

FINAL

**LEBANON CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers or

Remote Via Microsoft Teams: LebanonNH.gov/Live

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Tim McNamara, Assistant Mayor Clifton Below, Karen Liot Hill, Christian Simon, George Sykes, Douglas Whittlesey, Devin Wilkie, and Karen Zook

MEMBERS ABSENT: Erling Heistad

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Shaun Mulholland, Deputy City Manager David Brooks, City Clerk Kristin Kenniston, Finance Director Vicki Lee, Deputy Finance Director Alesia Williams

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor McNamara called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Councilor Simon led the Council in the Pledge.
 - City Manager Shaun Mulholland announced the meeting criteria for the public.
3. **PUBLIC FORUM:** Mayor McNamara made the Public Forum announcement.
4. **OPEN TO PUBLIC:** No one came forth to speak.

Mayor McNamara announced the following Proclamation:

**PROCLAMATION
WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD**

WHEREAS, the first years of a child's life are the period of the most rapid brain development and lay the foundation for all future learning. High-quality early care and education can help improve the effects of poverty, detect and remediate delays, and identify and help prevent child neglect. Every child deserves equal access to a high-quality educational foundation that will prepare them to grow, learn, and succeed, and

WHEREAS, many New Hampshire businesses are struggling to recruit and retain their workforce. Business owners have identified the availability of high-quality, affordable, safe, and reliable childcare as an important component of solving the burgeoning workforce crisis. Early childhood education:

- allows parents to remain in the workforce
- builds a strong and future-focused economy, and

WHEREAS, the lack of early childhood education is a serious problem in New Hampshire:

- Currently, 71% of children from birth through five have all available parents in the workforce
- Women of color and other disadvantaged populations bear the most significant burden and women are disproportionately impacted by the lack of childcare options, are more likely to leave the workforce to provide childcare stunting their ability to earn income, advance in their career field, build their future retirement security, and

WHEREAS, early childhood educators served on the frontline during the pandemic, demonstrating how important their work is. Young children deserve high-quality, developmentally appropriate, accessible early care that reflects a rich diversity of linguistic, racial, and cultural identities. Members of our community are urging support of efforts that increase compensation and respect for the work of early childhood educators, and equitable access to high-quality, affordable early childhood education.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy McNamara, Lebanon City Mayor, hereby, proclaim April 1–7, 2023 as the WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD in Lebanon, New Hampshire.

Proclaimed this 29th Day of March in the year 2023.

Timothy J. McNamara

5. RETIREMENT OF OUTGOING COUNCILOR: NONE

6. WELCOMING RE-ELECTED COUNCILORS:

Mayor McNamara welcomed back the following re-elected Councilors:

- Assistant Mayor Below (Re-Elected Ward 3)
- Karen Liot Hill (R-Elected At-Large)
- Devin Wilkie (Re-Elected Ward 2)
- Douglas Whittlesey (Re-Elected Ward 1)

City Clerk Kristin Kenniston administered the Oath to all City Councilors and they were officially seated.

7. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF TEMPORARY CHAIR

Kristin Kenniston, City Clerk, opened the Nominations for Temporary Chair.

Councilor Simon put forth the NOMINATION of Councilor Liot Hill as Temporary Chair.

Hearing no further nominations for Temporary Chair, City Clerk Kristin Kenniston closed the nominations and called for a vote.

**The Vote on the NOMINATION to elect Councilor Liot Hill as Temporary Chair was approved by those present (8-0).*

8. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF MAYOR AND ASSISTANT MAYOR:

MAYOR:

Councilor Liot Hill, Temporary Chair, opened the Nominations for Mayor.

Councilor Below put forth the NOMINATION of Tim McNamara as Mayor.

Hearing no further nominations for Mayor, Councilor Liot Hill, Temporary Chair, closed the nominations and called for a vote.

**The Vote on the NOMINATION of Councilor Tim McNamara for Mayor was approved by those present (7-0-1). Councilor McNamara abstained.*

ASSISTANT MAYOR

Mayor McNamara opened the Nominations for Assistant Mayor.

Mayor McNamara put forth the NOMINATION of Councilor Clifton Below as Assistant Mayor.

Hearing no further Nominations for Assistant Mayor, Mayor McNamar closed the nominations and called for a vote.

****The Vote on the NOMINATION of Councilor Clifton Below as Assistant Mayor was approved by those present (7-0-1). Councilor Below abstained.***

9. PUBLIC HEARING ITEM: NONE

10. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Adoption of Council Rules

1. Included in agenda packet: **Council Rules as adopted on 11/16/22 (Pages 3-10)**.

ACTION:

Councilor Whittlesey MOVED to approve Chapter A191, Council Rules as written and presented in the March 29, 2023 City Council agenda packet.

Seconded by Councilor Wilkie.

****The Vote on MOTION was approved by those present (8-0).***

11. MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS OF COUNCILORS TO BOARDS & COMMITTEES:

Mayor McNamara made no appointments at this time. He will be speaking to all Councilors individually about what their preferences are and is planning to have a vote on the appointments at the Council Meeting on April 19, 2023.

A list of all Boards/Commissions/Committees will be sent to Councilors for their review.

Brief Updates:

- Meeting with NH DOT regarding West Lebanon.
- Extension on the Greenway: Have made some progress in the area of the State Park. A dimensional plan has been put together by the City's engineers for the NH DOT.
- NH Executive Council, Cindy Warren, business tour throughout the district. She toured the Upper Valley and would like to return. Plans are being made to make this happen.

12. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

A. RSA 91-A:3, II(a) "The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee..."

Councilor Wilkie MOVED to go into Non-Public Session for the purpose of discussing RSA 91-A:3, II(a) "The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee..."

Seconded by Councilor Whittlesey.

Roll Call Vote:

Assistant Mayor Below, and Councilors Liot Hill, Simon, Sykes, Whittlesey, Wilkie, Zook and Mayor McNamara all voting Yea.

None voted Nay.

****The Vote on the MOTION was approved by those present (8-0)***

Staff Present: City Manager Mulholland

The Council went into Non-Public Session at 7:30 PM

The Council briefly discussed compensation of the City Manager

Councilor Sykes MOVED to come out of Non-Public Session.

Seconded by Assistant Mayor Below.

****The Vote on the MOTION was approved by those present (8-0).***

The Council went out of Non-Public Session at 8:30 PM

13. ADJOURNMENT:

The Organizational meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dona E. Gibson

Recording Secretary