



**WESTBROOK CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 11, 2022 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 Anna A. Turcotte.

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

City Councilors Absent: Michael Shaughnessy (At-Large), Claude Rwaganje (At-Large)

Other City Officials Present: Jerre Bryant (City Administrator), Natalie Burns (City Solicitor), Melanie Fernald (Deputy City Clerk), Michael T. Foley (Mayor), Katherine Kelley (Wastewater Manager), Suzanne Knight (Finance Director), Sean Lally (Police Chief), Joanne LePauloue (Director of Human Resources), Prosper Lohomboli (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Administrator), Demetria Pellegrino (Intern), Greg Post (Director of Community Services), Stephen Sloan (Fire Chief), Daniel Stevenson (Director of Economic Development)

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Turcotte led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

May 16, 2022 - Special City Council Meeting

June 6, 2022 - Regular City Council Meeting

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.

Proclamation for Parks and Recreation Month

V. CITY COUNCIL MESSAGES

President Turcotte opened the floor for City Council messages. Councilors provided the following updates: Councilor Morse - Andrew Mancuso was at the White House for the signing of Domestic Violence protection legislation. Councilor Chau - passed along a message from Councilor Rwaganje, apologizing for his absence and thanking those who have offered condolences for the passing of his mother.

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: State Representative Morgan Rielly, 16 Blue Spruce Farm Road #6, Councilor Rairdon, Ben Waxman, 55 Union Street, 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 2022-72. Authorizing Vendor List Amendment, Contract Award Amendment, and Acceptance and Expenditure of Donation Relating to the Lincoln Street Boat Launch Project

Order 2022-73. Authorizing Acceptance & Expenditure of CDBG Funds for the Warren Recreational Outdoor Complex

Order 2022-74. Award of Bid for Mowing and Landscaping Services at Westbrook Community Center & Elementary Schools

Order 2022-75. Authorizing Agreement for Improvements to Veterans Rest Area at Woodlawn Cemetery

Order 2022-76. Authorizing Agreement for Emergency Medical Services Billing

Order 2022-77. Authorizing Acceptance & Expenditure of Enbridge Grant for Replacement Fire Hose

Order 2022-78. Approving the FY 2022-2023 General Fund, Recreation Fund, Parking Garage Fund & Sewer Fund Annual Vendor Lists

Motion to approve second and final reading of Orders 2022-72 through 2022-78

Moved by Councilor 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: Councilor Rairdon, Councilor Chau.

Motion carried. Orders 2022-72 through 2022-78 adopted. (Vote 5-0-2)

Ayes: Morse, Chau, Rairdon, Munro, Turcotte

Nays: None

Absent: Shaughnessy, Rwaganje

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.

City Council Proclamation

Motion to approve the first and final reading of the City Council Proclamation.

Moved by Councilor Munro, seconded by Councilor Morse

President Turcotte opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke: President Turcotte, Councilor Munro, Vice President Morse, Ms. Fernald read into the record an email sent by Chelsea Beliveau, Sue Salisbury of 154 Park Rd, Liz McLellan, 37 Pleasant Street, Kate Waxman, 37 Chestnut Street, Ryan Munro, 88 Presidential Way, Meredith Tardif, 35 Middle Street, John Turcotte, 43 Turner Street, Councilor Rairdon, Councilor Chau

Motion carried. City Council Proclamation adopted. (Vote 4-1-0)

Ayes: Morse, Rairdon, Munro, Turcotte

Nays: Chau

Absent: Shaughnessy, Rwaganje

Business Licenses

Liquor License for Rio Bravo of Westbrook Inc. d/b/a Rio Bravo Tacos & Tequila, located at 11 Main Street #4

A public hearing on this item was held. Notice of the public hearing was published in the American Journal on June 30, 2022, posted to the City of Westbrook's website, and was posted in City Hall.

President Turcotte opened the public hearing. The following individuals spoke: Council Chau, Ms. Fernald.

President Turcotte closed the public hearing.

Motion to approve the Liquor License application for Rio Bravo.

Moved by Councilor Chau, seconded by Councilor Rairdon

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

Motion carried. Liquor License application approved. (Vote 5-0-2)

Ayes: Morse, Chau, Rairdon, Munro, Turcotte

Nays: None

Absent: Shaughnessy, Rwaganje

Resolves (One Reading Required)

Resolve 2022-10. Confirming Reappointments to the Westbrook Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

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

Moved by Councilor Rairdon, seconded by Councilor Chau

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

Motion carried. Resolve 2022-10 adopted. (Vote 5-0-2)

Ayes: Morse, Chau, Rairdon, Munro, Turcotte

Nays: None

Absent: Shaughnessy, Rwaganje

Orders (One Reading Required)

Order 2022-80. Amending the Code of Ordinances Section 260-62 Regarding Wastewater Pretreatment

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

Moved by Councilor Rairdon, seconded by Chau

President Turcotte opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke: Mayor Foley, Councilor Chau, Ms. Kelley, President Turcotte, Councilor Munro, Chris Laroche, Westbrook Housing Authority

Motion carried. Order 2022-80 adopted. (Vote 5-0-2)

Ayes: Morse, Chau, Rairdon, Munro, Turcotte

Nays: None

Absent: Shaughnessy, Rwaganje

Orders (Two Readings Required)

Order 2022-81. Authorizing Acceptance of Grant Funds & Expenditure for Outdoor Swimming Pool Feasibility Study

Motion to approve the first of two readings of the legislation.

