

**WESTBROOK CITY COUNCIL  
FACILITIES & STREETS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY AUGUST 5, 2019  
WESTBROOK HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM 114**

---

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 6:16pm by Committee Chair Ann E. Peoples.

**City Councilors Present:** Victor Chau (Ward 2); Michael T. Foley (At-Large); Lawrence McWilliams (Ward 5); Ann E. Peoples (At-Large); Brendan Rielly (Ward 1)

**City Councilors Absent:** Gary Rairdon (Ward 4, President); Anna A. Turcotte (Ward 3, Vice President)

**Other City Officials Present:** Jerre Bryant (City Administrator); Natalie Burns (Legal Counsel); Stephen Fields (Assistant City Administrator/Director of Human Resources); Angela Holmes (City Clerk); Suzanne Knight (Finance Director); Janine Roberts (Police Chief); Michael Sanphy (Mayor); Andrew Turcotte (Fire Chief)

**ESTABLISHING LIMITED PARKING ON BEECHWOOD AVENUE**

Committee Chair Peoples gave the floor to Mr. Bryant, who explained that this request was referred by Councilor Rielly. Councilor Rielly noted that this request came to him from a resident of Beechwood Avenue, Rene Daniels, who has concerns about the parking situation on the street. Mr. Daniels was invited to the podium to discuss his concerns. He stated that there is limited off-street parking options for residents of the street, resulting in on-street parking on both sides of a narrow road. He is concerned that public safety and public services vehicles cannot navigate safely down the street. There was a snow storm last winter where a plow was unable to get through the street. Committee Chair Peoples gave the floor to Larry Wilcox, another resident of Beechwood Avenue. He reiterated the concerns and explained that he has difficulty entering and exiting his driveway.

Committee Chair Peoples opened the floor for comments and/or questions. The following individuals spoke: Councilor Foley, Mr. Bryant, Mayor Sanphy

Motion to recommend one-sided parking on Beechwood Avenue and to refer this item to City Council for action.

Moved by Councilor Foley, seconded by Councilor Rielly.

Committee Chair Peoples opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke: Councilor Chau, Chief Roberts

**Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.**

**11 MECHANIC STREET**

Mr. Bryant noted that 11 Mechanic Street is a former call company fire station. The building served as a maintenance facility for the Public Services Department while the facility on Saco Street was under construction. When the new space was completed in 2016, Public Services operations were removed from 11 Mechanic Street and the building was winterized. Mr. Bryant handed out an assessment of the building completed in 2016 by Eric Dudley, Director of Public Services & Engineering, outlining the need for a new heating system and roof, and concerns about potential mold and asbestos. The estimated cost of repair for the building would be \$250,000. The City was approached by Abigail Cioffi, Executive

Director of Discover Downtown Westbrook, and Michael Shaughnessy, Art Professor at University of Southern Maine, with a conceptual plan for the reuse of the building.

Committee Chair Peoples gave the floor to Ms. Cioffi and Mr. Shaughnessy, who presented the conceptual plan to use the building as a collaborative space for various organizations, such as a place for artists, a collaborative working space, offices, a visitor center and a METRO stop. They requested one year to explore funding opportunities to rehab the building.

Committee Chair Peoples opened the floor for comments and/or questions. The following individuals spoke: Committee Chair Peoples, Ms. Cioffi, Councilor Foley, Councilor Rielly, Councilor Chau

Motion to grant Discover Downtown Westbrook one year to explore funding sources for the rehab of 11 Mechanic Street and to develop a plan for the space.

Moved by Councilor Rielly, seconded by Councilor Foley.

Committee Chair Peoples opened the floor for comments on the motion. No one spoke.

**Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 6:54pm.

Moved by Councilor Foley, seconded by Councilor Chau.

**Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.**