



**WESTBROOK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022 AT 7:00 PM
WESTBROOK PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
471 STROUDWATER ST.**



I. ROLL CALL

Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 7:08pm by City Council President Anna A. Turcotte.

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

City Councilors Absent: None

Other City Officials Present: Mark Bower (Legal Counsel), Jerre Bryant (City Administrator), Harrison Deah (Director of General Assistance & Social Services), Melanie Fernald (Deputy City Clerk), Jennie Franceschi (Director of Planning & Code Enforcement), Michael T. Foley (Mayor), Angela Holmes (Asst. City Administrator/City Clerk), Suzanne Knight (Finance Director), Sean Lally (Police Chief), Kelsey Ledoux (Executive Assistant), Joanne LePauloue (Director of Human Resources)

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Turcotte led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented for approval.

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.

V. CITY COUNCIL MESSAGES

President Turcotte opened the floor for City Council messages. Councilors provided the following updates:

- Councilor Chau apologized for his physical absence at the last City Council meeting, though he was able to attend via Zoom. Last week during the Finance Committee meeting he misspoke. He estimated that there were about 700 employees at the School, but was corrected after the meeting. There are 651 employees.
- Councilor Rwaganje noted that the Rental Emergency Assistance program was launched this morning. More news about this program will be announced later.
- Vice Chair Morse thanked the City for the videos about construction updates in our downtown.

VI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

There was no Student Representative update.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Turcotte opened the floor for the first public comment portion of this meeting. The following individuals spoke: John Rabe (16 Blue Spruce Farm Road), Mr. Bryant, President Turcotte, Mayor Foley, Ed & Faith Haggerty (email read into the record by Ms. Holmes), Mayor Foley, President Turcotte

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business for consideration.

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

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

Order 2022-49. Approving 2021-2023 Collective Bargaining Agreement with General Unit

Order 2022-51. Authorizing Expenditure for Zoning Board of Appeals Legal Services & Amending the Annual Vendor List

Order 2022-52. Authorizing Sale of Tax-Acquired Properties

Order 2022-53. Authorizing Contract for Conant Cemetery Maintenance

Order 2022-54. Authorizing Contract for Grave Digging Services

Order 2022-55. Authorizing Contract for Emergency Road Striping and Pavement Markings

Order 2022-56. Authorizing Award of Bid for Custodial Services

Motion to approve second and final reading of Orders 2022-49 and 2022-51 through 2022-56.

Moved by Vice President Morse, seconded by Councilor Rairdon.

President Turcotte asked if any Councilor would like to consider any item separately. No one spoke.

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

None

Motion carried. Orders 2022-49, 2022-51-2022-56 adopted. (Vote 7-0)

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

Nays: None

Order 2022-50. Amending the Land Use Ordinance Zoning Map - Extending the Downtown District Overlay Over the Entire Parcel of 35 Seavey Street

A public hearing on this item was held. Notice of the public hearing was published in the Portland Press Herald on April 21, 2022, posted to the City of Westbrook's website on April 21, 2022, and was posted in City Hall.

President Turcotte opened the public hearing. The following individuals spoke: None

President Turcotte closed the public hearing.

Motion to approve second and final reading of Order 2022-50

Moved by Vice- President Morse, seconded by Councilor Rairdon

Motion carried. Order 2022-50 adopted (Vote 7-0)

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

Nays: None

X. 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.

Business Licenses

Extension of Liquor License issued to Stephen W Manchester Post 62 American Legion, located at 17 Dunn Street

A public hearing on this item was held. Notice of the public hearing was published in the Portland Press Herald, posted to the City of Westbrook's website, and was posted in City Hall on April 21, 2022.

President Turcotte opened the public hearing. The following individuals spoke: Kelly Bernier (Stephen W. Manchester American Legion Post 62), Mayor Foley, President Turcotte, Chief Lally, Councilor Rairdon, Councilor Shaughnessy, Vice President Morse, Councilor Chau, Ms. Bernier, Mr. Bower, Phil Spiller, Jr. (76 Sawyer Road), Dennis Marotte (Stephen W. Manchester American Legion Post 62) President Turcotte closed the public hearing.

Motion to deny the application for the extension

Moved by Vice President Morse, seconded by Councilor Munro.

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

None

Motion carried. Application denied. (Vote 6-1)

Ayes: Shaughnessy, Morse, Rairdon, Munro, Rwaganje, Turcotte

Nays: Chau

Resolves (One Reading Required)

Resolve 2022-9. Approving Appointment to the Recreation and Conservation Commission

Motion to approve the first and final reading of the legislation.

