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D-R-A-F-T

**DURHAM TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023
DURHAM TOWN HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Pro Tem James (Jim) Lawson, Chair Sally Needell, Councilor Eric Lund, Councilor Emily Friedrichs (who uses the pronouns ze/zir/zirs/zirself and the title Mx. Friedrichs—(arrived at 7:07 PM), Councilor Welsh, Councilor Charles (Chuck) Hotchkiss, Councilor Joseph (Joe) Friedman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilor Wayne Burton, Councilor Eleanor (Ellie) Lonske

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrator Todd Selig, Police Chief Rene Kelley, Captain Jack Dalton

I. Call to Order

Chair Needell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. Town Council grants permission for fewer than a majority of Councilors to participate remotely

Chair Needell noted that Councilors Lonske and Burton would not be attending the meeting.

III. Roll Call of Members

Councilor Friedman—Aye, Councilor Lund—Aye, Chair Needell—Aye, Chair Pro Tem Lawson—Aye, Councilor Welsh—Aye, Councilor Hotchkiss--Aye

IV. Approval of Agenda

Chair Pro Tem Lawson MOVED approval of the September 11, 2023, agenda as presented. The motion was SECONDED by Councilor Lund and PASSED unanimously, 6-0, by a show of hands: Councilor Friedman, Councilor Lund, Chair Needell, Chair Pro Tem Lawson, Councilor Welsh, Councilor Hotchkiss.

V. Special Announcements

Chair Needell said the Council would take a moment of silence at this time to recognize the families and those who lost their lives in service to others on September 11, 2001.

VI. Public Comments (*) – Please state your name and address before speaking

William Hall, Smith Park Lane, referred back to the fraternity fire he had mentioned at the August 14, 2023, Council meeting and Councilor Lawson’s response to that comment. He said

1 the point he was trying to make was that the Town of Durham has an issue dealing with
2 problems and used the topic of the Town taking water from the Lamprey River as another
3 example.

4
5 *Councilor Emily Friedrichs arrived at this time.*

6
7 **VII. Report from the UNH Student Senate External Affairs Chair or Designee**

8
9 Olivia Welsh, UNH Student Senate External Affairs Chair, said the “Cat Crawl” event was held
10 on Saturday, September 9, 2023. Approximately 300 UNH students participated. Student Affairs
11 partnered with eight downtown businesses who were able to provide food samples to students.
12 The event was very successful, and Student Affairs will plan to hold this event again in the
13 future.

14
15 Student Senate leadership training has begun, and the Student Senate will have its first meeting
16 this coming weekend.

17
18 Chair Needell asked Ms. Welsh if there was any type of mechanism to provide feedback to
19 businesses regarding the Cat Crawl/Food Crawl event. Ms. Welsh replied that students were
20 provided with a punch card and if they had gone to each of the eight businesses, they received a
21 stamp and could receive 15% discounts that could be used by turning the cards into restaurants
22 during this coming week.

23
24 Chair Needell said that many of the Durham students attending the Oyster River Middle and
25 High Schools walk to school daily. She said often on Friday and Monday mornings they walk
26 past a lot of beer cans and trash. She asked if Ms. Welsh could possibly look into whether there
27 may be UNH students that would be interested in doing a community service by picking up
28 debris early on Friday and Monday mornings before school starts. Ms. Welsh said she would
29 follow up on Chair Needell’s request.

30
31 **VIII. Unanimous Consent Agenda** (*Requires unanimous approval. Individual items may be
32 removed by any councilor for separate discussion and vote*)

- 33 A. Shall the Town Council upon recommendation of the Assessor and consent of the
34 Administrator, approve the included FY 2023 property tax abatement recommendations in the
35 total amount of \$27,221.00?
- 36 B. Shall the Town Council, upon recommendation of the Administrator, approve a Supplemental
37 Property Tax Warrant for FY 2023 and authorize the Administrator to sign said Supplemental
38 Property Tax Warrant to commit a supplemental tax bill totaling \$20,648.00 on properties
39 owned by Young Drive LLC, located at 29 & 31 Young Drive, 34 & 36 Young Drive, 30 & 32
40 Young Drive and 18 & 20 Young Drive, Durham, NH, Tax Map 107, Lots 96, 98, 99, and 102?
- 41 C. Shall the Town Council cancel the Town Council meeting of September 18, 2023?
- 42 D. Shall The Town Council schedule Special Meeting Dates on November 13 and December 11,
43 2023, for the Purpose of Deliberating the Proposed FY 2024 Operating, Capital, and Special
44 Fund Budgets and the 2024-2033 Capital Improvement Plan, and schedule a Public Hearing on
45 the Proposed FY 2024 Budget and 2024-2033 Capital Improvement Plan for Monday,
46 November 13, 2023?
- 47

