



TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEES MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2022 AT 5:00 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, 59 MAIN STREET, ORONO, MAINE

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present: Council Chair Tom Perry, Meghan Gardner, Cheryl Robertson, Geoffrey Wingard, Sonja Birthisel, Leo Kenney, Robert Laraway, and Town Manager Sophie Wilson.

Council Chair Perry read a notice to the public about public comments.

2. FINANCE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

- a. Final Review of the FY23 Municipal Budget and Related Items** (*Video record time 0:00:15 - 0:06:06*)

Mr. Perry stated that on June 6th, the Town Council agreed on the budget it would present at the annual budget public hearing on June 13th. The municipal, capital, and WPFC budgets were presented, with no public comments received. As part of the budget process, this item is on the agenda to allow for the Town Council to discuss/consider any comments received at the public hearing as a final discussion before the budget adoption on June 27th. Councilors reviewed items in the proposed budget. No public comments were made.

3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- a. Implementation of Town Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Goals** (*Video record time 0:06:07 - 1:37:40*)

Councilor Wingard facilitated a discussion that reviews the work undertaken to date regarding the Town's diversity, equity, and inclusion goals and implementation strategies.

The Committee discussed and provided feedback on the following questions:

1. Given what the Town is doing and what has been recommended, what would the purpose of a DEI committee be?
2. Given this purpose, what does the Council Committee think this DEI Committee should be charged with doing?
3. Given this charge, what does the Council Committee think a DEI Committee should look like?

For details, see the video recording (*Video record time 0:06:07 - 1:37:40*).

Staff will draft the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee's mission, charge, membership, function, and timeline from the information provided by Council.

(Note: The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee's charge was approved by Council on 8/8/2022.)

4. Town Manager's Report (*Video record time 1:37:41 - 2:02:16*)

Ms. Wilson reported on the following items:

- Brandon Silk Memorial Bridge sign has been damaged and will be repaired.
- Private property signs will be posted on the trails.
- The new cruisers are here.
- Auditors continue with the audit process.
- Public safety and frontline staff NAMI training.
- Crosswalk painting.
- Route 2 culvert to be fixed. Road closure during August.
- Mill Street combined stormwater/sewer has been separated.
- Kiwanis \$500 donation for summer concerts.
- Forest/Essex intersection changes, MDOT 4-way stop.
- Police MAP contract to be signed soon.
- State Property Tax Stabilization Program.
- Economic Development - 5 potential housing development projects.
- Tyler Technologies - Contract Zone and site plan to Planning Board in July.
- Economic Development - Efforts to fill downtown and other vacancies.
- Working Communities Challenge Grant.
- Low impact development plan/ordinance.
- Revisions to the Parking Ordinance.
- Zoom equipment backlogged.
- Employee departures and positions to fill.
- Town Council, important to not take position on any candidate.
- Penobscot County Jail construction/expansion proposal and public process.

5. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Sonja Birthisel and seconded by Cheryl Robertson. All unanimously agreed. The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

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