant in the I.T.
38 Department and Field Assessor, Assessing Department. The Town is in the final process of hiring an
39 Assistant Chief for the Fire Department.

40
41 **Comments from the Press** - None

42
43 **Comments from the Public** - None

1 **Comments from the Council**

2
3 Vice Chairman Boyd commended the faculty and staff at Merrimack High School for providing signs
4 to recognize the graduating seniors.

5
6 He reminded the viewing audience of available resources and contact information posted on the
7 Town’s website, and encouraged anyone in need of assistance to reach out and take advantage of what
8 is available.

9
10 Chairman Koenig noted available testing around the State has expanded. Residents concerned about
11 the Corona Virus and wanting to be tested can reach out to the State for testing; you should have at
12 least one of the symptoms or be in one of the risk groups. The Governor has opened up testing for
13 antibodies. If you think you may have had COVID-19 and wish to find out, you have to go through
14 ClearChoiceMD. If your insurance will not cover the cost, the State will.

15
16 Chairman Koenig noted Census 2020 is still ongoing. If you have not already filled out your census
17 you should do so. Otherwise, you would have to be contacted.

18
19 Chairman Koenig spoke of the upcoming election, which will be a concern for a lot of people. He
20 requested those having a concern apply for an absentee ballot to avoid having to vote in person. It is
21 imperative that the voices of the voters be heard. For those that want to come out, we will do the best
22 we can to make it as safe as possible. Masks will be available for all participants. Anyone that comes
23 in to vote will have to wear a mask. If you refuse to wear a mask, you can go back to your car, and a
24 ballot will be brought to you. Voting will take place on June 23rd at the earliest.

25
26 **Adjourn**

27
28 **MOTION made by Vice Chairman Boyd and seconded by Councilor Woods to adjourn the**
29 **meeting**

30
31 *A Roll Call vote was taken, which resulted as follows:*

32
33 Yea: Councilor Woods, Chairman Koenig, Councilor Harrington, Councilor Rothhaus,
34 Councilor Albert, Councilor Healey, Vice Chairman Boyd

35 7

36 Nay: 0

37 **MOTION CARRIED**

38
39 *The May 14, 2020 meeting of the Town Council was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.*

40
41
42 Submitted by Dawn MacMillan