Resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Hooksett, NH that the following be and hereby are adopted as the Rules of the Hooksett Town Council.

1. The Following Rules shall be adopted by a majority of the Hooksett Town Council and these rules shall become effective immediately upon their adoption.
   a. Robert’s Rules “Parliamentary Law at a Glance” by E.C. Utter should be used as a guide when proper procedure is in question except where modified herein.
   b. Acceptable Procedure is determined by the acting Chair.

2. Procedures for electing officers are as follows:
   a. Annually, at the first meeting of the new Town Council:
      1. The Town Clerk shall swear-in all new Councilors as a group.

      Note: The Town Administrator shall act in the role of Council Chair from July 1st until such time the new Town Council has their first meeting to choose their Chair, Vice Chair and a Secretary. The Town Administrator, as acting Council Chair, shall lead this meeting through Town Council Reorganization – Part I.

      The members thereof shall:
      2. Choose, from among their members, a Chair, a Vice Chair and a Secretary. In addition to the powers conferred upon the Chair, the Vice Chair and the Secretary, they shall continue to have all the rights, privileges and immunities of a member of the Town Council.
      3. Motion that the Town Council confirms by a roll call vote, that the Town of Hooksett will adopt RSA 31:104, 31:105 and 31:106 to provide immunity and indemnify all Town Councilors, other elected officials, employees, agents as well as appointed officials that serve on committees and boards within the Town of Hooksett; specifically covering immunity from civil liability for discretionary acts, according to RSA 31:104, indemnification for costs of defense of civil suits, according to RSA 31:105 and indemnification for civil rights claims, according to RSA 31:106.
      4. Motion to have the Town Council Chair sign ancillary documents as agent to expend as a result of Town Council prior approval of the documents.
      5. Motion to have the Town Council Chair complete the Council’s section of the Annual Report.
      6. Motion to have the Town Council Chair complete & sign Tax Deed Waivers.
      7. Motion to adopt the Town Council Rules of Procedures.
      8. Motion to adopt the Administrative Code (which includes the Investment and Fund Balance Policies).
      9. Motion to adopt the Family Services Guidelines.
      10. Motion to have the Tax Collector sign payment plans for deedable properties.
      11. Motion to have the Town Administrator approve payment plans for deedable properties (Town Administrator cannot forgive interest or principal).
      12. Motion to have a Councillor work with Administration to coordinate the annual Town Council Old Home Day booth and Employee Appreciation Picnic
b. The above election shall be by majority vote of the Town Council present at the first meeting.

c. Duties of Officers

1. Chair:
   a. The Chair with the Town Administrator shall post all meetings and set meeting agenda.
   b. Lead all meetings in an orderly manner using these procedures, Hooksett’s Town Charter, Riggins Rules and Parliamentary Law as guides for appropriate protocol.

2. Vice Chair:
   a. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall conduct the Council Meeting until such time as the Chair is present.

3. Council Secretary:
   a. The Council Secretary shall be responsible for recording the attendance of Council members by roll call at the beginning of each meeting.
   b. The Council Secretary shall be responsible for polling and recording all roll call votes.
   c. If the Council Secretary is absent, the chair shall ask for a volunteer. If there is no volunteer, the Chair shall appoint a Council member to act as Council Secretary until such time as the Council Secretary is present.
   d. The Town Council Secretary shall act as clerk of the Council and shall review and approve (with or without edits) the draft (unofficial) minutes of the meeting recorded by the Recording Clerk. If there is no Recording Clerk present at meeting, the Town Council Secretary will be asked to keep minutes. Minutes will appear in the Town Council agenda packet. Minutes shall be posted on the Town website.
   e. The Town Council Secretary shall perform such other duties in the meeting as may be requested by the presiding officer of Council.
   f. In case of the absence of the Chair and the Vice Chair the Council Secretary shall call the Council to order and act as Chair.

