



**City of Old Town
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
September 05, 2023**

Council convened September 05, 2023, in the Old Town City Council Chambers, 265 Main Street.

Councilors present: David Wight, Mike May, Carol May, Timothy Folster, Chris Pushor, and Stan Peterson. Councilor absent, Council President Linda McLeod

Administration present: Bill Mayo, Laura Engstrom, Danielle Berube, April Buchanan, Irene Pehrson, Dave Russell, Scott Wilcox, EJ Roach, and Travis Roy.

Others present: John Hamer (City Attorney), 16 residents of Old Town.

Council Vice - President Pushor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes:

Resolved, the Old Town City Council hereby approves the following minutes as presented:

August 21, 2023, Administrative Services, Financial Services, Public Services and Special Council meeting.

Motion made by Councilor Folster, seconded by Councilor Wight.

Approved, 6- 0, (Motion passed)

Petitions, Communications, and Citizens' Requests

- Two residents addressed the City Council with their concerns on the within the cities bow and cross bow hunting permits. They said it could be potentially dangerous to residents and people walking on the University Trail System as the hunting is allowed in close proximity to these trails, playgrounds, and homes. Bill Mayo, City Manager, said he will get Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to do a review of the deer population and see if the hunting can either be reduced to a smaller time frame and/or eliminated.
- Multiple residents spoke to the City Council about their displeasure with the re-evaluations that were done on their property and homes. Most values increased substantially, triggering a higher tax bill. Bill Mayo, City Manager explained that Residential properties went up at

a much higher rate than Commercial properties. The State of Maine requires the City to not fall below 90% on our assessment ratio or they will start decreasing the amount of funding that is received for Veterans and Homestead Exemptions.

Reports

A. Council President
(No Report)

B. Standing Committees
Administrative Services, Economic Development, Finance Services, and Public Services
(No Report)

C. City Councilor
(No Report)

D. City Attorney
(No Report)

E. Special Committees
(No Report)

F. City Manager

EJ Roach, Economic Development Director presented Justin Russell, (resident of Old Town) with a grilling spatula engraved with his name on it, in thanks for promoting and helping out with the BBQ / Movies in the park events this summer.

Bill Mayo updated the City Council on the following:

- College Avenue Extension Culvert project is underway and going well.
- Juniper Ridge has filed a preliminary expansion information request with DEP which will also trigger a public benefit determination that will take place over the next couple months.
- Global Secure is having a groundbreaking ceremony for their 15,000-foot expansion on the Penny Road Sept. 8th at 11:45 am.
- Reached out to Casella with discussion on improving the quality of the pay as you throw green trash bags.
- Draft mailer will be going out to residents soon explaining the new trash pickup procedures that will be happening in October with Casella.
- AIP (Airport Improvement Program) grants moving forward on the Apron expansion. There are two of these grants, one is for \$926,000 and the other for \$304,000.

Consent agenda, items 1 & 2.

1. Resolved, the Old Town City Council hereby approves Issuance of a Proclamation in observance of Constitution Week September 17th through 23rd, sponsored by the Old Town-Orono Esther Eayers Chapters Daughters of the American Revolution.
2. Resolved, the Old Town City Council hereby approves the renewal application for a Malt, Vinous & Spiritous Liquor License for Alex Gray, Main Street Bookstore, LLC. d/b/a Kanú, 283 Main Street. Pending any City inspections.

Motion made by Councilor Mike May, seconded by Councilor Folster to accept all consent agenda items.

Approved, 6- 0, (Motion passed)

Public Hearings and Second Reading of Ordinances

1. The City Council conducted a Public Hearing on a proposal to amend Chapter 21, titled Welfare, Appendices A, B, C & D (Food, Housing & Heat Assistance Limits) of the General Assistance Maximum Amounts for the period October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. This amendment is a requirement of the Department of Human Services in compliance with Title 22, M.R.S.A. §4305(4).

Council Vice – President Pushor,

Opened public hearing 7:03 pm., with no public comment, Closed at 7:04 pm.

- 1a. The City Council considered scheduling a Second Reading on September 18, 2023, for final approval on a proposal to amend Chapter 21, Titled Welfare, Appendices A B, C & D of the General Assistance Maximum Amounts.

