

LONDONDERRY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 1, 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING

The Town Council meeting was held virtually.

Present: Chairman John Farrell; Vice Chairman Joe Green; Councilor Tom Dolan, Jim Butler and Deb Paul; Town Manager Kevin Smith; Assistant Town Manager Lisa Drabik; Executive Assistant Kirby Brown;

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Farrell called the Town Council special meeting to order and took a rollcall. Chairman Farrell also read the meeting guidelines into the record. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence for all of those who serve us both here and abroad and for the first responders in Londonderry.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Farrell opened up public comment with the traffic update on Litchfield Rd. It has been reported at the last meeting that there were some traffic counts to look at. Police Chief Bill Hart addressed the matter. Chief Hart stated that they took a look at the numbers didn't show much of a difference prior to the construction of Pettengill Rd. The number is very high, about six thousand vehicles a day and the police are looking at ways to address it. Chief Hart stated that they intend to address it at the Traffic Safety Committee meeting in Jul and the traffic is tough.

Councilor Paul suggested putting together a task force to look at other roads where there are similar issues.

Chief Hart made a statement in light of the recent events.

"I wanted to take a few minutes to address the murder of George Floyd, the terrible nights of rage and violence since and what it means for your Police Department.

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35 A week ago, a man wearing a badge who had taken an oath to serve and protect the people
36 who live and work in his community, Minneapolis, Minnesota murdered one of that
37 community's citizens. As that person lay suffocating in the street, his dying words were
38 unfortunately familiar, "I can't breathe. I can't breathe."

39 Sadly, we've heard those words before.

40 Those words have rightly become an anthem of anger and frustration, one that we forget at
41 our peril. That anger, that frustration is more clear to us, alone in our thoughts at this crazy
42 time when we put those words, I can't breathe; I can't breathe, in the mouth of our father
43 or our brother, our sister, our mother, best friend. "I can't breathe."

44 I hope that George Floyd's family, his friends, those who loved George Floyd and cared
45 for him can accept my personal condolence for this criminal act, one that brings shame
46 and hopefully disgust to everyone who, like me wears that badge, who like me has taken
47 that oath. As a police officer and as a former county prosecutor I am ashamed.

48 Because the event has affected all of us, individually and as citizens, I wanted to let you
49 know what we are doing in Londonderry at the PD to prevent this from happening here.
50 For us at LPD, sworn and civilian, every moment of every day is in some way an
51 inoculation against this heinous act happening here. There are three tenets of that success
52 at LPD: a rigorous hiring process, excellent career-long training, strong well coached
53 supervision. In committing to each fully, we build a successful policing culture, every day
54 over and over again, lingering on a failures as opportunities to learn, noting briefly our
55 successes, glad it went okay.

56 Our hiring process is tough; few pass muster, though lots of different kinds of people do.
57 While the hiring process, as it should, focuses on the skill sets we believe will make a
58 good tactical police officer, we look for more. We look for good people; people who will
59 adopt our culture, our way of being police here in Londonderry.

60 We look for people who want to serve, who understand that service is not in the telling, it
61 is in the listening, for whom decency is not just a word, rather it is a way of living. We
62 look for people who can carry out their mission, while always understanding that a lot of
63 bad things happened for all of us to be here. We look for people who aspire to
64 professionalism in this noble calling, that may at any moment require your life, but
65 always, in every moment requires kindness, empathy, decency, always puts paramount
66 importance on the people part of people skills. We look for people who know that
67 discretion and good policing means sometimes letting it go, not throwing the book.

68 We look for people who do not lose their aspiration to expect excellence because today he
69 or she failed; rather, we look for people who maturely, wisely understand that personal
70 failure, that professional failure is often the first step on the lifelong journey toward

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71 excellence. We look for people who are not defensive, not name callers, not always
72 making excuses, not inflaming, but rather calming. We look for women and men who
73 have the inner confidence to know that in my admission of failure, I am learning and in
74 learning I am preparing myself and my community for success. We look for people who
75 take responsibility; who seek it, who prepare for it, who, when it is toughest are the
76 women or men who say, 'Let me try.' Or, 'I will go first'

77 Once we have made that hire, we train, and train again, and then again, for one's entire
78 career. Each day of work, for all of us who serve you, is aspirational in nature: we each
79 aspire to be the very best. Most days we succeed.

80 We expect excellence from ourselves, for you. We supervise to that aspirational goal of
81 noble, decent service to everyone we meet.