3. Council Meetings
   a. The Council shall meet in regular session on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month, except as noted on Town Calendar, at 6:00pm. When time permits, a regular meeting may be adjoined to a workshop session.
   b. The place of meetings shall be the Council Chambers unless otherwise designated.
   c. A quorum of the Council for the transaction of any business shall be two-thirds (2/3) of the members currently in office. The Council shall not recognize a Councilor’s electronic method(s) of participation, attendance, or quorum.
   d. The Council reserves the right to end meetings at 9:30. The Council shall motion to extend public session meetings past 9:30pm as follows “motion to extend public session until meeting is adjourned”. Uncovered business will be included in the next meeting agenda. Meeting may be closed by a 2/3 roll call vote.
   e. The Council may meet for an informal workshop session or special meetings by Council vote on an as needed basis, in accordance of Section 3.5 C of the Town Charter. The place of meeting shall be the Council Chambers.
   f. When, after consultation with the Vice Chair and the Town Administrator, the Chair determines that the Council has insufficient business to warrant a meeting, the Chair may cancel said meeting after informing all councilors and receiving individual approval from 2/3 of the council members and shall not be inconsistent with the meeting provisions of
the Town Charter. Agenda items scheduled for a meeting that is canceled shall be carried over to the next regular meeting.

g. Council members shall be seated in Council Chambers as determined by consensus of the Council. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be seated at the head of the Council table in Chambers. The Secretary shall be seated next to the Town Council Recording Clerk.

h. Council members, staff and members of the general public participating in meetings shall address all questions or remarks through the Chair confine their remarks to the merit of pending questions; and shall not engage in personalities.

i. Any member may leave the Council Chambers while in regular session after notice to the Chair of pressing business providing there is no loss of quorum as determined by the Chair.

4. Town Employees
   a. The Town Administrator will attend all regular meetings or request representation from a Town Department to attend in their place.
   b. The Town Administrator shall be responsible for providing the Council with necessary background information on all items of business before the Council.
   c. The Town Administrator may have the head of any department or division or other employee of the Town in attendance at any meeting when items within their responsibility or knowledge is being discussed. All questions shall be directed to the Town Administrator who may, when necessary, defer to a department head or employee. Staff should be made aware of all items on the agenda to be ready to discuss items in respect to their department or area of responsibility.

5. Voting
   a. Councilors may read suggested motions from staff reports to assure key elements of motions do not get missed.
   b. If a vote is immediate after a motion, the motion does not need to be repeated unless requested by a Councilor or staff.
   c. If there is a discussion after a motion, the motion should be repeated prior to the vote of the Council to assure all Councilors and the public are aware what is being voted on.
   d. Every member present, including the Chair, when a question is put shall vote either aye (yes) or nay (no) or abstain and give reason for abstaining, in accordance with the Town Charter.
   e. Council Members wishing to abstain from voting shall so indicate and give reason for doing so.
   f. All votes shall be voice votes unless determined to be a roll call vote.
   g. Roll call votes should be used anytime there is a motion based on 1) a public hearing item, 2) any monetary item over $10,000 and 3) at the request of any Councilor for any matter.
   h. Roll call votes shall be in a random order with the Chair voting last.

6. Debate
   a. Council members must raise their hand to be recognized by the Chair.
   b. Rules of Debate on all motions shall be as follows:
      1. The council member, who introduces a motion, may speak to that motion. Thereafter, every council member may speak to the motion two times only. The sponsoring Council member may also address the motion two times, thereby allowing the sponsor the right to address his or her their motion a total of three times.
      2. If by 2/3 vote it is determined additional discussion is needed each council member may only speak an additional 2 times on a motion.
3. Decorum in debate: In order to assist in the carrying out of debate in an orderly and productive manner, Council members shall:
   a. Address all questions and remarks through the Chair. Do not address audience or council members.
   b. When commenting on another Councilor’s statement or question, identify the speaker, statement and when the statement was made.
   c. Confine remarks to the merits of the pending question.
   d. Not engage in personalities or question the motives of other Councilors.
   c. Any member who wishes to force an end to debate must first obtain the floor by being duly recognized to speak by the chair and must then move the Previous Question. Such a motion must be seconded, and then adopted by a simple majority vote. It is not in order to interrupt a speaker with cries of “Question” or “Call the question.”, and even if no one is speaking, it is still necessary to seek recognition.

