

-- Approved --
BRUNSWICK TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES
May 21, 2007
Executive Session 6:30 P.M.
Meeting Continues 7:00 P.M.
Budget Workshop after Adjournment of Regular Meeting
Municipal Meeting Facility

6:30 P.M. Chair King called the meeting to order.

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

Councilor Favreau moved, Councilor Webb seconded, to go into executive session on Personnel Matters per 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(A). The motion carried with five (5) yeas. Councilor Daughtry and Councilor Augur arrived after the vote.

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

Councilors Absent: Jacqueline A. Sartoris and W. David Watson.

Town Staff Present: Donald Gerrish, Town Manager; Fran Smith, Town Clerk; Gary Brown, Assistant Town Manager; Clark Labbe, Fire Chief; John Eldridge, Finance Director; John Foster, Public Works Director; and the TV video crew.

Meeting Continued: 7:00 P.M.

Chair King called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

Cathy Eastman, 29 Merryman Lane, said she wrote a letter to Councilor Schneider, Chair King, and Councilor Webb regarding complaints about town employees. She read sections of the letter.

Manager Gerrish responded that the town had received Ms. Eastman's complaints, reviewed them, and there is some disagreement. He will make sure this information is provided to the public and Ms. Eastman.

Julie Poole, 64 Moody Road, said Moody Road residents are having their own issue with the Codes Enforcement Officer regarding septic systems, electrical inspections, and a plumbing issue.

Town Council Minutes

May 21, 2007

Page 2

Correspondence:

a) Letter from Pem Schaeffer regarding the school construction referendum

Manager Gerrish said a letter was received from Pem Schaeffer regarding the school construction referendum.

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

Councilor Augur said after the budget process, he will be coming back to the Council with a charter amendment. It will be a way for the Council to be able to review any referendum question prior to it going to the ballot.

Manager Gerrish added that the wording for the school referendum will be determined by state law.

Adjustments to Agenda:

Add Item 80 on Appropriation for the Times Record Building.

Manager's Report:

a) Council Committee Updates

Chair King said the Brunswick Local Redevelopment Authority (BLRA) is ramping up and all requests will be vetted through subcommittees. On the homeless screening, the subcommittee only has three applications. The requests go through the appropriate subcommittee and then to the full Authority for their final decision.

Manager Gerrish said the town is making a presentation to the State and Local Screening subcommittee this week for the town's requests.

b) Update on Polling Places

Fran Smith, Town Clerk, reminded voters that for the June 12 Election there will only be one voting location, at the Old High School. She informed the Council as to how she is getting the word out to the community.

c) Council Summer Meeting Schedule

Manager Gerrish said Chair King would like to have the following summer schedule for Council meetings:

- Monday, July 9, Regular Council Meeting
- Monday, July 23, Regular Council Meeting
- Monday, August 6, Regular Council Meeting
- No further Council meetings in August
- Tuesday, September 4, Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Schneider moved, Councilor Daughtry seconded, to accept the dates for Council meetings as listed above. The motion carried with seven (7) yeas.

d) Update on Memorial Day Parade

Manager Gerrish updated the Council on the Memorial Day Parade. It will be next Monday, starting at 8:30 a.m. in Topsham. The good news is the bridge paving should be done today and the bridge should reopen tomorrow.

77. The Town Council will consider a request to apply for a grant through the “Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program” (CEDAP), and will take any appropriate action.

Chief Labbe said this is a request to apply for a grant through the “Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program” (CEDAP). It is a program through the Department of Homeland Security. The grant is a request for two specific pieces of chemical detection equipment for the HazMat Team. If awarded, the requested equipment valued at approximately \$32,000.00, would be provided with no town match requirement.

Councilor Favreau moved, Councilor Daughtry seconded, to apply for a grant through the “Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program” (CEDAP). The motion carried with seven (7) yeas.

78. The Town Council will discuss Ambulance billing, and will take any appropriate action.

John Eldridge, Finance Director, said the fees are currently done by resolution and now the town is proposing to have them in an ordinance form. The key to the ordinance is the fee section. The budget for 07-08 is crafted with some increase in the fees. The Town Attorney will review it. The proposal is looking to have fees in fewer categories based on ways that Insurance Companies and Medicare pay.

Chief Labbe explained the fees and how they meet the Medicare guidelines, since they are rolling services together to get a large reimbursement. Responding to a question, Chief Labbe said that from July 1 to the end of April, the non-transport calls represented 19% of all calls. The town does not bill if the call is made by a bystander or the Police; they only charge if there is some relationship between the patient and the caller.

(A copy of Chief Labbe’s memo will be attached to the official minutes.)

Mr. Eldridge said the ordinance gives more weight than just a fee schedule alone since it goes through the hearing process and has thirty days to go into effect.

Councilor Augur said Medicare has graduated rate schedules and individuals have to pay the difference. He asked how much of the additional cost will be picked up by Medicare.

Town Council Minutes

May 21, 2007

Page 4

Mr. Eldridge said under Medicaid the town has to accept the rate and cannot bill above it. Under Medicare, the town agrees to take payment directly from the insurer and take their schedule, which pays 80%, and the 20% is billed to the patient or to another insurance company. The town also has accepted assignment from other insurer. If the town is not charging the larger amount allowed under the program, the town get the lower amount.

Councilor Webb asked if the Medicare rates are set by statute and if they are consistent with payments of insurance companies.

