



**COUNCIL COMMITTEES MEETING & BUDGET WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023 AT 5:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL CHAMBER, 59 MAIN STREET, ORONO, MAINE

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present: Council Chair Geoffrey Wingard, Sonja Birthisel, Rob Laraway, Leo Kenney, Sarah Marx, Dan Demeritt, and Town Manager Sophie Wilson.

2. Community Development Committee

a. Presentation: Bird Scooters as a Mirco-Transit Option for Orono (*video record time 7:05-30:36*)

Representatives from Bird Scooters gave a brief presentation on the proposed scooter pilot program and provided information about the agreement, which included:

- Program period of 12 months that would automatically renew unless either party provides written notice of intent not to renew at least 90 days prior to the end of the term;
- Agreement that Bird Scooter would be the sole provider of stand up electric scooter sharing systems within Town boundaries;
- Town's agreement that it would not regulate stand-up electric scooters in a manner any more restrictive than its regulation of bicycles;
- Details of scooters as well as the details of acceptable use;
- Permission for the company to stage stand-up electric scooters in parking areas and in the public right of way; and
- Requirement that the company provide 24-hour customer service, respond to incorrectly stand-up parked electric, communicate rules with users, and collect and share unidentifiable user data.

The Committee agreed to forward the agreement to the July 10th Council Meeting.

3. Finance and Operations Committee

a. Council Meeting Schedule for July - September, 2023 (*video record time 33:19-34:40*)

Ms. Wilson reviewed the draft Council schedule for July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023 based upon continuing the current practice of meeting in an All Committees format on Mondays that are not

holidays or regular Town Council meetings.

b. Allocating a Budget and Reviewing Scope of Work for Staff DEI Collaborative Work
(video record time 33:41-46:20)

Management seeks to continue the implementation of a sustainable and meaningful diversity, equity, and inclusion program by building upon on-going organizational training on cultural competency, implicit bias, inclusive leadership, respectful work environment and departmental specific professional development related to inclusive and equitable service delivery. Working with Dustin Ward (It Is Time... LLC), members of the leadership team have developed a twelve-month scope of work aimed at engaging all staff in evaluating existing policies, programs, and culture and then implementing change with support. Mr. Ward has worked with other municipalities to implement change focused on engaging employees to participate in change aimed at developing more equitable and inclusive work environments and service delivery.

After discussions with members of the Senior Management Team DEIB Subcommittee, It Is Time... offered a proposed scope of work to engage with the entire Town team to evaluate the current work environment and service delivery, identify change, and implement changes. Staff proposes carrying forward funds from the FY23 Police Department operating budget to fund this scope, which would begin in September, 2023.

The Committee agreed to forward the agreement to the July 10th Council Meeting.

4. Town Manager's Report *(video record time 46:22-59:00)*

Ms. Wilson reported on the following items:

- Based on the current level of staffing, Sunday hours will be added to the pool and there is a plan in place to add swim lessons. The swim lessons will be slightly delayed for staff to receive additional training.
- Auditors were at the Town Office for their Interim Audit. They met with the Council Chair and received all the information needed. They will return in September for the remote audit.
- Received a message from the Penobscot Regional Communications Center last week stating the Commissioners are having a meeting to discuss the massive staffing shortage in dispatch.

5. Public Comment *(video record time 59:10-1:01:44)*

A resident thanked the Council for their hard work on the budget and appreciated the multi-year trend analysis of the past and would like to see future multi-year predictions next year.

6. Council Budget Workshop

a. Final Pre-Adoption Review and Discussion of FY24 Municipal Budget (Operations, Capital, and WPCF) - FY24 Post Public Hearing Scenarios *(video record time 1:01:45-2:27:40)*

These scenarios are constructed based upon feedback staff received from Town Councilors after the FY24 Budget Hearing and include financial impact related to the following options:

a. FY24 Municipal Budget as Presented at 6/12/2023 Public Hearing

- b. Adds back funding for the two public works staff positions (\$126,509) to the budget presented at the 6/12/2023 Public Hearing. This would require the PW Capital Equipment Plan to be pushed forward one year to purchase the truck in FY25. As discussed, the truck being replaced is a 2009 with over 100,000 miles and the wait between order and delivery is currently estimated at approximately 24 months.
- c. Adds back funding for two public works staff positions (\$126,509) and purchase of a new 10-wheel truck (\$225,000) to the budget presented at the 6/12 Public Hearing
- d. Adds back funding for the two public works staff positions (\$126,509) and cuts the Public Safety Building Data and IT System Upgrade Project listed on the FY24 Capital Facilities Plan. This scenario is offered based upon the goal of adding back funding for 2 PW staff positions while mitigating the impact to the tax commitment. It would remove the project from the plan for this year as the building assessment has just started and the Council may identify other priorities and funding opportunities (ARPA, reallocation of reserves, or fund balance) for this work. As discussed during the budget process, there is a need to upgrade the building's IT and communication systems.
- e. Adds back funding for one of the two public works staff positions (\$66,749).

The Council Committee agreed to forward option e. adding back funding for one of the two Public Works staff positions.

ii. **FY24 Fee Schedule** *(video record time 2:27:41-2:28:28)*

Ms. Wilson noted that the fee schedule has been updated to reflect the comment during the public hearing regarding the returned check fee, eliminating the increase and maintaining the fee of \$15 per returned check. **The Committee agreed.**

iii. **FY24 Village District Plan and Assessment (\$0.00/\$1,000 of Taxable Value)** *(video record time 2:28:29-2:28:36)*

iv. **Commitment Related Orders for the 6/26 Council Meeting** *(video record time 2:28:37-2:36:55)*

7. Adjournment *(video record time 2:37:40)*

The Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn at 7:38 p.m.

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