1 *Chair Needell read the above unanimous consent agenda items and MOVED their approval,*
2 *as presented. The motion was SECONDED by Councilor Lund and PASSED unanimously, 7-*
3 *0, by a roll call vote: Councilor Friedman—Aye, Councilor Friedrichs—Aye, Councilor*
4 *Lund—Aye, Chair Needell—Aye , Chair Pro Tem Lawson—Aye, Councilor Welsh—Aye,*
5 *Councilor Hotchkiss--Aye.*

6
7 **IX. Committee Appointments - None**

8
9 **X. Presentation Items**

10 A. Receive report on Land Stewardship Subcommittee activities and projects – Ann Welsh, Chair

11
12 Chair Welsh explained the creation and history of the Land Stewardship Subcommittee and the
13 composition of its membership. She outlined what the subcommittee has accomplished over the
14 past year to help oversee the management of Town properties:

- 15
16
 - Reviewed the Pike Property Management Plan.
 - Approved changes to the bronto work at Thompson Forest.
 - Made recommendations to Public Works on trail closings during the Portsmouth Water Line project.
 - Added signage at Wagon Hill to explain the need to cut down a number of prominent ash trees.
 - Reviewed and provided information to a UNH course on Environmental Conflict centered around seemingly conflicting uses of Wagon Hill
 - Continued oversight of a project at Sprucewood Bog led by Professor Alix Contosta, as part of the UNH course Ecology and Society in a Changing Arctic.
 - Discussed potential sites around town for an Eagle Scout’s pollinator garden project.
 - Provided guidance to the Stewarding Our Lands Working Group on questionnaire findings and recommendations.
 - Provided guidance and support to the Land Stewardship Coordinator.

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29
30 More specifically, the subcommittee accomplished the following actions. The Town’s
31 Stewardship Coordinator, Sara Callaghan, as well as volunteers and Town staff, are key to
32 accomplishing much of the committee’s work. This year work has been done to remove
33 invasives at Doe Farm, Stolworthy Wildlife Sanctuary, Oyster River Forest, Thompson Forest,
34 Milne Nature Sanctuary, and Wagon Hill. Trails were brushed out at Jackson’s Landing and
35 Longmarsh Preserve. New trail signs were installed at Oyster River Forest, after feedback was
36 received from the subcommittee’s questionnaire informed it that the current signs were
37 confusing. There are new bridges leading into Stolworthy thanks to a Boy Scout project. Work
38 has also started on a pollinator garden on the approach to the Kenny Rotner Bridge.

39
40 The complete presentation, along with comments, discussion, and responses to Council
41 questions, may be viewed on DCAT on Demand at www.ci.durham.nh.us.

42
43 B. Receive report on Parks & Recreation Committee activities and projects – Cathy Leach, Chair

44
45 Chair Leach outlined the role of the Parks & Recreation Committee. She also noted some of the
46 accomplishments of the committee over the past year as follows:

47

- 1 • Supported the Parks & Recreation Department by volunteering at community events such as the
2 Annual Egg Hunt, Memorial Day, Durham Day, Downtown Trick or Treat, Frost Fest, and the
3 new Durham Dash 5k road race.
- 4 • Developed committee goals that align with and support Town Council goals.
- 5 • Committee spent much of its time from fall 2022 - April 2023 reviewing a comprehensive
6 proposal from the UNH Applied Recreation Research Collaborative (ARRC) for a Community
7 Needs Assessment and Visitor Use Management Study. The primary focus will be on Jackson's
8 Landing and Woodridge Park; community input will also be gathered regarding recreational
9 programming.
- 10
- 11 • Extensive review and questions to ARRC directors: Nov - April
- 12 • ARRC Directors attend committee meeting: February
- 13 • Committee voted unanimously to recommend the DPR Director request approval of the
- 14 • ARRC proposal to the Town Administrator: April
- 15 • DPR Director reported that Administrator Selig approved the proposal: June
- 16 • Approved request from DPR Director to use committee funds for the purchase of an
17 inflatable Gaga Pit for use in summer camps, additional youth programs and community
18 events.
- 19 • As of April, the committee is at full membership (7 regular members; 3 alternate
20 members: June
- 21 • Approved request from DPR Director to use committee funds for the purchase of an
22 inflatable Gaga Pit for use in summer camps, additional youth programs and community
23 events.
- 24 • As of April, the committee is at full membership (7 regular members; 3 alternate
25 members).
- 26

27 Chair Pro Tem Lawson complimented Parks & Recreation Director Rachel Gasowski on the
28 quality of community events that her department has provided.

