



**WESTBROOK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021 AT 7:00 PM
WESTBROOK PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
471 STROUDWATER ST.**



I. ROLL CALL

Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by City Council President Gary Rairdon.

City Councilors Present: 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), Claude Rwaganje (At-Large)

City Councilors Absent: None

Other City Officials Present: Jerre Bryant (City Administrator), Natalie Burns (City Solicitor), Michael T. Foley (Mayor), Angela Holmes (Asst. City Administrator/City Clerk), Sean Lally (Police Chief), Lillian Ranco (Student Representative), Steve Sloan (Deputy Fire Chief), Rebecca Spitella (Associate Planner)

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Rairdon led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Rairdon stated that unless any objections were received, the minutes would stand as presented. No objections received. The following minutes stand as presented:

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes - February 1, 2021
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes - February 1, 2021

IV. MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Mayor Foley read his message into the record. The full text of the Mayor's Message is attached to these minutes.

Mayor Foley presented the Employee of the Quarter award to Fire Captain Mark Theriault, and the Manager of the Quarter Award to Asst. City Administrator/City Clerk Angela Holmes.

Mayor Foley announced the appointment of Michael Sanphy to the Parks & Cemeteries Board of Trustees for a term expiring January 31, 2024, and the appointment of William Holmes to the Public Safety Commission for a term expiring January 1, 2026.

V. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

Student Representative Ranco provided the following updates:

- Westbrook Schools are continuing with the hybrid learning model.

- Four students from Westbrook High School had a discussion with President Barak Obama as part of a meeting with The Telling Room.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Rairdon opened the floor for the first public comment portion of this meeting. The following individuals spoke: Christine Latini (170 Pierce Street), Mayor Foley

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business for consideration.

VIII. ORDERS OF THE DAY (SECOND AND FINAL READING)

Included below are the City Council Orders which require second and final reading.

Order 2021-12. Authorizing Award of Bid for Unmarked Police Vehicle.

Motion to approve second and final reading of the legislation.

Moved by Councilor Morse, seconded by Councilor Shaughnessy.

President Rairdon opened the floor for comments on the motion. No one spoke.

Motion carried. Order 2021-12 adopted. (Vote 7-0)

Ayes: Shaughnessy, Morse, Chau, Turcotte, Storey, Rwaganje, Rairdon

Nays: None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Included below are the Council actions on New Business, which includes business licenses requiring City Council approval, City Council Resolves and Orders receiving first and final reading, City Council Orders receiving the first of two required readings.

Resolves (One Reading Required)

Resolve 2021-6. Approving Appointments to Several Boards & Commissions

Motion to approve the first and final reading for Resolve 2021-6.

Moved by Councilor Chau, seconded by Councilor Shaughnessy.

President Rairdon opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke:

President Rairdon

Motion carried. Resolve 2021-6 adopted. (Vote 7-0)

Ayes: Shaughnessy, Morse, Chau, Turcotte, Storey, Rwaganje, Rairdon

Nays: None

Orders (One Reading Required)

Order 2021-13. Authorizing Distribution of Snowmobile Revenues to Westbrook Trail Blazes Snowmobile Club & Authorizing Future Annual Distributions.

Motion to approve the first and final reading for Order 2021-13.

Moved by Councilor Morse, seconded by Councilor Chau.

President Rairdon opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke:

Mayor Foley, President Rairdon

Motion carried. Order 2021-13 adopted. (Vote 7-0)

Ayes: Shaughnessy, Morse, Chau, Turcotte, Storey, Rwaganje, Rairdon

Nays: None

Order 2021-14. Authorizing Expenditure for Website Training.

Motion to approve the first and final reading for Order 2021-14.

Moved by Councilor Morse, seconded by Councilor Rwaganje.

President Rairdon opened the floor for comments on the motion. No one spoke.

Motion carried. Order 2021-14 adopted. (Vote 7-0)

Ayes: Shaughnessy, Morse, Chau, Turcotte, Storey, Rwaganje, Rairdon

Nays: None

Orders (Two Readings Required)

Order 2021-15. Amending Order 2017-85, Authorizing the Acceptance of Additional Funds from the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant.

Motion to approve the first of two readings for Order 2021-15.

Moved by Councilor Shaughnessy, seconded by Councilor Storey.

President Rairdon opened the floor for comments on the motion. No one spoke.

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

Order 2021-16. Authorizing Acceptance & Expenditure of \$20,000 from Westbrook Energy Corporation (Calpine).

Motion to approve the first of two readings for Order 2021-16.

Moved by Councilor Morse, seconded by Councilor Chau.

President Rairdon opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke:

President Rairdon

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

Order 2021-17. Authorizing Village Review Overlay Zone Zoning Map Amendment - 452 Main St & 35 Seavey Street.

