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Fort Fairfield Town Council Monthly Meeting
Council Chambers
Wednesday, November 18, 2020
6:00 P.M.

I. Roll Call

Councilors: All Councilors are present

Staff: Andrea Powers, Billie Jo Sharpe, Darren Hanson, Tony Levesque, Ella Leighton, Chief Newell, Sergeant Eagles, Darryl Doughty, Deputy Chief Fenderson, Fire Chief Browning, Dylan Greenier, Nick Pelletier.

Citizens: 1

II. Prayer

III. Pledge to the Flag

IV. Public Comment Period

Gary Sirois – Resident of Fort Fairfield spoke of numerous dilapidated properties in Fort Fairfield and provided a list he created of said properties for Council.

Mr. Sirois also mentioned the poor attendance of a recent Public Hearing and wonders what other options for posting to the Public there may be other than the website and social media.

FFFR Chief Browning provided a brief update for the Department and then introduced newly appointed Deputy Fire Chief, Cody Fenderson and administered the Oath of Office.

Police Chief Newell presented Sergeant Eagles with a Commendation for a recent investigation that led to the arrest of an individual for drug trafficking that caused death.

V. Correspondence and Reports

A. Licenses and Permits

We have received one application for an On-Premises Liquor license renewal for the Knights of Columbus #1753.

B. Financial Report

We received September Revenue Sharing in the amount of \$37,680.62 on 9/20/2020. This is down \$1,717 from monthly budget and down \$3,115 from our budget for the 1st quarter.

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We received October Revenue Sharing in the amount of \$49,942.14 on 10/21/2020. Total revenue sharing received to date is \$165,020.66. This puts us at 34.9% of budget versus 33.33%. We are now 1.57% (\$7,444.75) over our budgeted amount.

Total expenses at the end of October were at 32.96% vs 33.33% budgeted.

Total excise tax collected in October was \$57,804.33; State revenue sharing \$49,942.14; Real Estate & Personal Property taxes collected \$278,102.78

Loan balances as of 10/31/2020:

Jones Fuel - \$1,680.63

Langley #5275 - \$18,616.63

Langley #5277 - \$6,699.37

C. Aroostook Waste Solutions – Mr. Rogeski

Mr. Stev Rogeski, Fort Fairfield Member of the AWS Board of Directors, provided a report to the Town Council.

VI. Old Business

A. ORD 20-08

A Public Hearing for held on November 6, 2020 at 12:00pm in the Council Chambers of the Fort Fairfield Municipal Building.

Kendall Stratton spoke for the Ordinance. There were no others who spoke neither for or against Ordinance 20-08.

Recommendation: That the Town Council approves Ordinance 20-08 Litter, Illegal Dumping and Property Maintenance.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to approve Ordinance 20-08 Litter, Illegal Dumping and Property Maintenance.

Mr. Butler seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

B. Fort Fairfield Solar, LLC

Fort Fairfield Solar, LLC has agreed to a Decommission Plan for the solar farm to be submitted to ME DEP for review and approval. The plan is attached to this MEMO.

Fort Fairfield Solar, LLC held their public hearing on November 16, 2020 in the Council Chambers at 6:00pm. The agenda for the hearing is attached to this MEMO.

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The results of the public hearing will be made available to Council at the December Council Meeting.

VII. New Business

A. Department of Economic & Community Development Grant

The Maine Potato Blossom Festival has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 from the Department of Economic & Community Development for the purpose of marketing the Festival to conduct travel and tourism marketing and promotional programs to stimulate and expand Maine's travel and tourism economy.

Recommendation: Town Council approves the Department of Economic & Community Development Grant for the Maine Potato Blossom Festival in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Mr. Butler made a motion to approve the Department of Economic & Community Development Grant for the Maine Potato Blossom Festival in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Mr. Kilcollins seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

B. Doris A. Turner Memorial Gift

The Fort Fairfield Library received a memorial donation on November 4th, 2020 in the amount of \$500.00 from the Estate of the late Doris A. Turner

Mrs. Turner passed away on November 30, 2019. She was an avid genealogist, and was a 1948 graduate of Fort Fairfield High School.

