



**WESTBROOK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022 AT 6:00 PM
WESTBROOK PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
471 STROUDWATER ST.**



I. ROLL CALL

Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Committee Chair Claude Rwaganje.

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

City Councilors Absent: None

Other City Officials Present: Natalie Burns (City Solicitor), Melanie Fernald (Deputy City Clerk), Michael T. Foley (Mayor), Angela Holmes (Asst. City Administrator/City Clerk), Kelsey Ledoux (Executive Assistant), Lillian Ranco (Student Representative)

II. INTRODUCTION OF QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR WARD 5 CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

Committee Chair Rwaganje provided a brief overview of the process. He noted that the City Administration was notified on November 29, 2021 that Councilor Elliot Storey had resigned from his position as the Ward 5 City Councilor. Council President Turcotte formally announced the vacancy at the next City Council meeting on December 6, 2021. Nomination petition papers were made available to interested applicants the following morning. Applicants were required to collect 25-50 signatures from registered voters in Ward 5 and submit the signed petitions along with a letter of intent to the City Clerk by December 21, 2021.

Committee Chair Rwaganje noted that qualified applicants would be provided with the opportunity to speak during tonight's Committee meeting, and further noted that the intent is that the Committee would make a recommendation at the end of this meeting to forward to the Council for formal consideration. A tentative item has been added to the Council agenda for later in the evening to approve the appointment.

Committee Chair Rwaganje gave the floor to Ms. Holmes to introduce the four qualified applicants, as follows:

- Lawrence McWilliams, submitted nomination petition papers on December 20, 2021
- Jennifer Munro, submitted nomination petition papers on December 21, 2021
- Lauren Ouellette-Whelan, submitted nomination petition papers on December 21, 2021
- Steven Ranco, submitted nomination petition papers on December 21, 2021

III. APPLICANT PRESENTATIONS

Committee Chair Rwaganje gave the floor to each applicant in alphabetical order, giving each person five minutes to address the Committee and speak about their qualifications and interest in the position. He further noted that though there is a Council meeting scheduled for 7:00pm, immediately following this Committee meeting, the Committee has agreed to take as much time as necessary to hear from the candidates and ask

questions, delaying the start time of the 7:00pm Council meeting if necessary.

Committee Chair Rwaganje opened the floor for Committee members to ask questions of Mr. McWilliams, following his presentation. The following individuals spoke: President Turcotte, Councilor Chau, Councilor Rairdon, Vice President Morse, Mayor Foley, Committee Chair Rwaganje, Councilor Shaughnessy

Committee Chair Rwaganje opened the floor for Committee members to ask questions of Ms. Munro, following her presentation. The following individuals spoke: Vice President Morse, President Turcotte, Councilor Rairdon, Committee Chair Rwaganje

Committee Chair Rwaganje opened the floor for Committee members to ask questions of Ms. Ouellette-Whelan, following her presentation. The following individuals spoke: President Turcotte, Councilor Rairdon, Vice President Morse, Councilor Shaughnessy, Committee Chair Rwaganje

Committee Chair Rwaganje opened the floor for Committee members to ask questions of Mr. Ranco, following his presentation. The following individuals spoke: Councilor Rairdon, Councilor Chau, Councilor Shaughnessy, President Turcotte

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Committee Chair Rwaganje opened the floor for public comment on the candidates for office. The following individuals spoke: Jay Lacke (30 Methodist Road), Suzanne Salisbury (134 Park Road), Jessica Moninski (6 E. Valentine Street), Chelsea Belamo (Longfellow Street), Carol Duncanson (41 Carlson Street), Lily Ranco (21 Mayfield Drive), Ms. Munro, John Turcotte (Turner Street), Suzanne Joyce (231 Hardy Road), Anthony Dahms (113 Brackett Street; email received December 30, 2021, read into the record), Nancy Crump (President of Westbrook Food Pantry; email received December 29, 2021, record into the record), Mayor Foley

Committee Chair Rwaganje closed the public comment period.

V. COMMITTEE DELIBERATION & RECOMMENDATION

Committee Chair Rwaganje opened the floor for Committee deliberation. He further noted that nominations may be made at this time. The following individuals spoke: Mayor Foley, Councilor Rairdon, President Turcotte, Councilor Chau, Ms. Holmes, Ms. Burns, Councilor Shaughnessy, Councilor Morse, Committee Chair Rwaganje

As a point of order, Ms. Holmes noted for the record that the nomination process would occur differently from standard motions. Any member of the Council can nominate one of the qualified candidates, with no second necessary. At the end of the deliberations, a roll call vote will be taken with each Councilor voting by stating the name of the candidate they wish to vote for. The winner of that vote would be the person the Committee recommendation forwarded to City Council for formal consideration.

