



KEENE CITY COUNCIL  
Council Chambers, Keene City Hall  
January 1, 2026  
12:00 PM

## A. INAUGURATION AGENDA

1. Meeting called to order by the City Clerk, Terri M. Hood
2. The City Clerk announces that Jay V. Kahn is present to take the Oath of Office
3. Attorney Edward J. Burke administers the Oath of Office to Mayor-elect Kahn
4. Mayor Kahn takes the Chair and directs the City Clerk to call the Roll of the Councilors-elect
5. Attorney Edward J. Burke administers the Oath of Office to the Councilors-elect  

Randy L. Filiault	Kris E. Roberts
Michele A. Chalice	Jacob R. Favolise
Catherine I. Workman	Laura E. Ruttle-Miller
Edward J. Haas	Molly V. Ellis
Bettina A. Chadbourne	Mitchell H. Greenwald
Philip M. Jones	
6. Mayor Kahn directs the City Clerk to call the Roll of the Keene City Council
7. Invocation – Rabbi Daniel Aronson
8. Pledge of Allegiance - led by Joshua Terra
9. Mayor's Inaugural Address
10. Resolution R-2026-01: Relating to the City Council's Rules of Order
11. Announcement of Standing Committee Assignments
12. Confirmations to City Boards and Commissions  
Confirmations - Airport Development and Marketing Committee; Bicycle, Pedestrian Path Advisory Committee; Conservation Commission; Energy and Climate Committee; Heritage Commission; Historic District Commission; Human Rights Committee; Library Board of Trustees;

Partner City Committee; Planning Board; Trustees of Trust Funds and Cemetery Trustees; Zoning Board of Adjustment

13. Benediction – The Reverend Elsa Worth

**B. ADJOURNMENT**



# CITY OF KEENE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty Six

A RESOLUTION Relating to the City Council Rules of Order

***Resolved by the City Council of the City of Keene, as follows:***

That the City Council of Keene, New Hampshire, in accordance with Section 20 of the Keene City Charter, hereby adopts its rules for the transaction of its business during 2026 and 2027, hereinafter called its Rules of Order, the following:

## **COUNCIL MEETINGS**

### **SECTION 1. REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.**

Regular meetings shall be held on the first and third Thursdays of each month (holidays, and summer City Council vacation excepted). The meetings shall take place in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, unless otherwise authorized by vote of the City Council. Except in the event of an emergency declared by appropriate authority, the City Council shall meet at least once per month.

### **SECTION 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS AND WORKSHOP MEETINGS.**

Special Meetings may be called by the Mayor, or at his or her refusal, incapacity or absence, then in writing to the City Clerk, by six (6) members of the City Council, not constituting a quorum of any of the City Council Standing Committees. A properly called Special Meeting shall constitute a meeting of the City Council for the purposes permitted by law and under the Rules of the City Council. The City Clerk shall prepare a notice of the Special Meeting stating the time, place, and subject matter, and this notice shall be mailed or delivered by cell phone text message or other electronic means at least forty-eight (48) hours before the time of the meeting to the Mayor and to each member of the City Council, or in the event of an emergency as determined by the Mayor in accordance with applicable law, the notice shall be served personally upon each member of the City Council, or left at their usual place of residence at least two (2) hours before the time of the meeting.

Workshops are for the purpose of the City Council receiving and discussing information presented to it in an informal setting during which no formal action may be taken, except for a vote to refer the matter under consideration to the appropriate Committee for further recommendation; provided, however, that the City Council may, by consensus, recommend a course of action for the Committee to consider. Workshops shall be scheduled upon the request of the Mayor, six (6) members of the City Council, not constituting a quorum of any of the City Council standing committees, or the City Manager. The City Clerk shall post a public notice of the workshop stating the date, time, place and subject matter. The workshop format is intended to encourage in-depth presentations by City Boards, Commissions,

Committees and/or staff (including consultants engaged for the purpose of advising the Council), and detailed questioning and brainstorming by Council Members. The Council may discuss the material freely without following formal rules of parliamentary procedure, subject to the direction of the Mayor and the Rules of Order. Although formal action may not be taken during workshops, except for referral to the appropriate Committee, the Mayor may poll Council Members during the meeting to determine the general consensus of the Council.

### **SECTION 3. ADJOURNED SESSIONS.**

Any session of the Council may be continued or recessed from day to day, or for more than one (1) day, but no recess shall be for a longer period than until the next regular meeting thereafter.

