

**WESTBROOK CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY DECEMBER 5, 2016 AT 7:00PM
WESTBROOK HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

Editorial note: The City Council meeting took place during the official Inaugural Ceremonies for the City of Westbrook. For historical reference, minutes from the entire event are included below.

PRELIMINARY CEREMONIES

City Clerk Angela Holmes welcomed everyone to the Inaugural Ceremonies, and invited to the stage all members from the School Committee, City Council, their respective Student Representatives, Mayor-Elect Mike Sanphy, City Administrator Jerre Bryant, Assistant City Administrator John Wipfler and Westbrook School District Superintendent Dr. Peter Lancia.

POSTING THE COLORS, NATIONAL ANTHEM & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Westbrook Police Department Honor Guard posted the colors (the American flag and State flag), followed by the National Anthem played by the Westbrook City Band. Several members of Westbrook Girl Scout Troop 574 led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Bruce Dyer delivered the invocation.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Former City Councilor Michael Foley was invited to the stage to share remarks on some of the landmark moments and learning experiences he encountered through his years of service.

Philip Spiller, Jr. was invited to the stage to introduce a student visiting from Archangel, Russia as part of the Westbrook-Archangel Sister City program, and to provide an overview of the program and its positive impact on our community. City Councilor Anna Turcotte joined him, and Former City Councilor Michael Foley presented the student with a commemorative coin.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE – CALL TO ORDER

City Clerk Holmes called the School Committee to order.

School Committee Members Present: Suzanne Joyce (At-Large); Suzanne Salisbury (At-Large); Steven Berry (Ward 1); Veronica Bates (Ward 2); Noreen Poitras (Ward 3); Michael Popovic (Ward 4)

School Committee Members Absent: James Violette (Ward 5)

Student Representative Present: Madison Damon

SCHOOL COMMITTEE – OATHS OF OFFICE

City Clerk Holmes delivered the Oath of Office to newly re-elected School Committee Members Joyce, Poitras and Popovic.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE – ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for the School Committee to conduct, City Clerk Holmes asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn.

Moved by School Committee Member Joyce, seconded by School Committee Member Salisbury.

Motion carried by a show of hands, none opposed.

CITY COUNCIL – CALL TO ORDER

City Clerk Holmes called the City Council to order.

Councilors Present: John O’Hara (At-Large); Ann E. Peoples (At-Large); Brendan Rielly (Ward 1); Victor Chau (Ward 2); Anna Turcotte (Ward 3); Gary Rairdon (Ward 4); Lynda Adams (Ward 5)

Student Representatives Present: Connor Blake, Maura Rielly

CITY COUNCIL – OATHS OF OFFICE

City Clerk Holmes delivered the Oath of Office to newly elected and re-elected City Councilors Peoples, Rielly, Chau and Adams.

CITY COUNCIL – SELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

City Clerk Holmes opened the floor for nominations for City Council President.

Motion to appoint Councilor Rielly as City Council President.

Moved by Councilor Chau, seconded by Councilor Rairdon.

Motion carried by a show of hands, none opposed.

CITY COUNCIL – COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Council President Rielly announced his appointment of Councilor O’Hara as the Vice President, and announced the following City Council Committee assignments for 2017:

- **Committee of the Whole**
Chair: Gary Rairdon
Vice Chair: John O’Hara
Members: all City Council

- **Finance Committee**
Chair: Anna Turcotte
Vice Chair: Victor Chau
Members: all City Council

- **Facilities & Streets Committee**
Chair: Ann E. Peoples
Vice Chair: John O’Hara
Member: Gary Rairdon

- **Economic & Community Development Committee**
Chair: Victor Chau
Vice Chair: Lynda Adams
Member: Anna Turcotte

- **Public Safety Committee**

Chair: Lynda Adams

Vice Chair: Gary Rairdon

Member: Ann E. Peoples

CITY COUNCIL – FIRST AND FINAL READING LEGISLATION

Council President Rielly noted that there was one piece of legislation for immediate Council action, Resolve 2016-41.

Resolve 2016-41. Appointing Maura Rielly and Ranya Al Abaidi to Westbrook City Student Council.

1. Motion to approve first and final reading of Resolve 2016-41.
Moved by Councilor Rairdon, seconded by Councilor O’Hara.
2. The following individuals commented on the motion to approve first and final reading of the legislation:
 - a. Councilor Chau
3. Revisiting the motion to approve first and final reading of Resolve 2016-41.

