

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY, JULY 18, 2016 AT 5:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBER – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

Minutes

1. Roll Call

Present: Council Chair Cindy Mehnert, Sam Kunz, Tom Spitz, Geoff Gordon, Judy Sullivan, Tom Perry, Town Manager Sophie Wilson, Assistant Town Manager Belle Ryder, Economic Development Director Dave Milan, and Fire Chief Rob St. Louis.

Finance

2. Cemetery Investment Strategies and Policy

Representatives from The First (Nazrin Dixon, Peter Nickerson and Matt Weaver) were present to discuss cemetery investment strategies and the draft policy. Mr. Nickerson spoke of diversification to reduce risk and investing for long-term growth. Committee members discussed aspects of the investment strategies and policy.

Ms. Sullivan asked about discussing other fund investments at a future meeting.

The Committee discussed adding language that talks about investing in socially responsible funds instead of restricting specific funds.

Ms. Wilson noted that with an investment policy, Council will be able to move funds into investments. The First will review the performance of the funds with Council annually.

Ms. Wilson stated that she will talk with the Town Auditor before giving The First an amount to invest. She stated that she would also work on the proposal and finalize the policy. She would also work with The First. The Committee agreed with Ms. Wilson's direction.

Operations

3. Council Committee Meeting Structure and Operation

Ms. Wilson discussed the Council Committee Meeting structure and operations regarding balancing the need for transparency and full participation with making efficient use of Councilors' time.

Ms. Sullivan noted that the public does not hear the great discussions that Councilors have at the committee level. She suggested having more of the discussion at the Council meetings.

Ms. Wilson suggested putting some of the items directly on the Council agenda for consideration. She suggested having one Committee meeting and one Council meeting per month with two Comp Plan Implementation meetings and a special meeting as needed. The Committee agreed with Ms. Wilson's suggestions.

The Committee agreed to have more of the discussions occur at the Council Meetings.

4. Videoing and Broadcasting Council Committee Meetings

Ms. Wilson stated that at the June 27, 2017 Council Meeting, a community member raised the concern that much of Council's deliberative process is undertaken in Council Committee, which is not videoed or broadcast over the Town's cable access and Youtube channels. Committee meetings are audio taped and posted on the Town's website the next business day.

The Committee discussed videotaping and broadcasting the Council Committee Meetings.

The Committee agreed to have staff make the changes to the Committee and Council agendas and come back to the idea of videotaping committee meetings later. The Committee agreed to continue audio taping the committee meetings and having staff recap items discuss in committee.

5. Pine Street Parking Lot Project Scope

At the last regular Council Meeting, Council inquired about modifying the scope of work for the Pine Street Parking Lot project to include the installation of underground conduit that could be used for fiber optic lines in the future.

Assistant Town Manager Belle Ryder and Public Works Director Rob Yerxa provided information on what would be involved in modifying the project scope, which included time constraints, costs and unknown logistics for fiber location. Mr. Yerxa noted that there would be ways to micro trench (retrofit) the conduit lines when more information is known.

The Committee agreed not to rush into making changes to include conduit in the Pine Street Parking Lot project and to continue with the current paving plan.

6. Economic Development Director Update

Dave Milan updated the Council Committee on several Economic Development changes:

Nexxlinx's desire to restructure the company; Camden National Bank's Orono branch closing in October; Van Syckle Kia's utilization of the old State Police barracks; and possible reutilization of the Vape Shop space.

Ms. Wilson presented the option of buying the Camden National Bank property. The Committee agreed not to purchase the property, stating that it is in the Town's best interest to increase taxable property.

7. Brief Town Manager's Update

Ms. Wilson stated that the Orono-Veazie Water District will be using the Council Chambers on July 25, 2016 so there will not be a Council Committee Meeting. She noted that the next Council Committee Meeting on the Comp Plan Implementation will be held on July 28, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

8. Adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Minutes are not verbatim. A tape-recorded version is available in the Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward
Administrative Assistant