### **SECTION 4. QUORUM AND REMOTE PARTICIPATION.**

The majority of the Councilors elected shall constitute a quorum. Roll call attendance will be taken before the start of all meetings of the City Council. In the event that a quorum is not achieved, the meeting shall be rescheduled by the Mayor or the Temporary Chair ("Chair"). Unless otherwise permitted by law, a quorum shall be present at the physical location of the meeting. One or more members, but less than a quorum, may participate in the meeting electronically or telephonically when permitted to do so by the City Council, and when their physical attendance is not reasonably practical, provided that all members of the public body, and the public, can hear and/or be permitted to speak to each other. Remote participation by members is discouraged. A member wishing to participate remotely must notify the City Clerk at least 24 hours prior to the meeting or remote participation shall not be permitted. Upon such notification, the City Clerk shall take appropriate action to provide for remote electronic or telephonic access by the member to the meeting, and shall provide the requesting member with the information necessary to access the meeting. At the time appointed for the meeting, the Chair shall recognize the member requesting remote participation. The member participating remotely shall state for the minutes the reason for their request, and shall identify any other person(s) present in the location from which the member is participating. The Chair shall call for any objection to the request for remote participation. In the absence of objection, the request shall be granted. If there is objection, the request shall be placed before the City Council for a vote. The denial of the request shall require a  $\frac{3}{4}$  roll call vote of the members present. If one or more members are participating remotely in the meeting, all votes shall be by roll call. Physical attendance shall be deemed to not be "reasonably practical" in the event of serious health issues, disability, out of town employment responsibilities, or otherwise permitted in the reasonable discretion of the public body. The foregoing Rule with respect to a quorum and remote participation shall also apply to participation in Committee meetings of the City Council.

### **OFFICERS**

#### **SECTION 5. PRESIDING OFFICER.**

The Mayor shall take the chair at the hour appointed for the City Council to meet, and shall immediately call the members to order. The roll shall then be called by the Clerk, who shall enter in the minutes of the meeting the names of the members present and absent. The name of any member entering after roll call shall be entered in the minutes.

## **SECTION 6. TEMPORARY CHAIR.**

In case of the absence of the Mayor, the Clerk shall call the City Council to order and call the roll of the members. If a quorum is found to be present, the City Council shall proceed to elect a Councilor, by a majority vote of those present, as Temporary Chair of the meeting to act until the Mayor appears. The Temporary Chair shall have the obligation to vote in accordance with Section 15, "Voting and Conflict of Interest," of these Rules of Order.

## **SECTION 7. CITY CLERK.**

The City Clerk shall be the Clerk of the City Council and shall perform such other duties as the Mayor and a majority of the City Council may prescribe.

## **SECTION 8. CITY ATTORNEY.**

The City Attorney shall attend all meetings of the City Council unless excused by the City Council or Mayor. Any member of the City Council or the Mayor may at any time call upon the City Attorney for an opinion as to law, ordinances, or parliamentary procedure, but the final decision as to any matter of parliamentary procedure shall be the responsibility of the Mayor or Temporary Chair, subject to the provisions of Section 13, "Right of Appeal," of these Rules of Order.

## **SECTION 9. CITY MANAGER.**

The City Manager shall attend all meetings of the City Council unless excused by the City Council or Mayor. The City Manager shall have all of the rights and restrictions for participation in City Council meetings as defined by the City Charter, applicable state law, and the Rules of Order.

## **SECTION 10. DECORUM AND ORDER.**

The Mayor or Temporary Chair shall preserve decorum and if a member transgresses the Rules of the City Council, the Mayor or Temporary Chair shall, or any member may, call him or her to order, in which case he or she shall be seated, subject to the member's right to appeal under Section 13, "Right of Appeal," of these Rules of Order. Appropriate dress during regular meetings of the City Council shall consist of professional business attire. Cell phones are to be silenced while the City Council is in session. The Mayor and City Council members are expected to devote their attention to the business of the City Council, and to refrain from the use of electronic devices during City Council meetings not germane to the business before the City Council. Any electronic communication by and among members of the City Council during any City Council or Committee meeting which is not capable of being heard or observed by members of the public or other Councilors is prohibited.

## **DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERS**

## **SECTION 11. RIGHT OF FLOOR.**

During regular or special meetings of the City Council, and when recognized by the Chair, a member may rise in his or her place, and shall respectfully address the Mayor or Temporary Chair, confine himself or

herself to the question under debate, avoid personal attacks, and refrain from impugning the motives of any other member's or participant's argument, stated position or vote. No member of the City Council may speak for or against a petition at a public hearing thereon, but he or she may ask questions concerning the petition or answer questions if he or she has special knowledge concerning the petition.

