

1 **Londonderry Town Council Minutes**
2 **Tuesday, March 18, 2024**
3 **7:00 PM**
4 **Moose Hill Council Chambers**

5
6 **Meeting Link:** <http://173.166.17.35/CablecastPublicSite/show/12553?channel=4>
7

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

10
11 **CALL TO ORDER**

12
13 Chairman Farrell called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge was led by
14 Chairman Farrell. This was followed by a moment of silence in honor of the Londonderry citizens
15 and wished them good health.

16
17 Farrell opened the initial meeting and read as follows:

18
19 “I have been in service to the Town of Londonderry for 25 years, starting on the Planning Board
20 for 10 years and beginning my 15th year on the Council, serving as the Chairman for the past 6
21 years and 10 of the last 12 years. During my tenure we have had 4 Town Managers, 3 Police
22 Chiefs. 5 Fire Chiefs, multiple department heads, dozen and dozens of retirement, new hires and
23 award ceremonies. The voters supported a new Town Hall, Police Station and 3 Fire Stations.

24
25 When my wife’s family arrived here in Londonderry it was approximately 5400 people, upon my
26 arrival we had 19,800 and we now sit at almost 27,000 with 8-9000 dwellings. The community
27 has grown and changed. We have moved from a Town Meeting form of Government to a Town
28 Charter/ SB2 form of government. Some would say this was a mistake, some may not. As an
29 original member of the open space task force we developed a plan that the voters approved for
30 approximately 12 million in funding over several years. The town now controls more than 1500
31 acres of land that will remain undeveloped. This reduced our build out capacity from 43,000 to
32 less than 32,500.

33
34 The Town Council presented to the voters many increases in services. The voters have approved
35 multiple new hires for additional first responders. Increased staffing levels for police, increase
36 staffing for 8-9 fire personnel on a shift to 13. Additionally, public works was increased from 10-
37 12 personnel to maintain over 170 miles of roads.

38
39 The community continues to expect excellent services from its leadership. We have many
40 examples of the excellent value the people of Londonderry enjoy. One example is a home that paid
41 8900 in 2009 and received a bill for 10500 today. An average increase of 110-120 dollars per year
42 or a total of 18 percent or 1.25% a year. Increases varied from year to year and the average is
43 simply just an example.

44
45 The goal remains the same. Protect this community at all costs. We have 5 items that matter every
46 day in town government. Police are well trained, have the equipment and resources and the ability

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

52
 53 Over the past year I have been reflecting on what does the future look like. A lot of has changed
 54 in the past 30 years. We have enjoyed living in the outstanding community that puts its people first
 55 and has had growth in a controlled manner by using open space purchases and multiple
 56 development agreements. These agreements have allowed the town to offset many of the costs
 57 associated with this type of development. Londonderry had led the way in the state and the country
 58 with these types of tools.

59
 60 We are currently working on additional agreements in order to grow the commercial tax base and
 61 offset the effect of growth on the homeowner. To add to all of that we insulated the taxpayers from
 62 any added tax burden for the building of Exit 4A based on a 1990's Boston North legal settlement.
 63 The town has also secured millions of dollars in infrastructure funding from the federal
 64 government.

65
 66 It has been the honor and privilege of a lifetime to serve and continue to serve the community I
 67 love. I am the transplant here and never heard of Londonderry until I met my wife and fell in love.
 68 Little did I know the town was a part of the deal. We married here at St. Jude's and raised our
 69 family here and now our children have chosen to make Londonderry their home.

70
 71 This is my home, we have many positive things to be proud of and always look forward. Don't
 72 dwell on the past. We can do nothing about yesterday but we can be great at tomorrow. When
 73 issues are raised don't complain without offering a possible solution. I truly love Londonderry and
 74 my family has dedicated much of our lives to others in this community. Always remember, service
 75 above self.

76
 77 With all that said, I would like to make a motion to appoint Chad Franz as Chairman and Ted
 78 Combes as Vice Chairman of the Town Council." Ron Dunn seconded the vote.

79

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

80
 81 Motion passed 5-0-0.

82
 83 Chairman Franz thanked Farrell for the kind words. Franz expressed gratitude for Jim Butler and
 84 the time he spent on the Council as well as congratulated Shawn Faber on his win for a Town

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

88

89 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

90

91 Chairman Franz opened public comment.

92

93 **Name:** Dan Bouchard

94 **Address:** 8 Oconnel Dr

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

98

99 **Name:** Richard Belinski

100 **Address:** 89 Hall Rd

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

105

106 **Name:** Maria Barud

107 **Address:** N/A

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

110

111 **Name:** Ann Chiampa

112 **Address:** 28 Wedgewood Dr

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

115

116 **Name:** Jake Butler

117 **Address:** 2 Danbury Ct

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

124

125 **Name:** Tony DeFrancesco

126 **Address:** 1 Cheshire Ct

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

131
132 Public Comment is closed.

133
134 Franz introduced potential changes to the public comment rules.

135
136 The Council gave consensuses to obtain legal review prior to acting on the changes.

137
138

139
140 **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

141
142 **None**

143
144 **NEW BUSINESS**

145
146 **None**

147
148 **OLD BUSINESS**

149
150 **None**

151
152 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

153
154 Vice-Chairman Combes moved to approve the March 4th, 2024, Town Council minutes. Councilor
155 Dunn seconded the motion.

156

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

157
158 Motion passed 4-1-0

159
160 **REAPPOINTMENTS**

161
162 **None**

163
164 **OTHER BUSINESS**

165
166 **None**

167
168 **Liaison Reports**

169
170 **None**

171
172 **Town Manager Report**

173
174 **Town Manager:**

175
176 Town Manager Malaguti addressed the reappointment of the Tax Collector and Deputy Town
177 Clerk. The Town Manager's report included updates on a meeting with Chris Pappas regarding
178 infrastructure developments in the Exit 4A area; Recent land conservation efforts were praised,
179 including the Merrill conservation transaction; Discussion on the progress of the Master Plan, with
180 approximately half of the 82 recommendations completed or in progress, and plans to present a
181 report card on the updates to the planning board in April; the Town sponsoring paid family leave
182 plans at no cost to the town, aiming to support employees' family needs; Efforts to control health
183 insurance costs by incentivizing employees not to take insurance and exploring additional savings;
184 successful result of Article 3 and thanking Councilor Dunn and the community for their support;
185 and ongoing review of a behavioral health facility and plans to address concerns with the
186 applicant.

187
188 **Assistant Town Manager: None**

189
190 **MEETING SCHEDULE**

- 191
192 • April 8, 2024: Moose Hill Council Chambers, 7:00 p.m.

193
194 **ADJOURNMENT**

195
196 Vice Chairman Combes moved to adjourn. Councilor Faber seconded the motion.
197

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

198
199 Motion passed 5-0-0.

200
201 Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

202
203 Minutes prepared by Cameron Maher