

Fort Fairfield Special Town Council Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
Wednesday, August 24, 2022
6:00 P.M.

I. Roll Call

Councilors: Mr. Kilcollins, Mr. Ouellette, Mr Pelletier, Mrs. Libby (Mr. Butler excused)

Staff: Ms. Powers, Neadra Dubois, Ella Leighton, Darren Hanson, Chris Perkins

Citizens: 7 citizens present

Legal: Attorney Currier

II. Executive Session

A. 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) Personnel Matters

Motion In: Mr. Ouellette motioned.

Second: Mrs. Libby seconded.

Vote: All Affirmed.

Time into Executive Session: 6:01 PM.

Motion Out: Mrs. Libby motioned.

Second: Mr. Pelletier seconded.

Vote: All Affirmed.

Time out of Executive Session: 6:20 PM

Mr. Pelletier – “Andrea, I did not say anything to Mark Babin. They made it all up.”

Ms. Powers – “We’ll verify that.”

Mr. Pelletier – “What you just said is not true. I don’t lie. I honestly do not lie. I did not say it. I don’t know why they said that. [inaudible].”

Mr. Kilcollins – “Okay, at this time, we’re gonna need a motion to accept her resignation.”

Mr. Ouellette – “You have to do that in public.”

Mr. Pelletier – “Yeah, you have to do that in public.”

Ms. Powers – “This is public, this is public session. Once you come out of Executive Session, action taken is public.”

Mr. Ouellette – “We have public outside that needs to come in and witness this.”

Mrs. Libby – “You want your cheering squad here?”

Mrs. Libby steps out to tell the public they can go in. Four citizens enter.

Mr. Kilcollins – “Okay, at this time, I’m gonna need a motion for accepting.”

Action taken:

Motion: Mr. Pelletier made the motion to accept the resignation of the Town Manager.

Second: Mr. Ouellette seconded.

Discussion:

Mrs. Libby – “Absolutely. I just want to go on the record saying that it is absolutely terrible that we are losing probably one of the best Town Managers we have ever had. I have only served under two of them, so I can only speak from that. However, it is a great loss to our community that she has decided to resign and I really hope going forward, people can change their behavior because I think that, that had a lot to do with this tonight. If our Town doesn’t change the way we’re doing things we are not going to move forward. The amount of harassment and stuff from the public that she has had to go through, is completely unacceptable. I’m very upset by this.”

Mr. Pelletier – “I would just like to say, I have not served under Town Management ever, and I have no ill things towards Andrea, what so ever. I wish you the very best and I look forward to moving on in a positive direction, I think. That’s what I’m looking forward to. Okay.”

Mrs. Libby – “I hope so.”

Mr. Kilcollins – “I’ve had a chance to serve under three different Town Managers and I can honestly say that the professionalism that our Town Manager is, is as good as it can get. She is probably one of the most educated. Learnt so much from you. It’s been a pleasure. It’s a loss. I hate to see outcome like this. It’s not good for us, it’s not good for the community, and I just hope, moving forward, from I’ve learnt and we can apply that. And, hopefully, just make Fort Fairfield a better place in the future. But I can assure you that all the effort that you have put has led to a lot better place in our community and I wanna thank you.”

Mrs. Libby – “Thank you for everything.”

Vote: All Affirmed.

Mr. Kilcollins – “Well, we need a motion to appoint a temporary seat as.”

Mr. Pelletier – “I thought we weren’t gonna do it tonight.”

Mr. Kilcollins – “Well, no, but.”

Mr. Pelletier – “I thought we were gonna take some time.”

Mrs. Libby – “No. We need to do it. We need somebody.”

Mr. Kilcollins – “We need to do it. We may not need it, but we need to do it. We may not need it, but we, we gotta do it, we can’t not do it.”

Mr. Pelletier – “Two, three weeks?”

Mr. Kilcollins – “We got to. I mean, if something, if she, she, something.”

Mr. Pelletier – “The attorney’s right there. Did he put her to this? [inaudible]”

Mr. Kilcollins – “But, it’s just, it’s just.”

Mrs. Libby – “But he said we needed to do it. And that he recommends.”

Mr. Kilcollins – “It’s part of the Charter. We have to do it, follow the Charter.”

Ms. Powers – “I actually have to do it, as part of the Charter.”

Mr. Kilcollins – “Yes.”

Ms. Powers – “And then, Council can discuss.”

Mr. Kilcollins – “Right. Right.”

Mr. Pelletier – “But here we’re gonna have a problem. You two wanna vote for someone other than who we wanna vote for. We’re gonna have a stalemate. We’re gonna have to talk. You’re not gonna sell me on [inaudible].”

Mrs. Libby – “How do you know who he wants to vote for?”

Mr. Pelletier – “I have a pretty good idea.”

Ms. Powers – “So, you’ve had discussions about it, prior to you coming?”

Mr. Pelletier – “Have we had discussions about it? People are talking. People are concerned about the Town and the best interest of the Town, and you are too, I know, I know.”

Mr. Kilcollins – “At this time, I know what we had to do is part of our agenda in Open Session. And, I did notify, when I talked to Mitch, that any further decisions made would not be [inaudible].”

Mrs. Libby – “We have to follow our Charter.”

Mr. Kilcollins – “And that’s part of it.”

Mrs. Libby – “That’s part of our Charter. We have to follow our Charter. Our Town Attorney just told us this.”

Attorney Currier – “I don’t know that you have to do it tonight.”

Mrs. Libby – “So we can wait until?”

Attorney Currier – “The next regular meeting.”

Mr. Kilcollins – “Right. We can wait til the next one, regular meeting.”

Mrs. Libby – “Can you stay on until then?”

Ms. Powers – “No. The next regular meeting is after.”

Mrs. Libby – “So we go without a Town Manager for a period of a month?”

Ms. Powers – “A week.”

Mr. Kilcollins – “A week?”

Ms. Powers – “One week I believe.”

Attorney Currier – “Unless you hold a special meeting beforehand.”

Mr. Kilcollins – “Right. Yup.”

Mr. Pelletier – “That’s what we need to do then, Bob.”

Mr. Kilcollins – “Yup. That’s what we need to do.”

Mrs. Libby – “I don’t care. I just don’t want to go without a Town Manager.”

Mr. Pelletier – “We won’t go without a Town Manager. We’ll figure it out.”

Ms. Powers – “So, would you like to schedule a Special Town Meeting for Monday, August 29th?”

Mr. Kilcollins – “Yup, yup. Schedule it for the 29th.”

Mr. Pelletier – “If you think so.”

Mrs. Libby – “When does Mitch get back? I thought you said he’s not back until.”

Mr. Kilcollins – “Sunday. Yup. Six o’clock?”

Ms. Powers – “Six o’clock.”

Mr. Kilcollins – “So, if we would have a motion to table the temporary seat until August 29 Special Council Meeting. We need a motion for that.”

Motion: Mr. Pelletier made the motion to table discussion on Interim Town Manager.

Second: Mr. Ouellette seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

III. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Ouellette makes the motion to adjourn.

Second: Mrs. Libby seconded.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Affirmative.

Council adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Neadra E. Dubois, Council Secretary