#### **SECTION 12. EXCUSAL DURING MEETING.**

No member may leave the Council Chamber after the call for a vote without first obtaining permission from the Mayor or Temporary Chair. There shall be, at a convenient point to be selected by the Mayor or Temporary Chair, a recess of approximately (5) minutes, after the City Council has been in session for two (2) hours.

#### **SECTION 13. RIGHT OF APPEAL.**

Any member may appeal to the City Council a ruling of the Mayor or Temporary Chair. If the appeal is seconded, the member making the appeal may briefly state his or her reason for the same, and the Mayor or Temporary Chair may briefly explain his or her ruling; but there shall be no debate on the appeal and no other member shall participate in the discussion. The Mayor or Temporary Chair shall then put the question to the City Council: "Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained?" If a majority of the members present vote in the negative, the ruling of the Mayor or Temporary Chair is overruled; otherwise, it is sustained. Such a vote shall be by roll call. The Mayor or Temporary Chair shall not have a vote.

#### **SECTION 14. LIMITATION OF DEBATE.**

No member shall be allowed to speak more than once upon any item of business before the City Council until every other member choosing to speak thereon shall have spoken, and no member shall speak more than three times on any item of business, nor for a longer time than ten (10) minutes in all, without leave of the Mayor or Temporary Chair.

#### **SECTION 15. VOTING AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST.**

Every Councilor present when a vote is required shall state their vote except when the Councilor has a conflict of interest in the matter under consideration. A conflict of interest shall be defined to exist when a proposed action, decision, or discussion ("Item") presented to the City Council for consideration, would affect the Councilor's Special Interest. A "Special Interest" shall be defined as follows:

Any financial or non-financial personal interest in the outcome of an Item that is the subject of official activity, distinct from and greater than the interests of the public at large:

- i. A financial interest exists where a City Councilor or Household Member, or a person or organization, whether nonprofit or for profit, by which the City Councilor is employed, or from which the City Councilor receives compensation, to act as the person's or organization's agent or advocate, could stand to gain or lose anything of material value as a result of the official activity.
- ii. A non-financial personal interest exists where a City Councilor or Household Member has a Substantial Interest in the welfare of an organization, whether nonprofit or for

profit, by virtue of holding a position with a fiduciary responsibility, such as a board member, trustee, or director.

iii. A City Councilor or Household Member's ownership of securities of a publicly traded corporation shall not be construed to constitute a Special Interest in matters that may affect the corporation unless the City Councilor or Household Member serves as an officer, board member, trustee or director of the corporation or owns more than one percent of the outstanding securities of the corporation.

"Substantial Interest" in an organization shall include any of the following factors:

- i. The person founded the organization;
- ii. The person is a substantial contributor to the organization;
- iii. The person's compensation is primarily based on revenues derived from activities of the organization, or of a particular department or function of the organization, that the person controls;
- iv. The person has or shares authority to control or determine a substantial portion of the organization's capital expenditures, operating budget, or compensation for employees;
- v. The person manages a discrete segment or activity of the organization that represents a substantial portion of the activities, assets, income, or expenses of the organization, as compared to the organization as a whole; or
- vi. The person owns a controlling interest (measured by either vote or value) in a corporation, partnership, or trust or other entity.

A Special Interest shall be deemed to exist when any person living in the same domicile as the Councilor (excluding persons with a leasehold interest) and who shares a common economic interest in the expenses of daily living with the Councilor, including but not limited to a spouse, parent, or child 18 years of age or older ("Household Member") has a Special Interest in a proposed Item. A Councilor with a Special Interest on a Council agenda shall file with the City Clerk the written particulars of the Special Interest for inclusion on the Council agenda. If the Special Interest becomes known to a Councilor during a meeting, the Councilor should immediately disclose the particulars of the Special Interest. The question of whether or not a Special Interest exists will then be decided by a majority vote of the Councilors present. The Councilor who may have a Special Interest shall not vote on the question of the existence of the Special Interest. When a Special Interest is determined by the City Council to exist, the member having the Special Interest shall be prohibited from participating in the discussion and the vote on the Item. Except at a duly noticed public hearing, or a public meeting, in which the public is allowed to speak, no Councilor having a Special Interest may discuss the Item in which he or she has a Special Interest with any other Councilor in any other place or any other time. If a Councilor with a Special Interest wishes to speak at a public hearing, or in a public meeting, the Councilor shall do so from the audience section of the meeting.

