

THE TOWN OF FORT FAIRFIELD
AMENDED ORDINANCE 22-02
Budget Advisory Committee
Public Hearing Minutes
Wednesday, August 10, 2022
6:00 pm
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Staff present – Tony Levesque, Darren Hanson, Neadra Dubois
Councilors present – James Ouellette, Kevin Pelletier, Melissa Libby
Budget Advisory Committee – Kevin Bouchard, Pat Canavan
Citizens – 3 present – Ken Stratton, Ann Hull, Daniel McKenney
Media – Melissa Lizotte (Star Herald)

Mr. Levesque opened the Public Hearing at 6:00 pm by reading the following posted notice:

LEGAL NOTICE
Town of Fort Fairfield Public Hearing

There will be a Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Fort Fairfield Municipal Building located at 18 Community Center Drive, Fort Fairfield, Maine. The purpose of this hearing is to allow for public comments on the following:

Ordinance 22-02: AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR

The rewording of the establishment of a Budget Advisory Committee, composition, appointment, qualifications, terms, vacancies, officers, meetings, quorum, procedure, powers, duties, authority, recommendations, official cooperation.

This ordinance may be reviewed in its entirety at the Town Office during regular business hours. Comments and/or questions should be directed to the Town Manager, Andrea L. Powers: 18 Community Center Drive, Fort Fairfield, Maine, 04742, or by phone at (207) 472-3800.

Comments will be received until the next Council Meeting. The Town Council will be considering action on the ordinance at the next Town Council Meeting, August 17, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Levesque noted that the notice was posted on August 2nd, 2022 at The County Federal Credit Union, Katahdin Trust Company, in the Fort Fairfield Municipal Building and published on the Fort Fairfield Town website and Social Media Page on August 2nd, 2022.

Mr. Levesque stated that Staff will continue to accept comments and questions until the next Town Council Meeting on August 17, 2022.

Mr. Levesque read aloud the Ordinance changes and noted that there were no strikeouts or language changes in the Ordinance, only addition to the language in italicizes and underlined.

Mr. Levesque explained how he would proceed with the Hearing by allowing comments in the following stages - those in support of the Ordinance, comments opposed of the Ordinance and comments that were neither for nor against the Ordinance.

Mr. Levesque opened the floor to comments in support of the Ordinance.

After no one stepped forward, Mr. Levesque asked again for any comments in support of the Ordinance.

Melissa Libby comments in support of the proposed Ordinance adding 2 non-voting Council Members to the Committee.

Mr. Levesque asks again for any comments in support for the Ordinance.

Pat Canavan comments in support of the proposed Ordinance.

Mr. Levesque asks if anyone would like to speak in opposition of the proposed Ordinance.

After no one stepped forward, Mr. Levesque asks again if anyone would like to speak in opposition of the proposed Ordinance.

Kevin Pelletier comments in opposition of the Ordinance because, he states, Councilors were not given the chance to choose the Budget Advisory Committee. He also states that the members were chosen by the Town Manager, which he thinks was wrong.

Mr. Levesque asks again if anyone would like to speak in opposition of the Ordinance.

Mr. Levesque asks if anyone would like to like to make statements neither for nor against the Ordinance.

Ken Stratton makes a comment neither for nor against the Ordinance. Mr. Stratton wants it noted that anyone the Budget Advisory Committee should not be close family member of someone who works for any Department for the Town, as it could sway the Members vote on certain budgets.

Mr. Levesque asks if there is anyone else that would like to speak.

Ann Hull comments neither in support nor opposed because she does not feel that she had enough information on the proposed Ordinance to make a decision. Mrs. Hull states that she is in favor of adding two non-voting Council Members to the Budget Advisory Committee and is opposed to the process of recommendations to Ms. Powers in writing instead of going to the Town Council.

Mr. Levesque asks again if there is anyone else that would like to speak.

Mr. Pelletier comments again about how he feels about the way the Members of the Budget Advisory Committee were chosen.

Darren Hanson, Public Works Director, comments neither for nor against the Ordinance. Mr. Hanson states that this Committee could be good for the Town if it's done the right way.

Melissa Libby adds to her statement in support of this change that she is glad that this will now be going through the Town Office and the Town Manager's Office and she thinks it will add a lot of support for the Budget Advisory Committee and help clarify information given as it will be coming from one source and it will be the correct information versus several other outside sources.

Pat Canavan comments again in support of the Ordinance adding two non-voting Council Members to the Committee.

Mr. Levesque asks three more times if anybody else would like to speak.

Mr. Levesque closed the Public Hearing at 6:18 pm.

In support – 2 people (Melissa Libby, Pat Canavan)

Opposed – 1 person (Kevin Pelletier)

Neither in support nor opposed – 3 people (Ken Stratton, Ann Hull, Darren Hanson)

Respectfully submitted,

Neadra E. Dubois
Council Secretary