

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021 AT 5:00PM**

WATCH ONLINE AT

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*Comments can be submitted via email prior to the meeting start time
at info@orono.org and during the meeting by using Zoom comment features.*

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present: Council Chair Tom Perry, Laurie Osher, Meghan Gardner, Cheryl Robertson, Terry Greenier, Sam Kunz and Town Manager Sophie Wilson.

2. Agenda Review - None

3. Approval of Minutes of February 8, 2021 *(Video record time 00:28-02:23)*

Moved by Sam Kunz and seconded by Cheryl Robertson to approve, as amended. All voted in favor, 6-0.

Cheryl Robertson noted a minor correction to the minutes under Council Committee, Representative Reports, page 16. She reported on two separate committees: The Orono Economic Development Corporation and the Environment Committee.

4. Public Hearings *(Video record time 02:23-03:05)*

a. To consider a Victualer's License for Legacy CP Maine, LLC d/b/a Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers, 4 Stillwater Avenue.

Public hearing a. opened at 5:03 p.m. Code Enforcement Officer Patrick Estey reported that staff has completed all the inspections and recommends approval of the license. No public comments were made. Public hearing a. closed at 5:04 p.m.

5. Acknowledgments by Council Members *(Video record time 03:06-12:29)*

Tom Perry acknowledged this will be the last official meeting for Councilor Kunz after serving two terms in office. Mr. Perry commented that Council will miss him and his contributions.

Mr. Perry also acknowledged the Finance Staff for their work on the audit. He noted they were highly complimented by the auditors for their efforts.

Laurie Osher said she was excited about tomorrow's election. She was glad to see the participation and the candidate coverage in the Penobscot Times.

Cheryl Robertson acknowledged the people who reached out to display her election signs. She thanked Town Clerk Shelly Crosby and her staff in advance for their work with the election.

Terry Greenier stated he views Town employees as equal citizens and does not expect town staff to do his legwork for him. He cautioned others from taking advantage of the staff and their time.

Meghan Gardner acknowledged that it is International Women's Day. She also acknowledged Sam Kunz and the work that he has done on Council.

Mr. Kunz acknowledged International Women's Day and the upcoming election. He thanked everyone for a phenomenal six years on Council. He also acknowledged past Councilors, current Councilors and Town staff.

Orono's 215th Birthday Celebration (*Video record time 12:30-17:10*)

Community Development Director Dave Milan updated Councilors on the activities to celebrate Orono's 215th Birthday: Favorite Photo of Orono program; Historical Photos with Fun Facts; March 12th, staff will be giving away 215 cupcakes at Orono IGA to celebrate Orono's birthday; birthday wishes throughout the week; birthday cake crown kits at the Orono Public Library.

Fun Fact videos were presented by Councilors Gardner and Perry.

6. Unfinished Business - None

7. Consent Agenda (*Video record time 17:16-18:33*)

Order 21-31 Order, approving a Victualer's License for Legacy CP Maine, LLC d/b/a Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers, 4 Stillwater Avenue.

Order 21-32 Order, setting the date of April 26, 2021 at 5:00PM for the statutorily required public hearing to allow for public comment on the June 8, 2021 Special Municipal Referendum Warrant to determine whether voters in Orono support ceasing the practice of fluoridating the public water supply.

Order 21-33 Order, deeming the remaining Real Estate Tax for Account #227 as uncollectible, and authorizing the Town Manager to write off the remaining balance for tax year FY2016 in the amount of \$778.36.

Moved by Sam Kunz and seconded by Cheryl Robertson to approve the consent agenda. All voted in favor 6-0.

8. New Business

Order 21-34 Order, accepting the FY20 Town of Orono Financial Audit.

(Video record time 18:35-39:00)

Moved by Meghan Gardner and seconded by Terry Greenier. All voted in favor, 6-0.

Town Manager Sophie Wilson provided a Powerpoint presentation of the FY20 Financial Audit. *(See the attached presentation.)*

Order 21-35 Order, adopting a 6-Month Moratorium Ordinance on Commercial Solar Projects to Regulate Large-Scale Solar Facilities.

(Video record time 39:01-43:44)

Moved by Cheryl Robertson and seconded by Terry Greenier. All voted in favor, 6-0.

Town Planner Kyle Drexler reviewed the process for considering a 6-month Moratorium Ordinance on Commercial Solar Facilities and the progress made to date. He noted that the next 6-months will allow time to finish up the work on the Ordinance and to hold the Planning Board and Council public hearings. He anticipated the Ordinance adoption within the 6-month period.

Mr. Drexler confirmed that there were no official applications pending.

9. Council Committee/Representative Reports *(Video record time 43:44-51:05)*

Community Development Committee - Terry Greenier reported that the Committee met on February 18th and continued discussion on the draft ordinance language for solar energy systems and the financial guarantees for removing a system, the state of the local economy from the Economic Development staff, and received an update on the proposed FY22 recycling program service level.

Environment Committee - Ms. Robertson reported the Committee met on February 25th to continue working on the Environmental Comprehensive Plan and a Climate Action Plan, they discussed the weatherization bill that is currently in the legislature and an update on the waste diversion grant.

Comp Plan Committee - Meghan Gardner reported the Committee met on March 1st and discussed a Contract or Conditional Zone request for 61 Margin Street. The Town Planner gave a presentation on understanding the balance of Comp Plan goals and objectives. The committee also reviewed guidelines for considering Contract or Conditional Zone requests.

Finance and Operations Committee - Tom Perry stated the Committee met on February 22nd and reviewed the investment portfolio with The First National Wealth Advisors and Council discussed the FY22 budget process and priorities.

10. Future Agenda Items/Items of Concern - None

11. Public Petitions - None

12. Public Comments - None

13. WORKSHOP: Next Steps for Council Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Efforts

(Video record time 51:50-1:53:40)

Meghan Gardner presented a proposal to formalize diversity, equity, and inclusion training for Council as part of Council's regular operations. Council discussed the proposal and the next steps in engaging community members on these issues. Ms. Osher stated that she would like to have her proposal considered. The Council will continue discussion on this topic and the two proposals at the Council Community Development Committee meeting on March 18, 2021.

14. Adjournment

At 6:54 p.m., Sam Kunz motioned to adjourn and Cheryl Robertson seconded. All voted in favor, 6-0.

Minutes are not verbatim. A video-recorded version is available on the Town's website at www.orono.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward
Executive Assistant