Any Councilor having reasonable grounds to believe that another Councilor has a Special Interest may raise the question on his or her own motion. The Mayor shall also be subject to the Rule on Voting and Conflict of Interest notwithstanding whether or not the Mayor is entitled to vote on an Item. The question of whether or not a Special Interest exists is subject to debate. The question will then be decided by the Council as set forth above.

The Mayor and Councilors shall file with the City Clerk in January of each year a Statement of Special Interests on a form prepared for that purpose by the City Clerk. The Statement of Special Interests shall identify for the Mayor and for each Councilor and for each Household Member the person's employer, and any board, commission, organization, association, or other entity in which the Mayor and Councilor or Household Member has a Substantial Interest. The Statement of Special Interests shall be available in the Office of the City Clerk for public inspection.

#### **SECTION 16. DEMAND FOR ROLL CALL.**

Upon the demand of any member, made before the vote has been called for, the roll shall be called for yeas and nays upon any question before the Council. It shall not be in order for members to explain their vote during the roll call.

#### **SECTION 17. MOTIONS.**

A long or complex motion shall be reduced to writing if the Mayor or Temporary Chair so directs; or if any member of the City Council requests it. When a main motion is under debate, the Mayor or Temporary Chair may receive the following subsidiary motions, which have their proper position in the order, taking precedence over the motions that rank below it and yielding to motions that rank above it.

Lay on the table	2nd required	Simple majority	Not debatable	Not amendable
Previous question	2nd required	$\frac{2}{3}$ majority	Not debatable	Not amendable
Limit or extend debate	2nd required	$\frac{2}{3}$ majority	Not debatable	Amendable
Postpone definitely	2nd required	Simple majority	Debatable	Amendable
Refer	2nd required	Simple majority	Debatable	Amendable
Amend	2nd required	Simple majority	Debatable	Not amendable
Postpone indefinitely	2nd required	Simple majority	Debatable	Not amendable
Main motion	2nd required	Simple majority	Debatable	Amendable

In addition to subsidiary motions, the Mayor or Temporary Chair may receive the following incidental motions, which have no rank:

Recess	2nd required	Simple majority	Not debatable	Not amendable
Division of the question	2nd required	Simple majority	Not debatable	Amendable
Suspend Rules of Order	2nd required	$\frac{2}{3}$ majority	Not debatable	Not amendable

Take from the table	2nd required	Simple majority	Not debatable	Not amendable
Reconsider	2nd required	Simple majority	Debatable	Not amendable
Appeal from a decision of the Chair	2nd required	Simple majority	Debatable only between Mayor and the member making the appeal	Not amendable
Accept an item as informational	2 <sup>nd</sup> required	Simple majority	Debatable	Not amendable
Call from Committee	2nd required	Simple majority	Debatable	Not amendable
Point of Order	None	Ruling by the Chair	Not debatable	Not amendable

## **SECTION 18. PERMISSION REQUIRED TO ADDRESS CITY COUNCIL.**

Persons other than the Mayor, members of the City Council, the City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney, shall not be permitted to address the City Council except upon introduction by, and permission of the Mayor and only after the person's name and address has been clearly stated.

## **SECTION 19. ADJOURNMENT.**

Adjournment shall be in order at any time, except as follows:

1. Reserved
2. When made as an interruption of a member while speaking
3. When the previous question has been moved
4. While a vote is being taken.

A motion to fix the time to which to adjourn is debatable only as to the time to which the meeting is adjourned.

## **SECTION 20. RECONSIDERATION.**

After the decision of any question, any member who voted with the prevailing side may move for reconsideration of that action at the next regular meeting of the City Council. For the purposes of this Rule, the next regular meeting of the City Council shall be the next regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council which is at least ten (10) days after the meeting of the City Council at which the decision to be reconsidered occurred. The Councilor shall submit a written notice to the City Clerk and the question shall be placed on the agenda in accordance with these Rules. A motion to reconsider shall require a majority vote of the Councilors present.

After a motion for reconsideration has been acted on, no other motion for a reconsideration of the question shall be made. If the original vote is sustained as defined herein, the City Council shall have no further right of reconsideration on the question.

## **SECTION 21. TIE VOTE.**

In case of a tie vote on any question, the Mayor shall cast his or her vote to dissolve the tie vote. In the absence of the Mayor, a tie vote on any question, which includes the vote of a Temporary Chair shall be deemed to be a nay vote of the question.

