

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020 AT 5:00PM**

WATCH ONLINE AT

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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, Cheryl Robertson, Terry Greenier, Sam Kunz and Town Manager Sophie Wilson.

2. Agenda Review - None

3. Approval of the Minutes of the October 19, 2020 Council Meeting

Moved by Tom Perry and seconded by Cheryl Robertson. All voted in favor, 7-0.

4. Public Hearings

- a. **To consider a Class I - Malt, Spirituous & Vinous Liquor License, Special Amusement Permit for Music, Dancing and Entertainment and Victualer's License to the University of Maine d/b/a Collins Center for the Arts, 5746 Collins Center. [Continued from October 19, 2020]**

Public hearing a. continued from October 19, 2020. Community Development Director Dave Milan reported that staff has reviewed the license applications, conducted the inspections and recommends approval of the licenses. No public comments were made. Public hearing b. closed at 5:03pm.

- b. **To consider a Victualer's License for DMCP Group LLC, d/b/a Dunkin Donuts, 3 Stillwater Avenue.**

Public hearing b. opened at 5:04pm. Mr. Milan reported that staff has reviewed the license application, conducted the inspections and recommends approval of the license. No public comments were made. Public hearing b. closed at 5:05pm.

- c. **To consider a Class I – Malt, Spirituous & Vinous Liquor License and Victualer's License for Farnsworth Enterprises Inc., d/b/a Pat's Pizza, 11 Mill Street.**

Public hearing c. opened at 5:05pm. Mr. Milan reported that staff has reviewed the license applications, conducted the inspections and recommends approval of the licenses. No public comments were made. Public hearing c. closed at 5:06pm.

d. To consider Ordinance Amendments to the Town of Orono Ordinances, Chapter 18 Land Use, Section 18-130 Excavation, Removal and filling of Lands.

Public hearing d. opened at 5:06pm. Town Planner Kyle Drexler noted this ordinance has been through Council Committee, Planning Board review and revisions and Council review. The proposed changes break down different types of earthwork activities into exempt from needing a permit, requiring a permit from the Code Enforcement Officer or requiring Site Plan Review by the Planning Board. The language addresses the impact of different earthwork activities in different areas and the level of permitting required. Mr. Perry commented on the extensive review that has taken place on the proposed changes. No public comments were made. Public hearing d. closed at 5:10pm.

e. To consider Ordinance Amendments to the Town of Orono Ordinances, Chapter 18 Land Use, Section 18-140, Signs, to permit an exemption for the Town of Orono to own and operate a digital sign adjacent to the Municipal Offices on Main Street in the Village Commercial District.

Public hearing e. opened at 5:11pm. Town Planner Kyle Drexler noted this is a minor change to the sign ordinance to allow the Town to operate an electronic informational sign outside the Town Office. Ms. Wilson noted that grant funds have been received for the sign that will give the Town the ability to provide information to the public. Ms. Wilson described the design of the sign and noted it would not have bright colors to maintain the look of the downtown area.

Mr. Drexler stated the Planning Board will hold its public hearing on November 18th and will provide the Council with any proposed changes. If there are no changes, it could move forward to the December Council Meeting for consideration of approval. No public comments were made. Public hearing e. closed at 5:15pm.

5. Acknowledgments by Council Members

Cheryl Robertson acknowledged everyone who voted and thanked all the people who helped with the election. She also acknowledged and thanked the crews that restore power to the town and remove fallen trees during storm situations.

Laurie Osher acknowledged all of the election workers and the great work they did. She noted she was very proud of the town and the voter turnout.

Sam Kunz also congratulated the election staff on a job well done and congratulated Laurie Osher on being elected to the State Legislature. He acknowledged people for wearing face coverings and the Town staff for distributing “Boo Boxes” to kids for Halloween. He also

acknowledged the Council for maintaining civil discourse during heated discussions. Mr. Kunz thanked Cindy Mehnert for her time on Council and noted it has been a joy and she will be missed.

Meghan Gardner commented she witnessed the car crash that took out the power and stated the Police and Fire response did a spectacular job. She acknowledged the people who are wearing their masks and taking the Governor's executive order seriously. She encouraged everyone to do so. Ms. Gardner thanked Ms. Mehnert for her time on Council and thanked her for her service.

Terry Greenier spoke of the importance of wearing masks, especially with the number of cases increasing. He commented he will miss Ms. Mehnert on Council and thanked her for being a great balance and great person on Council.

Tom Perry also thanked Ms. Mehnert for her hard work, leadership and years on Council. He acknowledged Laurie Osher's win in joining the Maine State House of Representatives and noted that it will be wonderful to have the representation for Orono. He acknowledged the University of Maine for providing information on what is happening on campus regarding Covid-19.

Cindy Mehnert also congratulated Laurie Osher on being elected to the Maine House of Representatives.

6. Unfinished Business - None

7. Consent Agenda

Order 20-184 Order, approving a Class I - Malt, Spirituous & Vinous Liquor License, Special Amusement Permit for Music, Dancing and Entertainment and Victualer's License to the University of Maine d/b/a Collins Center for the Arts, 5746 Collins Center.

Order 20-185 Order, approving a Victualer's License for DMCP Group LLC, d/b/a Dunkin Donuts, 3 Stillwater Avenue.

Order 20-186 Order, approving a Class I – Malt, Spirituous & Vinous Liquor License and Victualer's License for Farnsworth Enterprises Inc., d/b/a Pat's Pizza, 11 Mill Street.

Moved by Tom Perry and seconded by Cheryl Robertson to approve the consent agenda. All voted in favor, 7-0.

