

**Londonderry Town Council Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 18, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Moose Hill Council Chambers**

**Meeting Link:** <http://173.166.17.35/CablecastPublicSite/show/12553?channel=4>

**Attendance:** Chairman John Farrell; Vice Chairman Chad Franz; Councilor Ted Combes; Councilor Shawn Faber; Councilor Ron Dunn; Town Manager Mike Malaguti.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Farrell called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge was led by Chairman Farrell. This was followed by a moment of silence in honor of the Londonderry citizens and wished them good health.

Farrell opened the initial meeting and read as follows:

“I have been in service to the Town of Londonderry for 25 years, starting on the Planning Board for 10 years and beginning my 15<sup>th</sup> year on the Council, serving as the Chairman for the past 6 years and 10 of the last 12 years. During my tenure we have had 4 Town Managers, 3 Police Chiefs. 5 Fire Chiefs, multiple department heads, dozen and dozens of retirement, new hires and award ceremonies. The voters supported a new Town Hall, Police Station and 3 Fire Stations.

When my wife’s family arrived here in Londonderry it was approximately 5400 people, upon my arrival we had 19,800 and we now sit at almost 27,000 with 8-9000 dwellings. The community has grown and changed. We have moved from a Town Meeting form of Government to a Town Charter/ SB2 form of government. Some would say this was a mistake, some may not. As an original member of the open space task force we developed a plan that the voters approved for approximately 12 million in funding over several years. The town now controls more than 1500 acres of land that will remain undeveloped. This reduced our build out capacity from 43,000 to less than 32,500.

The Town Council presented to the voters many increases in services. The voters have approved multiple new hires for additional first responders. Increased staffing levels for police, increase staffing for 8-9 fire personnel on a shift to 13. Additionally, public works was increased from 10-12 personnel to maintain over 170 miles of roads.

The community continues to expect excellent services from its leadership. We have many examples of the excellent value the people of Londonderry enjoy. One example is a home that paid 8900 in 2009 and received a bill for 10500 today. An average increase of 110-120 dollars per year or a total of 18 percent or 1.25% a year. Increases varied from year to year and the average is simply just an example.

The goal remains the same. Protect this community at all costs. We have 5 items that matter every day in town government. Police are well trained, have the equipment and resources and the ability

to respond. Fire is well trained and able to respond. The roads are plowed and well maintained. Our most valuable asset is the protection of the children in the schools and we pick up the trash and recycling. We now need to introduce a 6<sup>th</sup> item as the top of the priority list of the Town Council. With the approval of the water article, the goal is to bring clean safe drinking water to all of Londonderry. I have asked Ron Dunn to lead this effort.

Over the past year I have been reflecting on what does the future look like. A lot of has changed in the past 30 years. We have enjoyed living in the outstanding community that puts its people first and has had growth in a controlled manner by using open space purchases and multiple development agreements. These agreements have allowed the town to offset many of the costs associated with this type of development. Londonderry had led the way in the state and the country with these types of tools.

We are currently working on additional agreements in order to grow the commercial tax base and offset the effect of growth on the homeowner. To add to all of that we insulated the taxpayers from any added tax burden for the building of Exit 4A based on a 1990's Boston North legal settlement. The town has also secured millions of dollars in infrastructure funding from the federal government.

It has been the honor and privilege of a lifetime to serve and continue to serve the community I love. I am the transplant here and never heard of Londonderry until I met my wife and fell in love. Little did I know the town was a part of the deal. We married here at St. Jude's and raised our family here and now our children have chosen to make Londonderry their home.

This is my home, we have many positive things to be proud of and always look forward. Don't dwell on the past. We can do nothing about yesterday but we can be great at tomorrow. When issues are raised don't complain without offering a possible solution. I truly love Londonderry and my family has dedicated much of our lives to others in this community. Always remember, service above self.

With all that said, I would like to make a motion to appoint Chad Franz as Chairman and Ted Combes as Vice Chairman of the Town Council." Ron Dunn seconded the vote.

