

**WESTBROOK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
MONDAY AUGUST 20, 2018
WESTBROOK HIGH SCHOOL ROOM 114**

CALL TO ORDER

Called to order at 6:32pm by Committee Chair Gary Rairdon.

City Councilors Present: Lynda Adams (Ward 5); Victor Chau (Ward 2); Gary Rairdon (At-Large/Committee Chair); Anna Turcotte (Ward 3); John O’Hara (At-Large/Vice President); Brendan Rielly (Ward 1/President)

City Councilors Absent: Ann E. Peoples (Ward 4)

Other City Officials Present: Jerre Bryant (City Administrator); Natalie Burns (City Solicitor); Eric Dudley (Director of Engineering & Public Services); Jennie Franceschi (Director of Planning and Code Enforcement); Angela Holmes (City Clerk); Michael Sanphy (Mayor)

REQUEST TO VACATE PAPER STREET PORTION OF CENTRAL STREET

Committee Chair Rairdon gave the floor to Mr. Bryant, who presented a request submitted by Chris Wilson. Mr. Wilson acquired several properties around Central Street and would like to construct residential homes. It was discovered that some of these properties lie within the City’s floodplain district which limits development. Mr. Wilson is asking the City to vacate the paper street portion of the end of Central Street, which is not constructed or improved, as he owns the property on either side. If the City vacates the paper street, he will be able to merge his properties to meet the floodplain district standards for residential property development in that area.

Mr. Bryant noted that the City would want to retain access to the Presumpscot River and would ask City Council to retain a pedestrian or trail easement over the property. In addition, the City already has a sewer easement for a sewer line which currently runs through the paper street, and the City would want to retain this easement as well. Mr. Bryant distributed a letter from Melissa Hamlin, the Chair of the Recreation and Conservation Commission, supporting the vacation of the paper street in exchange for the pedestrian easements.

Ms. Burns noted that the vacation of a paper street requires the identification of all property owners and mortgages holders of the original subdivision. If this item is supported by Council, the Administration would bring this forward for first reading on September 10, 2018.

The following individuals presented questions and/or comments:

1. President Rielly
2. Mr. Bryant
3. Ms. Burns
4. Chris Wilson (Applicant)
5. Councilor Chau
6. Ms. Franceschi
7. Committee Chair Rairdon

8. Vice President O'Hara

Motion to refer the vacation of the paper street portion of Central Street to City Council for consideration, with the condition that the developer be responsible for all costs, and with the requirements imposed by the Recreation and Conservation Commission.

Moved by President Rielly, seconded by Councilor Turcotte.

Motion failed. (Vote 3-3-1)

Ayes: Councilor Adams, Councilor Turcotte, President Rielly

Nays: Councilor Chau, Councilor Rairdon, Vice President O'Hara

Absent: Councilor Peoples

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 7:17pm.