

MINUTES

Cumberland Town Council Meeting

Town Council Chambers

Monday, November 27, 2023

6:00 P.M. Executive Session pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A., § 405(6)(C) re: real property

6:00 P.M. Call to Order

Present: Councilors Copp, Edes, Filson, Storey-King and Vail

Excused: Councilors Douglass and Segrist

- I. EXECUTIVE SESSION** pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A., § 405(6)(C) re: real property.
Motion by Councilor Edes, seconded by Councilor Vail, to recess to Executive Session pursuant to Title 1 M.R.S.A., § 405(6)(C) re: real property.
VOTE: 5-0 UNANIMOUS
TIME: 6:01 P.M.

Executive Session concluded at 6:59 P.M.

7:04 P.M. REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING BEGINS

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Copp seconded by Councilor Edes, to accept the November 13, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: 5-0 UNANIMOUS

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Edes, to accept the November 20, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: 5-0 UNANIMOUS

III. MANAGER'S REPORT

Police Chief Rumsey read the following in regard to police officer recognition:

The evening of Wednesday, October 25th is one that none of us will ever forget. At about 7:30, a colleague reached out to ask if I'd heard about a possible mass shooting in Lewiston. The rest of the night was filled with anxiety, uncertainty, and angst. Our officers who were on duty were waiting on the west end of town, in the event the suspect fled in our direction or in the event we were asked for help. All of us were texting, waiting to see how we could assist. We were anguished for our colleagues and their communities a few miles away, not even able to imagine the fear, trauma, and loss they were experiencing.

I remember a quote from Mr. Rogers that's always stuck with me. He said, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."

Tonight, I'm proud to take a few moments to recognize two of our teammates – our helpers - who were called into service to aid the effort to respond to and recover from this unspeakable tragedy. Officer Joe Burke has been a member of Cumberland County's regional Emergency Services Unit for the past three years. He currently serves as one of the Unit's designated marksmen. Joe deployed with the ESU to Lewiston on the night of October 25th, and again on the night of the 27th. Both nights, Joe performed overwatch, and support for searches as the effort was underway to find the individual responsible for the attacks.

Officer Kaitlyn Sawyer has been trained in and has been providing group and individual peer support for police officers for the past – years. Peer support following a critical incident is imperative to minimize the long-term effects of post-traumatic stress. The process helps officers understand that their bodies and minds are having normal reactions after being exposed to abnormal events. As soon as the Lewiston fugitive apprehension effort concluded, Kaitlyn and other trained peers jumped into action, and through a combination of individual peer support and group critical incident debriefs, have rendered mental health first aid to hundreds of first responders.

Just prior to the conclusion of the hunt for the perpetrator, I reached out to the chiefs in Sabattus and Lisbon. I was aware that their teams were exhausted, having worked around the clock with very little rest in the 48 hours following the shootings. I offered to coordinate by getting them some assistance, and Chief McGee of the Lisbon Police Department accepted the offer. Working with my fellow Cumberland County chiefs, in short order we arranged for 6 officers to help supplement their staffing, around the clock through the weekend. Several of our Cumberland teammates signed up to help their fellow officers in Lisbon. Ultimately this assistance was rendered unnecessary by the conclusion of the search for the perpetrator.

I'm intensely proud of the members of this department, and I'm happy to have the opportunity to recognize these fine officers for their contributions to the effort in Lewiston. Kaitlyn and Joe, thank you.

IV. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Katherine Pelletreau of 55 Drowne Road asked for clarification of the process for the proposed affordable housing project on Drowne Road.

Town Manager Shane said that the next step in the process is to prepare a memorandum of understanding with the developer. This starts the process. Then we will schedule three public meetings in order to receive input and feedback on the project that is proposed. Ultimately, the project will go before the Planning Board, which is an entirely separate process that will receive additional public input. The Town Council public meetings will be held in January and February. The proposal will be made public on Thursday, December 7th as part of the Town Council meeting packet.

Ms. Pelletreau asked if once a memorandum of understanding is signed with the developer, can the Town decide not to move forward with the project.

Town Manager Shane said that the Town can absolutely walk away from the project if the Town Council chooses not to proceed.

V. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

23 – 125 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on approval of a Wharfing Out Permit at 307 Foreside Road, as recommended by the Coastal Waters Commission.

