

-- APPROVED --
BRUNSWICK TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
April 7, 2003
7:30 p.m.
Municipal Meeting Facility

7:00 p.m. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Possible acquisition of property

Councilor Randolph moved, Councilor Lowe seconded, to go into executive session to discuss possible acquisition of property or the selling of property. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

7:30 P.M. Chair Priest called the meeting to order and asked for the Pledge to the Flag.

Councilors Present: Chair Charles R. Priest, W. David Watson, Jacqueline A. Sartoris, Robert A. Galloupe, Douglas A. Rice, Nancy E. Randolph, Forrest Lowe, and Stephen H. McCausland.

Councilors Absent: None

Others Present: Donald H. Gerrish, Town Manager; Fran Smith, Town Clerk; John Eldridge, Finance Director; Gary Howard, Fire Chief; Frank McVey, Sewer District; Michael Vaughan, State Representative District 85; several citizens, members of the press, and TV video crew.

Minutes of Previous Meetings: March 17, 2003

Hearing no objection from the Council, Chair Priest declared the minutes of March 17, 2003, accepted as written.

Correspondence:

Councilor Sartoris said tomorrow is the kick off day of the youth initiative for the Habitat for Humanity youth built home. She will be providing additional updates and there will be fund raising involved.

Manager's Report: (Items not taken in order, but minutes reflect agenda order)

1) Financial Update

Manager Gerrish said with seventy five percent (75%) of the fiscal year completed, the town is doing fine on the expenditure side, with savings expected. Revenues for excise tax should meet the town's expectation and state revenue sharing is expected to be above what was projected (around \$75,000 more than anticipated).

2) Cumberland County Charter Commission

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Manager Gerrish said Cumberland County has asked the town to announce a vote in November to establish a Cumberland County Charter Commission. The Commissioners also want to announce that nomination papers are available for citizens who would like to run for the two positions on the Commission from this County Commission District. He noted the County tax next year will be over one million dollars. Nomination papers are available in the Clerk's office.

(A copy of the letter from Peter Crichton, the Cumberland County Manager, outlining the process, will be attached to the official minutes.)

Councilors Sartoris and Randolph said it was important to have a Brunswick resident on the charter commission and encouraged interested people to get involved.

3) Fire Department Grant Requests

Manager Gerrish explained the four (4) grants the fire department is applying for, which include:

- The Firefighter Assistance Grant through FEMA for fire fighting equipment and training in the amount of forty eight thousand eight hundred ninety dollars (\$48,890).
- The Maine Municipal Association Safety Enhancement Grant for safety equipment in the amount of fourteen hundred seventy four dollars (\$1,474).
- The Galen Cole Foundation for a thermal imaging camera grant in the amount of seventy five hundred dollars (\$7,500).
- A grant to assist in the cost of a Sparky Costume in the amount of nineteen hundred dollars (\$1,900).

Councilor McCausland moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to approve the request from the Fire Department to apply for the four (4) grants. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

4) Update on Legislation for the Sewer District Boundary Change

Chair Priest said the Legislative Bill to amend the Sewer District Boundaries received a unanimous "Ought to Pass" from the Utilities and Energy Committee.

5) Report on Rotary/Town Regatta

Alice Bean Andrenyak, from the Rotary, presented a check for one thousand one hundred ninety nine dollars (\$1,199), which represented forty percent (40%) of the proceeds, from the first regatta on August 18, 2002, which had one hundred forty two (142) competitors. She also gave the Council tee-shirts from the event. This year's event will be three (3) days and they expect more revenues generated with the ordinance change allowing vendors. She highlighted the events of this year's regatta to be held on August 8, 9, and 10.

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6) Update on High School Bond Refunding

John Eldridge, Finance Director, said this refinancing of the high school bonds will save the town and state about seven hundred eighteen thousand dollars (\$718,000) over the remainder of the bond's life. The town also has been upgraded to an "AA" rating. He thanked Jim Ashe for his assistance in this process.

(A copy of Mr. Eldridge's memo will be attached to the official minutes.)

Manager Gerrish thanked Mr. Eldridge for his work on this and his work with the town's finances, which has led to this rating upgrade.

Councilor Lowe also thanked Mr. Eldridge and said it was worth noting that there was a big saving to the state, as well as the town.

Other:

Mr. Gerrish announced he will be sitting on a state committee discussing tax reform.

Representative Vaughan discussed health insurance reform in the form of LD 161 and LD 1190.

Councilor Randolph made an announcement that the swinging bridge committee received two hundred eighty two thousand dollars (\$282,000) in state and federal monies to assist in its restoration. There will need to be fund raising for the remaining seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) or so. There will be a website (www.saveourbridge.org) up and running soon to provide information on this project.

