

-- APPROVED --
BRUNSWICK TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES
November 17, 2008
Municipal Meeting Facility
44 McKeen Street

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; John Eldridge, Finance Director; Amanda Similien, Economic Development Specialist; Bryan Dancause, Economic Development Specialist; Russ Wrede, Police Lieutenant; and the TV video crew.

Public Comment:

Debbie Atwood, 57 Hennessy, said there will be a local coat collection by TRIAD with L.L. Bean donating to the cause.

Correspondence: Letter from E. Benet Pols resigning from the Planning Board

Manager Gerrish said a letter from Benet Pols provides his resignation from the Planning Board due to his election to the Council.

Councilor Tucker said there will be photos of the old high school on display by Sarah Brayman.

Adjustments to the Agenda: None

Manager's Report:

(a) Manager's Search Update

Manager Gerrish said at the Council's request, he has requested additional proposals to do this search, and has received three of them. He needs some feedback as to where they want to go.

Councilor Tucker wanted to set up a conference call with these folks.

Councilor Knight said she did not want to interview the company from California.

(b) Closing of the Municipal Offices on December 26th

Manager Gerrish said Christmas falls on Thursday this year and he is requesting the Council give the town employees the Friday after Christmas off. For all Public Safety employees, the town will give them compensating time off, equal to one working day, so they will be treated equally. The Town Council authorized this in 2007 when Christmas was on a Tuesday, with the offices closed Monday, and in 2003 when Christmas was on a Thursday, the Council gave employees Friday off. The cost is \$20,000 for one day's payroll. There is additional cost if replacements are needed in the use of comp time, which could be \$7,500.

Councilor Klatt will be voting against it. She read a statement that included a variety of points. She did not want to be seen as ungrateful to employees, but she has concerns with the expense to the town's taxpayers. It will cost the taxpayers over \$23,000. She is not looking to cheat anyone out of their benefits, but she has to be responsible to the taxpayers.

Councilor Augur thanked Councilor Klatt for bringing this up, but he will support it since staff was not given any pay increase last July.

Councilor Favreau will support it since employees attend many meetings and deserve this.

Councilor Tucker moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to close municipal offices on Friday, December 26, 2008. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas. Councilor Klatt was opposed.

(c) Upcoming Council Workshops

Manager Gerrish said things have changed in Augusta and will affect budgets next year. He feels the need to have a joint workshop with the School Board and Council to discuss the outlook, which will cause possible tax cuts. He also feels the Facilities Committee needs to continue their work.

Chair King supported this plan since the Council needs to know what the school needs to do. The Facilities Committee has been a very productive vehicle for getting information on different facilities needs.

Manager Gerrish said there will be a workshop on December 11 to discuss economic development. He is looking for direction for that night.

Councilor Webb said he brought forward the idea of doing a subcommittee to look at economic development and how it should be done in the future. He talked to other

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communities as to how they deal with similar functions served by the BEDC, and they are also interested in talking with Brunswick and explaining some of the things they do.

Councilor Knight suggested two nights, but not both in December. This needs a lot of attention and much learning as to how the BEDC works and there should be another night on the other communities.

Councilor Daughtry agrees with both and would like to learn more and about other towns' models, but the Council is running out of time in this year. If they cannot do both in December, she would like to have citizen Webb give a report.

Councilor Augur said the first meeting would be a round table discussion like the business park one, and set a firm date for second meeting.

Councilor Favreau suggested having the new Council involved in the second meeting.

Manager Gerrish discussed possible dates in January for this and the meeting with the School Board.

Councilor Webb had asked other communities to hold December 11 and December 18. He would favor if not two meetings, having one longer meeting.

Chair King suggested a compromise of one meeting, just having it longer, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. She would prefer two or more meetings so they are not in a compressed time frame and can be done right. She asked who wanted a meeting with BEDC and then another one. The December 11 meeting with BEDC in round table would be the first step. She was concerned about December 18, since it would have limited public input with it being around the holidays.

