

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

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

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

2. Agenda Review - None

3. Presentation Recognizing Councilor Spitz

Councilors recognized Councilor Tom Spitz for 15 years of dedicated service to the Town of Orono. They acknowledged his work in public safety and risk management, his knowledge and calm nature, and for being a great resource of information. Mr. Spitz noted that he was retiring to enjoy time with his grandchildren.

4. Approval of Minutes of February 11 and February 25, 2019

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

5. Public Hearings

- a. **To consider Ordinance Amendments to the Town of Orono Ordinances, Repealing and Replacing Chapter 26 Parks and Recreation, to include regulation of Town Owned Parks and Open Space.**

Public hearing a. opened at 7:10 p.m. Parks and Recreation Director Mitch Stone stated that the proposed ordinance attempts to provide more uniform regulations across all Town owned properties with added regulations for Nadeau Savoy Memorial Park (Gould's Landing) for its unique attributes. The proposed ordinance is structured to allow for a repeal and replacement of the current ordinance. Mr. Stone reviewed the three major changes to the ordinance: No hunting on Town owned property; leash law for parks and opens spaces (including trails); and the ability to police future trail agreements.

Susan Whitmore asked about the hunting law and the leash law. Ms. Wilson described the area of "no discharge of firearms"; from the center of Stillwater Avenue to the Penobscot River.

In reference to the leash law, Councilors spoke of the desire for safety for all people on the trails. Ms. Wilson explained that private landowners have granted trail access across their property, but the Town had received complaints from the landowners about dogs running across their

properties and exhibiting destructive behavior. No public comments were made. Public hearing a. closed at 7:25 p.m.

6. Acknowledgments by Council Members

Cheryl Robertson acknowledged all the children that attended Kids Night with Council.

Meghan Gardner reminded everyone that the Municipal Election will be held tomorrow (March 12th) from 7am-8pm in the Council Chambers. She encouraged residents to vote.

Tom Spitz thanked the Council, staff, his family and people in the community for 15 wonderful years on Council. He acknowledged some of major changes that have occurred over those years.

Laurie Osher acknowledged the Orono High School One Act Play for coming in first in their division.

Sam Kunz acknowledged the Orono Middle School and High School's Show Choirs for their performances, noting that the State performances are coming up. He also acknowledged the upcoming RSU26 Facilities Meeting scheduled for March 21st at the Orono High School and the success of Kids Night with Council.

Cindy Mehnert acknowledged Assistant Town Manager Belle Ryder for representing OTO Fiber Corporation with the Post Road Foundation in promoting rural areas internet services.

7. Unfinished Business - None

8. Consent Agenda

Order 19-29 Order, setting the date of April 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, 59 Main Street, for the purpose of receiving public comments regarding the Town's application for funding through the Office of Economic and Community Development for a Community Enterprise Grant Program, Business Facade Grant. Eligible activities include approved exterior improvements to Byers Manufacturing building, 74 Mill Street.

Order 19-30 Order, authorizing the Town Manager to sign an Agreement with Regional School Unit 26 (RSU 26) for the Orono Police Department School Resource Officer (SRO) Program.

Order 19-31 Order, authorizing the Town Manager to execute a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Air National Guard, 101st Air Refueling Wing, to provide the legal framework through which the Town of Orono Fire Department can give and receive Mutual Aid.

Order 19-32 Order, deeming FY2017 Personal Property Tax of \$3,727.50 assessed to Pine State Trading Company (Acct. #495) as uncollectible, and

authorizing the Town Manager to write off the outstanding tax and accrued interest.

Order 19-33 Order, accepting the Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust Wellness Grant in the amount of \$2,360 for the Town’s 2019 Employee Wellness Program.

Order 19-34 Order, confirming the expenditure for emergency repairs to the Public Works 2009 International 7400SB Plow Truck in the amount of \$5,867.10 by Daigle & Houghton with funds drawn from the approved FY19 Public Works Operating Budget.

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

9. New Business

Order 19-35 Order, adopting Ordinance Amendments to the Town of Orono Ordinances, Repealing and Replacing Chapter 26 Parks and Recreation, to include regulation of Town Owned Parks and Open Space.

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

Meaghan Gardner commented that one of the changes is to post swimming areas as “swim at your own risk”. Mitch Stone noted that the swimming areas are not being closed, but the Town wants to make people aware of safety concerns.

Order 19-36 Order, adopting the Orono Town Council Practices and Policy Manual.

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

Ms. Wilson stated that the draft Practices and Policy Manual has been reviewed by Council several times at Council Workshops.

10. Council Committee/Representative Reports

Comp Plan Implementation Committee – Chair Meghan Gardner reported that the Committee met March 4th and reviewed registering Short-Term Residential Properties. She noted that the discussion will continue next meeting.

Orono Historical Society (OHS)– Ms. Gardner stated that the display in the Council foyer has been changed by OHS. She stated there will be a rededication of the Civil War Monument coming soon.

Community Development Committee – Ms. Mehnert stated that the Committee met on February 21st and discussed formalizing standards and permitting of the Farmer’s Market and

community-oriented strategic planning for the Fire Department. She noted that community forums will be forthcoming.

Finance and Operations Committee – Ms. Wilson stated that the Finance and Operations Committee was moved to the third Tuesday of the month and will be held on March 19th.

11. Future Agenda Items/Items of Concern

Cheryl Robertson reviewed some of the suggestions presented from the children attending Kids Night with Council: Change out the trash can in the Basin, Orono outside days and lights on the soccer field. Ms. Mehnert noted that lights on the soccer field would be taken up with RSU#26.

Sam Kunz commented that some UMaine students will be attending the March 28th Community Development Committee meeting to seek support of banning plastics.

12. Public Petitions - None

13. Public Comments

Susan Whitmore congratulated Tom Spitz for his years on Council. She also wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Ms. Wilson thanked Tom Spitz, on behalf of staff, for his support and assistance throughout the years. She also thanked him for raising community-minded children, noting that Ryan Tipping-Spitz assisted with naming the Brandon Silk Memorial Bridge and more.

Ms. Wilson acknowledged Town Clerk Shelly Crosby for having the State choose Orono as a site to train new clerks about the election process. She acknowledged students from the UMaine CMJ class for attending the meeting.

Ms. Wilson commented that Council has been given a list of upcoming meetings. She noted that the meetings will work around the holidays that are important to the community. With Ramadan (during the month of May), the meetings will end by sundown.

14. Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6)(D) To Discuss Collective Bargaining with IAFF Local 3106 and Maine Association of Police - Orono Unit

At 7:55 p.m., Sam Kunz motioned and Tom Spitz seconded to move into executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations with IAFF Local 3106 and Maine Association of Police – Orono Unit. All voted in favor, 6-0.

At 9:30 p.m., Laurie Osher motioned and Meghan Gardner seconded to move into regular session. All voted in favor, 6-0.

15. Adjournment

At 9:31 p.m., Laurie Osher 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward
Executive Assistant