

**7:00 P.M. – The Town Council will vote to enter Executive Session to discuss a property tax abatement.**

**Councilor Moll moved, Councilor Priest seconded, to go into executive session to discuss a property tax abatement. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.**

**BRUNSWICK TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA  
MAY 7, 2001  
7:30 P.M.  
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, Michael Feldman, Jacqueline Sartoris, Timothy Dotts, Robert Galloupe, Charles Priest, Faith Moll, and David Gleason.

**Councilors Absent:** Councilor Lowe.

**Others Present:** Don Gerrish, Town Manager; Fran Smith, Town Clerk; Tom Farrell, Director of Parks and Recreation Department; Chief Gary Howard, Fire Department; President Robert Edwards and Scott Hood, Bowdoin College; several citizens, members of the press, and the TV video crew.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting: April 17, 2001**

**Councilor Dotts moved, Councilor Galloupe seconded, to approve the minutes of April 17, 2001. The motion carried with seven (7) yeas. Councilor Moll abstained since she was not present at the April 17, 2001 meeting.**

**Correspondence: Letter from Joan McDuff  
requesting approval to place a bench  
at the Mill Street Canoe Landing.**

**Councilor Moll moved, Councilor Dotts seconded, to accept Ms. McDuff's donation of a granite bench to be placed at the Mill Street Canoe Landing. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.**

*(A copy of Ms. McDuff's letter will be attached to official minutes.)*

**Resignation: Elizabeth Wilson  
Welfare Appeals Board**

The Council accepted Ms. Wilson's resignation. A letter will be sent to her thanking her for her service to the community.

**Manager's Report:**

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### **1) "State of the College" – Robert H. Edwards, Bowdoin College**

**President Robert Edwards** updated the Council on what Bowdoin College is doing. This would be his last presentation to the Council since he was retiring. He thanked the town for all their support and assistance.

Chair McCausland thanked President Edwards and his staff for working to strengthen the relationship between the town and the college.

### **2) Financial Update**

Mr. Gerrish said the good news is that in the month of April excise tax was twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) more than last April. However, the town will still be fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) short from what was projected for excise, and the state revenue sharing will be one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000) below what was expected. The town is fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000) over in the winter snow removal budget and thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) over in health insurance costs due to increases.

### **3) Formal Presentation of 2001/2002 Municipal Budget**

Mr. Gerrish discussed the proposed budget for 2001/2002. It has a total tax increase of 12.7% for both the school (with 6.5% to 7% increase) and the town (with 5% to 5.5% increase). The reasons for the increases include: 1) projected revenues are down by fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000); 2) valuation is expected to go down by seven million dollars (\$7,000,000), which equals a loss of one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$140,000) in tax revenue; 3) fixed costs have gone up, including health insurance, utilities and gas; 4) the library's budget has increased by an additional fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000); 5) two hundred ninety thousand dollars (\$290,000) will be used to maintain the old high school; and 6) they are proposing to add four (4) positions.

### **4) Report on McKeen Street Traffic Light**

Mr. Gerrish said the town is reviewing the information provided by upper Maine Street citizens, presenting possible alternatives for the McKeen Street area. This item will be brought back to the Council in June.

### **5) Update on National Trails Day Event – June 2, 2001**

Tom Farrell discussed the list of activities scheduled for the National Trails Day Event.

**Peter Didisheim** said their group has targeted June 15 to complete their fund raising for the trails. They needed to raise three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000), with one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) received from a grant and another one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000) raised so far.

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**Lisa Martin** explained that they have pledges of fifty seven thousand dollars (\$57,000), with twenty nine thousand dollars (\$29,000) already in. The pledges are not only coming from Brunswick residents, but from Topsham, Freeport and even out-of-state people.

**Adjustments to the Agenda:** None

**58. The Town Council will hear public comments on the following requests for Alcoholic Beverage Licenses and take any appropriate action:**

**Full-time Malt, Spiritous and Vinous:**

Parkwood Inn, Ltd d/b/a Parkwood Inn  
71 Gurnet Road

Lois E. Beal

Star Fish Enterprises d/b/a Star Fish Grill  
100 Pleasant Street

Alyson B. Cummings

**Full-time Malt and Vinous**

P & M Corporation d/b/a Captain Mike's  
32 Bath Road

Michael C. Cote

**Full-time Malt**

The Corner Pocket, Inc., d/b/a/ Corner Pocket  
Billards  
4 Pleasant Street

Jesus Alexander Laurelez

John Guida d/b/a Rosita's Mexican Food  
212 Maine Street

John Guida

Stick to Your Ribs, Inc. d/b/a Stick to Your  
Ribs Bar-B-Q Drive In  
18 Bath Road

Wayne Alexander d/b/a Ye Olde English Fish  
and Chips Shoppe – 17 Bow Street

Chair McCausland opened the public hearing; hearing no comments he closed the public hearing.

**Councilor Dotts moved, Councilor Priest seconded, to approve the Alcoholic Beverage License Applications for Parkwood Inn, Star Fish Grill, Captain Mike's, Corner Pocket Billiards, Rosita's Mexican Food, Stick to Your Ribs Bar-B-Q Drive In, and Ye Olde English Fish and Chips Shoppe. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.**

*(A copy of the public hearing notice will be attached to the official minutes.)*

**61. The Town Council will consider proclaiming Monday, May 14, 2001 "Town Commons Day", commemorating the 282<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Brunswick Town Commons.**

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Council took this item before item 59.