29
30 Administrator Selig also thanked Ms. Leach for her involvement and active membership on the
31 committee. He added that in terms of Ms. Gasowski and her staff, the Town was deep in
32 employees who care and give a lot of themselves.

33
34 Councilor Friedrichs said a couple of the events that ze has attended have been outstanding. Ze
35 also said ze would like to have a discussion with the committee sometime in the future about
36 more active transportation and encouraging that around Town. Ze said the Durham Energy
37 Committee would also be interested to know if there is any kind of role that could be played in
38 working out something to encourage active transportation and tie that into the Town Council's
39 goals of reducing carbon emissions by 42.5% by the year 2030.

40
41 Ms. Leach replied that was not a topic the Parks & Recreation Committee has discussed, but if
42 Councilor Friedrichs would like to have the committee contact the Energy Committee to let her
43 know.

44
45 The complete presentation, along with comments, discussion, and responses to Council
46 questions, may be viewed on DCAT on Demand at www.ci.durham.nh.us.

1 C. Presentation on Police Department Survey results by Andrew E. Smith, Ph.D. Director, UNH
2 Survey Center
3

4 Durham Police Chief Rene Kelley explained that as part of the department's Commission on
5 Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) accreditation process, it is required to
6 conduct a community survey every four years. He said that in the past, the department has
7 teamed up with Dr. Andrew Smith from the UNH Survey Center to conduct the survey. Chief
8 Kelley explained the process used in developing the survey questions pertinent to the overall
9 quality of life issues to determine how well or how bad the department is doing in providing
10 services to Durham citizens.
11

12 Chief Kelley noted that Captain Jack Dalton was present who serves as the department's support
13 services commander in charge of CALEA.
14

15 At this time, Chief Kelley turned the presentation over to Dr. Smith and his support person,
16 Matt, who provided a PowerPoint presentation.
17

18 Dr. Smith said this was the seventh survey he and his department have done with the Durham
19 Police as part of their accreditation process. He said one of the topics discussed with the Police
20 Department was that if it was interested in quality improvement, then it would need to find out
21 what the problems are, so they purposefully tried to find problems to address.
22

23 Dr. Smith provided highlights in the PowerPoint as follows:
24

25 METHODOLOGY

- 26 • Replication and modification of past surveys (back to 2000)
27
- 28 • Multi-mode
- 29 • Mail: 3,742 Durham households
- 30 • Return mail, QR Code, and bitly web link
- 31 • Email: 3,457 members of Durham Friday Updates list
32
- 33 • Data Collection
- 34 • Mid-March to mid-April 2023
35
- 36 • 940 Completed Questionnaires
- 37 • 26% rate – up from 16% in 2016
- 38 • 592 from mail mode
- 39 • 348 from Friday Updates
- 40 • No real differences in attitudes between sampling mode
41

42 MAJOR FINDINGS

- 43 • Fear of crime is very low, has decreased in the past 20 years.
- 44 • Strong support for the Police Department, with little hesitation to call or ask for assistance.
- 45 • Areas of Police Concern:
- 46 • Speeding
- 47 • Bicycling in Durham

1 Graphs were included in the PowerPoint with results from questions that related to residents
2 feeling safe in their homes at night, burglaries, illegal drug possession and use, public drinking
3 and intoxication, interaction with Durham Police and responsiveness to calls.
4

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 6 • Durham residents feel very safe.
7 • Interactions with Police are very good.
8 • Good response time.
9 • Polite, honest, respectful
10 • Department provides excellent service to the community
11
12 • Areas of Concern:
13 • Speeding
14 • Pedestrian/Biking
15 • Generic concerns with policing
16

17 Dr. Smith and Police Chief Kelley addressed questions from Council members at this time. The
18 complete presentation, along with comments, discussion, and responses to Council questions,
19 may be viewed on DCAT on Demand at www.ci.durham.nh.us.
20

