

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL VIRTUAL BUDGET WORKSHOP
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020 AT 4:00PM**

**WATCH ONLINE AT
<https://zoom.us/j/95757882930>
(LINK AVAILABLE AT ORONO.ORG)**

*Comments can be submitted via email before the meeting at info@orono.org
and during the meeting by using Zoom comment features.*

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

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

2. FY21 Municipal Budget Discussion

Public Safety - Discussion of the HazMat budget.

3. Discussion: Request to Recognize Pride Month (June)

Councilors discussed ways to recognize Pride Month which included: A discussion regarding painting a rainbow crosswalk and the legal guidelines about this topic and in the future, applying for a waiver to paint a rainbow crosswalk; Pride flags on the Brandon Silk Memorial Bridge; Pride sculptures around the towntown; and Pride business window paintings in the downtown area.

The Council agreed to consider applying for a waiver to paint a rainbow crosswalk at the June 15, 2020 Council Meeting (or when information is available) and also to consider approving a June Pride Month Proclamation.

Public Comments:

Cami Carter - Has anyone on the Council or in the town spoken with Bangor about how they made this (painting the rainbow crosswalk) happen in their city?

Lauren Ashley Tuell - I appreciate you all taking this into consideration and also think it needs to be mentioned that our crosswalks now are definitely not up to code!

Lauren Ashley Tuell - They are fading and almost completely gone on Mill Street.

Rob Jackson - Grateful for all the work you all do! As we consider ways to honor Pride month, I urge you all to consider ways we can truly improve the lives of LGBTQIA+ folks in Orono.

Many organizations and businesses use June to make shallow attempts to appear inclusive, but I hope to see something that runs much deeper here in my hometown!

Cami Carter - I don't think it's a law, it's a federal guideline.

Lauren Ashley Tuell - I am the owner of the new plant shop downtown on the corner of Mill Street and am up for helping any way possible to make this happen as well. Doing rainbow crosswalks would be a wonderful way to brighten up our town. Especially right now! I love what you took the time to write and couldn't agree more - thank you!

Mariah Hayden - Can you clarify if we are talking about crosswalks or sidewalks? Or is it both?

Rob Jackson - I'm not opposed to a crosswalk, but in my experience working with LGBTQ+ students at the university, that's not what most folks who experience homophobia and/or transphobia want to see. Rainbow capitalism runs rampant in June and then folks often feel neglected or unseen the other 11 months of the year. I'd love to see the town use this opportunity to make a real, ongoing commitment to being inclusive beyond visibility.

Cami Carter - What have we done in this community in the past to celebrate pride? This seems like a wonderful way to permanently celebrate pride (with the understanding that it would go away with time). I so agree, Councilor Gardiner, thank you!

Mariah Hayden - Yes! With the LGBTQ+ community there are so many wonderful things that we could do to show support.

Cami Carter - Thank you all! Would the town be willing to store the sculptures with the flags for future use? I know it probably depends on the size. Thank you, Sophie!

Rob Jackson - Thank you all! I know this has been a hard conversation at times, but I'm encouraged by how thoughtful, candid, and passionate folks have been!

Tony Francis - I am willing to donate or buy some kits. Could Sam or Meghan setup a funding Page to accept donations for this? Also, I have the lower half of my barn I could offer for the storage if a place is needed. Dave, great work!

Athena Diligenti - A nice donation to the Health Equity Alliance in Bangor from the town of Orono would be a great way to show support for the LGBTQ+ community in a really tangible way.

4. WPCF Grant Acceptance

Council agreed to consider the WPCF, Maine DEP 2020 Clean Water State Revolving, Climate Adaptation Plan Principal Forgiveness Grant at the June 15, 2020 Council Meeting.

5. Brief Town Manager Report

Ms. Wilson gave a brief report on the following items:

- Put pressure on the State to allow restaurants to have outdoor dining
- Cash flow issues are a concern and she use funds from another account
- Flushable/disposable wipes are not acceptable in the WPCF system and should not be flushed in the system; only the three “p”s are acceptable. Ph issues at the plant.
- State Revenue Sharing losses for FY21.

6. Adjourned at 5:31pm

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