

Fort Fairfield Town Council Monthly Meeting
Council Chambers
Wednesday, August 19, 2020
6:00 P.M.

I. Roll Call

Councilors: All Councilors are present

Staff: Ms. Powers is absent; Mr. Hanson is acting Town Manager. Billie Jo Sharpe, Chief Newell, Tony Levesque, Kevin Senal, Ella Leighton, Sgt. Eagles, Dep. Chief Browning,

Citizens: Five including Media.

II. Prayer

III. Pledge to the Flag

IV. Public Comment Period

Trey Stewart, State Representative from Presque Isle and a candidate for the Maine Senate was present to introduce himself and offered to answer any questions after the meeting.

V. Correspondence and Reports

A. Licenses and Permits

We have not received any license or permit renewals as of August 19, 2020.

B. Financial Report

Total expenses in July were at 6.13% vs 8.33% budgeted.

Total excise tax collected in July was \$133,158.30; State revenue sharing \$46,156.04; Real Estate & Personal Property taxes collected \$53,005.06.

Loan balances as of 07/31/2020:

Jones Fuel - \$1,830.63

Langley #5275 - \$18,816.63

Langley #5277 - \$6799.37

C. AWS Report – Mr. Rogeski

Mr. Rogeski was not present.

VI. Old Business

A. Day Care Land Use Chart (ORD 20-05)

A Public Hearing was held for amendment changes to the Official Fort Fairfield Land Use Chart on August 12, 2020 at 12:00pm in the Council Chambers of the Fort Fairfield Municipal Building. No one spoke for, against, neither for or against at the hearing.

“Day Care Center by changing the language from No to PBII.”

Recommendation: That the Town Council approves the language changes on the Official Fort Fairfield Land Use Chart for Day Care Center from No to PBII.

Mr. Butler made a motion that Council approve the language changes on the Official Fort Fairfield Land Use Chart for Day Care Center from No to PBII.

Mr. Kilcollins seconded.

Discussion:

Vote: All Affirmative.

B. *RFP Aerial Truck FFFD/EMS*

On August 14, 2020 the Town Clerk, Billie Jo Sharpe, opened the bid envelopes for the RFP Fort Fairfield Fire Rescue Department. Katahdin Trust Company offered a 5, 10, or 15 year at 2.59%, 2.97% and 3.37% fixed interest rates respectively with no prepay penalty with monthly payment of \$11,554.46, \$6,270.66 and \$4,613.75. Aroostook Savings and Loan offered a 5,7,10, and 15 year at 1.9%, 2.25%, 2.60%, 3.10% fixed interest rates respectively with no prepay penalty with monthly payments of \$11,347.15, \$8,357.82, \$6,147.67, and \$4,513.15.

It was discussed that Notice of Award be given to the 7-year term with Aroostook Savings and Loan as it was best suited for the Fort Fairfield Fire Rescue Department.

Recommendation: That Council accepts the Notice of Award given to Aroostook Savings and Loan for the RFP Bid on \$649,000.00 for a term of 7 years no prepay penalty, with a 2.25% fixed interest rate and a \$8,357.82 monthly payment.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to accept Notice of Award given to Aroostook Savings and Loan for the RFP Bid on \$649,000.00 for a term of 7 years no prepay penalty, with a 2.25% fixed interest rate and a \$8,357.82 monthly payment.

Mr. Butler seconded.

Discussion:

Mr. Smith commented that the Ladder truck is not here yet.

Deputy Chief Browning replied that if its not here this evening, it would be here by tomorrow evening. Deputy Chief Browning spoke to the driver and was told he was going to stop this evening to fuel up and rest

Mr. Smith recommended that Council hold of this because there has been no discussion on a final negotiated price. I think we should take the time to look it over, have Public Works and Autotronics look it over and have the Fire Department try it out and then

talk to Andrea about price negotiations. They are still asking \$649,000 for the truck. “I think we are putting the cart before the horse to approve that amount if we can get it cheaper than that.”

Mr. Hanson replied that we are hoping to negotiate the price down. This would allow us to move forward.

Mr. Smith – stated he would like to wait a few days until Andrea returns and everyone has had a chance to look at it and make a decision then. “We can have a special council meeting.” “How much time do we have before we approve this loan?”

Chief Newell replied ten days from arrival of the truck.

Mr. Smith – How long on the loan?

Mr. Hanson replied he could not answer that.

Mr. Butler – We are approving the amount of \$649,000, If we negotiate the price down, then we go back and get a better rate. We should not have to come back and vote of something we already approved.

Mr. Hanson commented that the discussion was that we would only borrow the amount we needed.

Mr. Butler – “We are approving up to \$649,000 and if we get the Truck for \$532,000, it is already taken care of. We wouldn’t have to come back and vote again on a lower price. This is a maximum price that we are going to allow them to pay for the truck.

Mr. Babin stated that we have been approved for up to \$649,000 from Aroostook Savings and Loan. If we need less, we borrow less.

Mr. Kilcollins – I see no reason not to approve this amount and if it’s cheaper then it is in our favor.

Mr. Babin – Once the inspection is done, we get the green light?

Deputy Chief Browning – replied yes after all inspections are done and we feel the truck is safe, equipped and will serve the Town for twenty years or so. We do hope to negotiate the price.

