

Londonderry Town Council Minutes
Monday, April 22, 2024
7:00 PM
Moose Hill Council Chambers

Meeting Link: <http://173.166.17.35/CablecastPublicSite/show/12561?channel=4>

Attendance: Chairman Chad Franz; Vice Chairman Ted Combes; Councilor Shawn Faber; Councilor Ron Dunn; Councilor John Farrell; Town Manager Michael Malaguti; and Assistant Town Manager Kellie Caron.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Franz called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge was led by Chairman Franz. This was followed by a moment of silence led by Chairman Franz in honor of the town employees.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Franz opened public comment.

Vice Chair Combes read the Proclamation for the Londonderry Boy's Hockey Team. Councilor Farrell shared the kids played out of their states and an amazing celebration was had. Farrell explained he never saw such an enthusiastic crowd and expressed how enjoyable it was to witness a great win.

Chairman Franz stated for he would like to receive the public's input on Warrant Article 17.

Name: Kristine Perez

Address: 5 Leslie Dr

Perez explained she feels one of the reasons the article was put forward, was because years ago there was a petition to have term limits and the Town Council never brought and conversation forward.

Name: Jonathan Esposito

Address: 5 Shelly Dr

Esposito congratulated Franz on his appointment and spoke about the elected vs appointed citizens petition. Esposito shared there was an overwhelming vote in favor of it. He said the planning board is not receptive to the citizens and they view public comment as an opportunity to turn into a madhouse. Esposito expressed that since the planning board is not open to feedback, some people feel if they are switched to elected positions then the voices of the public would be heard more.

Name: Ann Chiampa

Address: 28 Wedgewood Dr

Chiampa shared that the reason the petitioner is not here is due to a medical issue.

Name: Martha Smith

Address: 38 Shasta Dr

Smith agreed with Esposito's points and expressed the planning board has to keep in mind what the vision of the Town of Londonderry is and without public comment, they are missing some of what the citizens want the vision of Londonderry to be.

Name: John Wilson

Address: Tranquil Dr

Wilson explained he is not in favor or against the petition, and a possible solution would be to have some people be appointed and others elected to appease both sides and have the best of both worlds.

Name: Jake Butler

Address: Planning Board Chair

Butler shared that May 10th will be a public hearing on the Technology Hill PUD. Butler said on May 9th there will be a special meeting on the PUD. Butler ended by explaining after a lot of conversation the planning board will be reading their rules and procedures again. Butler lastly expressed there is public comment at the Planning Board, for items scheduled on the agenda as Public Hearings.

Name: Richard Belinski

Address: 89 Hall Rd

Belinski questioned if Resolution 2024-06 will be able to be discussed. Franz explained it is a public hearing, the public will be able to speak during that time.

Name: Ann Chiampa

Address: 28 Wedgewood Dr

Chiampa expressed she is in favor of the petition warrant article and advised to listen to the people who voted in favor of the article.

Farrell explained the attorneys have advised public comment is not a good idea at the planning board. Farrell shared that if the concern is there is no public comment, it has been solved due to comment being allowed at public hearings. Farrell urged the council to do a deep investigation on why this is a good idea or not.

Name: Martha Smith

Address: 38 Shasta Dr

Smith asked why the lawyers advised against public comment. Farrell explained it is due to the potential influence of the public on Board members prior to the public hearing on the applications. Public may speak during the public hearing.

Name: Dave Wholley

Address: Director of PW

Wholley provided and update about the stop signs for Old Mammoth Rd. Wholley shared that the town is scheduled to begin work at the end of May. The stop signs are estimated to be placed on June 1st.

Name: Kristine Perez

Address: 5 Leslie Dr

Perez explained due to all of the charter discussions, she looked at the charter long and hard. Perez shared public comment is not mentioned in the charter, but is part of the town council rules, there is no reason why the council can not just vote to include public comment at the end and start of the meeting. Perez also expressed she is concerned an elected official has been in violation of the Charter for voting in favor of a family member's salary. Perez said we cannot use the charter when it benefits us and not use it when it doesn't benefit us.

Name: Jonathan Esposito

Address: 5 Shelly Dr

Esposito asked if it is possible to make Article 21 an agenda item.