Councilor Webb asked about a vote on the compromise. He added, responding to Councilor Klatt's question if others had been reserved those dates, that the other communities had both the 11th and 18th penciled in. They are all available on December 11 and felt if told to be brief they could be, and then meet with the BEDC. That way the Council could get the flavor for other communities' ways.

Councilor Tucker, Councilor Daughtry, Councilor Klatt and Councilor Webb supported Councilor Webb's proposal.

Councilors Watson, Chair King, Councilor Favreau, Councilor Knight, and Councilor Augur supported the December 11 workshop with the BEDC.

(d) Council Committee Updates

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Councilor Knight said there will be a meeting of the Maine Street Station Oversight Committee, along with the Downtown Master Plan Committee's subcommittees.

Manager Gerrish said the Facilities Committee will meet as soon as possible to get information from the schools.

Councilor Klatt said there will be a Gingerbread House for Youths competition sponsored by the Brunswick Teen Center supporting Habitat for Humanity. She and Councilor Elect Atwood will be at Wild Oats from 10:00 to noon this Saturday to meet with constituents.

Councilor Daughtry said the Elementary School Committee continues to meet, with things coming together. Councilor Favreau added that there will be a chimney swifts tower, which will be forty feet, so there is a need to raise more funds so the tower can be in place before demolition begins.

(e) Elections Update

Fran Smith, Town Clerk, reported on the November 4 Election, which produced one of the highest number of voters participating, with 11,959 votes cast. With 15,010 active voters, this represented a 79% turnout. There were 5,003 absentee ballots issued, and 4,844 (or 40% of those voting) returned prior to Election Day.

(A copy of the full election results will be attached to the official minutes.)

Councilor Tucker thanked the Clerk for all her hard work.

(f) Trash and Recycling Schedule for Thanksgiving

Manager Gerrish said there will be no curbside collection of trash or recycling on Thursday, November 27th due to the Thanksgiving Day holiday. A make-up collection for trash and recycling will take place on Saturday, November 29th. Please have materials curbside for collection by 7 am. Although town offices are closed on Friday, November 28th, curbside trash and recycling collection will take place on Friday as usual. The Graham Road landfill will be closed over the entire holiday weekend from Thursday thru Saturday (November 27th thru November 29th).

(g) Winter Parking Rules

Manager Gerrish said this is just to remind citizens that the town does not prohibit overnight parking on town streets or the municipal parking lots unless they call a parking ban due to a pending storm. The town does have more information on the town website including an option to sign up for an email notification each time a parking ban is called,

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as well as a phone number (725-0363) to call to hear a recorded message if a parking ban has been called. The parking ban will also be announced through the local media.

(f) Reception for Manager Gerrish

Assistant Manager Brown announced there will be a reception for the retiring Town Manager on Monday, December 8 at the High School. It is open to the public.

169. The Town Council will discuss disposition of the Times Record Building and two acres of property on Thomas Point Road, and will take any appropriate action.

Assistant Manager Brown at the Council's workshop talked about the issue of what to do with the two properties. His memo outlines options like sealed bids and going through a realtor. He is asking staff and a couple of Councilors to work with those interested in purchasing the property(ies) and bring deals back to the full Council in executive session.

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

Councilor Watson said he liked the idea of Council involvement and having the Facilities Committee involved with it, or at least a couple of members of it.

Councilor Favreau said he liked the idea of staff and the Council working on it.

Councilor Webb asked how to get information out.

Mr. Brown said that it would be in the newspaper and there may be some interest out there. What is likely to occur is staff will meet with developers, the college, and others and see what interest there is.

Manager Gerrish said the College is interested, but money is an issue. He is hoping to get an extension on their lease to make it more appealing if purchased.

Councilor Daughtry said she wants a better way to make the availability of the property known and would want at least an advertisement.

Mr. Brown added it would be on the web page, the local cable and in the local papers.