7. Order of Business

The Town Council shall follow the below agenda order whenever possible for ease of transcription, audience participation and possible time restraints. The Council Chair, during the Agenda Overview, will inform the audience of any change in the agenda order for a particular meeting.

   a. Agenda Order of Council Meetings
      I. Call to Order
      II. Proof of Posting
      III. Roll Call
      IV. Pledge of Allegiance
      V. Agenda Overview
      VI. Public Hearings
      VII. Special Recognitions
      VIII. Public Input
      IX. Scheduled Appointments
      X. Consent Agenda
      XI. Town Administrator’s Report
      XII. Nominations/Appointments
      XIII. Brief Recess
      XIV. Old Business
      XV. New Business
      XVI. Approval of Minutes
      XVII. Subcommittee Reports
      XVIII. Public Input
      XIX. Non-Public Session NH RSA 91-A:3 II
      XX. Adjournment

   b. Public Input
      1. Two 15-minute Public Input sessions will be allowed during each Council Meeting. Time will be divided equally among those wishing to speak; however, no person will be allowed to speak for more than 5 minutes.
      2. No person may address the council more than twice on any issue in any meeting. Comments must be addressed to the Chair and must not be personal or derogatory about any other person.
3. Any questions must be directly related to the topic being discussed and must be addressed to the Chair only, who after consultation with Council and Town Administrator, will determine if the question can be answered at that time. Questions cannot be directed to an individual Councilor and must not be personal in nature. Issues raised during Public Input, which cannot be resolved or answered at that time, or which require additional discussion or research, will be noted by the Town Administrator who will be responsible for researching and responding to the comment directly during normal work hours or by bringing to the Council for discussion at a subsequent meeting. The Chair reserves the right to end questioning if the questions depart from clarification to deliberation.

4. Council members may request a comment be added to New Business at a subsequent meeting.

5. No one may speak during Public Input except the person acknowledged by the Chair. Direct questions or comments from the audience are not permitted during Public Input.

c. Nominations for all Board and Committee applicants may be made during the nominations/appointments portions of the Council meeting. Boards and Committees shall receive their respective applications and make recommendations for nominations. Appointment vote for a nominee will be scheduled at the next Council meeting. Nominations and appointments for new July terms shall be at the June Town Council meetings.

d. Scheduled Appointments
   1. A scheduled appointment shall have one person as a speaker when possible and follow the rules for addressing the Council.
   2. A scheduled appointment shall not exceed 15 minutes to address the Council unless the Council votes to extend.
   3. Applicants for Board and Committee positions shall be invited to attend a Council meeting as a scheduled appointment to state their interest. This meeting shall be either prior to or on the same night of their nomination.
   4. Boards and Committees shall meet at minimum once a year as a scheduled appointment to provide an overview of their activities and member attendance reports.
   5. Board & Committee and non-Town employee items for presentation and/or items requiring action of the Council will be placed under Scheduled Appointment.
   6. Town employee items for presentation and/or items requiring action of the Council will be placed under New Business/Old Business.

e. Old Business
   1. Business carried over from a previous meeting.

f. New Business
   1. New Business should be submitted to the Town Administrator or Council Chair.
   2. New Business submitted by end of business two Thursdays before a regular meeting may be considered for the next meeting by request. The Chair may schedule the topic on the Agenda under New Business as the schedule allows. Any new business brought forward at a council meeting shall not be acted upon at that meeting except by a motion to waive this rule by vote of 2/3rd of the members present.
   3. New Business submitted after end of business two Thursdays preceding a regular scheduled meeting will be considered for the next meeting agenda unless time sensitivity is determined by Town Administrator or Chair.
8. Non-Public Session
   a. The Council Chair shall motion for the appropriate non-public session section of NH RSA 91-A:3 II (a – l) when entering the non-public session based on the subject matter as previously discussed with the Town Administrator. This motion must be seconded by a Councilor and have a roll call vote with the majority in the affirmative. This by no means restricts any Town Councilor from motioning to go into non-public session with the appropriate citation.
   b. The Council shall motion to exit in non-public. In public session a motion is made to seal the minutes of the non-public session as appropriate.
   c. Non-public sessions do not require motions to extend the meeting past 9:30pm.
   d. A councilor not present at the time non-public session minutes are taken shall receive these sealed minutes along with the rest of the Council.
   e. Non-public minutes, per RSA 91-A:3, shall include the names of members, persons appearing before the public bodies, and a brief description of the subject matter discussed and final decisions. Minutes are not verbatim.
   f. Non-public minutes and/or material in possession of Town Councilors at a Council meeting shall be handed into Administration at the end of the meeting for shredding of confidential information.
   g. All sealed non-public meeting minutes (discussions and materials included) are confidential until such time these minutes are unsealed.
   h. Unsealing of the non-public session minutes for the current fiscal year (June 1st to May 31st) shall occur annually at the Council’s last meeting in May when, in the opinion of a majority of members, the circumstances that sealed the minutes no longer apply in accordance with RSA 91:3 III.