Councilor Rairdon nominated Mr. McWilliams.

President Turcotte nominated Ms. Munro.

Councilor Shaughnessy nominated Ms. Ouellette-Whelan.

Councilor Chau nominated Mr. Ranco.

Committee Chair Rwaganje called for a vote on the nominations.

A tie vote was received, no candidate was selected.

A summary of votes is included below, listed by candidate name.

Candidate Mr. McWilliams: Councilor Chau, Councilor Rairdon

Candidate Ms. Munro: President Turcotte, Committee Chair Rwaganje

Candidate Ms. Ouellette-Whelan: Councilor Shaughnessy, Councilor Morse

As a point of order, Ms. Burns noted that Councilors could either change their votes, or adjourn and hold another meeting at a later date.

Committee Chair Rwaganje called for another vote on the nominations.

Ms. Munro received a majority vote, and is the candidate recommended by a majority of the Committee.

A summary of votes is included below, listed by candidate name.

Candidate Mr. McWilliams: Councilor Chau, Councilor Rairdon

Candidate Ms. Munro: Councilor Morse, President Turcotte, Councilor Rwaganje

Candidate Ms. Ouellette-Whelan: Councilor Shaughnessy

Point of Order. As a point of Order, Committee Chair Rwaganje asked for the next steps. Ms. Burns noted that the vote of the Committee is the recommendation to the City Council. Mayor Foley noted that the Administration has prepared a Council Order for the Regular Council Meeting immediately following this Committee meeting, to appoint the person recommended by this Committee.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:56pm.

Moved by Councilor Chau, seconded by Vice President Morse.

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

From: [Clerk](#)
To: [Angela Holmes](#)
Cc: [Melanie Fernald](#)
Subject: FW: Question for Ward 5 Candidates
Date: Thursday, December 30, 2021 12:56:03 PM

Kelsey Ledoux

Executive Assistant - City of Westbrook

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Westbrook, ME 04092
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kledoux@westbrook.me.us

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From: Anthony Dahms <dahmsanthony@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 12:40 PM
To: Anna Turcotte <anna.turcotte@westbrook.me.us>; Claude Rwaganje <CRwaganje@westbrook.me.us>; Michael Shaughnessy <MShaughnessy@westbrook.me.us>; Clerk <clerk@westbrook.me.us>
Subject: Question for Ward 5 Candidates

<https://www.pressherald.com/2021/12/29/four-candidates-seek-one-seat-on-westbrook-council-under-new-rules/>

Good afternoon,

My name is Anthony Dahms and I live at 113 Brackett St. I saw the above article and will not be able to attend the January 3rd council meeting. I'm not sure how procedures work but thought I'd write to my Ward 3 Representative, Councilors At Large, and Clerk. If this is not the appropriate procedure please advise.

I wish to know the candidates views on recreational marijuana retail coming to Westbrook. I see these shops all over South Portland and it seems to be a missed opportunity for Westbrook. If this question could be asked at the meeting mentioned in the article it would be most appreciated.

For what it is worth, I've always sought diverse opinions for the council. I would hope the council will move a candidate forward not based on political party alignment but a different set of views and opinions.

Thank you for serving our community and Happy New Year!
Anthony

***** This is an external email *****

From: crumpetal@aol.com
To: [Angela Holmes](#)
Subject: Fw: Lauren Ouellette recommendation
Date: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 7:58:19 AM

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

Begin forwarded message:

On Wednesday, December 29, 2021, 7:53 AM, crumpetal@aol.com <crumpetal@aol.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Holmes

I am writing to support Lauren Ouellette, candidate for Westbrook City Council, representing Ward 5.

Although I am no longer a Westbrook resident, I lived in Westbrook for many years and remain active in several Westbrook organizations.

I have known Lauren since she became a member of the Westbrook Food Pantry's Board of Directors three years ago. She has played an active and contributing role supported by her professional background working with non-profit organizations. She has strong organizational skills is efficient, dependable and an excellent communicator. She is extremely thoughtful and is very invested in the Westbrook Community.

She has been a valuable addition to our board and would be an exceptional addition to the Council. It gives me great pleasure to recommend her.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Nancy Crump, President
Westbrook Food Pantry
Board of Directors

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

*** This is an external email ***