Chairman Franz closed Public comment.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Resolution 2024-04

Vice Chairman Combes moved to approve Resolution 2024-04. Councilor Faber seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Resolution 2024-05

Vice Chairman Combes moved to approve Resolution 2024-05. Councilor Dunn seconded the motion.

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

Shawn Faber	Yes
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Motion passed 5-0-0.

Resolution 2024-06

Name: Richard Belinski

Address: 89 Hall Rd

Belinski expressed concern about the funding for the position. He asked if the funding runs out would this just be thrown into the default budget? Belinski requested the council be very clear on the position and how it is funded.

Name: Kim Bernard

Address: Police Chief

Bernard explained COSSAP funding has been in the works for around a year and this is part of outreach that Sergeant Olsen has been doing. Bernard explained if the position is not needed after the funding is gone he would be would have no issue saying the position is not needed anymore. Dunn asked if the program works would this add additional staff to the budget. Bernard expressed pulling another officer off the street is not the answer so to build this program out it would technically add a body that would be funded by grant money.

Name: Jonathan Esposito

Address: 5 Shelly Dr

Esposito explained everyone is on the same page with wanting the police to have their needs met. He said other departments did just add people to the budget without saying anything and wished it to not happen to the PD.

Malaguti explained the SAFER grant has been discussed at length and upon review there is no requirement that once the grant funding expires, to keep the position.

Malaguti explained how the default budget works.

Name: Kristine Perez

Address: 5 Leslie Dr

Perez asked if the grant goes into the schools to fund programs similar to the DARE program. Bernard explained the DARE program does exist anymore but the SRO does different programs. The program in question would allow the detective to be in plain clothes and would be talking to kids and clergy to assist with the ongoing opioid crisis needs.

Vice Chairman Combes moved to approve Resolution 2024-06. Councilor Dunn seconded the motion.

Chad Franz	Yes
Ted Combes	Yes
John Farrell	Yes

Ron Dunn	Yes
Shawn Faber	Yes

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Public hearings are closed.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 2024-02

Vice Chairman Combes moved to waive the first reading of Ordinance 2024-02. Councilor Faber seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed 5-0-0.

DPW Master Plan Review Presentation

Wholley thanked the Council and Town Manager for their support. Wholley shared the primary areas of concern for the DPW facility and current site conditions. Wholley reviewed where the material is stored and the layout of the 9 different storage structures on site. Wholley explained there is no ventilation or sprinkler system in sensitive areas and reviewed other garage inadequacies. Wholley summarized how the DPW can move forward and thanked the council for their time.

Utilities Committee Presentation & Updates

Wiles reviewed the Community Choice Aggregation and how it will be beneficial to the town. Stuart explained delivery can be from different suppliers rather than going through Eversource. Wiles explained the committee will host 2 public hearings in May then the plan will be filed with PUC for review in May which then would give a timeline of July for launch. Combes asked about homes with solar panels and how this impacts. Stuart explained Eversource shares indicators that show signs of solar panel use. Wiles explained this project will not be rolling out unless pricing is competitive.

Beautify Londonderry Committee Charge Update

Hildonen explained the committee is looking to increase the alternate members by 2 to always have a quorum.

Vice-Chairman Combes moved to update the Committee Charge. Councilor Dunn seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Resolution 2024-07

Vice-Chairman Combes moved to approve Resolution 2024-07. Councilor Dunn seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed 5-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice-Chairman Combes moved to approve the April 8th, 2024, Town Council minutes. Councilor Dunn seconded the motion.

Chad Franz	Yes
Ted Combes	Yes

John Farrell	Yes
Ron Dunn	Yes
Shawn Faber	Yes

Motion passed 5-0-0.

REAPPOINTMENTS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

Liaison Reports

Vice Chair Combes provided his report.

Chairman Franz provided his report.

Town Manager Report

Town Manager provided his report.

Assistant Town Manager provided her report.

MEETING SCHEDULE

- May 6, 2024: Moose Hill Council Chambers, 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Faber moved to adjourn. Councilor Dunn seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed 5-0-0.

- 257 The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.
- 258 Minutes prepared by Cameron Maher