Resolved, the Old Town City Council hereby approves scheduling a Second Reading on September 18, 2023, for final approval on the proposal to amend Chapter 21, titled Welfare, Appendices A, B & C (Food, Housing & Heating Assistance Limits) of the General Assistance Maximum Amounts for the period October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024.

Motion made by Councilor Wight, seconded by Councilor Carol May.

Approved, 6- 0, (Motion passed)

2. The City Council conducted a Public Hearing on the proposal to amend the City of Old Town Ordinance in Chapter 19 Article XIII – Stopping, Standing or Parking Prohibited in Specific Places to read:

Stopping, standing or parking in places which could cause hazardous conditions or traffic congestion.

SS 19-335 Section a) The traffic engineer is hereby authorized to determine and designate, by proper signs, places in which the stopping, standing or parking of vehicles would create an especially hazardous condition or would cause unusual delay in traffic.

Parking on Roadways in a manner that blocks driveways is prohibited.

adding SS 19-338 Section a) No person shall park an **unattended** (added word) vehicle upon any roadway in a manner that blocks clear entry and exit from a driveway.

Council Vice – President Pushor,

Opened public hearing 7:05 pm., few comments made by residents asking if vehicles would be towed or given tickets if they blocked a driveway for a short period of time, and the answer was no this was more for vehicles that stayed for long periods of time restricting a resident from leaving or coming home, Closed at 7:15 pm.

- 2a. The City Council considered scheduling a Second Reading on September 18th, 2023 for final approval on the proposal to amend the City of Old Town Ordinance in Chapter 19 Article XIII – Stopping, Standing or Parking Prohibited in Specific Places, SS 19-335 Section a) and adding SS 19-338 Section a).

Resolved, the Old Town City Council approves scheduling a Second Reading on September 18, 2023, for final approval on the proposal to amend the City of Old Town Ordinance in Chapter 19 Article XIII – Stopping, Standing or Parking Prohibited in Specific Places.

Motion made by Councilor Folster, seconded by Councilor Wight.

Approved, 6– 0, (Motion passed)

Old Business, items 1 - 3

1. Resolved, the Old Town City Council authorizes Old Town Fire and Rescue Department to purchase a 2023 Alcom ATV trailer in the amount of \$12,499, to transport and store the Argo all – terrain vehicle bought with a Grant awarded from Firehouse subs. The funds for the purchase of the trailer to come from the sale of a used ambulance to the Town of Newport.

Motion made by Councilor Carol May, seconded by Councilor Wight.

Approved, 6– 0, (Motion passed)

2. Resolved, the Old Town City Council authorizes the conversion of a patrol officer position into a civilian employee position. The civilian employee position would be a full – time position titled Law Enforcement Support Administrator.

Motion made by Councilor Peterson, seconded by Councilor Carol May.

Approved, 6 – 0, (Motion passed)

3. Resolved, the Old Town City Council approves the demolition of two City of Old Town former Water Works buildings that were abated of hazardous materials, located at 1 & 2 Fourth Street.

Motion made by Councilor Peterson, seconded by Councilor Carol May.

Approved, 5 – 1, Councilor Carol May opposed. (Motion passed)

New Business: items 1 & 2

1. Resolved, the Old Town City Council hereby approves authorizing the Finance Director to carry forward funds in the Municipal General Fund accounts and Pollution Control accounts. (Carry Forwards attached # 1, 1a, and 2)

Motion made by Councilor Folster, seconded by Councilor Carol May.

Approved, 6– 0, (Motion passed)

2. Resolved, the City Council hereby approves going into Executive Session, pursuant to Title 36, M.R.S.A., §841(2)(E), for the purpose of discussing an Economic Development matter.

Motion made by Councilor Carol May, seconded by Councilor Wight to go into Executive Session at 7:20 pm.

Approved all in favor, 6-0. (Motion passed)

Motion made by Councilor Wight, seconded by Councilor Mike May to come out of Executive Session at 7:40 pm.

Approved all in favor, 6-0. (Motion passed)

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 7:41 pm made by Councilor Pushor, seconded by Councilor Folster.

Approved, all in favor, 6-0, (Motion passed)

**Respectfully submitted,
Laura Engstrom
City Clerk -Old Town**