

Fort Fairfield Town Council Monthly Meeting
Council Chambers
Wednesday, December 16, 2020
6:00 P.M.

I. Roll Call

Councilors: All Councilors are present, Mr. Smith participated via Zoom Meeting.

Staff: Ms. Powers, Billie Jo Sharpe, Darren Hanson, Tony Levesque, Ella Leighton, Sgt. Eagles, Dylan Greenier.

Citizens: Four

II. Prayer

III. Pledge to the Flag

IV. Public Comment Period

Kendall Stratton – Fort Fairfield resident asked Council to consider adding a Public Comment, question and answer item to the Regular Town Council agenda.

Chairman Babin polled Councilors if they had any objection, and there were none.

Chairman Babin read a letter signed by 22 residents that have property along Monson Pond in Fort Fairfield regarding the current assessed value of shoreline land.

V. Correspondence and Reports

A. Licenses and Permits

As of December 16, 2020, we have not received any license renewals.

B. Financial Report

We received November Revenue Sharing in the amount of \$40,514.40 on 11/20/2020. Total revenue sharing received to date is \$205,535.06. This puts us at 43.4% of budget versus 41.6%. We are now 1.8% (\$8,545.46) over our budgeted amount.

Total expenses at the end of November were at 43.57% vs 41.67% budgeted.

Total excise tax collected in November was \$33,929.40; State revenue sharing \$40,514.40; Real Estate & Personal Property taxes collected \$211,553.37.

Loan balances as of 11/30/2020:

Jones Fuel - \$1,680.63

Langley #5275 - \$18,616.63

Langley #5277 - \$6,699.37

VI. Aroostook Waste Solutions – Stev Rogeski

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

The minutes from October and November’s AWS Board of Directors meetings were provided to Councilors prior to the meeting.

VII. New Business

A. Appointment of Municipal Registrar

Per Title 21-A §101.2, the Municipal Officers of each municipality shall appoint a qualified registrar, in writing, by January 1st of each odd numbered year.

Recommendation: That Council appoints Neadra Dubois as Registrar for the Town of Fairfield.

Mr. Buter made a motion to appoint Neadra Dubois as Registrar for the Town of Fort Fairfield.

Mr. Kilcollins seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

B. Alternate Planning Board Member Recommendation

Mr. Carl Young has tenured his resignation from the Fort Fairfield Planning Board as of November 25, 2020. Mr. Young has moved to Houlton, Maine to be closer to family. It has been Mr. Young’s pleasure to serve the community as a Planning Board member for many years and he wishes continued success to the Board in all their endeavors on the Council’s and the Town’s behalf.

The Fort Fairfield Planning Board has asked that Council consider Alternate Planning Board Member, Mr. Mark Roy to replace Mr. Young for a term to be served through to June 30, 2023. This will leave one vacant alternate Planning Board Member vacancy.

Recommendation: Council approves the Planning Board's recommendation of Mr. Mark Roy to the Planning Board as a Member to serve a term through to June 30, 2023.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion that Council approves the Planning Board's recommendation of Mr. Mark Roy to the Planning Board as a Member to serve a term through to June 30, 2023.

Mrs. Libby seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

C. Introduce Food Sovereignty Ordinance 20-09

An Act to Recognize Local Control Regarding Food Systems, LD725, took effect on November 1, 2017. LD725 applies to sales conducted at farms and homes (i.e. where the food was produced) in towns that have formally declared food sovereignty. The law was amended in October to exclude meat and poultry processing, and to exclude sales at farmers' markets or other public venues. LD725 applies to sales that take place directly between the producer and consumer at the producer's farm/residence. LD725 only applies in towns that have declared food sovereignty, and exclusively applies to food produced and sold within food sovereign towns.

The amendment states that the law pertains to sales of food at the "site of production" within a food sovereign town. The intention of the committee was that the law only apply to sales of food at farms and homes; the law does not apply to food sold at farmers' markets. At the site of production is generally understood to mean on a premise controlled by the producer where the food or food products are produced, such as a farm, homestead, or in a home kitchen.

Recommendation: That Council introduces Food Sovereignty Ordinance 20-09 and direct staff to hold a public hearing on the Ordinance on Wednesday, December 30, 2020 at 12:00 Noon in the Council Chambers of the Fort Fairfield Municipal Building.

Introduced by: Mr. Butler.

D. Introduce Discussion on Second Amendment Sanctuary

The Second Amendment of the Constitution, Right to Bear Arms, was passed by Congress September 25, 1789 and was ratified December 15, 1791. It states as such, "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

The Second Amendment Sanctuary refers to a city, town, or county that has adopted a resolution rejecting the enforcement of state or federal gun laws perceived to violate the Second Amendment.

Discussion: Mr. Kilcollins lead a discussion regarding adopting a resolution rejecting the enforcement of state or federal gun laws perceived to violate the Second Amendment.

Mr. Babin spoke in favor of such resolution and asked the Town Manager, Andrea Powers to reach out to communities who have adopted a similar resolution for draft language to be presented at the next regular Town Council Meeting.

VIII. Minutes of the November 18, 2020 Regular Council Meeting.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to approve the VIII. Minutes of the November 18, 2020 Regular Council Meeting.

Mr. Smith seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

IX. Warrants: #11: \$303,232.53 #12 \$31,024.00 #13: \$252,090.10

Warrant #11 in the amount of \$303,232.53 and Warrant #12 in the amount of \$31,024.00 were both completed on 11/24/2020.

Warrant #13 in the amount of \$252,090.10 was completed on 12/09/2020.

Checking account balance as of 12/09/2020 is \$62,033.62; Machias Savings balance \$5,000.00.

Mr. Butler made a motion to approve Warrants #11, #12, #13 as written.

Mr. Smith seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

X. Other

A. Promissory Note

As discussed last Council Meeting with Mr. Rogeski, there is a unique opportunity this year with Aroostook Waste Solutions. They have a reserve account that they can offer a 1% (percent) interest rate Promissory Note to the Member Municipalities. They are able to offer us a \$1,000,000.00 loan that will be paid back by June 30, 2021. By making this change from the current TAN we hold with Katahdin Trust Co. at 1.82% (percent) we will be saving the tax payers \$11,840.00

Recommendation: That Council allows the Town Manager to sign the Promissory Note as discussed with AWS.

Mr. Butler commented that this is a great offer to the Town of Fort Fairfield to help save money.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion that Council allow the Town Manager to sign the Promissory Note as discussed with AWS.

Mr. Butler seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Butler made a motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Libby seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Council adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Billie Jo Sharpe,
Council Secretary