

BRUNSWICK TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
December 1, 1997 7:30 P.M.
MUNICIPAL MEETING ROOM
OLD BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL
7:00 P.M.

Councilor Wilson moved, Councilor Galloupe seconded, that the Town Council enter Executive Session to discuss possible litigation. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

7:30 P.M.

Chair McCausland called the meeting to order and asked for the Pledge to the Flag.

Councilors Present: Chair McCausland, Michael Feldman, Eleanor Swanson, Robert Galloupe, Leon Laffely, Clement Wilson, Faith Moll, Ervin Snyder, and David Gleason.

Others Present: Donald Gerrish, Town Manager; Deborah Cabana, Town Clerk; Frank McVey, Superintendent of Water District; Theo Holtwijk, Director of Planning and Development; several citizens, members of the press and Casco Cable TV.

Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Councilor Wilson moved, Councilor Gleason seconded, to approve the Council minutes of November 17, 1997 as distributed. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas -Chair McCausland abstained as he was absent from this meeting.

Correspondence: Manager Gerrish stated that he had received a letter of resignation from Christopher Fuchs of the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee. A letter of appreciation will be sent to Mr. Fuchs and the position will be advertised.

Councilor Feldman noted a meeting scheduled this Thursday at the Atrium Hotel (Cooks Corner) at 7:00 p.m. This will be the second public meeting regarding the final draft for the Cooks Corner Master Plan before it is sent to the Council for review and approval.

Manager's Report:

1. Budget Update - Manager Gerrish reported that we are 42 percent through the current fiscal year. Both revenues and expenditures are in very good shape. Excise taxes received for the months of October and November are \$10,000 ahead of the total monies received last year at this time.

Chair McCausland thanked those who organized the bypass opening ceremony. Additionally, he wanted to publicly thank Manager Gerrish for his valuable assistance with this project.

Adjustments to the Agenda: NONE

227. The Town Council will hear public comments on the following request for a new Victualer license for:

Cathleen Bagdon's
287 Maine Street

Cathleen P. Bagdon

The Public Hearing opened at 7:35 p.m. The Public Hearing closed at 7:35 p.m.

Councilor Galloupe moved, Councilor Laffely seconded, to approve the Victualer's License for Cathleen Bagdon's. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

228. The Town Council will hear public comments on the following proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance involving the Sign Ordinance relative to pole signs, copy signs, political signs and directional signs.

Manager Gerrish explained that there are thirteen proposed amendments.

The Public Hearing opened at 7:36 p.m.

Councilor Snyder was not in favor of the proposed amendment to Section 603.B, pertaining to signs, which would eliminate the need to send a notice to owners of property on the same street and located within 200 feet of the property boundary where a sign is requested. He felt it would be beneficial to notify the abutters for a period of time and possibly reconsider this option later.

Councilor Moll thought that signage was emotional and agreed with Councilor Snyder that this section should not be changed at this time.

Councilor Wilson echoed the comments of Councilors Moll and Snyder.

Manager Gerrish understood that historically there was an issue of an internal lit sign, which was allowed under the old ordinance. This initiated the need to notify the abutters and those located within 200 feet of the property boundary. However, the existing ordinance limits internally lit signs. This proposed change has been offered because of concern of applicants who apply for a sign permit and must wait five days before it may be approved. This item is an issue of convenience and notice.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:42 p.m.

Councilor Galloupe moved, Councilor Laffely seconded, to amend the proposed change to Section 604.8 (Political Signs) to eight (8) square feet in size.

Councilor Feldman agreed that eight square feet was more practical.

It was agreed among the Councilors that the square footage of the signs should be calculated per side.

Councilor Moll felt that six square feet was adequate.

The amendment was voted on and carried with seven (7) yeas and two (2) nays - Councilors Swanson and Moll opposed.