## **SECTION 22. SPECIAL COMMITTEES.**

All Special Committees of the City Council such as the City Council may establish, other than Standing Committees under section 23, shall be appointed and announced by the Mayor. The vote on each member appointed by the Mayor to such Committees shall be by roll call. Special Committees shall continue to exist until their charge has been completed or one year from the date of establishment, whichever comes first.

## **SECTION 23. STANDING COMMITTEES.**

On or about January 1st , the following Standing Committees of the City Council shall be appointed by the Mayor. All Standing Committees of the City Council shall consist of five (5) members. No member shall serve on more than one Standing Committee of the City Council at the same time. The first member named on each Committee to be Chair; the second member named on each Committee to be Vice-Chair. Items of business referred to Committee may be in accordance with the areas of concern as set forth below, including any proposed legislation appropriate to the business of the Committee; provided, however, that any item of business coming before the City Council may be referred to other committees as may be necessary for efficiency or to accommodate time constraints:

### **Finance, Organization, and Personnel Committee**

Assessment, budget, cable franchise, claims, purchase and sale of real property and its disposition, elections, finances, information technology, insurance, leases and lease management, organization, personnel, purchasing, and taxes.

### **Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee**

Cemeteries, intermodal transportation facilities, infrastructure management and planning, fire, public health, human services, library, parks, police, recreation, public safety, trail system, traffic control, and youth services.

### **Planning, Licenses and Development Committee**

Airport, Airport leases, Airport land use planning, broadband, college/city relations, enforcement of codes, easements, economic development, floodplain, development, housing, intergovernmental relations, land use, permits, licensing, management of open space, conservation, planning, Rules of Order, wetlands, and zoning.

A Councilor who is not a member of the Committee may ask questions and participate in the public discussion, but may not participate in the Committee deliberations after a motion and 2nd has been

made concerning an item on a Committee agenda, unless the Councilor is the petitioner on the item before the Committee. If the Committee votes to remove a matter from more time, it shall be placed on the agenda for the next scheduled Committee meeting and prior notice shall be provided to all interested parties. If the Committee votes to go into non-public session, or if an adjournment permitted by law is necessary, only the members of the Committee, and required City Staff, shall attend the session. Non-public sessions and adjournments by a Committee are discouraged, and shall only occur in extraordinary circumstances.

Except for a special meeting of the Committee called by the Mayor or by the Committee Chair, all Standing Committees, except Finance, Organization and Personnel, shall normally meet on an alternating Wednesday following regularly scheduled City Council meetings. The Finance, Organization and Personnel Committee shall normally meet on the first and third Thursday following the regularly scheduled City Council meeting. Items to be submitted for the agenda packet must be filed with the City Clerk by 1:00 PM on the Tuesday before the Committees hold their regular meetings. A majority of each Committee shall constitute a quorum. The City Manager and those department heads requested by the City Manager shall normally attend the regularly scheduled Standing Committee meetings. The City Manager may designate a department head or other suitable person to represent him or her unless he or she is requested by the Committee to attend a particular meeting, but the Committee Chair will confer as necessary to avoid conflicting demands on the City Manager's time.

#### **SECTION 24. ORDER OF BUSINESS.**

The business of all regular meetings of the City Council shall be transacted in the following order, unless directed by the Mayor or presiding officer.

1. Call to order
2. Roll call of attendance
3. Pledge of allegiance
4. Acceptance of minutes of the preceding meeting
5. Public Hearings, proclamations and presentations
6. Nominations/confirmations/appointments
7. Communications
8. Reports of Committees/Boards/Staff
9. City Manager Comments
10. Acceptance of Donations
11. Legislation (Ordinances/Resolutions)
12. Non-Public Session
13. Adjournment

## **SECTION 25. COMMUNICATIONS.**

Communications to be introduced to the City Council must be addressed to the Mayor and City Council through the office of the City Clerk, be signed by the person(s) submitting the communication, and contain a residential address or mailing address, if different, and an email address. Communications containing a scanned image of the person's actual signature, or an electronic signature created in accordance with applicable law or City Ordinance, may be submitted electronically. Communications not containing all of the above shall not be accepted by the City Clerk. Communications of a personal, defamatory, or argumentative nature, shall not be accepted by the City Clerk. Communications shall be accepted by the City Clerk up until 4:00 p.m. on the Tuesday preceding the City Council meeting to be included on the agenda of the City Council.

## **SECTION 26. REVIEW OF ITEMS OF BUSINESS.**

Every Ordinance, Resolution, Committee Report, and any other document to come before the City Council for consideration must be filed with the City Clerk by 4:00 PM on the Tuesday before the Thursday on which the City Council holds its regular meeting.