Moved by Vice President Morse, seconded by Councilor Munro

President Turcotte opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke: Mayor Foley, Councilor Rairdon

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

Order 2022-82. Authorizing Testing, Inspection & Quality Control Contracts for the Downtown Public Parking Garage Project

Motion to approve the first of two readings of the legislation.

Moved by Councilor Munro, seconded by Councilor Chau

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

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

Order 2022-83. Approving 2022-2024 Collective Bargaining Agreement with Westbrook Police Association

Motion to approve the first of two readings of the legislation.

Moved by Councilor Rairdon, seconded by Councilor Munro

President Turcotte opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke: Mayor Foley, President Turcotte, City Solicitor

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

Order 2022-84. Confirmation of Emergency Expenditure for Police Department On/Off-Road Motorcycle

Motion to approve the first of two readings of the legislation.

Moved by Councilor Munro, seconded by Councilor Rairdon

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

Mayor Foley, Councilor Rairdon, Police Chief Lally, Councilor Chau

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

Order 2022-85. Order to Take a Public Easement Over a Portion of Property Located at 25 Cumberland Street, Westbrook, Maine by Eminent Domain for Purposes of Construction, Use, Maintenance, and Repair of Sewer Facilities

Motion to approve the first of two readings of the legislation.

Moved by Vice President Morse, seconded by Councilor Chau

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

Mayor Foley

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

Order 2022-86. Authorizing Purchase of FirstDue Records Management System

Motion to approve the first of two readings of the legislation.

Moved by Vice President Morse, seconded by Councilor Chau

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

Mayor Foley, President Turcotte

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Turcotte opened the floor for the second and final public comment portion of this meeting. The following individuals spoke: Chris LaRoche, Westbrook Housing Authority, Councilor Morse

XII. REFERRALS

Request to refer "Adopting Policy to Protect Employees' Access to Reproductive Healthcare Services" to the Committee of the Whole

Motion to refer this item to the Committee of the Whole

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Committee of the Whole

Residential Landlord Registration

Amending Land Use Ordinance to Expand Medical & Recreational Marijuana Businesses

Comprehensive Ethics Reform

Amending the City Council Rules of Order to Include Land Acknowledgement Statement on Council Agendas

Facilities & Streets Committee

Austin Street Extension
Sidewalks & Traffic at Haskell Street
Condition of Westbrook Middle School Baseball Field

Public Safety Committee
Use of Force Policy Analysis

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Request to enter into Executive Session was read by President Turcotte at 8:44pm.

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

XV. RECONVENE

Call to Order. Meeting reconvened at 9:09PM by City Council President Anna A. Turcotte.

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

City Councilors Absent: Michael Shaughnessy (At-Large), Claude Rwaganje (At-Large),

Other City Officials Present: Jerre Bryant (City Administrator), Natalie Burns (City Solicitor), Michael T. Foley (Mayor), Suzanne Knight (Finance Director), Daniel Stevenson (Director of Economic Development)

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:09pm

Moved by Councilor Rairdon, seconded by Vice President Morse

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.



MAYOR'S OFFICE



Mayor Michael T. Foley

2 York Street

Westbrook, Maine 04092

Phone/Fax: 207-591-8110

Email: mayor@westbrook.me.us

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

July 11, 2022

DOWNTOWN PARKING, CONSTRUCTION, & TRAFFIC PATTERN UPDATES

As many now know, the Mechanic Street Parking Lot has been 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, with an entrance on Main Street. Once this project is completed, a four-story free public parking garage will be constructed for downtown parking.

Due to critical public infrastructure and unforeseen challenges for over 100-year-old infrastructure, construction work that needs to take place in the downtown area will continue to require significant traffic pattern changes through this month.

I'd like to also provide a brief update on Maine DOT projects happening in the City: Cumberland Mills has received final paving & striping and the lights should be activated flashing shortly to get everyone used to the new pattern. The William Clarke Drive/Saco/Main/New Gorham Road intersection project has begun and will last through next year. Finally, the Brook Street surface paving project from Virginia to the Falmouth town line is currently on hold due material issues and should be finalized soon.