Moved by Councilor Shaughnessy, seconded by Councilor Munro.

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

President Turcotte, Mayor Foley, Ms. Holmes

Motion carried. Resolve 2022-9 adopted. (Vote 7-0)

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

Nays: None

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Turcotte opened the floor for the second and final public comment portion of this meeting. The following individuals spoke: Phil Spiller, Jr. (76 Sawyer Road), President Turcotte

XII. REFERRALS

There were no referrals for consideration.

XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no requests for an Executive Session.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:08pm.

Moved by Councilor Rairdon, seconded by Councilor Rwaganje.

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

May 1, 2022

DOG PARK UPDATE

Please note that until further notice, the Westbrook Dog Park is CLOSED due to ground conditions. We are monitoring ground conditions prior to reopening. As it turns out, users of the park disregarded ground conditions earlier this year, and the surface of the dog park has become almost completely destabilized. In order for us to re-stabilize the ground to re-open, we will need to install a new surface treatment of mulch as natural turf would take 12-18 months to re-establish which is an unacceptable timeline. Once the ground conditions become dry enough to support equipment, we will be in the park to remove the loose soils and replace them with the wood chips. In the meantime, we have posted dog friendly spots on our Facebook Pages.

DOWNTOWN PARKING UPDATES

As many now know, the Mechanic Street Parking Lot is no longer a public parking lot and closed for the construction of the Vertical Harvest Project. Saccarappa Park has been transformed into a temporary parking lot which is now open for public use and the entrance to the parking lot is off Main Street. Once Vertical Harvest project is completed, a four-story free public parking garage will be constructed for downtown parking. We thank everyone in advance for their patience as we work hard to transform our downtown for the future!

UPCOMING ELECTION

The State Primary Election & School Budget Validation Referendum will be held on June 14, 2022. Polls are located at the Westbrook Community Center and will be open at a new time of 6am to 8pm. Absentee ballots can be requested through the State now with the link on City Website or by calling our Election Hotline at 207-591-8116.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week to all teachers in our community! Thank you for all you do for students in the City of Westbrook and the Westbrook School Department!

CLOSURE OF VALLEE SQUARE

Following the last couple years of success, I'm pleased to announce the closure of Vallee Square to vehicular traffic, from now through the fall, weather dependent. As we did last year, the City will provide picnic tables to create a pedestrian-friendly outdoor seating area in the heart of our downtown, to facilitate safe gatherings in an outdoor space along with the return of the Discover Downtown Westbrook Vallee Square Summer Concert Series. More details on that to follow.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE & CEREMONY

I am excited to announce that our traditional Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony will fully return for this year on Monday, May 30th. The parade will begin at 10am and start at the intersection of Mechanic Street & William Clarke Drive with a ceremony following in Riverbank Park. Those participating are asked to arrive at 9:30am and we hope City Councilors are able to join. We thank the Veterans Services Committee for their work in organizing this event and we look forward to seeing everyone there as we honor those we have lost in service to our country.

WESTBROOK TOGETHER DAYS

I am also excited to announce that after a 2-year hiatus, Westbrook Together Day will fully return for this year on June 3rd & 4th. More details are available on their Facebook Page and we thank the Westbrook-Gorham Community Chamber of Commerce for their partnership and work in organizing this event. We look forward to seeing everyone as we return to more normalcy in the community!

WESTBROOK SCHOOLS RELAY FOR LIFE

Teachers from Westbrook Schools and their friends/family want to invite members of the community to participate in their upcoming Relay for Life event at the High School. As part of the event, they want to celebrate Cancer Survivors, Caregivers, and Family Support Members. Come and enjoy some food, lawn games, music and much more. The hours are from 11am to 9:00pm on May 20th. Donations are also greatly appreciated and you can contact Nancy Goan at Westbrook Middle School for more information.

VETERANS COFFEE

Our next Veteran's Service Office monthly Coffee & Information session will be on May 12th, at the Westbrook Community Center. These take place monthly from 9-11am in the Spruce Room and allow time for veterans to gather together to share stories and get information about resources for veterans. We'd also like to thank the Daily Grind for sponsoring coffee and pastries for the event.

NEAAO EVENT

On Friday, Councilor Rwaganje & I attended and ended of Ramadan celebration with the New England Arab American Organization. It was a great event to learn about Arabic culture and food while joining many members of the community in this special celebration. We thank them for having us and looking forward to participating in the future.



MAYOR'S OFFICE



Mayor Michael T. Foley

2 York Street

Westbrook, Maine 04092

Phone/Fax: 207-591-8110

Email: mayor@westbrook.me.us

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