

CITY OF WATERVILLE

REGULAR MEETING

COUNCIL MINUTES

MARCH 17, 2020

REGULAR MEETING

7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: NICHOLAS ISGRO, MAYOR
MIKE ROY, CITY MANAGER

COUNCILORS: MICHAEL MORRIS, MARGARET SMITH, SYDNEY MAYHEW,
RICHARD FOSS, CLAUDE FRANCKE, ERIK THOMAS

ABSENT: FLAVIA OLIVEIRA

PROCLAMATION

MARTIAL ARTS DAY

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

NO CONFLICTS WERE DISCLOSED

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 4, 2020

RESOLUTION 52-2020 RATIFYING THE ROLL OF ACCOUNTS NO. 6

Motion Made and Seconded for Approval of Consent Agenda
Vote: All in Favor (6-0)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 51-2020 AMENDMENT TO ZONING (PARK STREET)

Motion Made and Seconded to Read by Title Only
Vote: All in Favor (6-0)
Motion Made and Seconded to Adopt
Councilors Voting Yes: Morris, Smith, Mayhew, Foss,
Francke, Thomas
Councilors Voting No: None
Councilors Absent: Oliveira
Vote: All in Favor (6-0)

ORDER 59-2020

APPROVAL OF FORFEITURE (HANDY-BOONE)

Motion Made and Seconded to Read by Title Only

Vote: All in Favor (6-0)

Motion Made and Seconded to Adopt

Vote: All in Favor (6-0)

ORDER 60-2020

APPROVAL OF FORFEITURE (DONOVAN)

Motion Made and Seconded to Read by Title Only

Vote: All in Favor (6-0)

Motion Made and Seconded to Adopt

Vote: All in Favor (6-0)

RESOLUTION 61-2020

REFERRAL TO THE PLANNING BOARD (174-192 COLLEGE AVENUE)

Motion Made and Seconded to Read by Title Only

Vote: All in Favor (6-0)

Motion Made and Seconded to Adopt

Vote: All in Favor (6-0)

RESOLUTION 62-2020

LEASE OF AIRPORT FACILITIES

Motion Made and Seconded to Adopt

Motion Made and Seconded to Amend to direct the City Manager to direct the Airport Manager to make the drop zone where Mr. Fisher of Vacationland Skydiving suggests.

Vote: All in Favor (6-0)

Motion Made and Seconded to Adopt As Amended

Randy Marshall, Airport Director, expressed concern about safety issues regarding the suggested drop zone and the security of valuable city-owned airport equipment. Mr. Marshall stated that he is not opposed to a skydiving business operating out of the airport but wants to have a safer proposal with consultation with the FAA.

Mr. Fisher noted that the FAA is not involved in drop zone decision and added that safety is also his #1 concern.

Mayor Isgro said he was frustrated with the perception that it is hard to do business with the City of Waterville.

Mr. Marshall acknowledged that the City Council can make a decision to support this but that he wants his objections to be part of the record.

Mr. Fisher indicated that they would be willing to put up partitions to segregate the area where city equipment is being stored.

Councilor Mayhew expressed his support of attracting a new business to the airport.

Councilor Francke noted that a lease was not attached, to which City Manager Roy said that this Resolution was

approving the concept and that a lease would be acted on in a future meeting.

Vote: All in Favor (6-0)

Motion Made and Seconded to Waive Cloture to take up Resolution 63-2020 and Ordinance 64-2020

Vote: All in Favor (6-0)

RESOLUTION 63-2020 DECLARATION OF PUBLIC EMERGENCY

Motion Made and Seconded to Adopt

Vote: All in Favor (6-0)

ORDINANCE 64-2020 RESPONSE TO CITY-WIDE EMERGENCY REGARDING
COVID-19

Motion Made and Seconded to Adopt

Charlie Giguere, owner of Silver Street Tavern, expressed his frustration with the actions of the COVID-19 Task Force announcement of closing all restaurants and bars by a Facebook post with no advance notice at all.

Mayor Isgro acknowledged that the action was embarrassing and noted that the embarrassment was worth saving lives and protecting people.

Other restaurant owners in attendance expressed their displeasure with the fact that only Waterville restaurants were closed but that restaurants in Winslow and other towns were still operating.

The restaurant owners expressed concern about the welfare of their employees now being out of work.

Councilor Thomas apologized for the way the message was communicated and explained that they were reacting as information was coming into them during the meeting.

Mayor Isgro announced that official communication would be provided through the Incident Command System that has been established with the Fire and Police Departments.

The owner of Amici's restaurant also expressed frustration with the way restaurants were notified but acknowledged that we all need to act together.

Councilor Foss noted that the Task Force did not take the decision lightly and reflected that he doesn't want to see the situation in Italy coming here.

Resident Norton Webber shared that he felt that there was a lack of compassion regarding the business owners and that the committee should have given two days' notice.

A restaurant representative asked the City Council to consider the restaurant's value to the food supply in the area, noting that they are safer than grocery stores.

Councilor Thomas pointed out that if we are proactive now, we may come out of this sooner.

Mayor Isgro clarified that the Council is asking

businesses to close and have pick up and take-out only, adding that we need to work together to protect the most vulnerable in our population.

Isgro added that we will have uniform communication through City Hall.

Councilor Mayhew said that restaurants are a reliable source of food for the public and feels that this was an appropriate measure, adding that we can't wait 3-4 days to call City Council meetings.

When questioned, Mayor Isgro said that Bill Lee said that there is no authority to close bars and restaurants.

Councilor Francke agreed that the City Council doesn't have the authority to close businesses but only the state and federal government have that authority.

Councilor Thomas noted that that authority is not specifically spelled out in the Charter.

Motion Made and Seconded to Add "the subcommittee is authorized to call a Special Meeting of the City Council upon 24 hours' notice to enact any items deemed necessary to address the emergency."

Motion Made and Seconded to change the number of Councilors appointed to the subcommittee from 4 to 3 and to add the Mayor as a member.

Vote: All in Favor (6-0)

Motion Made and Seconded to Adopt As Amended

Councilors Voting Yes: Morris, Smith, Mayhew, Foss, Francke, Thomas

Councilors Voting No: None

Councilors Absent: Oliveira

Vote: All in Favor (6-0)

DISCUSSION ITEM POLICE STAFFING

Deputy Chief Bill Bonney explained that adding additional staffing will curtail overtime and reduce pressure on officers being forced to work additional shifts. Bonney noted that there are now only a few applicants when vacancies are advertised for Police Officers.

Councilor Foss stated that we should start now to recruit new officers, since it takes so long to get them on board. All agreed that an Order be placed on the next agenda to increase funding now for additional staffing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

6:45 P.M.

REAL ESTATE 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (C)

Motion Made and Seconded to Adjourn
Adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

City Clerk