

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING & WORKSHOP
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020 AT 5:00PM**

WATCH ONLINE AT
<https://zoom.us/j/95747606841>

**For Dial in Only call 1-312-626-6799 Webinar ID: 957 4760 6841
(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, Cheryl Robertson, Terry Greenier, Sam Kunz and Town Manager Sophie Wilson.

Motion by Sam Kunz and seconded by Tom Perry to accept the Revised Agenda, which incorporates the Council Workshop into the Council Meeting and adds an Executive Session at the end of the meeting. All voted in favor, 7-0.

2. Unfinished Business

Order 20-190 Order, to take Order 20-187 off the table for consideration.

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

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

3. Council Workshop: Presentation Introducing the Concept of Environmental Justice (Presenter: Councilor Robertson with Guest Mea Johnson from Community Action Works)

As part of the Town Council's commitment to understanding racial and social equity and justice, Councilor Robertson has been participating in independent learning surrounding this topic and shared information with Council about environmental justice. Mea Johnson, Coastal Lead Organizer and Just Transition Director, Community Action Works joined the meeting and provided some education, information and answered questions. Specifically, the discussion aimed at developing a better understanding of environmental justice and what it means regarding municipal policy around zoning, land use and/or vulnerable populations that are impacted by

potential municipal practices that may not take marginalized populations, perhaps inadvertently, into consideration.

4. Brief Town Manager Report

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

- Reminder the Town Offices and all non-emergency response services will be closed on Thursday (11/26) and Friday (11/27) in observance of the holiday.
- Staff and Council along with incredibly generous local businesses, civic organizations and community members held the Scott Scripture Memorial Community Thanksgiving Dinner last Thursday (11/19). Approximately 300 meals were delivered. The community was extremely generous with its time, talents, and financial contributions which allows us to honor Captain Scripture's memory further by working with the Good Shepherd Food Bank to provide food boxes to groups of individuals who have been identified as having a high degree of food insecurity.
- Town staff continues to work closely with UMaine and State officials to monitor COVID-19 exposures and confirmed cases in Orono. The number of infected individuals continues to rise (as expected) nationally, within the state, and here in Orono. Many UMaine students have left for the break with campus residential halls closing early Wednesday morning. As Councilors will remember, students will be moving to remote learning through the end of the semester with a plan to return to Orono in mid-January.
- Given the most recent transmission rates and safety guidance, the Town will not be offering youth basketball programs this winter. Staff is currently working through our partnership with Campus Recreation to offer eSports. Staff also continues to look for ways to support and encourage our community members to get outside and enjoy the upcoming winter season.
- Community Development, Library and Parks & Recreation are working on ways to celebrate the upcoming holidays and winter season through arts and crafts, story times and Light Up the Community.
- Regarding the Bangor Daily News article on the Brewer standoff, Orono Police Department's trained negotiator (FBI Crisis Negotiation Training) was part of the regional team.
- Sign and Excavation/Fill Ordinances will be on the December Council Meeting for consideration of adoption.
- Nomination papers to run for the Council seats will be available starting 11/30/2020. There are 3 seats available for 3-year terms and one unexpired seat for a 2-year term.
- Deborah Blease's term on the Orono-Veazie Water District Board of Trustees expires 12/31/2020 and she has indicated she would like to serve another term. Consideration of her reappointment will be on the December 14th Council Meeting, under the consent agenda.

5. Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRSA, § 405(6)(C) for the purpose of providing the Town Manager guidance regarding the sale of a certain tax acquired property.

At 5:55pm, Sam Kunz motioned and Tom Perry seconded to move into executive session for the purpose of providing the Town Manager guidance regarding the sale of a certain tax acquired property. All voted in favor, 7-0.

At 6:25pm, Sam Kunz motioned and Tom Perry seconded to move into regular session. All voted in favor, 7-0.

6. Adjourn

At 6:25pm, Sam Kunz motioned to adjourn and Laurie Osher 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