

--APPROVED --
BRUNSWICK TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES
April 22, 2008
7:00 P.M.
Municipal Meeting Facility

Councilors Present: Chair Joanne T. King, W. David Watson, Benjamin J. Tucker, Hallie Daughtry, Karen J. Klatt, Gerald E. Favreau, Margo H. Knight, Newell A. Augur, and David C. Webb.

Councilors Absent: None

Town Staff Present: Donald Gerrish, Town Manager; Fran Smith, Town Clerk; Gary Brown, Assistant Town Manager; Anna Breinich, Director of Planning and Development; John Eldridge, Finance Director; David Wallace, Interim Superintendent of Schools; James Oikle, Business Manager for School Department; Craig Worth, Deputy Public Works Director; Russ Wrede, Police Officer; and the TV video crew.

Executive Session: Property Acquisition as per M.R.S.A. §405(6)(C)

Councilor Daughtry moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to go to into executive session to discuss property acquisition per M.R.S.A. §405(6)(C). The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

Meeting Continued: 7:00 P.M.

Chair King called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

Holly Buss, Page Street and Brunswick Sustainability Group, said they will be having a bike fair on Saturday as a way to encourage people to use this transportation.

Correspondence:

Letter from Brunswick Recycling and Sustainability Committee

(A copy of the letter from the Committee will be attached to the official minutes.)

Adjustments to the Agenda: None

Manager's Report:

(a) Council Committee Updates

Councilor Webb reported the Business Park Committee will be looking at alternative infill sites for the engineers to evaluate along with the Moore site. The Land for Brunswick's Future Board will be meeting to identify criteria for land selection.

Councilor Knight said the Maine Street Station Committee will be meeting on May 1, 2008.

Councilor Favreau reported the Elementary School Building Committee met last week and are gearing up for their information campaign. He added the State unanimously approved the packet that Mr. Keck presented on the new school.

(b) Banner Pole donation from Bowdoin College

This item was not done since the town had not received a letter from Bowdoin confirming the donation. It needs to come back next time.

(c) Budget Presentation

Manager Gerrish gave a brief overview of the budget, which is being proposed to have an increase of 2.97%. There will be several meetings on the budget, beginning with a special meeting next Monday to get public comments on it. He summarized the budget, with three positions being eliminated.

(A copy of the budget letter and summary of accounts will be attached to the official minutes.)

51. The Town Council will hear public comments on the following Special Amusement License, and will take any appropriate action.

Special Amusement

Costa Galatas

D/B/A: Pizza Market

4 Pleasant Street

Costa Galatas

Chair King opened the public hearing; hearing no comments, she closed the public hearing.

Councilor Augur moved, Councilor Webb seconded, to approve the Special Amusement License request for the Costa Galatas d/b/a Pizza Market at 4 Pleasant

Street pending favorable inspection by the Codes Enforcement Office and Fire Department. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

52. The Town Council will hear public comments on the following Full-Time Spirituous, Vinous & Malt License, and will take any appropriate action.

Full-Time Spirituous, Vinous & Malt

Costa Galatas

D/B/A: Pizza Market

4 Pleasant Street

Costa Galatas

Chair King opened the public hearing; hearing no comments, she closed the public hearing.

Councilor Knight moved, Councilor Favreau seconded, to approve the Full-Time Spirituous, Vinous and Malt License for the Costa Galatas/Pizza Market at 4 Pleasant Street. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

53. The Town Council will hold a public hearing on “An Ordinance Authorizing the Design, Construction and Equipping of a New Elementary School and Related Improvements At and Near 44 McKeen Street, Brunswick, Maine, and the Acquisition of Land, with Total Project Costs not to exceed \$28,560,000 (Plus Costs of Issuance), and Further Authorizing Issuance of Bonds and Notes Therefore in an Amount not to Exceed \$28,318,560, with provisions for early redemption as set forth in said Ordinance, and Acceptance of Maine High Performance Schools Program Grants and Local Fundraising in an Amount not to Exceed \$241,440 Therefore,” and will take any appropriate action.

Manager Gerrish said this item is to discuss the bond ordinance and the question on the ballot for the Elementary School Project.

John Eldridge, Finance Director, said the order places the question on the ballot at the June 10, 2008 election and approves the election warrant. The Council is required to take a position on this issue and the proposed question includes the Council’s recommendation that the ordinance be approved.