21 **XI. Unfinished Business**
22

23 **Public Hearing & Action on Ordinance #2023-07** to Amend Section 132-1 “Blind
24 Exemption” and Section 132-2 “Disabled Exemption” and Section 132-3 “Elderly Exemption”,
25 Chapter 132 “Tax Exemptions and Credits” of the Durham Town Code Relating to Exemption
26 Amounts, Income Thresholds, and Asset.
27

28 *Chair Needell MOVED to OPEN the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2023-07 to Amend*
29 *Section 132-1 “Blind Exemption” and Section 132-2 “Disabled Exemption” and Section 132-*
30 *3 “Elderly Exemption”, Chapter 132 “Tax Exemptions and Credits” of the Durham Town*
31 *Code Relating to Exemption Amounts, Income Thresholds, and Asset.. The motion was*
32 *SECONDED by Chair Pro Tem Lawson and PASSED unanimously, 7-0, by a roll call vote:*
33 *Councilor Friedman—Aye, Councilor Friedrichs—Aye, Councilor Lund—Aye, Chair*
34 *Needell—Aye, Chair Pro Tem Lawson—Aye; Councilor Welsh—Aye, Councilor Hotchkiss--*
35 *Aye*
36

37 No members of the public came forward to speak on this item.
38

39 *Chair Needell MOVED to CLOSE the Public Hearing on Ordinance #2023-07 to Amend*
40 *Section 132-1 “Blind Exemption” and Section 132-2 “Disabled Exemption” and Section 132-*
41 *3 “Elderly Exemption”, Chapter 132 “Tax Exemptions and Credits” of the Durham Town*
42 *Code Relating to Exemption Amounts, Income Thresholds, and Asset.. The motion was*
43 *SECONDED by Councilor Lund and PASSED unanimously, 7-0, by a roll call vote:*
44 *Councilor Friedman—Aye, Councilor Friedrichs—Aye, Councilor Lund—Aye, Chair*
45 *Needell—Aye, Chair Pro Tem Lawson—Aye; Councilor Welsh—Aye, Councilor Hotchkiss--*
46 *Aye*
47

1 **Chair Needell MOVED to ADOPT (as presented) Ordinance #2023-07 to Amend Section 132-**
2 **1 “Blind Exemption” and Section 132-2 “Disabled Exemption” and Section 132-3 “Elderly**
3 **Exemption”, Chapter 132 “Tax Exemptions and Credits” of the Durham Town Code Relating**
4 **to Exemption Amounts, Income Thresholds, and Asset.. The motion was SECONDED by**
5 **Councilor Hotchkiss.**

6
7 Chair Pro Tem Lawson noted for the viewing public that before coming to First Reading, the
8 Town Assessor provided the Council with a tremendous amount of information, including what
9 neighboring towns did with regard to these types of exemptions. The Council had a discussion at
10 its August 14th meeting and was able to make additional modifications. He noted that a lot more
11 work went into the final product by the Assessor and Councilor than the general public might
12 realize.

13
14 Chair Needell called for the vote *which PASSED unanimously, 7-0, by a roll call vote:*
15 *Councilor Friedman—Aye, Councilor Friedrichs—Aye, Councilor Lund—Aye, Chair*
16 *Needell—Aye, Chair Pro Tem Lawson—Aye; Councilor Welsh—Aye, Councilor Hotchkiss--*
17 *Aye*

18
19 **XII. Approval of Minutes – August 14, 2023**

20
21 Minor edits were submitted to Administrative Assistant Karen Edwards for inclusion prior to the
22 meeting.

23
24 **Chair Needell MOVED that the Durham Town Council does hereby APPROVE the August**
25 **14, 2023, Town Council minutes, as amended. The motion was SECONDED by Councilor**
26 **Friedrichs and PASSED unanimously, 7-0 by a show of hands: Councilor Friedman,**
27 **Councilor Friedrichs, Councilor Lund, Chair Needell, Chair Pro Tem Lawson, Councilor**
28 **Welsh, Councilor Hotchkiss**

29
30 **XIII. Councilor and Administrator Roundtable**

31
32 Councilor Friedman – Parks & Recreation Committee

- 33 - The committee is going to obtain preliminary construction estimates for the Churchill Rink and
34 looking at steps for engaging a construction manager, an architect, and reviewing the feasibility
35 of raising the amount of funds that were noted by Bill Paige at the last Council meeting.

