

Town Council Meeting Minutes January 25, 2021

Chair Kuhn began the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call

All councilors were present and answering roll call.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Kuhn led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 1 Public Comment Period.

Chair Kuhn opened the public comment period; there was no public comment.

Item 2 (Consent Agenda)

- **Order to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 Town Council Meeting.**
- **Order to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting.**

Councilor DeLima motioned; Councilor Cahan seconded.

Chair Kuhn opened the public comment period; there was no public comment.

The motion carried unanimously.

Item 3 Report from staff, Council committees, and Council liaisons regarding updates on assignments and projects.

Councilor Cahan said the Ordinance Committee met that morning. The Committee had to consensus to move the construction dust and noise ordinances forward to the full Council. She said the committee continued discussing short-term rentals. The Committee canceled its February 8 meeting. The February 22 meeting will focus on short-term rentals.

Councilor Trickett said the Community Development Committee anticipated submitting to a package of items relating to the Route 100 project zoning to the Council for discussion. He said the Committee has also been discussing the water view ordinance.

Councilor DeLima said the Finance Committee met on January 13 as part of the sequence of budget development meetings. She said the Committee heard a presentation Chief Rice regarding the implementation of the Fire Department staffing increase. She said there were 96 total Fire Department members in the previous fiscal year and that has decreased to 79 indicating a drop in volunteer and per diem members. She said 14 new Fire Department staff had been hired as part of phase 1 of the expansion. She said phase 2 would happen the near future. She said the Department's response time had increased. She said the number of calls was down from the previous year which could be due to people not wanting to go to the hospital during the pandemic. She said that overtime is currently running high but should level out. She said that the Town cut back on expenses and deferred expenses in the current year's budget because of the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic. She said that some of those expenses will have to be added back into the FY22 budget. She

said that the Committee plans to discuss senior tax relief ideas at its next meeting. She said the Finance Committee meetings are recorded.

Councilor LaFond said Ashely Krulik, the new Energy & Sustainability Coordinator had published her first newsletter which is available on the REAC webpage. He said Dave Low had been elected as chair of REAC. He said that the newsletter discusses heat pumps and how to incorporate them into one's home.

Councilor Cahan said the area transit agencies were continuing the work on COVID-19 relief. She said they are hoping there might be other transportation money that comes through so Town staff have been working on other projects for the Town to present should additional federal funding become available. She said the transit tomorrow report has been released. She said that the public can provide comment. She said the Community Wellness Committee has been meeting for the last few months. She said the Committee has been discussing reinstating the human services funding to the budget and are now moving on to defining what the Committee is going to work on for the year.

Chair Kuhn said that she serves on the Maine Municipal Association's Legislative Policy Committee. She said she can appoint an alternate if any members of the Council are interested in serving.

Mr. Poore said the Town held forum on racial justice the prior summer focused on Police Department policies and data. He said the Town reported that it would be looking into training opportunities for staff. He said the Town hired Dustin Ward, It Is Time founder. He said that the Town had put together a curriculum for front line staff and those that have influence on help the Council develop policy. He said the training had been geared towards why the conversations are continuing to happen, why the protests are happening, and information on historical background and systemic racism. He said he and Mr. Ward were asked to serve on a panel with South Portland and Portland representatives as part of the Maine Initiative Martin Luther King, Jr. Day commemoration. He said the panel was well received and he has received inquiries from surrounding communities. Chair Kuhn added that she, Councilor Asherman, and staff would be discussing how the staff training could be transformed into something that the broader community may be interested in.

Chair Kuhn said the red heart initiative to raise money for the Falmouth Food Pantry had raised \$32,000.

Item 4 Report from the Appointment Committee and order regarding various vacancies on Boards and Committees.

Councilor Johnson said that the Appointments Committee recognized a need to create a framework around what it is like to chair a Town committee. Councilor LaFond described the guidelines that he and Erin Cadigan, Education & Outreach Coordinator drafted.

Councilor Trickett suggested fleshing out further the relationship between the boards and committees and the Council and the potential role for the chairperson to play in that as well as the Council liaison.

Councilor DeLima said each of the committees have been charged with reviewing their ordinance charges and developing mission statements. She said the goal was to better bridge the boards and committees' work with the Council's direction. Chair Kuhn added that she appreciated the structural enhancement that has gone on with the boards and committees during her time on the Council. She said staff are looking into whether something similar can be done for the quasi-judicial boards. Councilor Asherman agreed. Councilor Cahan liked the tasks of the chair that it is visual and easy to read.

Councilor Cahan noted a grammatical error in "Getting Things Done" section of the guidelines. Councilor Johnson provided biographical information on the individuals being recommended for appointment.

Councilor Johnson motioned; Councilor Cahan seconded.

Chair Kuhn opened the public comment period; there was no public comment.

The motion carried unanimously.

Item 5 Update on the Community Vision and Values project.

Councilor Trickett provided the update. He said that 1,250 people had taken the survey. He said the community connectors had been working hard to encourage participation. He said that the number of survey participants had surpassed the participation in the 2013 comprehensive plan survey. He thanked the community connectors for their efforts. He said the survey would be open through January 31. He said that Future iQ would begin posting the data visualizations on the project portal in February.

Chair Cahan opened the public comment period; there was no public comment.

Item 6 Introduction of ordinance amendments to CH. II-7 of the Code of Ordinances relative to subdivision review and compliance with recent changes to the state statutes.

Councilor Cahan said that the Community Development Committee reviewed the Town's current subdivision language in comparison to recent state requirements that require all municipalities to be consistent with state law. She described the recommended change to be in compliance including updates to the definition of subdivisions, updates to outdated statutory references, the deletion of outdated definitions, incorporating the updated subdivision review criteria mandated by the state statute, incorporating new statutory requirements related to the physical form of plans that are recorded at the registry of deeds, and amending certain ordinance thresholds that reflect the number of dwelling units that are created within a subdivision instead of only referencing the number of lots. She said the state allows flexibility around allowing lots that are 40 acres or more and that are outside the shoreland zone to be exempt from the subdivision review. She said the Committee reviewed that and, because the purpose of a subdivision review is to give the Town and the Planning Board an opportunity to review and mitigate a development's impacts on the community, the Committee did not see a benefit to the Town of allowing the exemption, so it is recommending no exemptions to the subdivision review.

The public hearing was scheduled for February 22.

Adjourn

Councilor Asherman motioned; Councilor DeLima seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marguerite Fleming
Recording Secretary