Manager Gerrish said if the Council supports selling it, they can authorize staff and two Councilors to work on how to sell it and what method.

Councilor Favreau moved, Councilor Knight seconded, to authorize the staff and selected Councilors to work on proposals. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

- 170. The Town Council will consider setting a public hearing to amend Chapter 12 (Personnel Policy) relative to providing health insurance benefits to domestic partners, and will take any appropriate action.**

Mr. Brown said this item is requesting the Council set a public hearing to amend the Town's Personnel Policy to extend health insurance coverage to town employees' domestic partners. There are several employees in long term relationships who are not married and need to have this change to extend coverage to them. Ninety other municipalities in Maine offer this coverage.

Councilor Augur said he pleased the town is doing this.

Councilor Watson moved, Councilor Daughtry seconded, to set a public hearing for December 1, 2008, relative to amending Chapter 12 (Personnel Policy) of the Code of Ordinances to provide health insurance benefits to domestic partners. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

- 171. The Town Council will consider setting a public hearing to amend Chapter 15 (Traffic and Vehicles) relative to extending No Parking on a section of Harpswell Road, and will take any appropriate action.**

Manager Gerrish said this item is to set a public hearing on ordinance changes that will extend the current No Parking area on Harpswell Road from Garrison Street to Hambleton Avenue. The Police are proposing this change due to the opening of the new Bowdoin College soccer field and arena on Harpswell Road. The facilities are beginning to be used, with parking spilling out onto Harpswell Road; the Police will be enacting this on an emergency basis under their authority until the Council takes formal action.

Councilor Klatt requested a map in the future.

Councilor Daughtry moved, Councilor Favreau seconded, to set a public hearing for December 1, 2008, relative to amending Chapter 15 (Traffic and Vehicles) of the Code of Ordinances extending No Parking on Harpswell Road from Garrison Street to Hambleton Avenue. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

- 172. The Town Council will consider setting a public hearing regarding a Community Planning Grant for the Northwest Brunswick Neighborhood, and will take any appropriate action.**

Amanda Similien, Economic Development Specialist, said this item is to set a public hearing on a Community Planning Grant from the Office of Community Development in the amount of \$10,000 for the Northwest Brunswick Neighborhood area. The town has been given this and will have to accept it after a public hearing.

Councilor Knight moved, Councilor Favreau seconded, to set a public hearing for December 1, 2008, on a CDBG grant in the amount of \$10,000 to be used for the Northwest Brunswick Neighborhood area. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

(A copy of a memo from the Economic Development Department will be attached to the official minutes.)

173. The Town Council will consider setting a public hearing regarding the Town of Brunswick acting as a pass through for a Special Projects Grant for Tedford Housing, and will take any appropriate action. (Manager)

Ms. Similien said this item is to set the required public hearing to allow the town to act as a pass through on behalf of Tedford Housing for a Special Projects grant for 34 Federal Street. The grant is in the amount of \$125,000 and will be used for repairs and insulation of this six-unit family homeless shelter.

Councilor Favreau asked if this would be under the Village Review Board's review and Ms. Similien responded yes.

Councilor Watson moved, Councilor Daughtry seconded, to set a public hearing for December 1, 2008, to allow the Town of Brunswick to act as pass through for a \$125,000 Special Projects grant for Tedford Housing. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

CONSENT AGENDA:

a) Easement Deed from Central Maine Power

Manager Gerrish said this is for an easement to allow CMP to place a pole on a lot for 81 Mere Point Road. John Foster has inspected the proposed area and has no objection to the town granting this easement.

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

(A copy of an email from Mr. Foster and the easement will be attached to the official minutes.)

Executive Session: Discussion of Labor Negotiations as per M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D)

Councilor Augur moved, Councilor Favreau seconded, to go into executive session to discuss Labor Negotiations as per M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D). The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

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Councilor Webb moved, Councilor Augur seconded, to adjourn 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
December 9, 2008

December 15, 2008

Date of Approval

Council Chair