



## **Town Council Meeting Minutes**

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

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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 1-929-205-6099 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](mailto: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.

**Councilor Healey**

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.

**Vice Chairman Boyd**

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.

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

**Announcements**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Comments from the Press and Public** – None

**Recognitions, Resignations and Retirements**

**1. Recognition of Town Committee Member**

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

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

Dan Ricker – Planning Board

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

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

**ON THE QUESTION**

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

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

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

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Nay:

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**MOTION CARRIED**

**Appointments** - None

**Public Hearing** - None

**Legislative Updates from State Representatives** - None

**Town Manager's Report**

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

Regarding the beach volleyball courts at Watson Park, he and Kyle Fox, Director, Public Works Department (PWD) are agreeable to opening the courts. Town Manager Cabanel stated agreement.

Approved: May 28, 2020

Posted: May 29, 2020

Director Casparius views beach volleyball to be similar to tennis in terms of the ability for social distancing noting organized leagues would not be permitted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Councilor Albert stated agreement noting volleyball is a contact sport.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Public Works Operations Manager, Lori Barrett, on behalf of the Town of Merrimack, was the recipient of the Patriotic Employer Award, which is sponsored by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). The Patriotic Award is given to an employer of an armed service member who has been nominated by that employee for going above and beyond in supporting the soldier in civil

duties as well as in his obligations to serving our nation. This award recognizes supervisors and managers nominated by the National Guardsman employee for support provided to the nominator. Recognizing supportive employers is vital to ESGR's mission. Patrick Hill, Mechanic II of the Equipment Maintenance division nominated Lori due to the support he received from her, the department, and the Town, and for the Town's stance as an employer who embraces hiring veterans, and openly supports officers who choose to serve their country.

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

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

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

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

**Consent Agenda** - None

## **Old Business**

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

### **2. Continuation of Town Election Discussion**

Submitted by Town Moderator Lynn Christensen

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

Lynn Christensen, Town Moderator, noted, as of this time, the election is scheduled for June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Chairman Koenig commented at the time of the last discussion, the election was planned to take place at the 3 polling locations to remain constant with the way we do our elections. A few suggestions have

come forward relative to other options, e.g., move to a single polling location, drive-thru voting at a single location (highway garage), and drive-thru voting at the 3 polling locations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Town Manager Cabanel spoke of a voicemail she received from Bud Fitch, Attorney General's Office. He basically said according to his records, Merrimack's voter checklist contains 20,779 people. Conway, while he did not say how many voters are on their checklist, had a total of 1,457 people who voted. Of the 1,457 voters, 921 of them voted by absentee ballot leaving only 536 people who voted in person. She extrapolated from that that he thought Merrimack was too large. Ms. Christensen remarked Conway typically gets 1,500 - 2,000 people voting in their town election regardless of how many they have on the checklist (about 9,000).

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6

Nay: Councilor Healey

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**MOTION CARRIED**

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

**1. Extension of Emergency Ordinance**

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

The Town Council to revisit, discuss and consider extending the Emergency Ordinance currently in place for designated Town facilities and operations during the COVID-19 pandemic situation, pursuant to Charter Article V.

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

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

**ON THE QUESTION**

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

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

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

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Nay:

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**MOTION CARRIED**

## **New Business**

### **1. Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) Coronavirus Relief Fund Grant Agreement**

Submitted by Town Manager Eileen Cabanel and Finance Director Paul T. Micali

Town Council to allow the Town Manager to apply for the GOFERR Coronavirus Relief Grant.

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

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

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

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

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

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Nay:

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**MOTION CARRIED**

### **2. Public Works Week Proclamation**

Submitted by Public Works Director Kyle Fox

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

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

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

*The Proclamation reads as follows:*

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

**“The Rhythm of Public Works”**

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the year 2020 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association, be it now,

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set the Seal of the Town of Merrimack to be affixed, on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020.”

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

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

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

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Nay:

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**MOTION CARRIED**

## **Minutes**

April 23, 2020

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

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

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

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Nay:

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**MOTION CARRIED**

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

**Comments from the Press** - None

**Comments from the Public** – None

**Comments from the Council**

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

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

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

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

Chairman Koenig spoke of the upcoming election, which will be a concern for a lot of people. He requested those having a concern apply for an absentee ballot to avoid having to vote in person. It is imperative that the voices of the voters be heard. For those that want to come out, we will do the best we can to make it as safe as possible. Masks will be available for all participants. Anyone that comes

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Posted: May 29, 2020

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 ballot will be brought to you. Voting will take place on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the earliest.

### **Adjourn**

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

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

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

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Nay:

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**MOTION CARRIED**

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

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan