



**WESTBROOK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY MARCH 2, 2020
WESTBROOK HIGH SCHOOL ROOM 114**



CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Committee of the Whole Chair David C. Morse.

City Councilors Present: Claude Rwaganje (At-Large); Michael Shaughnessy (At-Large); David C. Morse (Ward 1); Victor Chau (Ward 2); Anna A. Turcotte (Ward 3, Vice President); Gary Rairdon (Ward 4, President); Elliot Storey (Ward 5)

City Councilors Absent: None

Other City Officials Present: Jerre Bryant (City Administrator); Natalie Burns (City Solicitor); Eric Dudley (Director of Engineering & Public Services); Stephen Fields (Assistant City Administrator/Director of Human Resources); Michael T. Foley (Mayor); Angela Holmes (City Clerk); Katherine Kelley (Wastewater Manager); Karin Leyon (Student Representative)

APPEAL OF INSURANCE CLAIM DENIAL – MAPLE STREET SEWER LINE

Committee Chair Morse gave the floor to Mr. Bryant to provide an overview of the appeal. Mr. Bryant stated that Ms. Burns would advise Council on the hearing procedures. Ms. Burns stated that the Committee would hear evidence from Kimberly Blenk, owner of 29 Maple Street, and that City staff would be provided an opportunity to respond. Ms. Blenk would then be provided with an additional opportunity to speak. The Committee would then deliberate and ask any questions.

Councilor Chau disclosed that Ms. Blenk is a Ward 2 resident. He has known about the matter for a while but has not seen any information that exceeds the knowledge that the rest of City Council has available. Councilor Chau stated that he sees no reason to recuse himself from the matter but would recuse himself if Council so desired. No one from Council responded.

Committee Chair Morse invited Ms. Blenk to the podium, who presented her appeal of the insurance claim denial. The following individuals presented questions for Ms. Blenk: Councilor Chau, Councilor Rwaganje, Committee Chair Morse, Vice President Turcotte, President Rairdon

Committee Chair Morse gave the floor to Mr. Dudley and Ms. Kelley, who presented additional information on the matter. The following individuals presented questions for Mr. Dudley and Ms. Kelley: President Rairdon, Councilor Storey, Committee Chair Morse, Councilor Shaughnessy, Councilor Rwaganje

Committee Chair Morse invited Ms. Blenk back to the podium. The following individuals presented questions for Ms. Blenk: President Rairdon, Councilor Storey

Motion to close the hearing and to begin deliberations.
Moved by President Rairdon, seconded by Vice President Turcotte.

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

City Council as a whole deliberated on the matter and collectively agreed that the City was not liable for the issues faced by Ms. Blenk but felt that some remuneration was in order. Ms. Burns clarified that if Council determined to award an amount to Ms. Blenk in excess of \$3,000 that it would take two City Council readings to approve the issuance of said funds. However, Council could approve its decision during the Regular City Council meeting scheduled to take place immediately following this Committee of the Whole meeting. She advised that if the Council agreed to pay any amount that it should be awarded upon the condition of the release of all claims by Ms. Blenk. She also advised that a specific amount should be agreed upon, rather than allowing “up to” a certain amount to be awarded.

Motion to have the City Attorney draft Finding of Fact and an order awarding \$8,250 to Ms. Blenk, provided that Ms. Blenk agrees to release all claims.

Moved by President Rairdon, seconded by Vice President Turcotte.

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:23pm.

Moved by President Rairdon, seconded by Councilor Chau.

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.