

Councilor Galloupe moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to accept twenty eight thousand dollars (\$28,000) from the Joshua Chamberlain Statue Committee for the maintenance of the statue. The motion carried with nine (9) years.

1. (TAKEN LAST) Report from Jim Ashe on No Child Left Behind Act

Jim Ashe, Superintendent of Schools, made a presentation on this item.

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

2. Presentation of Check from Brunswick Rotary

Alice Bean-Andrenyak, from the Brunswick Rotary, presented a check in amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) from the proceeds of the regatta to be used for the improvements to the bike path.

Councilor Sartoris moved, Councilor King seconded, to accept the check from the Brunswick Rotary in the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) from the proceeds of the regatta to use for improvements to the bike path. The motion carried with nine (9) years.

3. Report from Parks and Recreation Department on Canopy Grant

Peter Baecher, Parks and Recreation Facilities Manager, said the Project Canopy Grant for two thousand dollars (\$2,000) has been approved and is to be used to improve the viability of street trees that are planted or growing in small openings in the paved sidewalks on Maine Street.

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

Councilor Sartoris moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to accept and expend the Project Canopy Grant in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) to be used to improve the viability of street trees. The motion carried with nine (9) years.

4) Update on Mere Point Boat Launch Process

Manager Gerrish gave this update. The Planning Board has given preliminary approval to the project. The town been working with Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and the project is currently in front of the Department of Environment Protection.

Councilor Sartoris said the Mere Point Boat Launch Citizens Advisory Committee is working on local management issues. They will be reporting back to the Council in a few months.

5. (ADDED) Increasing Parking in Downtown

Mathew Eddy, Economic Development Director, reported on the work to improve downtown parking – especially for business’ employees. Additional parking will be added near the Gardiner Savings Bank, with up to twenty (20) parking spots that will be rented to employees. There will be no cost to the town. It is for a two (2) year lease.

Correspondence:

Resignation of Michael Lawler from Sewer District

Manager Gerrish said the town will write a letter of thank you to Mr. Lawler for his service and advertise the vacancy.

Chair Priest offered best wishes to the Brunswick High School Football team, which will be going to the state championship on Saturday.

Adjustments to Agenda: None

193. The Town Council will hear public comments on the following requests for Victualer licenses and will take any appropriate action.

**Brunswick Clipper Mart
162 Pleasant Street**

Edward Sewall, III

**Romeo’s Pizza, Inc.
162 Pleasant Street**

Dimitrios Mihos

**Subway
162 Pleasant Street**

W. Kimberly Wettlaufer

Chair Priest opened the public hearing; hearing no comments, he closed the public hearing.

Dimitrios Mihos discussed his new business, Romeo’s Pizza.

Sharon Curtis, Director of Convenience Stores for M. W. Sewell, said they plan to open the business this week.

Councilor Lowe moved, Councilor Rice seconded, to approve requests for Victualer licenses from the Brunswick Clipper Mart, Romeo’s Pizza, and Subway. The motion carried with nine (9) years.

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

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- 194. The Town Council will hear public comments on the proposed General Assistance Ordinance Maximums and will take any appropriate action. If approved, this ordinance will be enacted on an emergency and regular basis.**

Mary Reindl, Human Services Director, discussed the proposed amendments to the general assistance maximum. There is very little difference in this year's amount from last year's maximums. Most of Brunswick housing falls into line with the maximum for larger numbers of bedrooms. She explained, if needed, how to increase allowed rent amounts.

Chair Priest opened the public hearing; hearing no comments, he closed the public hearing.

Councilor Randolph moved, Councilor Sartoris seconded, to approve the proposed General Assistance Ordinance Maximums to be enacted on an emergency and regular basis. The motion carried with nine (9) years.

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

- 195. The Town Council will hear public comments on the winter closure of Sawyer Road from December 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004, as permitted under Title 23 M.R.S.A. Subchapter VI § 2953, and will take any appropriate action.**

Chair Priest opened the public hearing; hearing no comments, he closed the public hearing.

Councilor Sartoris moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to approve the winter closure of Sawyer Road from December 1, 2003, to March 31, 2004. The motion carried with nine (9) years.

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

- 189. The Town Council will consider amending the Council Rules of Order and Procedure to include a Public Comment period at each meeting, and will take any appropriate action.**

Councilor Galloupe felt this was a carry-over from last meeting and should have the item number from that agenda.

Councilor Randolph suggested changing item numbers based on Councilor Galloupe's comments.

Councilor Randolph moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to amend the Council Rules of Order and Procedure to include a Public Comment period at each regular Town Council meeting. The motion carried with nine (9) years.