We encourage everyone to sign up for traffic and construction updates at www.seeingorangewestbrook.com. We thank everyone in advance for their patience as we work hard to lay the foundation for Westbrook's future.

WESTBROOK SUMMER CONCERTS

We are excited that on Tuesdays and Thursdays from now until September, there will be live music in the City! The Riverbank Park Concert Series on Tuesdays is brought to us by Westbrook Community Services and the Vallée Square Concert Series on Thursdays is brought to us by Discover Downtown Westbrook. More information is available on their websites and respective Facebook Pages. And lastly there are also concerts taking place at the Conant Homestead hosted by the Shaughnessey's on various dates if you want to reach out to Councilor Shaughnessey for more information. We hope everyone enjoys these exciting summer activities.

RECENT RIBBON CUTTING

Since our last Council meeting, we have celebrated the opening of a new business our community. On June 29th we attended the opening of Rock Row's newest business, Crumbl Cookies which offers 250 cookie varieties on a rotating basis. We encourage everyone to check out the many new businesses of our community with many more to come!

JUNETEENTH FREEDOM CELEBRATION

Since our last meeting, we hosted an event commemorating Juneteenth at Riverbank Park in Westbrook on Sunday, June 19th. We had many speakers and despite the rain, the event was well attended. Thank you to One Westbrook for organizing this event for the City of Westbrook, along with all the volunteers that made it a successful celebration. We are looking forward to growing this event in years to come.

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

Our next regular meeting will be on August 1st and our joint meeting with the School Committee has been rescheduled to August 10th at 5:30pm prior to the School Committee Meeting. We are hoping to possibly be back to Room 114 at Westbrook High School but we will keep everyone updated on the location.

RECENT LOSSES

Since our last meeting we lost some form members of our public safety family. A former member of our Public Safety Commission, Bruce Caron, passed away on June 18th. Bruce served the City for nearly two decades and I was honored to attend his recent Celebration of Life with some colleagues and spoke at the request of his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Caron family & friends during this difficult time. We also lost former Westbrook police officer John Hall on June 23rd. John served our police department for over 20 years, and many may know him from the numerous organizations he volunteered at along with his wife Mary Hall, or while working at the local Hannaford. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Hall family & friends during this difficult time.

Also since our last meeting, Councilor Rwaganje lost his mother, Lea Nyiramasoso Kanyamagaja, who passed on July 3rd. Councilors Chau & Morse along with myself attended the Celebration of Life and it was an honor to learn about her life along with how she impacted so many. Our thoughts and prayers are with all her family & friends during this difficult time.

Please join me in a moment of silence to honor these losses in the community.

DEI ADMINISTRATOR

The City is excited to announce the creation of a new full-time position to support Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion initiatives in the community. This new position will also be a critical advisor to the City's leadership team on a regular basis and will report to the Mayor's Office.

I am pleased to announce the hiring of Prosper Lohomboli as the City's new Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Administrator, who officially started with us on July 1st.

The DEI Administrator will work with all departments to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion are values embraced in their customer service ethics. This position will partner with the Human Resources Department to assist with the development and implementation of programs, policies, and processes that foster DEI and supports targeted recruitment and retention efforts.

Further, this position will play a critical role in partnering with the General Assistance Department to coordinate placement services and available resources to homeless families and immigrants while building relationships with providers and service delivery staff to establish resources for residents. The DEI Administrator will assist in locating affordable housing, assisting in the application for work visas and job search, accessing health care, childcare, education and job training, acclimation to a new culture, language, social environment, and any other challenges facing these new residents.

Originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Prosper has a comprehensive background in social services. He came to the City of Westbrook through a partnership with The Opportunity Alliance (TOA) where he served as the Community Builder working collaboratively with families and other agencies to provide basic needs and social services to individuals and families in the Westbrook Frenchtown neighborhood. His previous position with TOA lost critical grant funding and we worked with them to help identify a way where we could continue to meet those needs while also working to address the new needs of the City.

Prior to arriving in Maine, Prosper worked at the American Agency for International Development (USAID) as a Research & Development Technician, Shillomputu Foundation as a Site Manager, Boeke Services Import-Export as a Public Relations & Marketing Agent, and Ministry of Culture and Arts as a Social Service Assistant. Prosper also has a background in healthcare and is a Certified Nursing Assistant.

He holds a bachelor's degrees from the National Institute of Arts in Arts and Development and Africa Network Ministries in Theology as well as an associate degree in Medical Studies from the University of Kisangani. Prosper is fluent in English, French, Swahili, and Lingala.

We are excited for this new position and please join us in welcoming Prosper!

UPCOMING REFERRAL & MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

I will now read an upcoming referral regarding reproductive healthcare and a Mayoral Proclamations for Parks & Recreation month.