Ms. Holmes noted that a public hearing for this item has been scheduled for March 15, 2021.

Motion to approve the first of two readings for Order 2021-17.

Moved by Councilor Shaughnessy, seconded by Councilor Morse.

President Rairdon opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke:

Councilor Chau, Ms. Spitella, Councilor Storey, Councilor Shaughnessy, Ms. Holmes, Mayor Foley

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

Order 2021-18. Authorizing Purchase of Police Department Ammunition.

Motion to approve the first of two readings for Order 2021-18.

Moved by Vice President Turcotte, seconded by Councilor Storey.

President Rairdon opened the floor for comments on the motion. No one spoke.

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

Order 2021-19. Authorizing Westbrook Environmental Improvement Corporation (WEIC) Expenditure to Discover Downtown Westbrook and Further Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the City and Discover Downtown Westbrook.

Motion to approve the first of two readings for Order 2021-19.

Moved by Councilor Morse, seconded by Councilor Storey.

President Rairdon opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke: Mayor Foley, Heather Chandler (President, Discover Downtown Westbrook), Dori Lam (Vice President, DDW), Amy Grommes Pulaski (Interim Executive Director, DDW), President Rairdon, Councilor Rwanje

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Rairdon opened the floor for the second and final public comment portion of this meeting. The following individuals spoke: Councilor Rwanje, Mayor Foley, President Rairdon

XI. REFERRALS

There were no referrals for consideration.

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following items remain in their City Council Committees for deliberation. No updates were provided by Committee Chairs.

Committee of the Whole

Hours for Construction & Noise Ordinance

Residential Landlord Registration

City Council Rules & Procedures

Amending Land Use Ordinance to Expand Medical & Recreational Marijuana Businesses

Facilities & Streets Committee

Austin Street Extension

Sidewalks & Traffic at Haskell Street

Condition of Westbrook Middle School Baseball Field

Traffic Issues on Forest Street

Finance Committee

Creating a Fire Truck Fund

Public Safety Committee

Use of Force Policy Analysis

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no requests for an Executive Session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:09pm.

Moved by Councilor Rwaganje, seconded by Vice President Turcotte.

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

March 1, 2021

CITY HALL COVID-19 CASES

The City received notice on Saturday February 20th that two City Hall staff members had tested positive for COVID-19. Within hours, the Fire Department identified all close contacts and arranged for testing and quarantine. Recognizing the seriousness of this matter, we determined that the safest course of action for our employees and for the public was to close City Hall, conduct a thorough cleaning, and to have our entire City Hall workforce get tested for COVID-19. By Monday, all staff members had been tested, and by Wednesday we were able to confirm that all were negative for COVID-19. After consultation with the Fire Department, we determined that City Hall was safe for a partial reopening this past Thursday, and as of today we are fully reopened. The two individuals who initially tested positive are fully recovered and have returned to work.

We want to thank the Fire Department for their quick action, and our City Hall team for their responsiveness to this serious matter. An event like this requires a strong and immediate response, and we are confident that closing City Hall for widespread testing was the right thing to do. Our primary concern is always the health and safety of our employees and the public who come to City Hall to conduct business. This reiterates the importance of the COVID-19 precautions we've been following for the past year, and the need for continued vigilance.

Due to last week's closure, we made several adjustments to public meetings scheduled during that time. City Council's Committee of the Whole meeting, originally scheduled for Monday February 22nd, has been moved to Monday March 22nd, and the Planning Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday March 2nd has been moved to Tuesday March 16th.

DISCOVER DOWNTOWN WESTBROOK'S WINTERFEST

We want to remind everyone that DDW is hosting Winterfest this year through March 31st. They have many great virtual activities and a Bucket List Challenge to support local businesses. Visit their website or Facebook page for more information.

APPOINTMENTS

We have instituted a new process for soliciting and approving appointments to the City's various boards, committees, and commissions, and have several appointments on tonight's agenda for Council confirmation. In addition to those items, I would like to announce the following Mayoral appointments:

- I have appointed Michael Sanphy to the Parks & Cemeteries Board of Trustees, replacing Robert Barton, who resigned. This Board is tasked with monitoring the general condition and affairs of the City's cemeteries. We thank Bob for his many years of dedicated service on the Board.
- I have reappointed William Holmes to the Public Safety Commission. This important commission assists with the hiring of all public safety staff.

Thank you to all of these individuals being appointed this evening for your willingness to serve the community!

TOMORROW'S WEATHER

Tomorrow's weather is forecasted to be one of the coldest days of the winter season. We hope everyone stays warm and if you are able, check in with your neighbors.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

I will now present our Employee & Manager of the Quarter Awards for the 4th Quarter of 2020. We will be presenting our Employee & Manager of the Year Awards at our next meeting.