

BRUNSWICK TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
February 20, 2001
MUNICIPAL MEETING FACILITY

7:30 P.M. Chair McCausland called the meeting to order and asked for the Pledge to the Flag.

Councilors Present: Chair McCausland, Robert Galloupe, Charles Priest, Faith Moll, Forrest Lowe, and David Gleason.

Councilors Absent: Michael Feldman, Jacqueline Sartoris, and Timothy Dotts.

Others Present: Pam Fogg, Assistant Town Manager; Fran Smith, Town Clerk; Sandy Feeney, Fire Department; Gary Howard, Fire Chief; John Foster, Public Works Director; Tim Young and Sonja Moeller, Police Department; several citizens, members of the press, and the TV video crew.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: February 6, 2001

Councilor Lowe moved, Councilor Galloupe seconded, to approve the minutes of February 6, 2001. The motion carried with five (5) yeas. Councilor Priest abstained, as he was not present at the February 6 meeting.

Correspondence:

None

Manager's Report:

1) Report on Joint Micro-Loan Program Application made by Brunswick, Bath and Topsham.

Ms. Fogg said the town was asked to participate with Bath and Topsham to make a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application for \$100,000 to be used by the three communities for a revolving loan program.

(Copies of a memo outlining the proposal and the application will be attached to the official minutes.)

2) Report on implementation of Enhanced 911.

Commander Timothy Young said the state has been working to get the Enhanced 911 system since the early 1990s. The equipment and telephone lines have been installed in Brunswick, and the town will be going on line next Wednesday (February 28). It is

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hoped that the entire state will be online by next fall. The public will still dial 911, but the police will be able to see the actual phone number and address when they receive a call.

Sonia Moeller, Communications Officer, said there would be no change in how their business is conducted; they will have addresses and phone numbers appear automatically. The E911 also has a built in TDD. All cell calls still go to the state police in Augusta, and they forward the call to Brunswick.

3) Discussion of 2001 Council Goals.

Ms. Fogg asked the Council to review the proposed goals and comment to the Manager by February 28 so they can be placed on the March 5 agenda for discussion.

4) Update of Upcoming Public Meetings for River Road Improvements and Downtown Master Plan Improvements.

John Foster, Public Works Director, explained the two public meetings being held to discuss proposed improvements to the "S" Curves on River Road and to discuss the upcoming work on the Mall and Downtown sidewalks, which is part of the Downtown Master Plan Program.

(Copies of the public hearing notice will be attached to the official minutes.)

Ms. Fogg said a special addition of Brunswick Today was recently taped to review winter operations and the snow removal process.

Adjustments to the Agenda: None

25. The Town Council will hear public comments on the proposed amendment to Section 13-20 of the Solid Waste Ordinance on Commercial Waste Collection and take any appropriate action.

Councilor Moll said this proposed amendment (not allowing commercial waste collection pick up between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.) was prompted by the complaints she has received relative to the noise produced by trash pick-up from dumpsters in the early morning.

Chair McCausland opened the public hearing.

Michael Troiano, Troiano Waste Service Inc., said if they cannot pick up prior to 7:00 a.m., they would be behind schedule, and there would be safety issues since it would be harder to get to the dumpsters with all the traffic and parked cars. He would like to see the time to begin set at 5:00 a.m. They pick up in Brunswick everyday, with the number of pick-ups for individual dumpsters varying.

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

Dan Peters, Pine Tree Waste, expressed his concern about access to dumpsters under the proposed restrictions. His haulers are in Brunswick everyday by 5:00 a.m. and could support the 5:00 a.m. start.

Chair McCausland closed the public hearing.

Councilor Moll said the citizens she spoke with favor the proposed hours, and 5:00 a.m. is too early to start. Construction companies are not allowed to start that early. The downtown area is densely populated and trash removal noise causes problems. It is important that people living in this area be protected from noises, smells and other nuisances. Constituents have called as early as 2:30 a.m. with complaints. Trash haulers should be able to do their jobs in the eleven (11) hours allotted to them. She urged the Council to pass this ordinance.