8. New Business

Order 20-187 Order, accepting the bid received from Leo Kenney of Orono, Maine to purchase the Town of Orono's interest in tax acquired property located

at 25 College Heights for \$33,000; and, further, authorizing the Town Manager to execute all documents necessary to effect this transfer and release the Town's interest in said property.

Moved by Sam Kunz and seconded by Tom Perry to table Order 20-187 to a future Council Meeting. All voted in favor, 7-0.

Order 20-188 Order, authorizing the Town Manager to make the following budget adjustments to the adopted FY21 Municipal Budget:

- **Increase the Downtown and Transit Oriented Tax Increment Financing District (DTTO TIF) expense budget \$8,825 to cover expenses related to the 2020 Bond Issuance with funds drawn from the DTTO TIF Development Program;**
- **Transfer \$5,750 from the Debt Budget to the Other Budget for expenses associated with Employee Benefits; and**
- **Transfer \$3,950 from the Debt Budget to the Fire Department Budget for expenses associated with Emergency Management.**

Moved by Cheryl Robertson and seconded by Sam Kunz. All voted in favor, 7-0.

Ms. Wilson commented, with issuing the 2020 bonds, the Town has \$134,000 in savings for this year (\$77,000 of it is for WPCF). She noted the need for Council approval to move funds to different cost centers and described the adjustments above. The remaining balance will stay within the Debt Budget.

Order 20-189 Order, authorizing the Town Manager to purchase a Photocopier from Transco Business Solutions of Augusta, Maine at a cost not to exceed \$13,800 with funds drawn from the CTCL Election Grant.

Moved by Sam Kunz and seconded by Tom Perry. All voted in favor, 7-0.

Ms. Wilson stated the Town received \$159,025 from the CTCL Election Grant. She described the purchase of a new machine to meet the internal needs for extensive copying for the election. She also described the rotation of the old machines to different departments.

9. Council Committee/Representatives Reports

Environment Committee - Cheryl Robertson stated the Committee met on October 22th to discuss a draft proposal to Maine DEP regarding grant funding for an extended recycling program for the large housing complexes. She also noted the Committee is in the early stages of exploring the idea of a Swap Shop at the landfill. Ms. Robertson commented she wrote an article for the next Orono Observer regarding the Environment Committee.

Finance and Operations Committee - Tom Perry stated the Committee met on November 5th and had an audit overview, reviewed the sale of the bonds, budget adjustments, a proposed amendment to the Personnel Policy and reviewed the financials which are in good shape.

Community Development Committee - Terry Greenier reported that the Committee met on October 15th and reviewed a zone change request for the self storage facility on Park Street. He noted the next step is for the owner of the property to come forward with a plan. He stated the Universal Healthcare Plan resolution was changed to an Equitable Healthcare Plan.

Comp Plan Committee - Meghan Gardner reported the Committee met on November 2nd to discuss all rental activities in Orono to be more unified and cohesive.

GrowSmart Maine Summit - Laurie Osher reported she attended the Annual GrowSmart Maine Summit. She noted Keynote Speaker Colin Woodard spoke of local government structure and Anthony Flint spoke of local control and regional opportunities.

10. Council Chair and Town Manager Reports

Hate Crime Incident - Ms. Mehnert spoke of a hate crime last week of someone yelling death threats to a teen from their car. She noted people should feel comfortable in our community and it should be an accepting environment. The verbal attack will not be tolerated. The Town and University of Maine urges citizens to be vigilant and push back against hate.

Ms. Wilson spoke of the joint statement from the Town and the University that will be posted on the Town's website and social media. Ms. Wilson stated the Town and University will be working on a joint page with a clear message for the website that will also link to the ability to report incidents.

Covid-19 Update - Ms. Wilson noted a rise in Covid-19 cases and the need to take greater precautions. She noted there will be a reduction in the number of public appointments to do more extensive disinfecting. There will be no in-person meetings at the Town Office (only Zoom meetings) and additional guidance will be given to staff. She reviewed the changes to take place if the numbers continue to increase.

Other Updates - Ms. Wilson noted the following updates:

- Use of the Fire Department ladder truck due to repairs to other vehicles.
- Replacement of carpeting in the Town Office, second floor (staff to work remotely).
- Public Works assistance during the elections.
- Community Events team finding ways to spread cheer through the holidays.
- No basketball program due to Covid-19.
- Belle Ryder reported that Community Thanksgiving Dinners (November 19th) will be delivered to anyone who desires a meal. She described the details.

11. Acceptance of Council Resignation and Election of New Council Chair

Ms. Mehnert stated she filed a letter of resignation from Council and her last day will be December 4, 2020. She accepted nominations for a new Council Chair to be effective December 5th.

Terry Greenier nominated Meghan Gardner and Sam Kunz seconded the nomination. Laurie Osher nominated Tom Perry and Cheryl Robertson seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made.

Councilors Greenier and Osher spoke of the reasons for their nominations of Ms. Gardner and Mr. Perry. Both candidates spoke of their desire to serve. In a straw poll, Mr. Perry received four votes and Ms. Gardner received three votes.

Moved by Sam Kunz and seconded by Cheryl Robertson to nominate Tom Perry as the interim Council Chair. All voted in favor, 7-0.

12. Future Agenda Items/Items of Concern

Ms. Robertson asked about changing the Winter Parking Ban dates (November 1-April 15) due to climate change. Ms. Wilson noted, regardless of the date, if there is a snowstorm there is no parking on the streets.

Mr. Kunz spoke in appreciation of a smooth election process.

13. Public Petitions - None

14. Public Comments - None

15. Adjournment

At 6:22pm, Sam Kunz motioned to adjourn and Tom Perry seconded. All voted in favor, 7-0.

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