Mr. Eldridge said if the town accepts assignment from an insurance company, if they pay 80%, the town can collect other 20% from the patient. The town does not accept assignment from all insurance companies, and in that case the patient is billed; he/she must submit it to the insurance company. Mr. Eldridge also responded that the money goes to the general fund. There is no direct link between cost of services and revenue received.

Councilor Daughtry moved, Councilor Ewing seconded, to set a public hearing for June 4, 2007, to consider a billing ordinance for Emergency Medical Services. The motion carried with seven (7) yeas.

79. The Town Council will consider making an appointment to the Brunswick Local Redevelopment Authority, and will take any appropriate action.

Manager Gerrish said Joe Wishcamper has resigned from the Brunswick Local Redevelopment Authority. This was a regional appointment; the Governor's Office has provided the name of Charles Spies from Topsham to be the new regional representative.

Councilor Ewing said he was concerned with changing the LRA and the Council had made ordinance changes to keep members experienced. Now the LRA has the recently appointed Sue Spann as the Topsham LRA representative, and now it is going to have an additional new person. He is uncertain what the town's role is and what subcommittee Mr. Spies would be on. He then asked who is on the state and local subcommittee.

Manager Gerrish said the decision of subcommittee appointments is done by the LRA. The five members on the State and Local Screening subcommittee are Marty Wilk, Stan Gerzofsky, John Richardson, Forrest Lowe, and Rob Jarrett.

Chair King said Mr. Wishcamper was the regional representative and that is why Mr. Spies is also one and it is not a local appointment.

Manager Gerrish said the current LRA is a locally appointed committee done by town ordinance; the state appointed implementation committee will have eleven members, with seven appointed from a list provided by the effected committees.

Town Council Minutes

May 21, 2007

Page 5

Manager Gerrish said, responding to Councilor Webb's question about other names presented, the town had asked for names from the Governor's office and this is who they provided.

Councilor Favreau moved, Councilor Schneider seconded, to appoint Charles Spies to the Brunswick Local Redevelopment Authority. The motion carried with seven (7) yeas.

80. (ADDED) The Town Council will consider a Resolution for an Emergency Appropriation to fund renovations at the Times Record Building, and will take any appropriate action.

Manager Gerrish said the town's intention is to repair the Times Record Building with funds from selling the BEDC owned Harbor Technologies building, but the town needs to continue the work now and will have the use of CDBG funds resulting from the sale. There has been a hold on selling the Harbor Technology Building. The Times Record building is being appraised with the possibility of selling it. The town made a commitment to the college and needs to get the rest of the work done. The town has the funds in the fund balance. The town hopes to replenish funds once it is sold.

Councilor Daughtry asked when the sale of the Times Record building takes place, if it would be directly between the town and the college. Manager Gerrish responded yes.

Councilor Ewing said his concern is the town was willing to sell the Times Record building to the BDC and then this idea came along and he wants to know why the town is involved with selling the building. BDC is willing to spend money on economic development so he wonders why the money is not coming from it.

Manager Gerrish responded the BDC did discuss buying the building but wanted to wait to see what the outcome of the lease was going to be. The BEDC has not made the decision to do it.

Councilor Ewing said he is concerned with the Town of Brunswick being this involved in economic development instead of the two entities the town set up to do it. He is not going to vote for this yet. He is worried the town will be on the hook for this money if the building is not sold.

Councilor Ewing moved to table this item for two weeks. There was no second.

Mr. Eldridge said the town signed a lease with the community college, which required the town to make improvements to the property. There were three phases, with two benefiting the community college. The last phase is for a roof, which was scheduled to be done in the near future. The final \$100,000 is for the Phase 3 renovations that are not required by the lease, but sections could be leased to others or used by the town. The Council could vote for \$200,000 for Phase 2, \$200,000 for the roof, and \$100,000 for Phase 3. The BEDC was not interested in purchasing until improvements and revenue

Town Council Minutes

May 21, 2007

Page 6

were shown. The BDC met to see if they would front \$1 million and they have not made a decision since they have been hit in other areas to spend funds.

Manager Gerrish said he talked to the state to see if the town can use \$400,000 for the Times Record Building from the other building sold, and that is possible.

Manager Gerrish asked that \$200,000 for Phase 2 be approved, which would be sufficient at this point since this work is ongoing.

Manager Gerrish said the initial conversation was to lease some of the building and now the community college is interested in the possibility of purchasing it.

Chair King said the full Council supported this project. Mr. Eldridge added this is part of the deal with the college; the town has to do the necessary work.

Councilor Webb requested to revise the request to \$200,000 and to use the funds from the CDBG funds if they becomes available.

Mr. Eldridge said the CDBG grant money has to come back to the Council for their approval as what to do with it. He said the town can do \$200,000, but he is not sure of the roof schedule.

Councilor Ewing moved, Councilor Daughtry seconded, to adopt the Resolution for an Emergency Appropriation of \$200,000 from Unappropriated Available General Fund Revenues to Fund Renovations at the Times Record Building. The motion carried with six (6) yeas. Councilor Ewing was opposed.

Councilor Schneider moved, Councilor Daughtry seconded, to adjourn meeting and go into Budget Workshop. The motion carried with seven (7) yeas.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 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

June 25, 2007

July 23, 2007

Date of Approval

Council Chair