Motion carried. Resolve 2016-41 adopted. (Vote 7-0)

Ayes: Councilor Adams, Councilor Chau, Councilor Peoples, Councilor Rairdon, Turcotte, Vice President O’Hara, President Rielly

Nays: None

CITY COUNCIL – ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for the City Council to conduct, President Rielly asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn.

Moved by Councilor Chau, seconded by Councilor Rairdon.

Motion carried by a show of hands, none opposed.

MAYOR – OATH OF OFFICE AND MAYOR’S ADDRESS

City Clerk Holmes delivered the Oath of Office to newly elected Mayor Mike Sanphy, who delivered the following address, included in full:

Thank you. It is an honor and a privilege to be selected to serve as your Mayor for the next three years. I have many, many people to thank, and that alone makes me feel like the luckiest man in the world. While I am not going to attempt to thank everyone individually, I do want to recognize my family, because without their love, support and understanding, none of this could have happened, and I’d like to thank Colleen Hilton for making this a smooth transition.

I want to thank my supporters who worked tirelessly throughout the campaign, both in the caucus and in the general election. Your encouragement, guidance and stamina are greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank those of you who participated in the election but may have not voted for me. I am now your Mayor too, and I want to hear your ideas, opinions and perspectives on the many issues and challenges we face as a community. I want to thank the other three mayoral candidates for a very respectful campaign. I strongly encourage you to remain actively involved in our community.

While my new title may be Mayor, my job remains civil servant. I have very proudly served the people of the City of Westbrook for most of my adult life, more than forty years as a Westbrook Police Officer and, simultaneously,

twenty years with the Westbrook Fire Department. Service to the community has remained a high priority in my retirement, including my work with the Westbrook Historical Society and 6 years on the Westbrook City Council.

The themes I have as I begin my service as Mayor include the following:

- **Collaboration** – I believe in bringing people together. I work with people, resolving issues through communication, understanding and cooperation. I am open to all ideas and perspectives and strongly believe that decisions reached through open communication and understanding achieve the best results.
- **Service** – City government should work for the people, and those of us in public service should never lose that perspective. We must strive to reach the best solutions for you, your neighbors and the entire community. That means being accessible, respectful, understanding and responsive to everyone. I expect that of myself and everyone who works on behalf of the city. I want to add that I am very proud and supportive of the men and women who currently serve our city.
- **Building on our strengths** – Westbrook is a vibrant, diverse and economically active community. It is a great city in which to work, operate a business, live and raise a family. That is why we have so many multi-generational businesses that continue to prosper and many exciting new businesses that are relocating to our city. Westbrook is also a very attractive city in which to live and raise a family. It is important to manage growth and change for Westbrook in a responsible, sustainable way and equally important to promote quality growth and economic opportunity for the future. The current economic vitality and residential attractiveness of our city are the result of the collective hard work, focus and resolve of many people. We must continue to build on that success.
- **Affordability** – The city has a responsibility to respond to the needs of its residents and businesses thorough the provision of quality public services and responsible stewardship of its infrastructure and natural resources. We also have a responsibility to keep our city affordable, for our seniors who want to remain in Westbrook through their retirement years and young families who need quality, good paying job opportunities to cope with the challenging costs of housing, energy and education. Balancing these sometime competing goals is a challenge, but we must strive to keep Westbrook affordable for everyone.

To underscore these goals of cost savings and openness, I will be replacing the traditional Inaugural Ball with a more modest Inaugural Reception, to be held this January at a date and location to be announced shortly. There will be no city funding of this event nor will there be any cost to attend. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate. I look forward to working with all of you to make Westbrook the very best it can be.

MAYOR – ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Sanphy announced the following appointments for 2017:

City Administrator – Jerre Bryant

Assistant City Administrator – John Wipfler

City Clerk – Angela Holmes

Chief of Fire Department – Andrew Turcotte

Chief of Police Department – Janine Roberts

Emergency Management Agency Director – Greg Hamilton

Finance Director/City Treasurer – Suzanne Knight

City Tax Collector – Jordan Shelburne

Tax Assessor – James Thomas

Road Commissioner/Director Engineering & Public Services – Eric Dudley

Director of Human Resources – Jennifer Ogden

Director of Planning & Code Enforcement – Jennie Franceschi
City Electrician/Electrical Inspector – Steve Corey
City Solicitor – Natalie Burns
Code Enforcement Officer/Health & License Inspector – Richard Gouzie
Director of Walker Memorial Library – Rebecca Albert
City Arborist – Douglas Eaton
Director of Community Services – Maria Dorn

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Ed DeLong from Westbrook Warren Congregational Church delivered the benediction.

CONCLUSION

The Westbrook City Band concluded the ceremonies by playing God Bless America.