The Fort Fairfield Library will use this money to continue to increase the available records in our historical digital archives available online to genealogists and researchers.

Recommendation: Council accept the donation of a memorial gift in the amount of \$500.00

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to accept the donation of a memorial gift in the amount of \$500.00

Mr. Smith seconded.

Discussion: None.

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Vote: All Affirmative.

C. LOI Consolidated Communications

Consolidated Communications has agreed to creating a fiber optic broadband network for Fort Fairfield. They would like for us to sign an LOI (Letter of Intent) with them outlining the proposed terms by which Consolidated Communications will enter into a lease agreement with the Town of Fort Fairfield for the right to install and operate fiber optic broadband in Fort Fairfield, Maine.

The Broadband Project will encompass approximately all 72 square miles of Fort Fairfield with specific location and layout acceptable to Consolidated Communications and the Town, subject to zoning, site topography and a final engineered design.

The Broadband Project will have minimal traffic impacts before and after installation.

The LOI is a recitation of our general understanding of this contemplated transaction and no binding obligations between Consolidated Communications and the Town of Fort Fairfield are to result from the execution of the LOI, unless and until the above-described transaction has been made the subject of a mutually acceptable contract and has been executed by both parties.

Recommendation: That the Council permits the Town Manager to sign an LOI with Consolidated Communications for the Broadband Project.

Mr. Smith made a motion to permit the Town Manager to sign an LOI with Consolidated Communications for the Broadband Project.

Mr. Butler seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

D. MSAD 20 Irrigation Fields

Recreation Director Kevin Senal, Athletic Director Tim Watt, Public Works Director Darren Hanson and myself met at the MSAD 20 Athletic Fields earlier this month to discuss the issues surrounding the drought and how it was affecting the fields.

Through a series of discussions, it was determined that MSAD 20 could not carry the burden of the cost of the irrigation system for the fields and they requested our help in finding a better solution.

The Town is currently getting quotes and researching different systems and grants. This is a great opportunity for the Town and the school district to work together. I will keep Council informed of the progress.

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E. Town Office December Closure

The annual Christmas Dinner for Town Staff and guests is scheduled for Thursday December 10, 2020. The snow date will be December 11, 2020. I am requesting we close the Town Office and all departments at 1:00pm that day so that all town employees may enjoy the dinner together.

Recommendation: Town Council approves the closing of the Town Office and all Departments on December 10, 2020 at 1:00pm.

Mr. Butler made a motion to approve the closing of the Town Office and all Departments on December 10, 2020 at 1:00pm.

Mr. Kilcollins seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative

VIII. Minutes of the November 6, 2020 Special Council Meeting

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2020 Special Council Meeting

Mr. Smith seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

IX. Warrants: #10: \$492,971.04

Warrant #10 in the amount of \$492,971.04 (includes County Taxes \$258,523.50) was completed on 11/13/2020. Checking account balance as of 11/13/2020 is \$1,140.60; Machias Savings balance \$5,000.00

Mr. Butler made a motion to approve Warrant #10 in the amount of \$492,971.04 as presented.

Mr. Smith seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

X. Other

XI. Executive Session

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M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(A) Personnel Matters

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to go into Executive Session.

Mr. Butler seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Council entered into Executive Session at 6:26 pm

Mr. Butler made a motion to come out of Executive Session.

Mr. Kilcollins seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative

Council came out of Executive Session at 6:54 pm.

Action taken by Council:

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to approve a 10-year contract to Town Manager, Andrea Powers.

Mr. Butler seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

XII. Manager's Report

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Butler made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Kilcollins seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Council adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Billie Jo Sharpe,
Council Secretary