As soon as practicable after receipt of items of business by the City Clerk, the City Clerk shall review the items of business with the Mayor and City Manager. Items of business determined by the Mayor and City Manager to be routine City business, or within the purview of the City Manager, or of a nature that investigation by the City would be appropriate or of a nature that the matter should be dealt with confidentially shall be referred, as appropriate, to the City Manager, the City Council, Council Committee, or other appropriate governmental agency for disposition. In such cases, the sponsor of the item of business shall be given written notification of the referral of the matter and such other pertinent information as the Mayor and City Manager shall determine to be appropriate. The City Council shall be provided with a summary of the items of business not placed on the Council agenda and the disposition of the items. The City Manager shall take reasonable measures to ensure that these referrals are dealt with appropriately. Except as otherwise provided by these Rules, items of business not resolved to the satisfaction of their sponsor, may be placed upon the Council agenda by the Mayor, any member, or the City Manager.

All items to be placed on the City Council agenda for the first time shall be referred by the Mayor as appropriate to a Committee or Committees for consideration and report by the Committee at the next meeting of the City Council, unless more time is requested by the Committee. Any item appearing on the City Council agenda for the first time shall not be debated, and shall have no final action without suspension of the rules. Once more time has been granted on a matter, it shall remain on more time until placed on the Committee agenda for action or a motion to call it out of Committee passes. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Rules, Resolutions of a congratulatory, aspirational or ceremonial nature and items referred directly to a Committee under this Section and then reported out may be debated and acted upon when they first appear on the City Council agenda without suspension of the rules.

## **SECTION 27. READINGS OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.**

Resolutions calling for the appropriation of unbudgeted funds, and all Ordinances, shall be read twice. The first and second readings to be by title only. Such documents are to be posted on the public bulletin board in the City Hall entry way for one (1) week following each reading in City Council. No item which

has been the subject of a public hearing may be considered by City Council on the same day as the hearing.

## **SECTION 28. AMENDED ORDINANCES.**

If an Ordinance is amended in Committee, it shall be reported as an amended Ordinance. The Committee report shall explain the recommended amendments.

## **SECTION 29. VOTES ON ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS.**

On passage of a Resolution calling for any appropriation of funds, or on the passage of any Ordinance, the vote shall be taken by roll call, majority vote, and entered in full upon the record. A Resolution calling for the appropriation of funds through the issuance of a Bond, or a Resolution calling for the repurposing of an issued Bond, shall require a  $\frac{2}{3}$  roll call vote of all elected members. Every member shall be required to vote unless excused for conflict of interest by vote of the City Council. The vote shall be for or against a pending Ordinance or Resolution and not on the report of the committee thereon.

## **SECTION 30. ANNUAL APPROPRIATION.**

If a Councilor wishes to make an amendment to the proposed capital improvement budget or the annual operating budget during the respective budget adoption process, the Councilor shall submit the text of the proposed amendment, including the line item(s) to be amended, to the City Clerk for inclusion on the City Council agenda no later than 4:00 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to the City Council meeting scheduled for the adoption of the capital improvement budget or the annual budget. After the annual appropriation has been adopted, subsequent unbudgeted expenditures shall not be authorized for any purpose without special appropriation therefore by affirmative vote of a majority of City Council. If the unbudgeted expenditure creates a City debt, the affirmative vote of two-thirds of City Council shall be required. All such votes shall be taken by roll call.

## **SECTION 31. APPROPRIATION OF UNBUDGETED FUNDS.**

After adoption of the annual budget, Resolutions calling for the appropriation of unbudgeted funds shall not be accepted by the City Clerk, unless accompanied by an explanation of the purpose of the appropriation and the fund(s) to which it is to be charged.

## **SECTION 32. REPORT BY COMMITTEE.**

All matters referred to a Committee must be reported out of that Committee at the next regular meeting of the City Council except a matter which is the subject of a pending public hearing before the City Council, or unless otherwise ordered by a majority of the Committee members present. Written testimony submitted after a public hearing held before the City Council shall be accepted by the City Clerk up until 1:00 p.m. on the Tuesday immediately preceding the Committee meeting. An item which is the subject of a public hearing before the City Council must be reported out of a Committee at the next regular meeting after the public hearing unless otherwise ordered retained for further consideration by a majority of the Committee members present. No further public comment shall be accepted by the Committee after the conclusion of the public hearing before the City Council, except for

written testimony as provided above. If not reported out by the Committee as provided above, or if immediate action is required, a motion by the City Council to call the matter out of Committee will then be in order. Passage of that motion will place the matter before the City Council for consideration. When the Chair of the Committee or the designee offers a motion to carry out the intent of the Committee report, a brief explanation of the Committee's recommendation shall be stated. Moving to carry out the intent of the Committee report does not restrict the proponent of the motion from speaking against the recommendation of the Committee.