**Barbara Desmarais**, Town Commons Committee, discussed the Town Commons and how it thrives because of volunteers' assistance.

**Councilor Feldman moved, Councilor Sartoris seconded, to proclaim Monday, May 14, 2001, "Town Commons Day" to commemorate the 282<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Town Commons. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.**

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

**59. The Town Council will review revisions to the proposed Addressing Ordinance and will take any appropriate action.**

Chief Gary Howard provided the Council with a visual of what size the numbers need to be. The penalty section of the proposed ordinance has been changed to a minimum of twenty-five dollars (\$25) up to one hundred dollars (\$100) and is not cumulative. He discussed the importance of having the numbers on homes.

**Councilor Moll moved, Councilor Gleason seconded, to set a public hearing for May 21, 2001, for the proposed Addressing Ordinance. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.**

**60. The Town Council will discuss the need to review the Political Sign Ordinance.**

Councilor Feldman said that at the last election, there was a controversy with the political parties' headquarters having signs in their windows before they were permitted by the ordinance. This led to a discussion and an agreement between the parties with a promise that the Council would bring this up for discussion. He suggested creating a waiver for political parties who rent offices. The other change he suggested, with his concerns that the ordinance may go against the First Amendment, was as follows:

“604.8 Political Sign. Political signs are prohibited from any local public property or right-of-way. ~~They are permitted on private property no sooner than three (3) weeks before an election and must be removed no later than two (2) days after the same election.~~ Size shall be limited to eight (8) square feet.”

Councilor Galloupe said the ordinance would not hold up to Constitutional scrutiny and it should be researched.

Mr. Gerrish suggested this item be sent to the Planning Board for review.

Councilor Moll said signs on private property, whether political or religious, should be looked at. The area that is a problem is what can be regulated on private property. A political headquarters is either a temporary or permanent office, and they must adhere to the sign ordinance language for that district. There needs to be clarification on this.

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Councilor Feldman said that signs in windows would be okay, but not ones on sidewalks and so forth. He suggested having something similar to what was worked out last fall – allowing signs without any unusual lighting for the eight (8) to ten (10) weeks before the election.

Councilor Moll felt that temporary offices with specific high impact activities like fund raising should also be reviewed as far as signage goes since they may want signs that are not normally allowed.

**Janet Brand**, 318 Bunganuc Landing, raised the issue that the Democratic Party broke the ordinance, and the ordinance should have been enforced as written.

Chair McCausland said there are some issues about the headquarters since they are not permanent, but overall the sign ordinance has worked well.

**Councilor Moll moved, Councilor Feldman seconded, to refer the Political Sign Ordinance to the Planning Board for their review and recommendations. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.**

**62. The Town Council will consider setting a public hearing to amend the Coastal Protection Zone.**

Mr. Gerrish said the Planning Board has approved this item, with the marina issue removed.

**Councilor Priest moved, Councilor Sartoris seconded, to set a public hearing for May 21, 2001, for the proposed amendments to the Coastal Protection Zone. The motion carried with seven (7) yeas. Opposed Chair McCausland.**

**63. The Town Council will consider setting a public hearing to amend the Brunswick Zoning Ordinance to create a new College Use Zone (CU6) on the block bounded by Cleveland Street, Federal Street, Bath Road and the so-called no-name street.**

Councilor Moll said the neighbors are aware of the proposed changes, and they and the college have been involved in the process.

**Councilor Moll moved, Councilor Dotts seconded, to set a public hearing for May 21, 2001, to amend the Brunswick Zoning Ordinance for the purpose of creating a new College Use Zone. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.**

**64. The Town Council will consider authorizing the Town Manager to negotiate the sale of a lot in the industrial park.**

Mr. Gerrish said Thibeault Energy has approached the town to purchase this two and half (2.5) acre lot. The price being negotiated will be between twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) and thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000). This is the last lot available.

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

**Councilor Priest moved, Councilor Moll seconded, to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate the sale of a lot in the Industrial Park to Thibeault Energy. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.**

**65. The Town Council will consider a request for a poverty tax abatement and will take whatever action is necessary.**

**Councilor Moll moved, Councilor Dotts seconded, to grant a poverty tax abatement with interest. The motion carried with seven (7) yeas. Opposed Chair McCausland.**

**66. The Town Council will consider making appointments to the following Boards and Committees:**

**Davis Fund Committee**

Two Full Members

Three year terms to expire 6/30/04

**Housing Authority**

One Full Member

Five year term to expire 6/3/06

One Resident Member

Five year term to expire 6/3/06

**Solid Waste Advisory Committee**

Two Full Members

Balance of three year term to expire 1/1/03

One Full Member

Balance of three year term to expire 1/1/04

Councilor Moll nominated Carolyn Earnest to serve on the Davis Fund Committee; A. Patricia King and Eileen Lonsdale to serve on the Housing Authority; and James Doherty to serve on the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee.

**Councilor Moll moved, Councilor Dotts seconded, that nominations cease and that the chair cast one vote for the following appointments: Carolyn Earnest to the Davis Fund Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2004; A. Patricia King as a resident member and Eileen Lonsdale as a regular member to the Housing Authority with terms to expire on June 3, 2006; and James Doherty to the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee for a term to expire January 1, 2004. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 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.**

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*Frances M. Smith*  
*Town Clerk*  
*May 9, 2001*

**May 21, 2001**

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*Date of Approval*

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*Council Chair*