Theo Holtwijk, Director of Planning and Development, commented that individuals may enter his department with some expectations that if they are in compliance with the requirements set forth in the ordinance, that they will be granted a permit shortly after application. Currently, a five day waiting period exists and the abutter must be notified before this permit may be issued. He was not aware that any individuals, during the first six months of implementation of the new Zoning Ordinance, have actually come forward to raise comments on any signs being proposed.

Councilor Gleason questioned if a sign permit application meets all criteria established in the ordinance, could the application for the sign be denied if an abutter expresses concern with the sign. Manager Gerrish noted that an appeal process is in place, though it was felt that the issue had not come up before and Councilor Gleason's point was noted by the Chair.

Councilor Snyder moved, Councilor Moll seconded, to approve the proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, as amended above, involving the Sign Ordinance relative to pole signs, copy signs, political signs and directional signs, with the exception of paragraph 8 (Section 603.B). The motion carried with seven (7) yeas and two (2) nays - Councilors Laffely and Gleason opposed.

Councilor Wilson moved, Councilor Laffely seconded, to approve the proposed amendment, paragraph 8 (Section 603.B) to the Zoning Ordinance, as presented by the Planning Board. The motion carried with six (6) yeas and three (3) nays - Councilors Swanson, Moll, and Snyder opposed. A copy of the proposed amendments will be attached to the official minutes.

229. The Town Council will consider accepting a Drainage Easement Deed from Rodolphe and Norma Bouchard for a drainage easement over a parcel of land located in the Hennessey Avenue West Subdivision. (Manager)

Councilor Laffely moved, Councilor Wilson seconded, to accept the Drainage Easement Deed from Rodolphe and Norma Bouchard, located in the Hennessey Avenue West Subdivision. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

230. The Town Council will consider the request from the Brunswick Intown Group for financial assistance with the downtown holiday lighting, and take any appropriate action. (Manager)

A request has been received from the Brunswick Intown Group requesting assistance in funding the holiday lighting for downtown. BIG is asking the Town to contribute \$1,000 toward this holiday season's lights and to budget one-half of the total amount needed in future years, or \$2,500 a year. If approved, the money would come from the Contingency Account. Betsy Morrell, representing Brunswick Intown Group, was at the Council meeting to make this proposal.

Councilor Gleason moved, Councilor Feldman seconded, to authorize \$1,000 from 1997-98 Contingency Account to be used for downtown holiday lighting. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

231. The Town Council will receive an informational update from the Sewer District concerning Entrance Fees. (Manager)

Chair McCausland pointed out that the Council only appoints Sewer District trustees but does not regulate the sewer fees.

Frank McVey informed the Council of the Sewer District Entrance Charge Program. A copy of the program will be attached to the official minutes.

There was considerable discussion among the Councilors pertaining to the new fees and the difference between Brunswick's entrance fee (\$1,178) and Topsham's entrance fee (\$200-\$300). It was explained that new customers will pay for the growth as it affects the existing system. Councilors encouraged the Trustees to look at the possibility of more moderation in entrance fees and requiring the current rate payers to contribute to some of the growth.

232. The Town Council will consider making appointments to the following boards and committees:

Brunswick Development Corp.

1 Member - Three year term to expire 06/17/99

Councilor Wilson moved, Councilor Snyder seconded, to appoint Sandra Morrell - Rooney to the Brunswick Development Corp. for a three year term to expire 06/17/99. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

Personnel Board

1 Assoc. Member - Three year term to expire 01/12/00

Councilor Moll moved, Councilor Swanson seconded, to appoint Harold W. Adams to the Personnel Board as an associate member for a three year term to expire 01/12/00. The motion carried with nine(9) yeas.

Zoning Board of Appeals

2 Full Members - Three year terms to expire 11/20/00

Councilor Moll moved, Councilor Feldman seconded to appoint Norman J. Rattey and James M. Connellan to the Zoning Board of Appeals as full members for three year terms to expire 11/20/00. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

Councilor Moll moved, Councilor Gleason seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 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.

Deborah S. Cabana
Town Clerk
May 19, 2011

Date of approval

Council Chair