



**WESTBROOK CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023 AT 7:00 PM
WESTBROOK HIGH SCHOOL (ROOM 114)
125 STROUDWATER ST.**



I. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by City Council President Anna A. Turcotte. City Clerk Angela Holmes read the City Council Land Acknowledgement statement into the record.

The Westbrook City Council understands, honors, and acknowledges that the City of Westbrook is located on the traditional and unceded homelands and waters of the Indigenous people of the Presumpscot River. We recognize that the Wabanaki people have been displaced by the advancement of colonization, yet have belonged to this land for countless generations and thousands of years, and their presence continues in Maine to this day.

II. ROLL CALL

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

City Councilors Absent: None

Other City Officials Present: Jerre Bryant (City Administrator), Natalie Burns (City Solicitor), Jennie Franceschi (Director of Planning & Code Enforcement), Michael T. Foley (Mayor), Greg Hamilton (Director of Emergency Communications & IT), Angela Holmes (Asst. City Administrator/City Clerk), Katherine Kelley (Wastewater Division Supervisor), Suzanne Knight (Finance Director), Sean Lally (Police Chief), Brian Langerman (Deputy Fire Chief), Ellis Ledoux (Executive Assistant), Brandon Mitchell (Student Representative)

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Turcotte led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. 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:

February 6, 2023 - City Council & School Committee Joint Meeting, Regular City Council Meeting

V. MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Mayor Foley read his message into the record. The full text of the Mayor's Message is attached to these minutes.

VI. CITY COUNCIL MESSAGES

President Turcotte opened the floor for City Council messages. Councilors provided the following updates:

- President Turcotte thanked the Housing Coalition for organizing an event with state elected officials regarding the housing crisis.
- Councilor Rwaganje thanked Councilor Munro for her work with the Housing Coalition for organizing the event.
- Councilor Shaughnessy thanked Councilor Munro for her work with the Housing Coalition for organizing the event.

VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

Student Representative Mitchell provided the following updates:

- Westbrook High School's Boys Varsity Basketball won a victory over Greely.
- Westbrook Girls Varsity made it to quarter-finals on Monday.
- A basket raffle will be held at Blaze's Burgers to raise funds for the Chamber Singers, and a spaghetti dinner will be held in the near future.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Turcotte opened the floor for the first public comment portion of this meeting. The following individuals spoke: None

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business for consideration.

X. ORDERS OF THE DAY (SECOND AND FINAL READING)

There were no legislative items requiring second and final reading.

XI. 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.

Resolves (One Reading Required)

Resolve 2023-04. Approving Westbrook Housing Authority Constables

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

Moved by Councilor Shaughnessy, seconded by Councilor Chau.

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

None

Motion carried. Resolve 2023-4 adopted. (Vote 7-0)

Ayes: Shaughnessy, Morse, Chau, Rairdon, Munro, Rwaganje, Turcotte

Nays: None

Orders (One Reading Required)

Order 2023-17. Amending Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Billing Collections Contract with Thomas Agency

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

Moved by Vice President Morse, seconded by Councilor Rairdon.

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

Motion carried. Order 2023-17 adopted. (Vote 7-0)

Ayes: Shaughnessy, Morse, Chau, Rairdon, Munro, Rwaganje, Turcotte

Nays: None

Order 2023-18. Approving Memorandum of Understanding with Westbrook School Department Regarding School Resource Officers

Motion to approve the first and final reading 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:
None

Motion carried. Order 2023-18 adopted. (Vote 7-0)

Ayes: Shaughnessy, Morse, Chau, Rairdon, Munro, Rwaganje, Turcotte

Nays: None

Order 2023-19. Accepting the Unappropriated Funds Report for the 2nd Quarter FY 2023

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

Moved by Councilor Rwaganje, seconded by Councilor Chau.

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

Motion carried. Order 2023-19 adopted. (Vote 7-0)

Ayes: Shaughnessy, Morse, Chau, Rairdon, Munro, Rwaganje, Turcotte

Nays: None

Order 2023-20. Authorizing Settlement & Easement Agreements Relating to 25 Cumberland Street

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

Moved by Vice President Morse, seconded by Councilor Shaughnessy.

