

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING & WORKSHOP
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 AT 5:00PM**

WATCH ONLINE AT

<https://zoom.us/j/95311936812>

For Dial in Only call 1-312-626-6799 Webinar ID: 953 1193 6812
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at info@orono.org and during the meeting by using Zoom comment features.*

**COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL
MEETING MINUTES**

1. Welcome

2. Swearing In of School Board Members *(Video record time 02:30-03:36)*

Town Clerk Shelly Crosby swore in RSU26 Director Elect Patrick Rowe to the faithful discharge of duties (for a three-year term ending March 2024).

3. Swearing In of Council Members *(Video record time 03:37-4:52)*

Town Clerk Shelly Crosby swore in Town Councilors Elect Laura Mitchell, Cheryl Robertson, and Geoffrey Wingard to the faithful discharge of their duties for three-year terms ending March 2024 and Thomas Perry for a two-year term.

4. Roll Call *(Video record time 04:53-5:03)*

Present: Council Chair Tom Perry, Terry Greenier, Laurie Osher, Cheryl Robertson, Laura Mitchell and Geoffrey Wingard. Absent: Meghan Gardner.

5. Council Acknowledgements *(Video record time 05:04-8:32)*

Cheryl Robertson acknowledged the staff and everything involved with the election. She also acknowledged Councilor Terry Greenier for handing out cupcakes to people in celebration of Orono's 215th birthday (March 12th).

Laura Mitchell thanked staff for pulling off another election during the pandemic. She commented she is happy to be here.

Geoffrey Wingard thanked the staff and volunteers for their work with the election and the people who came out to vote. He commented that he is also happy to be here.

Terry Greenier commented it was a fun day with Mitch Stone handing out cupcakes to celebrate Orono's birthday.

Laurie Osher thanked staff for a great election and she thanked everyone who voted. She noted it is wonderful for democracy to have such great participation. She acknowledged the Tribal Nation for their leadership and continued stewardship of the land and waters. She acknowledged their sovereignty and hopes Council will work in concert with them to improve justice and equity towards the tribal community.

Tom Perry acknowledged all of the candidates who ran in the election and noted there are many opportunities and ways to serve the community through various boards and committees. He encouraged them to contact the Town Office to serve.

6. Adjournment

At 5:08 p.m., Laura Mitchell motioned and Cheryl Robertson seconded to adjourn. All voted in favor, 6-0.

COUNCIL ORIENTATION & TRAINING WORKSHOP MINUTES

1. Roll Call (*Video record time 08:41-9:10*)

Present: Council Chair Tom Perry, Terry Greenier, Laurie Osher, Cheryl Robertson, Laura Mitchell and Geoffrey Wingard. Absent: Meghan Gardner.

2. Council Practices & Policies

a. Review of Council Manual (*Video record time 09:11-21:57*)

Mr. Perry noted that Councilors received a copy of the Council Practices and Policies Manual for review and discussion. He highlighted the additional language under “Council’s Culture” (page 3) related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Mr. Perry also highlighted the section on “Interaction with Town Staff” (page 11 and 12). He noted the Town Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations and Council is responsible for policy making. Mr. Perry noted language was added (on page 23) regarding “Proclamations and Resolutions” guidelines. Lastly, Mr. Perry asked Councilors to review the section on Meeting Ground Rules (Appendix B).

Ms. Mitchell asked for clarification regarding Councilors having discussions outside of meetings. Ms. Wilson explained that three or more Councilors discussing Town business constitutes a public meeting (under Maine public meeting laws). Regarding constituents, Ms. Wilson commented that Councilors gathering information is fine, but disseminating information should come through the Town Manager’s office. Ms. Wilson reviewed email information.

b. Meeting Schedule (*Video record time 21:58-32:09*)

Ms. Wilson reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for April through June. She noted it is similar to previous schedules (Mondays and Thursdays at 5pm).

Ms. Osher spoke of a conflict with Thursdays and suggested Wednesdays. Ms. Wilson noted several board meetings are held on Wednesdays. Ms. Osher stated she could attend Thursday meetings from 5-6 p.m. Mr. Perry suggested having the most important items at the beginning of the meetings and try this for now.

Ms. Wilson noted two changes to the schedule: Finance Committee - March 22 at 6:15 and Community Development Committee from April 22nd to April 15th.

Mr. Perry noted Councilors will be receiving a survey on committee assignment preferences, but all Councilors are welcome to participate in any Council Committee meeting. He noted Councilors will elect a Council Chair at the April Council meeting.

3. Annual and Upcoming Important Training Opportunities *(Video record time 32:10-48:54)*

Ms. Wilson provided a high level overview of the Freedom of Access Act or Right to Know Law and will send Councilors the frequently asked questions and answers along with a document to sign/certify.

Ms. Ryder provided a high level overview of the annual mandatory Stormwater Training which will be offered in video and quiz format so that Councilors can complete for self certification.

Mr. Perry spoke of training opportunities through MMA that are available to Councilors.

The Council agreed to hold the Elected Officials Training Workshop on April 7th at 7:00 p.m. with Town Attorney Roger Huber.

4. Council Pre-Budget Feedback Survey *(Video record time 48:56-57:56)*

Ms. Wilson stated a survey will be sent out to Councilors for feedback regarding potential services level changes, Council projects and priorities, and budget input. Ms. Wilson will also provide some of the overall goals that support the budget.

5. Town Manager's Report *(Video record time 57:57-2:03:58)*

Ms. Wilson reported on the following items:

- Covid stimulus package of \$1M for Orono (not for tax reduction purposes). She will work with staff to develop a list of infrastructure/capital projects/priorities/ideas for Council to review. Ms. Wilson will work with Ms. Mitchell to create a question on the survey for Councilors to offer input. She will also send the new Councilors the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan.
- A large (200-300 people) gathering at The Avenue. The Police monitored the situation. Ms. Wilson stated the Avenue is not complying with the terms of their agreement to mitigate these situations with their own 3rd party security. The Avenue has an expectation that the Police should handle these situations on private property. Staff will meet with the Avenue regarding expectations.
- Staff and Council discussed the possibility of an Emergency Mass Gatherings Ordinance and whether it would be effective to get the Avenue to take responsibility for keeping students

safe. The Council agreed it is a serious problem that will require financial resources to explore options, more collaborative work with UMaine, require security, fencing/gate from the Avenue and a strong message that the current actions are not acceptable. Staff will work with the attorney to discuss options and bring it back to the Community Development Committee.

- Proposed Moratorium Ordinance on Marijuana Retail Stores in the C-2 District to be able to tweak the language that creates a buffer for the University entrance or pulls the C-2 District from the uses. Changes to the Fee Schedule regarding Marijuana business license fees and a fee for police response to large gatherings. Both would require public hearings to be held March 29th at 5p.m.
- Council discussion on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion proposals on Thursday, March 18th.

6. Adjournment

At 7:04 p.m., Laura Mitchell motioned and Cheryl Robertson seconded to adjourn. 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