Vice-Chairwoman Filson invited the Chairman of the Coastal Waters Commission, Rick Thompson, to speak on this item.

Mr. Thompson explained that this a fairly complex project from the standpoint of the number of landings to get down to the water. The design makes sense and reaches the overall objective of the project. The Coastal Waters Commission held a sitewalk on October 24th to review the scope of the project with the property owner and representatives from Atlantic Environmental. At that point, a lot of the work in terms of restoring some of the damage that occurred from the storm of December 29th 2022 had begun, so it could be clearly seen how the project as it was defined in the application would look. It was determined that the standards of the ordinance were met, and the Coastal Waters Commission then held a Public Hearing, and the project was approved.

Vice-Chairwoman Filson opened the Public Hearing.

No public comment.

Vice-Chairwoman Filson closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Edes, seconded by Councilor Copp, to approve the Wharfing Out Permit at 307 Foreside Road, as recommended by the Coastal Waters Commission.

VOTE: 5-0 UNANIMOUS

23 – 126 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on 2024 mooring allocations for Broad Cove Reserve Mooring Field, as recommended by the Coastal Waters Commission.

Vice-Chairwoman Filson said that last year, the Town built some additional dry storage for kayaks and lightweight dinghies to accommodate the expansion of mooring field. She asked the Mr. Thomspson (Chairman of the Coastal Waters Commission) how that is working and if it has been a positive addition.

Mr. Thompson said that the Commission worked hard to try to expand the number of moorings from 38 to 48 last spring, which they did. It's interesting to note that last summer there were 48 moorings in Broad Cove, but only 15 or 16 boats were observed on the mooring and only 15 or 16 dinghies on the floats at any given time. The Commission would like to gather information from the mooring holders about their intent in having a mooring. It is disheartening to have expanded the mooring field and not have it being used. As a result, the Commission is currently not looking to further expand the mooring field further.

Vice-Chairwoman Filson opened the Public Hearing.

No public discussion.

Vice-Chairwoman Filson closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Vail, to approve the 2024 mooring allocations for Broad Cove Reserve Mooring Field, as recommended by the Coastal Waters Commission.

VOTE: 5-0 UNANIMOUS

23 – 127 To consider and act on canceling the December 25th Town Council meeting.

Motion by Councilor Edes, seconded by Councilor Copp, to cancel the December 25th Town Council meeting.

VOTE: 5-0 UNANIMOUS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Copp – he donated \$20.00 to the 4-H fund that benefits the Food Pantry, as he does at every meeting, and reminded everyone that this is a very worthy cause.

His thoughts and prayers are with the Small family. George Small is having some health issues and there will be a gathering at his house this Saturday to help set up his Christmas display. George has set up his Christmas display every year for many, many years.

Councilor Vail – the Ordinance Committee will meet this Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Councilor Edes – he also wished George Small a speedy recovery.

He thanked Chris Yale, who is in the audience this evening, for the box of moose meat that he and his brother donated to the Food Pantry. It was very much appreciated.

Councilor Storey-King – she thanked the residents of Spruce Lane for meeting with the Town Council last week to discuss issues in their neighborhood regarding Shoreland Zoning and some things that are missing from our Shoreland Zone Ordinance.

Discussions will begin again regarding the library expansion and fund raising. There was a preliminary drawing done of what an expansion might look like and most recently, and we had a space analysis done at the library. There will be an expansion committee formed and will be headed by Bert Kendall.

The Shellfish Conservation Commission met last week to discuss the Department of Marine Resources decision that we must change our shellfish license allocations. The Town Clerk and Police Chief are working on getting the ordinance language straightened out to address this issue.

Firefighter for Kids will hold their annual pancake breakfast this Sunday.

Vice-Chairwoman Filson – the annual employee appreciation luncheon will be held on December 7th at noon at Val Halla.

The Fire Station is selling beautiful trees for \$50 each.

At our December 11th meeting, there will be discussion regarding cancelling the December 25th Town Council meeting.

Councilor Edes suggested not waiting until December 11th to cancel the December 25th Town Council meeting. He made a motion to cancel the meeting (item 23-127 was added to the agenda).

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilor Copp, seconded by Councilor Edes, to adjourn.

VOTE: 5-0 UNANIMOUS

TIME: 7:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda L. Moore

Council Secretary