President Turcotte opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke:
None

Motion carried. Order 2023-20 adopted. (Vote 7-0)

Ayes: Shaughnessy, Morse, Chau, Rairdon, Munro, Rwaganje, Turcotte

Nays: None

Orders (Two Readings Required)

Order 2023-21. Authorizing Additional Expenditure for Bridge Street Paving Project

Motion to approve the first of two readings 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:

None

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

Order 2023-22. Authorizing MaineDOT Utility Agreement

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

Moved by Councilor Shaughnessy, seconded by Councilor Rairdon.

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

None

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

Order 2023-23. Authorizing FY 2024 Animal Shelter Contract with the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland

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:

None

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

Order 2023-24. Authorizing Purchase of Zetron Radio PC Workstations for Public Safety Dispatch

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

Moved by Vice President Morse, seconded by Councilor Rairdon.

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

None

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

Order 2023-25. Authorizing Purchase of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle for the Police Dept

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

Moved by Councilor Shaughnessy, seconded by Councilor Rairdon.

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

None

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

Order 2023-26. Authorizing Purchase of In-Car Cameras for New Police Vehicles

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

Moved by Councilor Rwaganje, seconded by Vice President Morse.

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

None

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

Order 2023-27. Amending the Land Use Ordinance to Add Restaurant Class 3 as a Conditional Use in the Gateway Commercial District

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

Moved by Vice President Morse, seconded by Councilor Chau.

Ms. Holmes noted for the record that a public hearing on this item will take place during the City Council meeting held at 7pm on Monday, March 6, 2023.

President Turcotte opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke: Jim Katsiaficas (Perkins Thompson, representing Rock Row), President Turcotte, Mayor Foley, Chief Lally, Councilor Rairdon, Ms. Franceschi

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Turcotte opened the floor for the second and final public comment portion of this meeting. The following individuals spoke: None

XIII. REFERRALS

There were no referrals for consideration.

XIV. 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

Adopting Policy to Protect Employees' Access to Reproductive Healthcare Services

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

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:29pm as stated below.

Moved by Vice President Morse, seconded by Councilor Munro.

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.

Motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405-6(C) regarding economic development matters where premature disclosure would prejudice the competitive or bargaining position of the City, and pursuant to Section 405-6(E) to discuss pending litigation, inviting the Mayor, City Administrator, Asst. City Administrator/City Clerk, Finance Director, Economic Development Director, Director of Planning & Code Enforcement, and City Solicitor.

XVI. RECONVENE

City Council reconvened from Executive Session at 8:45pm.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:45pm

Moved by Councilor Chau, seconded by Councilor Rwaganje.

Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.



MAYOR'S OFFICE



Mayor Michael T. Foley

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

February 27, 2023

VETERAN'S ACTIVITIES

Our Veterans Coffee & Information Sessions continue at the Westbrook Community Center with our next event on March 9th at 9am. At these sessions our Veteran's Service Officer Arty Ledoux updates veterans on various issues affecting them and we hear stories from those present about their service to our country.

DOWNTOWN PARKING, CONSTRUCTION & TRAFFIC PATTERN UPDATES

Downtown streets were reopened to traffic late year, returning normal flow to our downtown this winter. Various closures or delays have been taking place in the area for construction deliveries with tremendous progress being made. In the coming weeks, the final deliveries will be taking place and the large crane will be removed from the site as work continues on the inside of the structures. 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 in a safe and efficient manner.

WINTER PARKING UPDATES

We'd like to remind everyone that the City's Winter Parking Ban is in effect from November 15th through April 15th from 12am – 6am. In addition, we have special winter parking regulations for the downtown. These parking restrictions are necessary to help our Public Services crews clear the streets and lots in a safe and effective manner. This team does an outstanding job, and we thank them for their continued efforts to keep our roads safe and clean during the winter despite being short staffed.

DISCOVER DOWNTOWN WESTBROOK'S WINTERFEST

We want to remind everyone that Discover Downtown Westbrook is hosting Winterfest this year with events on Saturday, March 4th at Riverbank Park from 10am to 2pm. They have many exciting activities planned and we thank them for organizing this event along with the various sponsors for making it possible. Visit their website or Facebook page for more information.

RECENT COMMUNITY LOSS

Earlier this month, we learned of the loss of community member Alexander Juniewicz. Al served our country in the US Air Force and also the City of Westbrook as a member of the City Council. He was also involved in many different community organizations and embodied the essence of what serving others truly means in everything he did. We are grateful for his dedication to our community and our thoughts and prayers are with his family & friends during this time. Please join me in a moment of silence in his honor.