

**TOWN OF ORONO**  
**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AND BUDGET WORKSHOP**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021 AT 5:00PM**

**WATCH ONLINE AT**  
**<https://zoom.us/j/94037737229>**  
**For Dial in Only call 1-312-626-6799 Webinar ID: 940 3773 7229**  
**(LINK AVAILABLE AT ORONO.ORG)**

**MINUTES**

**1. Roll Call**

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

**2. Public Hearings**

- a. To consider an Emergency Ordinance to repeal the Ordinance Requiring Persons to Wear Face Coverings in the Town of Orono, and Residential Housing Complexes to Implement Operations Plans in order to Reduce the Risk of Exposure to Covid-19 during the Public Health Emergency and Recovery. (Video record time 00:40 - 04:45)**

Public hearing a. opened at 5:02 p.m. Town Manager Sophie Wilson stated the Town Council passed an Emergency Ordinance in October 2020 to require persons to wear face coverings in the Town of Orono, and for residential housing complex to implement operations plans to reduce the risk of exposure to Covid-19 during the public health emergency. The State later passed executive orders that mirrored or were more restrictive than Orono. On May 24, 2021, the Governor rolled back the requirements for face coverings and social distancing. Orono business owners have requested the Council repeal the Town's emergency ordinance. No public comments were made. Public hearing a. closed at 5:04 p.m.

**3. New Business**

- Order 21-90 Order, approving an Emergency Ordinance to repeal the Ordinance Requiring Persons to Wear Face Coverings in the Town of Orono, and Residential Housing Complexes to Implement Operations Plans in order to Reduce the Risk of Exposure to Covid-19 during the Public Health Emergency and Recovery. (Video record time 04:46 -11:51)**

Moved by Cheryl Robertson and seconded by Geoffrey Wingard. The vote passed, 4-2 (with Councilors Gardiner and Greenier opposed).

Councilor Gardner explained why she would be voting against repealing the ordinance from her perspective as a restaurant owner and Covid contact tracer. She noted the importance of keeping her restaurant staff safe. She also commented on the problem of relying on an honor system of people being fully vaccinated and the effect on those most vulnerable having the most to lose. She spoke of the burden placed on businesses by lifting the face coverings requirement.

**4. WORKSHOP: Council Review and Discussion of the Municipal Budget in preparation for the Public Hearing on June 14, 2021.** *(Video record time 11:52 - 2:00:40)*

**5. Brief Town Manager's Report** *(Video record time 2:00:41 - 2:07:02)*

Town Manager Sophie Wilson gave a brief report on the following items:

- Notification from RSU#26 regarding Erin Ellis' resignation (effective immediately) and their request to appoint an interim director by the beginning of August. Applications will be reviewed at the June 17th Community Development Committee Meeting. Council would appoint an interim director at the July 12th Council Meeting.
- Working with MMA to continue remote meetings with the hope of a hybrid meeting style for the June 14th Council Meeting (in person and remote).
- Noise complaints regarding the Main Street crosswalk signal.

**6. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to 1 MRSA, § 405(6)(D) To Discuss Collective Bargaining Negotiations with Maine Association of Police Orono Unit**

At 7:07 p.m., Terry Greenier moved and Cheryl Robertson seconded to move into executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations with the Maine Association of Police Orono Unit. All voted in favor, 6-0.

At 7:45 p.m., Cheryl Robertson moved and Terry Greenier seconded to move into regular session. All voted in favor, 6-0.

**7. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Meghan Gardner and seconded by Geoff Wingard. The Council unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Minutes are not verbatim. A video-recorded version is available on the Town's website at [www.orono.org](http://www.orono.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward  
Executive Assistant