Adjustments to Agenda: None

50. The Town Council will hear public comments on the following requests for renewal of an alcoholic beverage license and will take any appropriate action.

Full-time Malt

Thai Dish, Inc., d/b/a Thai Dish

136 Pleasant Street

Wandee Usdornvuthikrai

Chair Priest opened the public hearing; hearing no comments, he closed the public hearing.

Councilor Lowe moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to approve a request for a renewal of an alcoholic beverage license for the Thai Dish. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

(A copy of the public hearing notice will be attached to the official minutes.)

51. The Town Council will hear public comments on the following requests for a victualer's license and will take any appropriate action.

Tamara D. Chapman d/b/a Tammy's Snackbar
14 Maine Street, Fort Andross

Tamara D. Chapman

Chair Priest opened the public hearing; hearing no comments, he closed the public hearing.

Councilor Sartoris moved, Councilor Randolph seconded, to approve a request for a victualer's license for Tammy's Snackbar. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

(A copy of the public hearing notice will be attached to the official minutes.)

52. The Town Council will hear a request from the Brunswick Sewer District for approval of the John Thompson Estates Subdivision Sanitary Sewer Extension, and will take any appropriate action.

Frank McVey said this is required by law and he is seeking the Council's routine approval. This is the first of three requests under the new system of approval.

Councilor McCausland moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to approve the request from the Brunswick Sewer District to extend the sewer into the John Thompson Estates subdivision. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

(A copy of a memo from Theo Holtwijk, which includes a letter from Frank McVey of the Sewer District and a map, will be attached to the official minutes.)

53. The Town Council will consider setting a Public Hearing for amendments to the Cable Television Ordinance and will take any appropriate action.

Councilor McCausland said the Franchise Committee, working with the Town Attorney, is recommending amendments to the Cable TV Ordinance in preparation for finalizing negotiations on the franchise agreement. Elements of it include: not having a franchise agreement for a term of over ten (10) years; the cable franchisee shall file with the town an annual statement; and the town manager will report to the Council at least once every two (2) years on the status of the agreement. The town attorney thinks the ten (10) year agreement is appropriate.

Councilor McCausland moved, Councilor Galloupe seconded, to set a public hearing for April 22, 2003, for the proposed amendments to the Cable TV Ordinance. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

54. The Town Council will discuss starting Town Council meetings at 7:00 p.m. and will take any appropriate action.

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Manager Gerrish said changing the start time has been discussed before, but after reading that Portland had voted to start their meetings at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m., he placed this on the agenda for discussion. The argument for 7:30 p.m. has been the need for Council and citizens to have time for dinner before coming to the meeting and to allow the Council to have time for Executive Session meetings before the regular meeting. He thinks a 7:00 p.m. starting time would allow the Council to get done earlier. The few times there are Executive Session, the Council could meet earlier or, if necessary, hold the Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

The Council discussed having the executive session at the end of the meeting, unless it was necessary to meet before with a vote needing to be taken at the meeting.

Manager Gerrish said this change requires amending the Council rules.

Councilor Randolph moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to add to the agenda for April 22 meeting to consider changing the Council Rules to start Regular Council meetings at 7:00 p.m The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

55. The Town Council will consider the annual appointment of Steve Walker as Harbormaster and will take any appropriate action.

Councilor Randolph moved, Councilor Lowe seconded, to appoint Stephen Walker as the Town of Brunswick Harbormaster for a one year period from May 1, 2003, to April 30, 2004. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

56. The Town Council will consider approval of an agreement with MDOT which authorizes permits for contractors to haul loads in excess of the load limits for certain projects in Brunswick and will take any appropriate action.

Councilor Randolph asked about how much above the limit the state wanted to be able to go. Manager Gerrish did not know. She asked if the Navy base asked for this permission with the hanger project about to begin. Manager Gerrish said the town has not been asked by the base.

Councilor Rice explained that the low bidder for the hanger will have to follow construction rules while doing the project.

Councilor McCausland moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to approve the authorization of permits for contractors to exceed load limits on MDOT projects in Brunswick. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

(A copy of the approved agreement will be attached to the official minutes.)

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- 57. The Town Council will consider increasing the Ambulance User Fees and will take any appropriate action.**

Manager Gerrish said the town is recommending the cost go up over all areas and has done a comparison of other town's rates.

(A copy of Chief Howard's memo outlining the proposed fees will be attached to the official minutes.)

Mr. Eldridge explained that payments received for Medicaid, Medicare and other insurances are accepted at a lower rate.

Councilor Lowe moved, Councilor Rice seconded, to receive public input on April 22, 2003, on the proposed new Ambulance Fees. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

Councilor Randolph moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM. A TAPE RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS.

*Frances M. Smith
Town Clerk
April 11, 2003*

April 22, 2003

Date of Approval

Charles R. Priest

Council Chair