82 This doesn't happen by accident. We are intentional on your behalf. Each day, that
83 conscious intention is part of what we do: we Expect Excellence. In every way. That is our
84 culture at LPD. We are not perfect; we have bad days; make bad decisions; act from anger
85 and fear. We are human. Because we are human, we ask our sisters and brothers in blue to
86 look out for us. Then we get up, better for our failure, having learned from our admission
87 to self that we can and will do better. Then we do it again.

88 This is not the first time an unarmed black man was murdered.
89 Please let It be the last. Enough is enough. I am sixty-five years old, yet, I can remember
90 when I was a child, these same challenges faced our country. I thought that when I was
91 old, as I am now, the obvious injustice of racial inequality in America would be a thing
92 long past. After all, the spring and summer when I turned thirteen were marred by
93 assassination, riot, war. When I heard a man speak when Dr. King died, I thought, people
94 will hear this. We will change. This will be gone when I am old. He said, "What we need
95 in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what
96 we need in the United States is not violence or lawlessness; but love and wisdom, and
97 compassion toward one another, and a feeling of justice toward those who still suffer
98 within our country, whether they be white or they be black."

99 That is what we still need and it is up to me as a police officer, a human being and most of
100 all an American to be love, to be wisdom, to be compassion, to be justice. Indeed, it is up
101 to all of us. Every day to aspire to those things which make America great. In doing so I
102 make my country better; in doing so we make our country better.

103 It is up to us as Americans, if we hope, if we still aspire to be that place that we were told
104 of as children, a place that our grandparents suffered and died to get to, a place of
105 opportunity, a land of hope, a place where you could be safe from the knock on the door in

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106 the middle of the night, a place where you are free to be anything or anybody you want to
107 be, a place where a person could breathe.

108 We can do better; we must.

109 Rest in Peace, George Floyd”

110

111

PUBLIC HEARING

113

114 Motion to open public hearing made by Councilor Dolan and second by Vice Chairman
115 Green. Chair voted 5-0-0 in roll call vote.

116

117 Chairman Farrell introduced Resolution #2020-07, a Resolution relative to the acceptance
118 of unanticipated revenue under RSA 31:95-b. Finance Director Justin Campo presented.
119 There was no questions from the Council or the public. Motion to approve Resolution
120 #2020-07 made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor Butler. Chair votes 5-
121 0-0 in roll call vote.

122

123 Motion to close public hearing made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor
124 Paul. Chair voted 5-0-0 in roll call vote.

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OLD BUSINESS

127

128 There was no old business.

129

NEW BUSINESS

131

132 Chairman Farrell introduced Order #2020-11, an order relative to the expenditure of
133 maintenance trust fund for various projects, presented by Steve Cotton. Cotton stated that
134 this order is for a hot water heater at the police department and an overhead door opener
135 for south fire station. Motion to approve Order #2020-11 made by Vice Chairman Green
136 and second by Councilor Dolan. Chair voted 5-0-0 in roll call vote.

137

138 Chairman Farrell introduced Ordinance #2020-02, an amendment to section 5.15 of the
139 Londonderry Zoning Ordinance relative to portable structures. Town Planner Colleen
140 Mailloux presented and stated some additional language was added since the Ordinance

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was last presented last year. Motion to waive the first reading and schedule a public hearing for June 15th made by Vice Chairman Green and second Councilor Dolan. Chair voted 5-0-0 in roll call vote.

Chairman Farrell introduced Resolution #2020-08, a Resolution relative to wearing a face mask in Londonderry. Town Manager Kevin Smith read the Resolution into the record. There were no questions. Motion to accept Resolution #2020-08 made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor Dolan. Chair votes 5-0-0 in roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the Town Council minutes from May 18, 2020 made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor Dolan. Chair votes 5-0-0 in roll call.

Chairman Farrell went over the CIP members. Motion to appoint Rick Brideau, John Farrell, Christine Patton, Al Sypek and Michael Saucier made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Tom Dolan. Chair votes 5-0-0 in roll call vote.

Town Manager Smith gave up update on the budget and where the town stands with the spending freeze.

Town Manager Smith gave an update on businesses in town with Covid.

Town Manager Smith gave an update on the Town Hal annex building.

Town Manager Smith said that there is a list of all the restaurants open for outdoor seating on the Londonderry website.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Vice Chairman Green and seconded by Councilor Dolan. Chair votes 5-0-0 in roll call.

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176	Notes and Tapes by:	Kirby Brown	Date: 06/01/2020
177	Minutes Typed by:	Kirby Brown	Date: 06/10/2020
178	Approved by:	Town Council	Date: 06/15/2020