

Town Council Meeting
May 21, 2024

Open Public Hearing: Council Chair Mark Ketch opened the public hearing regarding the June 11, 2024, annual referendum.

Public Comment: Manager Doane stated that there are 4 warrant articles that will be presented at the June 11, 2024, annual referendum:

Article 1: Is asking for authorization to expended \$1,969,728 for municipal expenses.

Article 2: Is asking for authorization to receive estimated revenues of \$769,900, use \$442,250 from carryforward/reserves, and raise the remaining amount of \$757,578 in property taxes.

Article 3: Is the general yearly question that authorizes the Town Council to apply for, accept and expend grants or other funds.

Article 4: Asks for authorization to appropriate an amount from the undesignated fund not to exceed \$50,000 for cemetery restoration and \$100,000 for cemetery land acquisition and development.

Close Public Hearing: Council Chair Mark Ketch closed the public hearing.

Open Town Council Meeting: Council Chair Mark Ketch opened the Town Council meeting; all Council members were present. Also present was Town Manager Melissa Doane and Fire Chief Eric Gifford

Citizens Request: Resident Ann Delaware asked for an update regarding the 114 Cram Street property. Melissa stated that the municipal attorney Tim Pease was present for the meeting and would be discussing the litigation with the Town Council in executive session. Mrs. Delaware stated that the residents in that area are aggravated by the situation that has been ongoing for 16 years. Melissa acknowledged the aggravation as she and the Town Council have the same. She added that there are however limited things that the Town can do. Councilor Lugdon has attended court cases in which Mr. Wing is being charged on a criminal matter and has reported that the behavior that the judges and court officials allow is very disturbing. Melissa added that the problem is that the courts, the system with the most power, allows for the disturbing behavior and it will therefore likely continue. Councilor Lugdon agreed adding that his very defeating, the police must take the abuse to get him to the court and then the judges are lenient.

Tim Pease-Municipal Attorney: Manager Doane explained that Stephen Wagner was not able to make the meeting however Tim Pease from Rudman and Winchell is here in his place. Councilor Ketch made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to MRSA 1 § 405 (6) (E), seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 5/0.

Councilor Wade made a motion to exit the executive session, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 5/0.

Review of the Minutes: Councilor Wade made a motion to accept the minutes of 4/23/23, seconded by Councilor Lugdon vote 4/0 (Councilor Ketch abstained as he was not present.)

Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the minutes of May 7, 2024, seconded by Councilor Hatch vote 3/0, (Councilor Wade and Councilor Clemons abstained as they were not present).

Citizens Request: None

Managers' Report: Melissa stated that information was brought forward to her that the bridge that connects Bullen Street to Highland Avenue is going to be evaluated this summer for its remaining service life. If a recommendation for removal is received, there will be a thorough communication process with the town and stakeholders.

Melissa reported that the 189th Annual Town Reports are available, she went to Viola Rand School today and presented the first report to Cheryl Leonard in a small dedication ceremony.

Melissa reminded the Town Council that the RSU budget meeting will be held on May 29, 2024, at 6:30 in the Old Town High School Cafeteria.

Melissa informed the Town Council that the floors will be stripped and waxed this weekend, therefore there will be activity at the municipal building.

New Business: Councilor Lugdon noted an email the Council had received regarding the Spirit of America Foundation tribute. The email suggested that the Town Council nominate Sally Strout. Melissa stated that each year the foundation requests that the Town consider a nomination for the tribute. The Town has done this twice; however, it has not been the same person to whom the town report was dedicated to.

Councilor Ketch noted that the Knapp Cemetery looked as it had not been mowed. Melissa stated it was mowed before Mother's Day and will be mowed again this week. She did acknowledge that she had to speak with the contractor as the mowing and clean-up was not as it should have been. She has been assured that the mowing this week and going forward will be as they have been.

Councilor Ketch asked what the purple box in the tree was on Boynton Street Park. Melissa informed the Town Council that the State of Maine placed it there. It is to catch a beetle that is harmful to Ash Trees.

Unfinished Business: Councilor Wade made a motion to accept the Municipal Election Warrant calling the June 12, 2024 Annual Referendum, seconded by Councilor Clemons vote 5/0.

Municipal Warrants: Councilor Ketch made a motion to accept the municipal warrants as presented, seconded by Councilor Lugdon vote 5/0

Next Meeting: The next meeting is set for June 4, 2024.

Adjourn: Councilor Lugdon made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Ketch vote 5/0.