

LONDONDERRY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 23, 2019

The Town Council meeting was held in the Moose Hill Council Chambers, Town Hall, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH.

Present: Chairman John Farrell; Councilor Tom Dolan, Jim Butler and Ted Combes; Town Manager Kevin Smith; Assistant Town Manager Lisa Drabik; Absent: Executive Assistant Kirby Brown

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Farrell called the Town Council special meeting to order and led 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 who take good care of the town.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PUBLIC HEARING

Motion to open public hearing made by Vice Chairman Green and second by Councilor Dolan. Chair votes 5-0-0.

Chairman Farrell stated that this is a public hearing for a Charter amendment defining the default budget. Town Attorney Ramsdell is present as well. Attorney Ramsdell hand delivered the letter to the Council, which is his written legal option to the Council that the attached amendment complies with New Hampshire law. The reason for the proposed amendment, like the School District did earlier in the year, when the law changed a couple of years ago regarding the default budget, the Town Charter, really is out of date with what a default budget would be, because the state law changed. The statute has changed and the reference listed in the Charter now is not correct. Ramsdell stated that the town isn't required to have a default budget. The Town Charter is not a Town Charter RSA 40:13, rather it is a Town Charter under RSA 49-d:3, iia, where the town operates under a ballot form of government and all warrant articles, including budget, go to the voters on an

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official ballot. This new amendment complies with state law.

David Ellis, 1 Wilshire Dr, stated that if the proposed budget is voted down, it is very likely that it won't be because of some general small increase but because it would contain some line item that is controversial that the public doesn't support. Ellis stated that a few words may want to be chained to restrict expenditures done in the previous year's budget.

Jonathan Kipp, 9 Everett St, stated that he agrees with David Ellis. Kipp stated that it will be important to educate people on the wording presented.

Motion to approve the proposed Charter amendment made by Vice Chairman Green. Second by Councilor Combes. Chair votes 5-0-0. From here it will go to the Town Clerk and sent to the Secretary of State and Attorney General's Office.

Motion to close public hearing made by Vice Chairman Green. Second by Councilor Combes. Chair votes 5-0-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve Town Council minutes from December 9, 2019 made by Councilor Combes and second by Vice Chairman Green. Chair votes 5-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Vice Chairman Green and seconded by Councilor Combes. Chair votes 5-0-0.

Notes and Tapes by: Kirby Brown

Date: 12/23/2019

Minutes Typed by: Kirby Brown

Date: 12/28/2019

Approved by: Town Council

Date: 01/06/2020