

--APPROVED--
BRUNSWICK TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
January 23, 2007
Executive Session 7:30 P.M.
Municipal Meeting Facility

7:30 P.M. Chair King called the meeting to order and asked for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilors Present: Chair Joanne T. King, W. David Watson, Jacqueline A. Sartoris, Hallie Daughtry, Jeffrey A. Schneider, Gerald E. Favreau, Ryan E. Ewing, Newell A. Augur, and David C. Webb.

Councilors Absent: None.

Town Staff Present: Donald Gerrish, Town Manager; Fran Smith, Town Clerk; Geoffrey Hole, Town Attorney; and the TV video crew.

Executive Session: Personnel Matters per 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A)

Councilor Sartoris moved, Councilor Daughtry seconded, to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter per 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A). The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

16. The Town Council will discuss an e-mail sent by Councilor Watson, and will take any appropriate action.

The Council came out of executive session and the meeting resumed at 9:00 p.m.

Chair King said Councilor Watson had publicly apologized for sending a private e-mail to a town committee. There had been a lot of Council discussion over the past week, but no public comments were made. Councilor Watson has asked to speak on this issue.

Councilor Watson said last week he apologized to some wonderful people, who serve this community, about the e-mail he had send them accidentally. He takes full ownership and responsibility for his action. It has troubled him since he was made aware of it. It has shaken him. After much thought, he has decided he is not comfortable with continuing to serve as Vice Chair, and he is offering his resignation as Vice Chair of the Brunswick Town Council. He said his resignation is a matter of integrity.

Councilor Sartoris moved, Councilor Daughtry seconded, to accept Councilor Watson's resignation as Vice Chair of the Brunswick Town Council.

Councilor Sartoris said she appreciated Councilor Watson's offer to step down and his willingness to put this issue behind him in an honorable way so the work of the Council can continue.

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Councilor Schneider thanked Councilor Watson for this apology, and said he will reluctantly accept his resignation.

Councilor Augur said he echoed the previous comments; Councilor Watson is taking an honorable action, which will help the Council move forward with their work.

Chair King thanked Councilor Watson for this action and said it shows his ownership of this issue. Without objection, she excused Councilor Watson from voting on this motion.

Councilor Sartoris moved, Councilor Daughtry seconded, to accept Councilor Watson's resignation as Vice Chair of the Brunswick Town Council. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas. Councilor Watson was excused from the vote.

Chair King said the Council has decided to move forward with a resolution regarding this matter; she then read the resolution.

Councilor Daughtry moved, Councilor Ewing seconded, to accept the Resolution. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas. Councilor Watson was excused from the vote.

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

Chair King thanked everyone for dealing with this issue, and as the Council moves on, she hopes people understand that the Council did what they felt was right since this is all uncharted water for them. They have spoken about crafting some language to deal with other future issues, but at this point the Council did not have guidelines to address such an issue. She again thanked all the parties that have worked together to come up with a method to resolve this issue.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FEASIBILITY STUDY WORKSHOP ON THE BUSINESS PARK.

Chair King said the Council has scheduled a meeting on January 25, 2007, to discuss the process for doing a feasibility study regarding the business park. She is suggesting that the Council needs to tweak the plan for this meeting based on comments she has been receiving from the public. She is asking if the rest of the Council will allow the meeting to be canceled and have it as a discussion item on a future meeting to work out some issues so when they hold a meeting, it can be meaningful.

Councilor Augur said he is concerned about putting this meeting off since the date is set and this will delay the steps laid out by the Comprehensive Plan Committee. As he understands the Comprehensive Plan's process, there are a series of steps that need to be followed. He believes this is a good template to use at the meeting. One format may be to ask people to write out questions and see how many can be answered. That would be a fairly easy way to address the issues.

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Councilor Daughtry said it would be best to have residents be able to have their questions answered, so the Council could change the format to a question and answer session, with a round table discussion. There could be staff and others involved in the process to answer the questions before moving forward with the feasibility study.

Councilor Sartoris said the Council needs to put more thought into the study. She disagrees with Councilor Daughtry about the process; the Council supported the feasibility study, which the Comprehensive Plan set to allow the town to step away and work to get the analysis on the business park done. The Council needs to ask the questions in a forum sooner rather than later. She feels they need an additional week to get information so they can answer the questions.

Chair King suggested having a discussion at the upcoming special meeting on January 29, 2007, on what the format will be.

Councilor Ewing moved, Councilor Favreau seconded, to postpone the January 25, 2007, meeting until February 8, 2007, so the Council can discuss the meeting format at the January 29, 2007 Special Council Meeting. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas. Councilor Augur was opposed.

Manager Gerrish said, for clarity purposes, on January 29 the Council will discuss how they want to conduct the February 8 meeting. The decision to do the feasibility study was not voted on by the Council, but has been recommended by the Planning Board and Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Councilor Sartoris said on February 8 the Council needs to have solid direction to go. If there is going to be a formal discussion on this, she would like to see some proposals on how the Council can move forward on the feasibility study.

Manager Gerrish said the town will have formal recommendations.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 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
January 24, 2007*

February 26, 2007

Date of Approval

Council Chair