### **SECTION 33. RESUBMISSION OF ITEMS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED.**

Once the City Council has taken action on an item of business submitted to it, including accepting the item as informational, the identical subject matter to that matter shall not be taken up again by the City Council during that calendar year, except on a proper motion for reconsideration under the Rules of Order or the City Charter; provided, however, that the City Clerk shall place such communication into the Councilors' mailboxes.

### **SECTION 34. NON-PUBLIC SESSION.**

As provided for in RSA 91-A:3, the vote on any motion to enter non-public session shall be by roll call, and shall require the affirmative vote of the majority of members present. All persons present, except the Mayor, City Council, the City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk shall leave the meeting, unless specifically requested to remain. A motion to seal the minutes of a non-public session shall be by roll call vote and shall require a two-thirds majority vote in favor.

### **SECTION 35. SUSPENSION OF THE RULES.**

Any provision of these Rules not governed by the Charter, Statute, or Ordinance, may be temporarily suspended at any meeting of the City Council, by a two-thirds vote of all members present. The vote on any such suspension shall be taken by roll call and entered upon the records.

### **SECTION 36. TO AMEND RULES.**

These Rules of Order may be amended or new Rules adopted by a two-thirds vote of all members elected. Any such alterations or amendments shall be submitted in writing at the preceding regular meeting of the City Council and shall be referred to the Planning Licenses and Development Committee. Changes to the Rules shall become effective upon adoption.

### **SECTION 37. PROCEDURE TO FILL VACANCY.**

In the event that a vacancy occurs in the City Council or Office of the Mayor from any cause, the following procedure shall be followed to fill the vacancy.

- A. When a vacancy occurs, the Mayor or Temporary Chair (in the case of a vacancy in the office of the Mayor), in accordance with Sections 8, "Vacancies," and 19, "Mayor," of the City Charter, shall declare the office vacant at the City Council meeting immediately following the discovery of the vacancy. The following procedure will be followed to fill the declared vacancy; provided, however, that if the vacancy is declared to exist within

One Hundred and Twenty (120) days of the next regularly scheduled City election for the City Council, the vacancy will be filled through that election process, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 8 of the City Charter.

- B. When a vacancy is declared to exist, the Mayor or Temporary Chair (in the case of a vacancy in the office of the Mayor) shall set a filing period no earlier than eight (8) days after the declaration. The Mayor shall cause publication notice of the vacancy in a newspaper of general circulation in the City and establish a fourteen (14) day period exclusive of the date of publication within which time candidates may file notice of their intent to seek election to the vacant office. The filing period shall end at the close of business of the City Clerk's office on the fourteenth day.
- C. The City Council shall choose a qualified person at the next regular meeting of the City Council after the close of the filing period, at which time an election shall be held.

The following procedure shall be followed on the date of the election:

- 1. The Mayor, or Temporary Chair in the case of a vacancy in the office of the Mayor (see Section 6, "Temporary Chair," of the Rules of Order), shall declare the field of candidates for the vacancy.
- 2. Each candidate will be given five (5) minutes to address the City Council relative to his or her candidacy. No questions will be asked of the candidates by the City Council and immediately upon completion of the last candidate's presentation, the City Council will proceed with the process of filling the vacancy.
- 3. In the event that there are more than two candidates, there shall be a primary vote of the City Council to narrow the field of candidates to two (2). The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes following an initial vote will be declared the finalists for election.
- 4. The final vote will be conducted and the candidate receiving the votes of a majority of the elected City Council, will be declared the winner.
- 5. Voting shall be by roll call vote, each City Councilor stating the name of his or her choice. In the event that a City Councilor does not wish to vote for any candidate, he or she shall vote "No". In the event that no candidate for the vacancy receives a majority vote of the elected City Council then the Mayor or Temporary Chair may call for a second round of voting. In the event that no candidate receives a majority vote after the second round of voting, the Mayor or Temporary Chair shall establish an additional fourteen (14) day period within which candidates may file notice of their intent to seek election to the vacant office, and an election shall be held as provided above, including publication notice.
- 6. Following the successful result of an election, the prevailing candidate shall take the oath of office and be immediately seated.

