

LONDONDERRY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 11, 2020

The meeting took place in Moose Hill Council Chambers at Town.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Farrell called the Town Council meeting to order. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence for those who serve us both here and abroad.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Farrell thanked everyone who worked the election on Tuesday. It was a record turnout of almost 16,000 voters.

Councilor Dolan thanked all of the Veterans of Veterans Day.

Town Manager Smith presented a proclamation to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Londonderry Lions Hall.

PUBLIC HEARING

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Farrell stated that the Council has to review the current tax rate given by DRA.

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32 And discussion on whether the Council wants to lower it using the Undesignated Fund
33 Balance. Smith shared that the rate that was given is \$20.20, which is up from \$19.39 in
34 2019. The town rate is \$4.75, up from \$4.56; the county rate is \$.86, down from \$.88; the
35 school rate is \$12.66, up from \$12.04; and the state education is \$1.93, up from \$1.91.
36 Smith stated that the town has the opportunity before finalizing the rate with DRA is using
37 some of the Undesignated Fund Balance to help offset the town tax rate. It is something
38 that has been done in previous years. It is something that doesn't have to be done, but can
39 be done. Smith stated that the total evaluation, the net is up from 2019, the town did have
40 a loss of \$45M from the power plant in setting this year's tax rate.

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42 Chairman Farrell stated that the increase is approximately 4.2%. The Council discussed
43 options using the Undesignated Fund Balance. Vice Chairman Green stated that he is
44 present on the phone due to Covid reasons. Town Manager Smith stated that the only rate
45 that can be fixed at this point is the towns. The school rate has been set. Councilor Paul
46 stated that a lot of people are going to start paying on their mortgages again and she thinks
47 the rate should be brought down to \$4.50. Councilor Dolan stated that the only way that
48 could happen is if we spend some of the Fund Balance. Councilor Paul stated that the town
49 has had no problem spending the money on luxury items throughout the town, so she
50 doesn't see why it should be an issue to help people through a hard time. Town Manager
51 Smith stated that the Fund Balance is spent on things like roadway maintenance, cemetery
52 maintenance, GIS. Councilor Paul stated that it was spent to buy a generator that wasn't
53 needed. Chairman Farrell stated that all Fund Balance purchases are approved by the
54 voters.

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56 Chairman Farrell asked the Council what they want to do. Councilor Paul stated that she
57 would like to give \$1M back to the voters. Finance Director Campo stated that cash flow
58 in December for the town will be an issue if we do that. If we do \$1M with the big bills we
59 have coming up in December and the fact that the tax bills are later, we could run into a
60 cash flow issue. Councilor Paul stated that she is getting ten to twenty calls a week, fifty
61 emails a week, from residents who are asking her what is going on and happening.
62 Councilor Paul stated that she tells the residents things are tight. Councilor Butler stated
63 that we have to be fiscally responsible. Whatever we do here will rollover into next year.
64 Councilor Butler stated that he would love to give \$1M back to the tax payers, but all we
65 are going to do is kick the can back down the road. It's a tough one and campo is warning
66 the Council about cash flow. Councilor Paul stated that there has to be money within the
67 budget to help these people out there that could be losing their homes. Councilor Dolan

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68 stated that it will be discussed at Saturday's budget workshop. Councilor Paul stated that
69 the lowest number that we can get it to, that the Council feels comfortable with, that is what
70 she would like to do.

71
72 The Council continued to discuss their options. Councilor Dolan motioned to reduce the
73 town portion of the tax rate by \$425K. Second by Councilor Butler. Chair votes 4-0-1.
74 Councilor Paul voted against. Chairman Farrell stated that it will reduce the tax payment
75 to \$4.66. The percentage will be brought down to about 4%.

OLD BUSINESS

77
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79 NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

81
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83 NONE

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

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85
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87 NONE

ADJOURNMENT

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91 Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Dolan and seconded by Councilor Butler. Chair votes
92 5-0-0.

93
94 Notes and Tapes by: Kirby Brown

Date: 11/11/2020

95 Minutes Typed by: Kirby Brown

Date: 11/16/2020

96 Approved by: Town Council

Date: 11/16/2020