36
37 Councilor Friedman - Seacoast Economic Developers Stakeholders

- 38 - The group’s money ran out in June 2023 but it has obtained other funding, so meetings have
39 started back up again.

40
41 Councilor Welsh asked Councilor Friedman if he knew why The Bean in Exeter closed and
42 when. Councilor Friedman replied that it closed late spring/early summer, and speculation is that
43 the reason was because the facility was much larger than the business needed and that they could
44 not come to terms on a new lease.

45
46 Administrator Selig added that a resident informed him there was a sign on the door that said
47 they would be leaving but would be back in Durham at some time. He said that Planner Michael
48 Behrendt has reached out to the owner but has not received a response.

- 1 - Councilor Friedman mentioned that the Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) has
2 online a Community Economic Development Survey to find out what is going on in community
3 development in the region, of which Durham is a part. SRPC also has online an Age Friendly
4 Resource Guide, which include some of the issues AARP addresses, including housing, outdoor
5 spaces and buildings, transportation, information and communication, civic participation and
6 employment, respect and social inclusion, and social participation.
7 - UNH had a very successful University Day with many booths from both the University and the
8 community, as well as the region, trying to attract UNH students to participate in the different
9 clubs and activities that are offered. Councilor Friedman said there was a group called Fair
10 Housing for Students handing out postcards promoting the idea that Durham does not like UNH
11 students, and it may be something the Council might want to address in some fashion.
12

13 Councilor Friedrichs – Planning Board

- 14 - The only application before the board in the past month was the Olson Center at 121
15 Technology Drive, which ze hoped other Councilors would have the opportunity to tour next
16 Monday, September 18th at 3PM. The board approved minor updates on that site, with potential
17 other updates in the future depending on the leasing situation. Ze noted that it made the Durham
18 Energy Committee realize that there is a big separation between a situation where a building
19 owned by a landlord and the tenants arrange all of their own energy consumption separately,
20 which brought up the topic of process and trying to work with the Planning Board to amend that
21 process somewhat in order to get that information earlier on to the Energy Committee when it
22 could be most useful.
23 - The board is continuing its review of definitions within the Zoning Board.
24

25 Councilor Friedrichs – Durham Energy Committee

- 26 - The committee is still awaiting notification as to whether it received the “Buildings Up” prize.
27 This was an effort to weatherize and electrify buildings in Durham and reduce carbon footprints
28 through heating and cooling.
29 - Will be learning more about community solar and what that means, as well as possibly applying
30 for another prize in October.
31 - Ongoing analysis of the Lee Gravel Pit solar array which Councilor Friedman is heading up.
32 - There is an upcoming meeting on community power. The Energy Committee is deciding at what
33 point Durham may want to move forward with this effort and in which direction.
34 - The NH Department of Transportation is reviewing its ten-year transportation plan and will be
35 holding a meeting at the Durham Town Hall on September 26, 2023. There will be an
36 opportunity for public input regarding items such as infrastructure, bridges, roads, electric
37 vehicle charging, public transportation, and bicycle safety.
38 - Councilor Friedrichs said ze wants to try and join another public hearing on Route 108 Complete
39 Streets Initiative that would be tying Rochester down to Dover.
40 - October 2 – 8, 2023 is the national Week Without Driving, which is a challenge to elected
41 officials. It was started as an initiative for awareness of people with disabilities because one in
42 four Americans cannot drive. New Hampshire has released funding for public transportation. Ze
43 said ze would be participating and invited other Councilors to join zir if they are interested.
44

45 Councilor Lund – Historic District/Heritage Commission

- 46 - Councilor Lund said the HD/HC meeting for September has been rescheduled for September 14,
47 2023, and therefore he had nothing to report.
48

1 Chair Needell – Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee

- 2 - Worked on plans for the sustainability event with Emery Farm.
3 - Worked on the proposed budget for 2024.
4 - Worked on making all of the “Did you Know” snippets available in one place on the website.
5 - Discussed having a welcome package for new families that would inform them about recycling
6 and also talked about working with other Town boards, commissions, and committees that might
7 be helpful for a new business.
8 - The Durham Public Library has plans this year for sustainability and is hoping to get other
9 boards, commissions, and committees involved with this effort.