Councilor Gleason said he would oppose this proposal unless the time was changed. There are advantages and disadvantages to living in the downtown area. He would support a 5:00 a.m. start as a compromise. He asked the haulers present about any complaints they have had.

Mr. Troiano said they do their best to accommodate when complaints occur. Sometimes they are unable to change the time. As far as specific complaints, they have had some at the Tontine Mall once or twice. They had made some pick-ups as early as 2:30 a.m. due to a labor shortage.

Councilor Lowe recommended a 6:00 a.m. start.

Councilor Gleason was concerned that 6:00 a.m. would not be a workable compromise for the haulers. He asked if other towns had restricted times.

Mr. Peters said that a 6:00 a.m. start would cause block-ins at later pick-ups. He was not aware of any restrictions in other towns.

Chair McCausland said he is unaware of this problem and he lives in the downtown area. He has not had one complaint relative to noise caused by commercial trash pick-up. He asked Councilor Moll about the number of complaints she had received.

Councilor Moll said there is a list of communities proposing a 7:00 a.m. start. The complaints have included ten (10) complaints on Federal Street, four (4) or five (5) on Maine Street, six (6) on Union Street along with a few from other areas.

(A copy of a memo outlining other communities restrictions will be attached to the official minutes)

Councilor Gleason moved, Councilor Galloupe seconded, to add the following amendment to Section 13-20 of the Solid Waste Ordinance on Commercial Waste Collection: "A Commercial Waste Collector shall not collect from any premises within the Town of Brunswick between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m." The motion carried with four (4) yeas. Opposed Councilors Moll and Lowe.

(A copy of the public hearing notice and adopted language will be attached to the official minutes)

26. The Town Council will receive a report from the Fire Chief concerning increasing fees for Ambulance Calls and take any appropriate action.

Chief Howard discussed the proposed increases, which are based on an average of other communities. The basic fee would be going from one hundred thirty five dollars (\$135) for residents and one hundred fifty five dollars (\$155) for nonresidents to one hundred seventy dollars (\$170) for basic life support and one hundred ninety five dollars (\$195) for advance life support, plus an additional fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) for nonresidents.

The Council requested to hold a public hearing on March 5, 2001, relative to increasing fees for Ambulance Calls and to take any appropriate action at that time.

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

27. The Town Council will discuss the formation of a committee to assist with planning a train station in Brunswick and take any appropriate action.

Councilor Sartoris requested this item be placed on the agenda, but is not present at this meeting.

Councilor Gleason moved, Councilor Galloupe seconded, to table this item since Councilor Sartoris was not present. The motion carried with six (6) yeas.

28. The Town Council will consider waiver of tax lien foreclosures and take any appropriate action.

This item will authorize the waiver of any tax lien foreclosures on any property that is not in the best interest of the town to own.

Councilor Lowe moved, Councilor Priest seconded, to adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Town Treasurer to Waive Foreclosure on Certain Real Estate Tax Lien Mortgages. The motion carried with six (6) yeas.

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

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- 29. The Town Council will consider the request of the Friends of the Curtis Memorial Library to hang a banner on Maine Street from June 11 to June 25 and take any appropriate action.**

Councilor Gleason moved, Councilor Priest seconded, to approve the banner for the Friends of the Curtis Memorial Library. The motion carried with six (6) yeas.

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

- 30. The Town Council will consider the recommendation from Cathy Donovan, Tax Assessor, for a tax abatement for incorrectly assessing a 1999 tax and take any appropriate action.**

Councilor Gleason moved, Councilor Priest seconded, to approve the abatement for the incorrectly assessed 1999 tax as recommended by the Town Assessor. The motion carried with six (6) yeas.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 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.

Frances M. Smith
Town Clerk
February 22, 2001

March 5, 2001

Date of Approval

Council Chair