#### **SECTION 38. RULES OF ORDER.**

"Robert's Rules of Order," as amended, shall govern points of order not covered herein.

### **SECTION 39. COUNCIL POLICIES.**

Policies to be introduced to the City Council governing the operations of the City Council shall be in the form of a Resolution and, upon its adoption, shall be indexed and appended to the Rules of Order for ease of reference. A City Council policy shall remain effective until superseded by a vote of the City Council. When an issue comes before the City Council, which it believes has merit, but which is inconsistent with an adopted policy, the City Council shall first consider an amendment to the policy before considering the issue at hand. The City Council may, from time to time on its own initiative, or when so requested by City Staff, review adopted policies and determine whether to keep the policy, to revise the policy, or to rescind the policy.



Jay V. Kahn, Mayor

A true copy;

Attest:   
Ossi Ward  
City Clerk

PASSED: January 1, 2026

Keene City Council  
Committee Assignments

January 2026

Finance, Operations and Personnel

Thomas Powers, chair  
Bettina Chadbourne, vice chair  
Bryan Lake  
Chris Roberts  
Michele Chalice

Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure

Mitchell Greenwald, chair  
Catherine Workman, vice chair  
Jacob Favolise  
Laura Tobin  
Molly Ellis

Planning, Licenses and Development

Randy Filiault, chair  
Philip Jones, vice chair  
Ed Haas  
Robert Williams  
Laura Ruttle-Miller



# CITY OF KEENE NEW HAMPSHIRE

**ITEM #A.12.**

**Meeting Date:** January 1, 2026  
**To:** Mayor and Keene City Council  
**From:** Mayor Jay V. Kahn  
**Through:** Terri Hood, City Clerk  
**Subject:** Confirmations - Airport Development and Marketing Committee; Bicycle, Pedestrian Path Advisory Committee; Conservation Commission; Energy and Climate Committee; Heritage Commission; Historic District Commission; Human Rights Committee; Library Board of Trustees; Partner City Committee; Planning Board; Trustees of Trust Funds and Cemetery Trustees; Zoning Board of Adjustment

## **Council Action:**

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In City Council January 1, 2026.

**Voted unanimously to confirm the nominations.**

## **In City Council December 18, 2025.**

**Nominations with reflected amendments provided by the City Clerk tabled until the January 1 Council Inauguration Meeting.**

### Recommendation:

## Attachments:

None

## Background:

I hereby nominate the following individuals to serve on the designated City Board or Commission:

AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING COMMITTEE

Mitchell H. Greenwald, Councilor December 31, 2027  
Re-nomination. Slot 4

Jacob Favolise  
Slot 7

BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Brian Phillips December 31, 2028  
401 Pako Ave  
2025-585

Slot 2

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

William White December 31, 2028  
21 Richardson Court  
Slot 2

Michele Chalice, Councilor December 31, 2027  
Slot 3

**ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE**

Bryan Lake, Councilor December 31, 2027  
Re-nomination, Slot 3

**HERITAGE COMMISSION**

Molly Ellis, Councilor December 31, 2027  
Slot 5

Connie Joyce December 31, 2028  
81 Grant Street  
Alternate, Slot 8

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Edward Haas, Councilor December 31, 2027  
Slot 7

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE**

Bettina Chadbourne December 31, 2027  
Slot 4

Gregory Kleiner December 31, 2028  
Moving from Alternate to Regular, Slot 9

Sofia Cunha-Vasconcelos December 31, 2028  
Moving from Regular to Alternate, Slot 12

**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Jennifer Friedman June 30, 2026  
7 Allen Court  
Slot 4

**PARTNER CITY COMMITTEE**

Laura Ruttle-Miller, Councilor December 31, 2027  
Slot 2

**PLANNING BOARD**

Mike Heofer December 31, 2028  
Moving from Alternate to Regular, Slot 3

Ken Kost December 31, 2028  
Re-Nomination, Slot 5

Andrew Madison December 31, 2028  
178 Elm Street, Apt#2  
Slot 6

Molly Ellis, Councilor December 31, 2027  
Slot 9

**TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS AND CEMETERY TRUSTEES**

Janelle Sartorio December 31, 2028  
6 Kendall Road  
Slot 3

**ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

Stephen Buckley December 31, 2028  
6 Worcester Street  
Alternate, Slot 6

Michael Zoll December 31, 2028  
18 Summer Street  
Alternate, Slot 7