

**TOWN OF ORONO  
COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBER - MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**1. Roll Call**

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

**2. Agenda Review - None**

**3. Approval of Minutes of February 10, 2020**

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

**4. Public Hearings - None**

**5. Acknowledgments by Council Members**

Terry Greenier acknowledged the Old Town-Orono High School Hockey Team for being Northern Maine Champions and runner up at the State Championship. He also noted the University of Maine will be hosting their playoffs starting Friday night and Orono Brewing Company will hold a pep rally Thursday night.

Cheryl Robertson thanked members of the community for their written testimony on LD2104 regarding producer's stewardship, which would bring more revenue back to the municipality. Ms. Robertson reminded residents of Teen & Tween Night at Council, March 16th at 6pm, where teenagers can voice their concerns to Council.

Meghan Gardner reminded residents to vote at the Municipal Election on March 10th in Council Chambers (7am-8pm) for Council and School Board seats.

Laurie Osher acknowledged the Town Clerk and staff for their efforts during the recent State Presidential Primary Election. She noted that over 900 new registrations were processed that day and it was exciting to see citizens exercising their right to vote.

Sam Kunz stated there is a RSU#26 School Board seat open. Information will be made available on the Town's website later this week. The Town has received a resignation and will need to appoint a new School Board member.

Cindy Mehnert thanked staff for their efforts with the recent Election and commented on the great turnout.

6. **Unfinished Business** - None

7. **Consent Agenda** - None

8. **New Business**

**Order 20-27 Order, approving the June 9, 2020 Special Municipal Referendum Warrant to determine whether voters in Orono support ceasing the practice of fluoridating the public water supply and, further, setting the date of April 27, 2020 at 6:00PM for the statutorily required public hearing to allow for public comment on this matter.**

Moved by Sam Kunz and seconded by Meghan Gardner. All voted in favor, 6-0.

Town Manager Wilson provided a brief overview of why the Council is considering a Special Municipal Referendum on this issue. She noted Council is the only one to call an election. It was voted in 1962 to start fluoridation, so to consider reversing that action requires a referendum vote. She stated that fluoridation was introduced to prevent tooth decay. Proponents of fluoridation include the CDC, the American Dental Association and the American Health Association. Opponents include the Fluoride Action Network that states it accumulates in the body and is no longer necessary. The Orono Veazie Water District supports a referendum.

Ms. Wilson presented the next steps if the warrant is approved: public hearings would be held in Veazie (4/13/20) and Orono (4/27/20) and the referendum would be voted on June 9th.

Meghan Gardner noted the Council does not have a position on this issue. Ms. Osher stated information will be provided and questions answered at the public hearing, April 27th.

**Order 20-28 Order, approving the 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.**

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

Town Planner Kyle Drexler stated the contract zone amendment would add residential dwelling on the second floor.

Ms. Gardner noted that Council discussed the impact on the neighborhood and the owner's willingness to address not allowing residents to have rooftop access.

**Order 20-29 Order, authorizing the Town Manager to order two (2) 2020 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicles from Darling's Bangor Ford of Bangor in the amount of \$76,606 (\$38,303 each); along with equipment installed by Custom Installations, LLC of Levant not to exceed \$15,000 and additional cruiser preparation of up to \$1,500 for a total cost of up to**

**\$93,106 with funds drawn from the FY21 Capital Equipment Budget after July 1, 2020.**

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

Police Chief Josh Ewing explained the need to order the cruisers now to get ahead of the production order requests in July. He noted that Public Works was able to install a used motor in one of the cruisers. Chief Ewing explained the two highest mileage cruisers will be taken off the road and put out to bid.

Ms. Mehnert noted this rotation of cruisers is what the Town usually does.

**Order 20-30 Order, awarding the bid for a Dump Body, Material Spreader, Plow, Wing and associated equipment and controls to Viking-Cives of Lewiston for \$103,115 to be drawn from the approved FY20 Capital Equipment Budget.**

Moved by Sam Kunz and seconded by Laurie Osher. All voted in favor, 6-0.

Public Works Director Rob Yerxa explained the bids for two truck bodies and one chassis (the first chassis was received in December). The total truck investment for the FY20 truck is \$185,139. The second truck was part of the State bid process and the total investment for the FY21 truck is approximately \$183,000. He noted by ordering them now, the truck will arrive by the FY20-21 season.

**Order 20-31 Order, authorizing the purchase of a 2021 International HV607 Heavy Duty Truck Chassis from Daigle & Houghton of Hermon in the amount of \$108,870, less the trade-in value for the 2006 Sterling Plow Truck, for a total expense of \$86,870 to be drawn from the approved FY21 Capital Equipment Budget.**

Moved by Sam Kunz and seconded by Laurie Osher. All voted in favor, 6-0.

**Order 20-32 Order, awarding the bid for a Dump Body, Material Spreader, Plow, Wing and associated equipment and controls to Viking-Cives Lewiston for \$96,885 to be drawn from the approved FY21 Capital Equipment Budget.**

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

## **9. Council Committee/Representative Reports**

**Comp Plan Implementation & Community Development Committees** – Meghan Gardner stated the Committees met on February 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the concept of a mixed-use conditional zoning district to provide a buffer between the Village Commercial and Medium Density Residential Districts.

**Orono Historical Society (OHS)** – Ms. Gardner stated the Committee will continue to meet on the first Monday of the Month at 4pm.

**Bicentennial Committee** - Terry Greenier reported on the activities that will take place Saturday at the Stone Manor with the Taste of Orono and the author’s talk on “Mainers on the Titanic” in the Council Chamber.

### **10. Future Agenda Items/Items of Concern**

Ms. Robertson requested a discussion item of moving the Public Comments section of the Council Agenda to the front of the agenda.

Ms. Gardner requested a discussion item regarding drafting language for Council Communications, what is appropriate and normal.

Mr. Kunz noted RSU26 Board meetings have Public Comments at the beginning of the meetings.

Ms. Wilson suggested a discussion item regarding a Council Purchasing Policy. She noted individual Council purchases have not been allowed in the past.

Ms. Osher requested a discussion item to develop a plan to take advantage of new State Legislation regarding energy efficiency to enhance our fleet.

### **11. Public Petitions - None**

### **12. Public Comments**

Susan Whitmore commented on the fluoridation issue. She noted Naomi Parker Freley, the real “Rosie the Riveter,” died at 96 years old. She wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick’s Day.

### **13. Adjournment**

At 7:45pm, Sam Kunz moved and Cheryl Robertson 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](http://www.orono.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward  
Executive Assistant