

**COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present: Council Chair Cindy Mehnert, Tom Perry, Meghan Gardner, Sam Kunz, Cheryl Robertson, Terry Greenier and Town Manager Sophie Wilson. Absent: Laurie Osher.

2. Agenda Review - None

3. Approval of Minutes of January 13, 2020

Moved by Tom Perry and seconded by Sam Kunz. All voted in favor, 6-0.

4. Public Hearings

a. To consider a Victualer's License for Nest Coffee, LLC, 24 Main Street.

Public hearing a. opened at 7:03 p.m. Community Development Director Dave Milan reported that all inspections have been completed, personal property taxes and sewer are current and staff recommends approval of the license. No public comments were made. Public hearing a. closed at 7:04 p.m.

b. To consider a Contract Zone Amendment request by Sons of Carpentry, LLC to amend an existing Contract Zone for 117-121 Mill Street to allow for an additional residential dwelling unit on the second floor of the structure.

Public hearing b. opened at 7:04 p.m. Town Planner Kyle Drexler reported the contract zone amendment request was reviewed by Council Committee, and the Planning Board and Council each held public hearings. He explained this property is currently a contract zone that allows commercial activity on the first and second floor, with limited residential use on the third floor. The property owner has requested that the contract be amended to allow residential use of the building on the second floor. Mr. Drexler explained the request meets the goal of the Comprehensive Plan. He commented the contract states there will be no access to the roof and noted a fire escape has been built. No public comments were made. Public hearing b. closed at 7:07 p.m.

5. Acknowledgments by Council Members

Terry Greenier acknowledged the UMaine Hockey Team for their winning streak. He also acknowledged the Orono High School Boys Varsity Basketball Team for qualifying for the playoffs.

Meghan Gardner acknowledged everyone's civic duty to get out and vote. She noted the upcoming events: The Presidential Primary - March 3rd, the Democratic Caucus - March 8th and the Municipal Election - March 10th. She acknowledged the Town Clerk and staff's readiness to serve with the three events in one week.

Tom Perry acknowledged the passing of two longtime residents, Joan Logue who served as a public nurse and school nurse, and Jim Treadwell who was a longtime employee of the University.

Sam Kunz acknowledged the Public Works crew for their efforts with snow and ice removal.

6. Unfinished Business - None

7. Consent Agenda

Order 20-19 Order, approving a Victualer's License for Nest Coffee, LLC, 24 Main Street.

Order 20-20 Order, accepting the Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust Wellness Grant in the amount of \$3,360 for the Town's 2020 Employee Wellness Advanced Funding Program.

Moved by Sam Kunz and seconded by Tom Perry to approve the consent agenda. All voted in favor, 6-0.

8. New Business

Order 20-21 Order, adopting an Expansion of the Village Commercial Zoning District to convert 85, 87, 88 and 92 Main Street from Medium Density Residential to Village Commercial.

Moved by Sam Kunz and seconded by Cheryl Robertson. All voted in favor, 6-0.

Town Planner Kyle Drexler stated the expansion of the Village Commercial Zoning District to include the four parcels along Main Street has been reviewed by the Council Committee, Council Workshop, Planning Board, and Council public hearing and is now ready for adoption.

Order 20-22 Order, adopting Ordinance Amendments to the Town of Orono Ordinances, Chapter 18 Land Use, Section 18-152 Mobile Food Vendors, to Implement Standards for Mobile Food Vendors, and related sections.

Moved by Tom Perry and seconded by Cheryl Robertson. All voted in favor, 6-0.

Mr. Drexler stated the Land Use Ordinance amendments have been reviewed by the Council Committee, Council Workshop, Planning Board, and Council public hearing.

Ms Wilson stated this amendment addresses a use that does not currently have a permitting process for mobile food vendors and puts standards in place that will allow staff to deal efficiently with simple requests, and go to the Planning Board with more complicated requests.

Order 20-23 Order, calling a municipal referendum election on June 9, 2020, pursuant to 22 MRSA § 2656, for the purpose of allowing the voters to consider whether to cease fluoridating the public water supply.

Moved by Sam Kunz and seconded by Cheryl Robertson. All voted in favor, 6-0.

Ms. Wilson stated resident Matt Ackerson contacted her asking whether Council would consider the question of removing fluoride from the public water supply. Mr. Ackerson met with Orono Veazie Water District (OVWD) Superintendent Boyd Smith, who then prompted Town staff to research Orono's fluoridation history. Ms. Wilson noted that State Law vests all power regarding the decision to add or remove fluoride from the public water supply to the voters of the communities served by that public water supply. Ms. Wilson provided some background history and noted since 1962 time has passed and the chemistry has changed.

She explained details of how the referendum election must be held simultaneously with both Orono and Veazie; with the results of the election determined by which position receives the most total votes.