9. Filing Agenda items
   a. Every item of business to come before the Council for action must be filed with the Town Administrator or Council Chair no later than end of business two Thursdays prior to the regular Council Meeting.
   b. The Agenda shall be posted by the close of business on the Wednesday prior to the regular Council Meeting.
   c. It shall be the duty of the Town Administrator to mail by first class postage said agenda and any available supporting documents to each Councilor (if not already picked-up) by Thursday of the week prior to the regular Council Meeting unless a Councilor requests, in writing, to receive it in electronic format only.

10. Addressing the Council
    a. Persons other than members of the Council shall not be permitted to address the Council except during the designated agenda Public Input or by invitation of the Chair with consensus by Council.
    b. A time limit for addressing the Council may be established by the Chair.
    c. The speaker shall not enter into a debate with any person, the Chair or Council members.

11. Amendment To Rules
    a. Council rules may be suspended by a 2/3-majority vote of all Council members. The purpose for suspension must be clearly stated before the vote is taken and 2/3 of all Council members must declare the matter one of such priority that it would be detrimental to hold over until the next regular Council Meeting.
    b. The rules may be amended or new rules adopted by a 2/3 vote of all members of the Council. Any such proposed alteration or amendment by any Councilor shall be submitted in writing at a regular Council Meeting under the order of new business.
11. Community Outreach

a. The Council Chair has the authority to act on the Council’s behalf to present and/or sign letters of achievement for community outreach to include but not limited to Town of Hooksett departments, businesses, residents, and volunteer or membership groups. This authority is for times when the community outreach happens off-schedule to Town Council meetings.

12. Procedure for Adoption of Ordinances pursuant to Section 3.6 of the Charter.

a. Prior to a Council member introducing an ordinance, the Council shall discuss the contents which may include editorial revisions and textual modifications. An ordinance needing revisions based on this discussion will be brought back to the Council in a final format at their next scheduled meeting. The final version of an ordinance shall be introduced by one Councilor for a public hearing at the Council’s next scheduled meeting. No second to a motion and/or vote is required to move an ordinance to a public hearing. The Council shall not take final action on any proposed ordinance until at least seven (7) days after said public hearing(s).

b. After the public hearing the Council shall put the proposed ordinance in final form, which may include editorial revisions and textual modifications resulting from the proceedings of that hearing. An additional public hearing shall be held if the ordinance is substantively altered by the Town Council after public hearing. Subsequent public hearings shall be held at least 14 days after the prior public hearing and with the notice provided in Section 3.5 (A) of the Charter. The Council shall not take final action on any proposed ordinance until at least seven (7) days after said public hearing(s).

13. Procedure for Town Administrator Annual Evaluation

a. Council’s first meeting in May – Council will receive Town Administrator’s self-evaluation to include status on his/her goals with comments for period ending June 30th of the same fiscal year along with a blank evaluation form.

b. Council’s second meeting in May - Councilors are to have completed and submitted their town administrators evaluation form via e-mail to the council chair prior to, or are to hand deliver it at the beginning of the meeting. Councilors will then discuss in non-public, the evaluations and will finalize them into one report by a simple majority vote. Only town councilors will be in attendance during this non-public session to discuss and finalize the evaluation of the Town Administrator. The Town Administrator will receive the evaluation from the council at this meeting.

c. Council’s first meeting in June - Council will discuss the evaluation report with the Town Administrator.

d. Council’s annual July/August Workshop meeting – New council to establish goals for new fiscal year.

