

## Newburyport City Council

### **Council Retreat** **Remote** **Minutes**

January 23, 2021, 10:00 a.m. (via ZOOM)

### **Agenda**

#### **1. Call to Order** (1 minute)

The meeting was called to order at 10:03am with a roll call by the City Clerk. The following Councillors answered present: Zeid, Khan, McCauley, Connell, Shand, Tontar, Vogel, Wallace, and Eigerman using Zoom as a platform. 9 present, 2 absent (Devlin, Lane).

#### **2. Introduction** (1 minute)

##### **a. 2021 goals**

President Eigerman stated goals of the Council generally are to follow our Rules.

##### **b. Committee assignments for 2021**

##### **c. Charter Article 2 ("Legislative Branch")**

##### **d. Newburyport Code Chapter 2, Article II ("City Council")**

#### **3. Council Rules and Practices** (87 minutes)

##### **a. Committee minutes**

Discussion on Cmte minutes. Clerk should explore transcription service that would perhaps ease the burden on minute taking. Closed captioning is also a good goal.

##### **b. @cityofnewburyport.com email addresses**

Discussion on Email Addresses:

SZ – No need to compel other councillors. Would the Council have its own email system?

AK – We are open to the public in everything we do. People should know what we are thinking. Mark K automatically makes an email address for each new Councillors.

[citycouncil@cityofnewburyport.com](mailto:citycouncil@cityofnewburyport.com)

BV – Agrees with AK. Use one for ‘running for office’ and one for city business  
 CW – Agrees with BV.  
 SZ – You can forward from your city email  
 JM – Need to follow the law. It makes us less accessible. Now there are issues that I need to address immediately. What about social media? What needs to be preserved.  
 RJ – Cannot forward from City server.  
 CT – Can we get a legal opinion on this? He thinks Mark K’s tech solution will solve issues.  
 BC – Some have asked about personal confidentiality and constituents  
 SZ – This upgrade will not solve the issues. It is a policy question.  
 JE – Clerk and JE can contact the AG.. Is it legal to forward from city address to non-city email address? Agreed to by Councillors

### c. Other matters-Good of the Order

AK – Rules – Not to change cmte members mid-term.  
 JM – If you keep committee to go with the Presidency, this is a Charter change.  
 CT – There is a benefit of continuity and a right of a New President  
 JE – No rules on these appointments and this flexibility is a good thing.  
 No tenure to cmte members  
 CT – More meetings may not be the answer.  
 CT – a Norm – budget and finance. Proposed cuts he is convinced if Councillors prepare their cuts early on and bring up in the workshop. Process on the floor goes much smoothly.  
 SZ – a Councillor may wait until the floor.  
 AK – What about one last meeting to discuss all issues.  
 CW – Agrees that spreading the meetings out.  
 JE – can the standing cmte collaborate with the B&F chair.  
 JM – Can we invite the Dept Head in?  
 BV – Please be cautious.  
 CT – wants to be a little cautious and shouldn’t intrude early in the budget process.  
 JM – personnel are the vast majority of the budget.  
 BV – Being prepared topic. Discouraging to come across same issues  
 SZ – Posting minutes – Stray poll. BV Yes, JM No, HS No, AK Yes, BV Love email for all meetings posted CT No, BC No JE No,  
 JE – clerk to look at copying all Councillors every time notices posted.  
 CW – files posting for meetings. Is there a way to post items other than the whole packet.  
 SZ – more everything for everything. .packet software may be an answer.

### Civil Discourse

AK – Civil Discourse – no Park Lunch to ‘shake it off’.  
 SZ – Be upfront about our opinions. Don’t see a problem.  
 BC - Would like to see what AK comes up with.  
 CT – thank you AK for mentioning it here  
 HS – this has merit.

BV – supports it.  
SZ – cautions against restrictions on speech.  
AK – not stifling any speech. Doesn't like 'sister' Helpful not hurtful.  
JE – we are supposed to be debating; we have done quite well.  
HS – should not use Sister, or Brother.  
JE – will not use Sister. Coming from a legal background, it is common.  
CT – no harm and much benefit.  
SZ – Did not take it as an intentional pejorative  
BC – Please be mindful of over-loading the Clerk's office.

**4. Adjournment (1 minute)**

Motion to adjourn by Councillor Shand, seconded by Councillor Khan. So voted. 12:26pm