10 Chair Needell – Human Rights Commission

- 11 - Discussed possible next steps to follow up on the previously held anti-bias training offered to
12 Town employees and the Town’s various boards, commissions, and committees.
13 - Discussed the possibility of updates to the Town Hall relative to disability and accessibility
14 standards.
15 - Reviewed and chose to use the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United
16 Nations General Assembly
17 - Discussed ways in which to reach out to other Town boards, commissions, and committees for
18 them to learn more about what the HRC is doing and provide input.
19 - Next meeting will be October 17, 2023, at 3:30 PM.

20
21 Chair Needell noted that the Administrator’s Quarterly Report will be provided at the next
22 Council meeting.

23
24 Chair Needell said she attended the Fire Department’s 911 remembrance ceremony this morning
25 which included a number of wonderful short speeches. Senator Jeanne Shaheen was also in
26 attendance.

27
28 Chair Pro Tem Lawson- Land Stewardship Subcommittee

- 29 - The subcommittee did not meet in August, and its September meeting is scheduled for this
30 coming Wednesday, September 13th. Therefore, he had nothing to report.

31
32 Chair Pro Tem Lawson provided an observation about the Lamprey River. He said it was twelve
33 years ago that he downloaded 50 years of daily flow data for the Lamprey from the USGS to
34 look at abnormal years such as 1953, 1963, and 2002. He said one of the things that struck him
35 was that there was a day in 2002 when the flow in the Lamprey was close to ½ billion gallons a
36 day, although he was uncertain of what may have caused that to occur. During the summer of
37 that same year, there were days when the flow was less than 1 million gallons a day. And there
38 was a prolonged period when it was ½ million to little over a million per day, which is really just
39 a trickle. He said it is a very delicate ecosystem and it is not always the raging river that some
40 may think it is.

41
42 Councilor Welsh – Conservation Commission

- 43 - Met on August 28, 2023.
44 - Reviewed and approved the 121 Technology Drive. Conditional use for new gas line in the
45 Wetland Conservation Overlay District (WCOD) to serve existing office, research, and light
46 industrial building.
47 - Reviewed the report that Chair Jake Kritzer will be providing to the Council on October 2, 2023.
48 - Reviewed the recommendations of the Natural Resources Master Plan.

- 1 - Councilor Welsh attended the Integrated Waste Management Committee meeting on September
2 6, 2023 where he said most of the meeting was the Department of Public Works personnel that
3 provided a preview of what the Town will be looking at as a way to collect trash throughout
4 Town in a more augmented fashion than it currently does and in a way that will incite residents
5 to do more in the way of composting, recycling, or just cutting back on the amount of trash they
6 produce.

7
8 Councilor Hotchkiss – Housing Task Force

- 9 - The Task Force met this morning. Its understanding is that the charge given by the Town
10 Council to the Task Force ends on October 2nd, and the Council can expect the Task Force to
11 request its charge be extended to a two-year period at the October 2, 2023, Council meeting.
12 - Today’s meeting was devoted to reviewing and revising the mission statement of the Task
13 Force, which will also be coming to the Council on October 2nd.
14 - There has been an informal survey by members of the Housing Task Force of employers in
15 Durham around the housing issues and challenges faced by their employees. This is being done
16 in anticipation of a more formal survey of residents within the next six to nine months. He said
17 he was somewhat concerned about survey fatigue among Durham residents and is afraid that if
18 too many people are asked too often about too many topics, then response rates may begin to
19 drop off and committees may not get the quality of information they deserve.

20
21 Administrator Todd Selig

- 22 - Thanked the Durham Professional Firefighters Association for organizing the 911 remembrance
23 ceremony this morning.
24 - The proposed 2024 budget process is underway, and he and the Business Manager are meeting
25 with each of the department heads regarding their respective budget items. Items for inclusion in
26 the proposed Capital Improvements Plan are also being reviewed.
27 - The Department of Public Works is tracking Hurricane Lee, which is projected to move along
28 the East coast later this week.
29 - The start of the UNH academic year has gone smoothly thus far. It has been noticeably quieter
30 this year than in previous years. There has been an increase in DWI arrests, but that was
31 occurring before the academic year began.
32 - The Town was notified on Friday by the Merrimack County Superior Court of a Class Action on
33 assessments on Eversource assessments for the years 2018 and 2019 and a settlement
34 conversation between the parties is required by the court, which will occur in June 2024. The
35 trial will be held for two weeks in September 2024.
36 - UNH Sustainability Fellow Erin Dennison worked this summer with Gail Jablonski, Nat Balch,
37 and Jennifer Andrews from UNH to pull together data from 2021 for an updated greenhouse gas
38 inventory. Ms. Dennison recommended also doing an update for 2022.
39 - A group is being pulled together to look at the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire
40 to find out how the initial launch went with the initial communities that were launched and
41 whether it may be a good fit for Durham or whether to go with a stand-alone broker would be a
42 better option.
43 - The Pike parcel conservation effort has now been completed.