John Farrell	Yes
Chad Franz	Yes
Shawn Faber	Yes
Ted Combes	Yes
Ron Dunn	Yes

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Chairman Franz thanked Farrell for the kind words. Franz expressed gratitude for Jim Butler and the time he spent on the Council as well as congratulated Shawn Faber on his win for a Town

Council seat. Franz shared he is expecting to scrape his knees and make mistakes but asks for the town's grace moving forward. Franz expressed moving forward this Council will have open dialogue and will embrace collaborative conversations.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Franz opened public comment.

**Name:** Dan Bouchard

**Address:** 8 Oconnel Dr

Bouchard explained the last Town Council meeting; Councilor Butler suggested a growth ordinance which is something he agrees with. Bouchard shared concern about the potential mental hospital causing more strain on our first responders.

**Name:** Richard Belinski

**Address:** 89 Hall Rd

Belinski questioned if the Tax Collector is a public figure, why are they receiving NHRS and insurance benefits. Belinski also questioned how much work the Tax Collector really does given that his personal checks were cashed days after being dropped off. Belinski requested proof of documented hours of the Tax Collector.

**Name:** Maria Barud

**Address:** N/A

Barud quickly shared there is crackling on the sound from the Town Council meeting being streamed online. Barud congratulated Shawn Faber on his win.

**Name:** Ann Chiampa

**Address:** 28 Wedgewood Dr

Chiampa recognized Dan Bouchard for helping her during a medical emergency at the NH Maple Weekend and wanted it on public record.

**Name:** Jake Butler

**Address:** 2 Danbury Ct

Butler shared updates from the Planning Board. Butler explained he is now the new chair and Art Rugg is Vice Chair. Butler thanked the councilors for everything and thanked his father, Jim Butler who has served the community for 12 years. Butler ended by sharing how amazing of a person Sherry Farrell is and recalls a time in 2022 when he has a friend whom was terminally ill and Sherry spent hours with him in the hospital to make sure he could vote like he wished. Butler explained he will come to the Town Council meetings more often.

**Name:** Tony DeFrancesco

**Address:** 1 Cheshire Ct

DeFrancesco congratulated the councilors on their promotions as well as Shawn Faber's win. DeFrancesco explained the Council represents all of the residents, even the ones who did not vote. DeFrancesco urged the Council to stay positive and not let the negativity get to them and hopes to have another wonderful year.

Public Comment is closed.

Franz introduced potential changes to the public comment rules.

The Council gave consensuses to obtain legal review prior to acting on the changes.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice-Chairman Combes moved to approve the March 4th, 2024, Town Council minutes. Councilor Dunn seconded the motion.

John Farrell	Yes
Chad Franz	Yes
Shawn Faber	Abstain
Ted Combes	Yes
Ron Dunn	Yes

Motion passed 4-1-0

### **REAPPOINTMENTS**

None

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

### **Liaison Reports**

**None**

**Town Manager Report**

**Town Manager:**

Town Manager Malaguti addressed the reappointment of the Tax Collector and Deputy Town Clerk. The Town Manager's report included updates on a meeting with Chris Pappas regarding infrastructure developments in the Exit 4A area; Recent land conservation efforts were praised, including the Merrill conservation transaction; Discussion on the progress of the Master Plan, with approximately half of the 82 recommendations completed or in progress, and plans to present a report card on the updates to the planning board in April; the Town sponsoring paid family leave plans at no cost to the town, aiming to support employees' family needs; Efforts to control health insurance costs by incentivizing employees not to take insurance and exploring additional savings; successful result of Article 3 and thanking Councilor Dunn and the community for their support; and ongoing review of a behavioral health facility and plans to address concerns with the applicant.

**Assistant Town Manager: None**

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

- April 8, 2024: Moose Hill Council Chambers, 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chairman Combes moved to adjourn. Councilor Faber seconded the motion.

John Farrell	Yes
Chad Franz	Yes
Shawn Faber	Yes
Ted Combes	Yes
Ron Dunn	Yes

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Cameron Maher