14. Standing Moment of Silence
a. The Council Chair may call a moment of silence for the deceased with ascent of the Town Council at the beginning of the meeting

15. Special Recognition
a. Special Recognition may include but is not limited to:
   - Hooksett Youth Achiever of the Month
   - Boston Post Cane Recipient
   - Retiring employees
   - Longevity employees (at Council’s last regularly scheduled meeting each September)

16. Town Administrator’s Report
a. New hires will be invited and encouraged to attend the Council meeting following his/her hire date when the Town Administrator will announce his/her Department, name and start date.”

17. Approval of Minutes
a. Public minutes, per RSA 91-A:3, shall include the names of members, persons appearing before the public bodies, and a brief description of the subject matter discussed and final decisions. Minutes are not verbatim.

b. Public minutes shall be posted (open to public inspection) not more than 5 business days after the meeting. These minutes, per RSA 91-A:3, shall be treated as permanent records of any public body.

c. Councilors, public or staff identifying corrections to Town Council minutes shall submit their corrections to the Town Council Secretary on or before the start of the meeting scheduled for review. Corrections do not include changing or adding wording not stated at the meeting.

d. The Council Chair, at the “Approval of Minutes” agenda section, will request the following motion “Councilor #1 motion to approve the public minutes of Date. Seconded by Councilor #2.”

e. The Council Chair shall inquire with the Town Council Secretary for any corrections to the minutes; Secretary will read the corrections into the record, if applicable.

f. If there are corrections to the minutes, amend 17d motion above “Councilor #1 I amend my motion to add “as corrected”. Seconded by Councilor #2.”

g. A vote of 17d or 17f above is taken (roll call not required).

h. If changes are to be made to minutes (17b above), changes are detailed in the minutes of the subsequent meeting. As the minutes are being prepared for permanent storage in paper format, the Town Clerk will add a notation to the permanent record of the first meeting that corrections were made, and give an exact reference to the page where the changes appear in the minutes of the subsequent meeting.

18. Public Hearings
a. The Town of Hooksett follows the NH State statutes (RSAs) and Town Charter in determining when a public hearing is required for agenda items before the Town Council.

Below are the items that require public hearings (these have a public notice in the Union Leader):
• **New or amended Town Ordinances** - notice is per Chapter 231:132-a of the NH Revised Statutes annotated, and section 3.6 of the Hooksett Town Charter

• **New or amended Town Charter** – notice is per NH RSA 49-B:5

• **Accept Donation/Grant/Reimbursement of Funds over $10,000** – notice per RSA 31:95-b, III (a) (ex. 1) NHDOT Bridge Aid funds reimbursement for the Benton Road Culvert project, 2) FEMA funds for the reimbursement of February 8th, 9th, & 10th 2013 severe snowstorm expenses, 3) New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency grant to allow for 18 DWI/DUI overtime patrols

• **Accept Donation of Property over $5,000** – notice per RSA 31:95 e, II (ex. Catholic Medical Center in Manchester NH to the Hooksett Fire-Rescue Department and the Town of Hooksett in the amount of $14,500.00 (Physio-Control LUCAS 2 device)

• **New or amended Hazard Mitigation Plan**

• **Town Roadway Improvements** – (ex. project alternatives for the roadway improvements design(s) at the Hooksett Hackett Hill Road and Rte. 3A intersection)

• **Discontinuance of Class VI Town Roadway**

• **Conservation Easements** – notice is per NH RSA 36-A & NH RSA 477:45-47

*Note: Land use items require 10 day prior public notice in Union Leader and all other items require 7 days.*

**Public Hearings not required, however Town may conduct out of courtesy (these do NOT have a public notice in the Union Leader):**

• **Establishing Town Roadway Speed Limits**

• **Renaming Town Roadways** - (ex. Water Works Drive, Hooksett, NH for the closed off portion/loop of Industrial Park Dr. that will be closed off due to the GE Expansion)

• **Potential Departmental Reorganizations**

19. **Tabling an agenda item**
   a. Any Councilor may make the motion to table.
   b. Tabling is needed when more information on the subject matter is needed for the Council to make a decision.
   c. Tabling of an agenda item should indicate the date certain of the next time the item is to appear on the Council’s agenda and what information the Council is seeking at that meeting.
   d. Tabling an agenda item takes precedence over any main motion not yet stated by the Chair.
   e. When the item tabled is to be discussed again, Council first needs to make a motion to remove from the table.