44
45 Referring to Councilor Hotchkiss’ earlier update on the Housing Task Force, Administrator
46 Selig said that surveys are usually focused on what Durham residents want and asked Councilor
47 Hotchkiss if the Housing Task Force has thought about looking at also including individuals that
48 may want to live in Durham but can’t for whatever reason and getting their feedback.

1 Councilor Hotchkiss replied that the Task Force has not addressed that issue in particular detail,
2 but it has been more salient thus far in the group’s conversation with employers in Durham
3 relating to their employees who may want to live in Durham
4

- 5 - No program has been planned for this year’s Indigenous Peoples’ Day on October 9th, other than
6 reading the Land, Water, and Life Acknowledgment Statement at the Council’s October 2nd
7 meeting.
8

9 Councilor Friedman suggested that perhaps the language in the Town’s acknowledgment
10 statement should be reviewed in light of the NH Business Review story regarding the Abenaki
11 Nation and representatives from that Nation who have recommended reading of these
12 acknowledgements.
13

- 14 - The Town’s website needs a complete refresh as the software used to run it is outdated. The
15 Town will be sending out a Request For Proposal in the future to select a new website provider.
- 16 - There were two firefighter vacancies in the Fire Department. One position has been filled. Two
17 offers were made to applicants for the second position, but both declined and went to the City of
18 Dover.
- 19 - Assessor Jim Rice is targeting the end of February 2023 for retirement.
- 20 - Churchill Rink Manager Bill Paige has identified an Architectural firm and fundraising firm to
21 begin initial work. Administrator Selig said he has approved those two contracts.
- 22 - Two rapid flashing beacons have been placed in the proposed 2024 budget, one for the Route
23 108 crosswalk between Town Hall and the Tideline restaurant, and the second would potentially
24 be for the crosswalk on Church Hill.
- 25 - Provided an update on the Oyster River Massacre plaque language, which is still under review.
26 Council had some discussion around this topic
- 27 - A new replacement electric vehicle charger has been installed at the Durham Public Library.
- 28 - The Council will have a tour of the Olson Center at 121 Technology Drive on September 18th at
29 3PM.
- 30 - The next meeting of the Mill Pond Dam Section 106 consulting party group will be held on
31 September 18th at 3PM. This is not a public meeting.
- 32 - Tideline Public House has an arrangement with Village Garage regarding additional parking,
33 which will relieve any overflow parking in the Town Hall lot.
- 34 - Administrator Selig met with UNH representatives regarding the recent study done by UNH on
35 graduate housing demand.
- 36 - The Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee has been talking with the Department
37 of Public Works about volume-based collection systems. Administrator Selig said he is looking
38 at innovation and improvement and considering 2024 as a possible implementation date. The
39 Town is also researching whether electric collection vehicles could be used in Durham.
- 40 - The Town Clerk’s Office has mailed out notices for overdue dog registrations.
- 41 - The 50th anniversary of the Save Our Shores Refinery event is coming up. Administrator Selig
42 recommended inviting Dudley Dudley and Nancy Sandberg to a Council meeting to talk about
43 the event.
44

45 **XIV. New Business - None**

46
47 **XV. Nonpublic Session (if required)**
48

1 **XVI. Extended Councilor and Town Administrator Roundtable (if required)**
2

3 **XVII. Adjourn (NLT 10:30 PM)**
4

5 *Councilor Welsh MOVED to adjourn. The motion was SECONDED by Councilor Hotchkiss*
6 *and PASSED, unanimously, 7-0, by a show of hands: Councilor Friedman, Councilor*
7 *Friedrichs, Councilor Lund, Chair Needell, Chair Pro Tem Lawson, Councilor Welsh,*
8 *Councilor Hotchkiss.*

9
10 The meeting ADJOURNED at 9:35 PM.

11
12 Jennie Berry, Minutes Taker