

Town Council Meeting
December 17, 2024

Open Public Hearing: Council Chair Mark Ketch opened the public hearing

Public Comment Re: An Ordinance to Restrict Winter Parking: There was no public comment; Manager Doane explained that the only change was two grammatical errors found when discussing the ordinance previously.

Close Public Hearing: Council Chair Mark Ketch closed the public hearing.

Open Town Council Meeting: Councilor Chair Mark Ketch opened the Town Council Meeting, which was attended by all Town Council members and Town Manager Melissa Doane.

Review of Minutes: Councilor Ketch motioned to accept the 12/3/2024 Town Council Minutes as presented, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 5/0.

Citizens Request: None

Managers' Report: Melissa stated that the residents at 5 Cram Street have denied help from the Department of Human Services. Melissa wrote them a letter encouraging them to reconsider. She also wrote that they must comply with the land use ordinance, or the Town will have no choice but to move forward with an official notice of violation and possible court proceedings. She will continue to monitor the situation.

Melissa met with Eastern Maine Development Corporation regarding the grant through the Community Resilience Partnership; they believe the grant she wrote will provide funding. However, a budget narrative is needed. They suggested that the Town wait until the spring grant as the students should have a budget estimate. Councilor Ketch verified that the funding sought was for walking trail development. Melissa stated that was what was included in the narrative. Councilor Hatch expressed concern regarding ballfield development due to the expense. Melissa agreed that more public input would be needed. Melissa also added that she had recently met with a company that is doing a bike share program in Bangor; they are looking to expand. Melissa told them that Bradley would be interested in learning more and explained that the program would have to be self-sufficient. This may be something to consider for the ballfield area in the future.

Melissa and Eric have been working on a grant through FEMA to seek funding to replace the 2001 pumper truck. The grant is due on Friday.

Melissa provided the Town Council with an update regarding 114 Cram Street. Mr. Wing has filed a handwritten motion to the court, accusing his appointed attorney of stealing his documents. He requested a new attorney and a trial date of July. The court did not act on his motion; Melissa will follow up with Mr. Worrell, the municipal attorney, after the holidays.

Melissa told the Town Council that she will be in Washington, D.C., again in March. The dates fall on the regularly scheduled meeting date of March 11, so it will be necessary to cancel that meeting. Melissa also tentatively has a family vacation planned for March 20 to March 24.

Resident Ann Delaware asked if any further development regarding 43 Highland Avenue had occurred. Melissa stated that the Town Council had authorized her to expend \$2500 for a survey and feasibility study. She received two quotes: one from Plisga & Day for \$4500 and the other from Haley Ward for \$2500. She has contacted Haley Ward and provided them with approval to move forward.

Ms. Delaware also asked if the students had provided any information regarding the ballfield area. Melissa stated they had contacted her and Dean, the code enforcement officer, regarding zoning, permits, etc., but there was no presentation.

New Business: Councilor Ketch noted that he and Melissa had received an email from the Department of Marine Resources regarding a possible alewife harvest. Melissa stated that other towns have done this and received revenue for allowing the harvest. She has emailed him and requested a meeting.

Councilor Ketch suggested that the Town Council provide an end-of-year bonus to the staff. Councilor Lugdon motioned to provide a year-end bonus in the amounts issued last year, seconded by Councilor Hatch, vote 5/0.

Unfinished Business: Motion to adopt the Ordinance to Restrict Winter Parking as presented was made by Councilor Ketch, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 5/0.

Councilor Ketch asked if the ARPA funds had all been spent. Melissa reported that they had not been spent but had been allocated; they will be used to fund the sidewalk grant.

Ms. Delaware stated that she has a difficult time seeing the entrance to Cram Street. She would like the Town to see if there is something that can be done to improve that, such as cutting back the grass that has grown on the curbing. Councilor Lugdon suggested adding some reflectors.

Municipal Warrants: Councilor Ketch motioned to accept the municipal warrants as presented, seconded by Councilor Wade, vote 5/0.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was set for January 14, 2025

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Ketch, seconded by Councilor Clemons, vote 5/0.