Chair King opened the public hearing; hearing no comments, she closed the public hearing.

Councilor Augur moved, Councilor Daughtry seconded, to adopt an order relative to the June 10, 2008 ballot and Council recommendation for the Elementary School project. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

(A copy of the election warrant, order, and ballot question will be attached to the official minutes.)

27. (Tabled) The Town Council will consider approval of the following Special Amusement License, and will take any appropriate action.

Special Amusement

Brunswick Golf Club, Inc.

D/B/A: Brunswick Golf Club

165 River Road

Patrick Badcock

Manager Gerrish said the Fire Department worked with them and the issues have been taken care of so this license can be approved.

Councilor Webb moved, Councilor Augur seconded, to approve the Special Amusement License for Brunswick Golf Club. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

28. The Town Council will consider developing a plan regarding the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement adopted on April 23, 2007, and will take any appropriate action.

Councilor Tucker said a year ago the town adopted the Climate Protection Agreement plan and he is asking that the Council reconfirm their position and take the next steps. The town needs to move forward thoughtfully to remove greenhouse emissions. He is asking the Council to formally charge the Recycling and Sustainability Committee to come up with a plan.

(A copy of a memo from Councilor Tucker will be attached to the official minutes.)

Councilor Klatt strongly supports this endeavor and hopes the Council will support the Committee in finding ways to cut the carbon footprint and develop a way of tracking savings.

Councilor Augur said the Sunset Committee will be reviewing committees and there may be a new committee, but he did not want to discourage work being done on this.

Chair King said she has concerns with the need to have additional funds available for the Committee (as they requested in their letter under correspondence), but they can begin looking at issues.

Councilor Tucker said this Committee is interested and enthusiastic about the plan; they should move forward with the project.

Councilor Tucker moved, Councilor Klatt seconded, to ask the Recycling and Sustainability Committee to develop a plan to assess Brunswick's greenhouse gas

(GHG) emissions in cooperation with town staff, the Brunswick Sustainability Group, and any others with relevant expertise. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

54. The Town Council will discuss traffic improvements around the First Parish Church and upper Maine Street, and will take any appropriate action.

Chair King said they have received many comments from First Parish Church members and this is the Council's opportunity to get a summary of this issue.

Manager Gerrish said the town has been working with the State to improve this intersection, considering different plans such as a rotary and two-way traffic. They have had a meeting with the church, who had concerns with traffic safety. There is nothing in concrete and there is a need to continue work on this plan. MDOT has agreed to pay half the cost of the project and Bowdoin is willing to pay a quarter of it. The town and MDOT continue to work with neighbors to deal with traffic issues and address accident rates there that need to be lessened.

Manager Gerrish said, responding to Councilor Augur's question about when the project went from a "T" shape to a circle, after more study the traffic engineers found issues with stopping traffic and backing it up on Maine Street. He will have the state engineers and traffic engineers come to a future meeting to explain this further.

Councilor Augur added a thought that a traffic backup may slow down traffic.

Councilor Daughtry said whatever the plan is, pedestrian safety is very important.

Councilor Watson asked about what would happen with the Spanish War Memorial and the Christmas tree. Manager Gerrish said this needs to be looked at.

Susan Chapman, Topsham resident, speaking on behalf of the church, thanked Mr. Eddy and Manager Gerrish for their understanding of the church's concerns. The church is working with a long term plan, and this is a chance for all parties to come forward and work together. She said the plan the church had been working with just got changed two weeks ago and they have their concerns with it when it comes to pedestrian safety, bikes, and parking on upper Maine Street.

Dorothy Jones, 12 Pinefields Lane, said having a church in middle of a rotary hurts the building's structure.

Gary Brooks, 52 Arrowhead Drive and a bicyclist, expressed his concern about the safety for bicyclists if there is a rotary. He gave the example of the Merrymeeting Bicyclist group getting together and the difficulty they have getting around that area already.

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George Gilmore, Middle Bay Road, provided a map with various locations and the problems with traffic. The issue is not just for that area, the traffic is coming from other locations and often people do not have an interest in going that way, but that is the known way to get through town. A lot of traffic areas prior to getting into the downtown should be addressed.

Larry Clampitt, 25 Thornton Way and member of First Parish Church, said the proposal with the rotary will speed up traffic around the church and cause more pedestrian safety issues.

