



**WESTBROOK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY AUGUST 31, 2020
WESTBROOK PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 471 STROUDWATER ST.**



CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Committee of the Whole Chair David C. Morse.

City Councilors Present: Michael Shaughnessy (At-Large); David C. Morse (Ward 1); Victor Chau (Ward 2); Gary Rairdon (Ward 4, President); Elliot Storey (Ward 5)

City Councilors Absent: Claude Rwaganje (At-Large); Anna A. Turcotte (Ward 3, Vice President)

Other City Officials Present: Jerre Bryant (City Administrator); Natalie Burns (City Solicitor); Melanie Fernald (Deputy City Clerk); Stephen Fields (Assistant City Administrator/Director of Human Resources); Michael T. Foley (Mayor); Tressina Germani (Accounting Manager); Angela Holmes (City Clerk); Suzanne Knight (Finance Director); Janine Roberts (Police Chief)

CHARTER AMENDMENT REFERENDUMS – INCREASING APPROPRIATION & EXPENDITURE THRESHOLD and MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE NOMINATION PROCESS

Committee Chair Morse gave the floor to the Mayor who gave an overview of both items on the agenda.

Mayor read his memo into the record (attached) presenting a request to submit two questions to voter referendum at the November 3, 2020 election. The first question would increase the threshold for appropriations and expenditures that require Council approval from \$3,000 to \$10,000. The second question would allow municipal candidates to appear on the ballot by collecting signatures on a petition only, instead of by nomination from political party caucus.

INCREASING APPROPRIATION & EXPENDITURE THRESHOLD

Committee Chair Morse opened the floor for comments and questions on the topic of Appropriation & Expenditure Threshold.

The following individuals presented comments and/or questions: President Rairdon, Mayor Foley, Mr. Bryant, Councilor Chau, Councilor Storey, Councilor Shaughnessy, Chairman Morse, Ms. Knight.

Chairman Morse noted that their role during this meeting is to discuss whether to send this to Council for consideration to be included on the municipal ballots for voters in November.

Motion to amend the proposed item to a threshold of \$5,000 and refer to City Council for consideration. Moved by President Rairdon, seconded by Chairman Morse.

Motion carried by a show of hands. (Vote 3-2-2)

Ayes: Shaughnessy, Morse, Rairdon

Nays: Chau, Storey

Absent: Rwaganje, Turcotte

MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE NOMINATION PROCESS

Committee Chair Morse opened the floor for comments and questions on this matter. The following individuals spoke: Councilor Chau; President Rairdon; Councilor Shaughnessy; Ms. Holmes; Ms. Burns; Chairman Morse; Mayor Foley

Motion to refer this item to City Council for consideration as written.

Moved by President Rairdon, seconded by Councilor Chau

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

Chairman Morse clarified with Ms. Burns about changing the wording of the referendum questions as suggested during discussions. Ms. Burns noted that the public hearing notice to be published before the meeting needs to provide the wording of the question proposed. Tonight, Council could only move to set a public hearing, to be scheduled for September 14th. Ms. Holmes and Mr. Bryant further clarified which steps would be necessary before Council can act upon the proposed orders.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:10pm.

Moved by President Rairdon, seconded by Councilor Chau

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.