

**TOWN OF ORONO SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021 AT 5:00 PM**

**IN-PERSON**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER – MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
59 MAIN STREET, ORONO, ME 04473**

**ONLINE**

**<https://zoom.us/j/94630265333>**

**DIAL IN TO ZOOM WEBINAR 1 (312) 626-6799  
Webinar ID: 946 3026 5333**

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**1. Roll Call**

Present (in person): Council Chair Tom Perry, Meghan Gardner, Geoffrey Wingard, Laura Mitchell, and Town Manager Sophie Wilson. Present (via Zoom): Cheryl Robertson, Terry Greenier, and Laurie Osher (at 5:09 p.m.).

**2. Public Hearing** (*Video record time 00:20 - 08:13*)

**a. Consideration of a Marijuana Establishment (Retail Store) License for Red Brick & Mortar, d/b/a Firestorm of Orono, 6 Stillwater Avenue, Suite 300.**

Public hearing a. opened at 5:03 p.m. Town Planner Kyle Drexler explained the process for adult use marijuana businesses to seek approval. He stated the Planning Board reviewed the land use and design standards through the site plan process and approved the project. He noted the licensing portion of the approval goes through state and local processes.

Code Enforcement Officer Pat Estey stated staff completed all inspections and is recommending approval of the license.

Owner Salvatore Faro provided background on his local marijuana business endeavors that have had no issues with local communities or the state. He spoke of wanting to open a marijuana establishment at 6 Stillwater Avenue, Orono. Mr. Faro noted he has followed all of the local and state requirements, has received approval from the Planning Board, paid the application fee, and is seeking approval of his license from the Council.

Dawn Lamb attempted to join the meeting, but left without speaking. No public comments were made. Public hearing a. closed at 5:10 p.m. (Councilor Osher joined the meeting at 5:09 p.m.)

### 3. New Business

**Order 21-149 Order, approving a Marijuana Establishment (Retail Store) License for Red Brick & Mortar, d/b/a Firestorm of Orono, 6 Stillwater Avenue, Suite 300. (Video record time 08:16 - 09:31)**

Moved by Meghan Gardner and seconded by Geoff Wingard. All voted in favor, 7-0.

### 4. Town Manager's Report and Review of Upcoming Activity (Video record time 09:32 - 23:02)

Ms. Wilson gave a brief Town Manager's report on the following items:

- Bangor Natural Gas (Main Street, Stillwater River project). Ms. Wilson noted Main Street would reopen to full traffic by August 20, 2021.
- Update on the Covid variant trend, and possible mask requirements.
- Main Street Sidewalk funding request moving forward through Senator King's Office.
- American Rescue Act Fund opportunities.
- Construction projects, Mahaney Subdivision and North Main, College Heights and Chapel Road improvements and supply and labor force shortages.
- American flags in the Town's gateway area (on Main Street - Leadbetter's to Public Safety) from Flag Day to Veterans' Day.

**Tax Acquired Property, repurchase agreement for 173 Kelley Road, request for payment extension from August to October 2021. (Video record time 32:05 - 43:20)**

Ms. Wilson noted the owner has repaid two-thirds of the amount owed (\$11,000 paid of the \$16,000 owed). Ms. Wilson reviewed details of the situation. The Council discussed the request for a payment extension from August 13, 2021 to October 2021. Councilors voiced that they would not be in favor of extending the date beyond October 2021.

**Recognizing that Council acts through orders, ordinances and resolve, Council took a straw poll that passed, with a vote of 5 in favor and 2 opposed (Councilors Mitchell and Osher), to extend the repayment of 173 Kelley Avenue due date to the middle of October.**

Ms. Wilson stated she would seek legal advice regarding the sale of the property beyond October.

**Town Manager's Report (continued)** *(Video record time 43:21 - 1:20:12)*

- Ms. Wilson reviewed upcoming items for future Council and Council Committee meetings.
- Councilors discussed a revised meeting schedule on Mondays. The Environment Committee will continue to meet on Thursdays.
- Public Safety project - Councilors Gardner and Greenier described a competitive outdoor workout challenge between the Fire and Police Departments in September/October to support their charities.
- Following CDC guidelines regarding masks and adjusting for safety as needed.
- Town Office opened more to the public. Watching trends and CDC guidelines.
- Town Meetings will be hybrid, in-person and remote.

**5. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn by Meghan Gardner and seconded by Geoff Wingard. All unanimously agreed. The Council Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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