Ervin Snyder said he has concerns for bicyclists. He wants to make sure there is information provided to the traffic engineers about the pedestrians.

Chair King said this will be coming back to the Council in the future for more discussion and decisions.

55. The Town Council will discuss information on leasing the train lot on Cedar Street owned by the State of Maine, and will take any appropriate action.

Manager Gerrish said with the Maine Street Station project, there is the thought of sharing some of the parking on the Cedar Street parking lot. The town would enter into an agreement with MDOT and would be responsible for the day to day maintenance of the lot. Responding to Councilor Knight's question, there would be no money exchange; the town is responsible for maintaining it. She also asked about leasing spots to others and Manager Gerrish said he did not have that answer.

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

Councilor Daughtry said she is concerned about the overall picture with the train coming and that this seems like a non-plan. She wants a clear picture of funding sources and a copy of the lease. How does this fit into the intermodal part of the Maine Street Station project? How would pedestrian flow work?

Councilor Webb asked for information on a parking garage on that site, depending if the train arrives sooner rather than later.

Councilor Watson said he wants information on lighting for pedestrians and their vehicles.

Councilor Favreau said this parking lot was envisioned in the original Phase Two of Maine Street Station so this is not a new idea.

Mary Heath, 10 Cedar Street, spoke at length about her concerns for this lot and how this will effect the residents there. She asked several questions the Manager said he would check into prior to the next time this is discussed. Ms. Heath added more citizens need to be involved with what is happening with this project.

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Marybeth Burbank discussed the train in the past and said now there are funds being made available to fix the tracks. The train is going to be here in two years. The train is coming but the plan for Maine Street Station does not address it. She asked where the train station is since it is an integral part of the intermodal aspect of this project.

Manager Gerrish said there will continue to be discussions on this issue and he will work to get answers to the questions prior to reporting back to the Council at a future meeting.

56. The Town Council will consider a request for Sellers of Prepared Foods on Public Ways for the Gelato Fiasco at 74 Maine Street, along with the request to waive the \$500.00 outdoor seating fee, and will take any appropriate action.

Chair King said she is not in favor of waiving any fees. Councilor Augur and Councilor Knight agreed with her.

Councilor Daughtry suggested perhaps the waiver should happen for the first year a business requests it as a way to encourage business and activities in the downtown.

Councilor Klatt asked about why there is a charge. Manager Gerrish and Town Clerk Fran Smith explained it is in the ordinance and since the others who own in front of their stores pay taxes on the property, these folks using the public way do not so it is a fairness issue.

Councilor Watson added the issue of fairness to those who pay to be on the Mall.

Councilor Augur moved, Councilor Favreau seconded, to approve the Sellers of Prepared Foods on Public Ways for Gelato Fiasco at 74 Maine Street, but not waive the \$500.00 outdoor seating fee. The motion carried with seven (7) yeas. Councilor Klatt and Councilor Daughtry were opposed.

57. The Town Council will discuss authorizing the Facilities Sub-Committee to investigate the potential use of Hawthorne and Longfellow Schools for Municipal Offices or a Police Station, and will take any appropriate action.

Chair King said she has wanted to have a comprehensive facilities plan for the town and needs to have a plan so that information can be out for the voters. She would like to have the Facilities Committee investigate the potential uses of Hawthorne and Longfellow Schools for Municipal Offices or a Police Station and report back to Council by the last meeting in May.

Manager Gerrish said the School Board voted at their last meeting that it is their intention to give up ownership and use of those elementary schools if the referendum passes. He feels a Police Station at Longfellow School will not take much discussion to rule out.

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Councilor Augur moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to authorize the Facilities Sub-Committee to investigate the potential uses of Hawthorne and Longfellow Schools for municipal uses and report back to Council by the last meeting in May. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

Consent Agenda:

- (a) Appointment of Election Clerks
- (b) Pole Permit Application from Oxford Networks
- (c) Approve minutes from February 4, 2008
- (d) Approve minutes from March 3, 2008

Councilor Watson moved, Councilor Tucker seconded, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

(A copy of the appointed Election Clerks will be attached to the official minutes.)

Councilor Daughtry moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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

*Frances M. Smith
Town Clerk
April 25, 2008*

May 5, 2008

Date of Approval

Council Chair