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

196. The Town Council will discuss the defeat of the Public Safety Facility referendum and what process should be used to gather public opinion, and will take any appropriate action.

Chair Priest said that the referendum process made two (2) things clear; two thirds of voters did not agree with the Council's proposal, yet there was a need to do something for public safety. The reasons for voting against were numerous and varied. He suggested each Councilor hold a public meeting in his/her district to allow citizens to comment on the Public Safety Facility and the recent referendum. It may be possible to have the meeting at polling locations. He would like to have staff available and minutes taken. The Councilor from the District will oversee the meeting. The town needs to reconnect with the voters and determine their feelings on this issue. The meetings should be held in January.

Councilor Randolph said she applauded Chair Priest for bringing this back so soon after the vote. She suggested an insert as a way to advertise, costing approximately six hundred dollars (\$600) to do. She felt a facilitator should be used. Rob Jarrett has volunteered to facilitate for District 6. Plus, the Council could work with Frank Gavin to work on the format of the meetings so they are consistent with each other. She suggested doing them in December versus January.

Councilor Galloupe said he is concerned about just doing it by districts and suggested combining districts to more geographical locations. He felt that there would be a better response that way, with fewer meetings.

Councilor McCausland said these are town wide issues. There needs to be a community forum to determine why voters voted as they did. It should be done with all nine (9) Councilors present. The meetings should be televised, which could not happen in the different locations. This will help to regroup and to determine which direction the town should go. It should be done with all Councilors working together.

Councilor Sartoris said she was supportive of the district meetings since some are uncomfortable speaking on television. This may be a better format. She wants a better understanding of why her district voted as they did. She suggested not holding the meeting in a specific district and being flexible about the locations. District 2 and 3's meeting could be combined. She would like to see it wrapped up by end of January.

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Councilor Rice said he sees the value of smaller meetings and a final meeting to bring everything together to see what the consensus is. Some of the meetings could be combined.

Councilor Lowe said there are some who would not wish to speak in front of a large group or on television. They would be more comfortable in informal settings with all meetings having the same format.

Councilor Watson said the Council needs to go to the grassroots and he is supportive of regionalization of the meetings. They should be done prior to the end of January.

Councilor King agreed with Councilor McCausland about having everything at this meeting location and it is difficult to do with seven (7) meetings. If the Council does not feel they get input from all districts, they can have additional meetings. Television viewers would like the opportunity to watch the meeting(s).

Chair Priest said there is no contradiction with having group meetings and also connecting with individual district voters. The idea of combining meeting will be good. There is a need to get the information geographically. He does not think it could not be done by the end of December, but should be done by the end of January.

Councilor Sartoris said it appears there will be three (3) to four (4) meetings. The Council should schedule the meeting dates quickly and advertise so that there is plenty of notice so residents can send comments or make plans to attend.

Councilor Randolph said she is content to hear that the meetings will be done by the end of January.

Councilor Watson asked what the next step is in February.

Chair Priest said he thought there could be no decisions until the people are heard from.

Connie Lundquist, 11 Longfellow Ave, applauded the Council for taking up this issue so quickly. She is concerned that a group will speak with one voice and represent the district as a whole. There could be a survey, whether on the web page or in the newspaper, to get resident's input.

Pem Schaeffer, Crestview Lane, said he applauded the Council for taking up this issue so quickly. He is happy to see the less formal setting for those who are uncomfortable with public speaking, plus he supports having a larger meeting. This would allow maximum input.

Mike Austin, McKeen Street, applauded the Council on their quick action after the vote. The district smaller forum is needed before coming into a larger setting.

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Councilor Watson liked the idea of an insert and the survey included with it.

Councilor Sartoris said she is supportive of the survey and she is willing to work on it with town staff. This allows residents time to think about issues and to provide feedback on the issues.

197. The Town Council will consider making changes to the Town's Banner Guidelines and will take any appropriate action.

Assistant Town Manager Pat Harrington said Tim Vail's Tree Service has recommended a change to the Banner Guidelines. Mr. Vail is frequently used to hang the banners over Maine Street and he is recommending that banners be required to have two vent holes per foot of banner length to allow air to flow through. This should help avoid problems the town has had with banners pulling up on the posts during high winds.

Councilor Randolph said she felt that banner approvals should go through staff, not the Council.

Councilor Sartoris moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to amend the Town of Brunswick Banner Guidelines, to require two (2) vent holes per foot of length in banners to be hung over public ways. The motion carried with nine (9) years.

Councilor Watson moved, Councilor Sartoris seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with nine (9) years.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 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
November 18, 2003*

December 1, 2003

Date of Approval

Council Chair