Ms. Wilson stated the District is being strongly advised to stay neutral in the discussion and ask the towns to lead the discussion/decision related to holding a public referendum on this question. As a result of this meeting, the District has provided the Towns of Orono and Veazie with a letter indicating that they've received inquiries about fluoridation of the public water supply and suggest that it might be a good time for the Town Councils to put the question out to residents as to whether they should continue to add fluoride to the water supply.

Ms. Wilson described the timeframe:

- Council signs warrants officially calling the Election (3/9)
- Staff finds factual information supporting and opposing fluoridation of public water supplies and posts on website
- Public Hearing held in each Orono (4/27) and Veazie (4/13)
- Absentee Balloting starting 4/28 and the Election held on 6/9.

Ms. Gardner expressed concern for wanting more time to consider the issue. Ms. Wilson noted Council will not be taking a position on the subject, but providing information out to the voters by holding a public hearing (4/27) and posting information on the Town's website.

Susan Whitmore commented on health concerns from fluoride in the water supply.

Mr. Ackerson commented on his extensive research on the topic and presented information on the negative effects of fluoride.

Ms. Gardner expressed concern about having enough time to educate the public. Ms. Wilson stated the pros and cons of fluoride will be presented at the next Council meeting. Mr. Perry commented he did not have an opinion on the subject and supported having the voters consider the issue.

Order 20-24 Order, authorizing the Town Manager to purchase a Stryker Power Load Assembly for the Ambulance (#259) from Sugarloaf Ambulance/Rescue Vehicles of Wilton, Maine in an amount not to exceed \$21,000 with funds drawn from Ambulance Reserve.

Moved by Tom Perry and seconded by Cheryl Robertson. All voted in favor, 6-0.

Fire Chief Geoff Low stated the Stryker Power Load system is an ambulance mounted device that mechanically loads and unloads a patient laden stretcher. By utilizing a mechanical device there is a significant reduction in the risk of employees experiencing cumulative trauma injuries to the spine associated with manual loading. Additionally, the process of loading and unloading from the ambulance becomes safer for the patient because much of the unpredictable human element is removed from the process. This purchase will ensure that both ambulances have the same safety equipment and will further limit lifting injuries.

Council appreciated the demonstration and the opportunity to see how the power load system works.

Order 20-25 Order, authorizing the grant application for an \$11,000, non-matching, grant from the Gary Sinise Foundation, and if awarded, acceptance of funds to install an industrial-grade washer and dryer to clean the Fire Department protective outer garments.

Moved by Sam Kunz and seconded by Tom Perry. All voted in favor, 6-0.

Fire Chief Low explained the Gary Sinise Foundation grant opportunity, which if awarded, will allow an industrial-grade washer and dryer to be installed in the Fire Department to clean protective outer garments. This type of equipment is an essential component of the on-going efforts to reduce exposure to carcinogens and extend the service life of the garments.

Order 20-26 Order, appointing Laura Mitchell to fill the remainder of an unexpired five-year term ending December 31, 2023 on the Orono-Veazie Water District Board of Trustees.

Moved by Tom Perry and seconded by Sam Kunz. All voted in favor, 6-0.

Tom Perry stated the town is fortunate to have such a well qualified candidate.

9. Council Committee/Representative Reports

Community Development Committee – Sam Kunz stated the Committee met on January 16th to discuss a Land Use Ordinance related to excavation and filling of land and a request to remove fluoride from the public water supply..

Finance-Operation Committee – Tom Perry stated the January meeting was cancelled and rescheduled to meet on February 11st.

Comp Plan Committee - Meghan Gardner stated the Committee met on February 3th to continue discussing the Village Residential District concept and to receive a recreation trails update.

Orono Historical Society (OHS) – Ms. Gardner stated the Committee will meet on the first Monday of the Month at 4pm versus 1pm to encourage participation. She noted residents can join and support OHS with an annual \$10 membership fee.

Bicentennial Committee - Terry Greenier reported the Committee is in the progress of planning a 5K road race this summer and he noted Melissa Garrity will assist with the Taste of Orono event. He noted information about the activities will be linked to the Town’s website.

10. Future Agenda Items/Items of Concern

Cheryl Robertson announced that Tween and Teen Night with Council is scheduled for March 16th at 6PM in Council Chambers.

11. Public Petitions -None

12. Public Comments

Cameron Hamel introduced herself as the UMaine Student Council Liaison.

Susan Whitmore wished everyone a Happy Valentines Day.

13. Adjournment

At 8:05 pm, Cheryl Robertson moved and Tom Perry seconded to adjourn. All voted in favor, 6-0.

Minutes are not verbatim. A video-recorded version is available on the Town’s website at www.orono.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward
Executive Assistant