Vote: Mr. Butler – Aye
Mr. Smith – As written, No.
Mr. Kilcollins – Aye.
Mrs. Libby – Aye.
Mr. Babin – Aye.

Motion passed 4-1

VII. New Business

A. Dog Park, Riverside Park

Ms. Powers has discussed with the Public Works Director, Darren Hanson and Recreation Director, Kevin Senal the possibility of placing a municipal dog park in Fort Fairfield. We are all in agreement that Riverside Park, farthest end from Town, would be the ideal location for such a park. The proposed park would be 90' x 50' fenced in park with a small agility course, waste receptacles, baggies for waste collection, signage, and seating. The estimated cost for the entire park is \$5,317.00.

Ms. Powers suggests implementing policies for the Fort Fairfield Municipal Dog Park for the safety and comfort of our citizens and their dogs. These policies should be posted at the park, along with the hours that the park is open from. Policies adopted by the Municipality such as, dogs must wear a collar with a valid license and have current vaccinations; handlers must pick up after their dog(s) and dispose of the bagged waste in the containers provided; dogs must at all times be under the control and supervision of their handlers; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult; food and glass containers are not permitted for either human or canine; cats are prohibited; and puppies and female dogs in heat are not allowed in the park.

This would be an added service to our citizens giving dogs a safe space to exercise and roam around freely, allowing dogs to socialize with other dogs, and allowing owners a chance to be physically active with their pet.

Recommendation: That the Town Council approves the Fort Fairfield Municipal Dog Park to be located at Riverside Park.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the Fort Fairfield Municipal Dog Park to be located at Riverside Park.

Mr. Butler seconded.

Discussion:

Mr. Babin asked if there were people that requested there be a dog park.

Mr. Hanson replied yes.

Mrs. Libby asked who would maintain the park, Public Works?

Mr. Hanson responded, yes most likely with some Policing as well.

Vote: All Affirmative.

B. ATV Access Route Request, Riverside

On July 17, 2020, Chief Newell mailed a letter to twenty-eight residence on Riverside Avenue regarding a proposed ATV access route along that road, as proposed by the Fort Frontier ATV Club.

The letter, which is attached, asked residents if they supported or opposed this route as proposed by the ATV club. Of the twenty-eight letters sent, Chief Newell received twenty returns. Eleven residents support this ATV access route and nine oppose it. One survey supported with restrictions.

This came about from a request from Kendall Stratton of the Fort Frontier ATV Clubs request for an access route on Riverside Avenue (East). This will be dependent upon if the State approves access to cross the Bridge. If the State approves the bridge access then Council may approve Riverside Avenue as an access route connecting to Limestone.

Discussion:

Mr. Smith – What is the Police Department’s recommendation?

Chief Newell – I am not opposed to the Riverside Avenue access; however, I am opposed to bridge access because the bridge is so narrow and it could be a safety issue with all the big heavy trucks coming across.

Mr. Kilcollins – Snowmobiles have been crossing that bridge for years 10-15 years and there haven’t been any fatalities.

Chief Newell – I am very cautious about saying yes to ATV traffic on that bridge.

Mr. Babin – years ago we did have State permission.

Chief Newell – It will give the ATV club a lot more access to the other areas as we are limited here in Fort Fairfield. I am not opposed to allowing that Riverside access.

Mr. Butler – that will bring other traffic from Limestone to Fort Fairfield and open up trails north too.

Mr. Kilcollins made a motion to accept the access route on Riverside Avenue as proposed.

Mr. Butler seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

C. *Sergeant Promotion – Chief Newell*

After extensive testing and an interview process, Chief Newell announced Ryan Eagles as Fort Fairfield’s newest sergeant.

“Sgt. Eagles has extensive training in patrol supervision and leadership skill; along with over ten year’s law enforcement experience.”

“I look forward to working closely with Sgt. Eagles, as we continue to serve this wonderful community with integrity, pride, and excellent service.”

Sergeant Eagles received congratulations from Staff and Council.

VIII. Minutes of the July 15, 2020 Regular Council Meeting.

Mr. Butler made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2020 Regular Council Meeting.

Mr. Kilcollins seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

IX. Warrants

Warrant #2 in the amount of \$92,936.50 was completed on 07/17/2020.

Warrant #3 in the amount of \$25,647.55 was completed on 07/29/2020.

Warrant #4 in the amount of \$407,300.17 was completed on 08/11/2020. Checking account balance as of 08/11/2020 is \$441,369.10; Machias Savings balance \$5,000.00.

Mr. Butler made a motion to approve Warrants # 2, #3, and #4 as written.

Mr. Kilcollins seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

X. Other

XI. Manager's Report

XII. Executive Session

M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(C) Economic Development

Mr. Butler made a motion for Council to enter into Executive Session regarding M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(C) Economic Development.

Mr. Kilcollins seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Council entered into Executive session at 6:25 pm.

Mr. Butler made a motion that Council come out of Executive session

Mr. Kilcollins seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Council came out of Executive Session at 6:31 pm.

No action taken.

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Butler made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Kilcollins seconded.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Council adjourned at 6:33 pm.

**Added prior to Council Meeting*