



**WESTBROOK CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023 AT 7:00 PM  
WESTBROOK HIGH SCHOOL (ROOM 114)  
125 STROUDWATER ST.**



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**I. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by City Council President Anna A. Turcotte. City Clerk Angela Holmes read the City Council Land Acknowledgement statement into the record.

The Westbrook City Council understands, honors, and acknowledges that the City of Westbrook is located on the traditional and unceded homelands and waters of the Indigenous people of the Presumpscot River. We recognize that the Wabanaki people have been displaced by the advancement of colonization, yet have belonged to this land for countless generations and thousands of years, and their presence continues in Maine to this day.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**City Councilors Present:** Michael Shaughnessy (At-Large), David C. Morse (Ward 1, Vice President), Anna A. Turcotte (Ward 3, President), Victor Chau (Ward 2), Gary Rairdon (Ward 4), Jennifer Munro (Ward 5), Claude Rwaganje (At-Large, arrived at 7:05pm)

**City Councilors Absent:** None

**Other City Officials Present:** Natalie Burns (City Solicitor), Eric Dudley (Director of Engineering & Public Services), Michael T. Foley (Mayor), Angela Holmes (Asst. City Administrator/City Clerk), Sean Lally (Police Chief), Brian Langerman (Deputy Fire Chief), Ellis Ledoux (Executive Assistant), Brandon Mitchell (Student Representative), Makayla Morello (Student Representative), Steve Sloan (Fire Chief), Rebecca Spitella (Associate Planner)

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Turcotte led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No minutes were presented for approval.

**V. MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

Mayor Foley read his message into the record. The full text of the Mayor's Message is attached to these minutes.

**VI. CITY COUNCIL MESSAGES**

President Turcotte opened the floor for City Council messages. Councilors provided the following updates:

- Councilor Munro thanked everyone who was able to attend the Westbrook Community Housing Coalition meeting which was led two weeks ago. Thank you to Discover Downtown Westbrook for their Winter Fest event.

## **VII. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE**

Student Representative Mitchell provided the following updates:

- WHS Color Guard competed in a competition and won first place.
- A group of students from USM will come to WHS to talk about minorities in the medical field.
- Westbrook's Drama Club will present In The Zone.
- A comedy fundraiser will be held to raise funds for Project Grad.

Student Representative Morello provided the following updates:

- WHS Honor Society will host a blood drive. A member of the Red Cross came to the WHS today to discuss how to participate.
- The spring sports season will be starting soon.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Turcotte opened the floor for the first public comment portion of this meeting. The following individuals spoke: none.

## **IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business for consideration.

## **X. ORDERS OF THE DAY (SECOND AND FINAL READING)**

Included below are the City Council Orders which require second and final reading.

**Order 2023-21. Authorizing Additional Expenditure for Bridge Street Paving Project**

**Order 2023-22. Authorizing MaineDOT Utility Agreement**

**Order 2023-23. Authorizing FY 2024 Animal Shelter Contract with the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland**

**Order 2023-24. Authorizing Purchase of Zetron Radio PC Workstations for Public Safety Dispatch**

**Order 2023-25. Authorizing Purchase of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle for the Police Dept**

**Order 2023-26. Authorizing Purchase of In-Car Cameras for New Police Vehicles**

Motion to approve second and final reading of Orders 2023-21 through 2023-26.

Moved by Vice President Morse, seconded by Councilor Rairdon.

President Turcotte asked if any Councilor would like to consider any item separately. No one spoke.

President Turcotte opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke:

None

**Motion carried. Orders 2023-21 through 2023-26 adopted. (Vote 7-0)**

Ayes: Shaughnessy, Morse, Chau, Rairdon, Munro, Rwaganje, Turcotte

Nays: None

**Order 2023-27. Amending the Land Use Ordinance to Add Restaurant Class 3 as a Conditional Use in the Gateway Commercial District.**

A public hearing on this item was held. Notice of the public hearing was published in the Portland Press Herald on Monday, February 27, 2023, posted to the City of Westbrook's website, and was posted in City Hall.

President Turcotte opened the public hearing. The following individuals spoke: Brandon Mazer (Perkins Thompson), Councilor Rairdon  
President Turcotte closed the public hearing.

Motion to approve second and final reading of Order 2023-27.

Moved by Vice President Morse, seconded by Councilor Rairdon.

President Turcotte opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke:

None

**Motion carried. Orders 2023-27 adopted. (Vote 7-0)**

Ayes: Shaughnessy, Morse, Chau, Rairdon, Munro, Rwaganje, Turcotte

Nays: None

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

Included below are the Council actions on New Business, which includes business licenses requiring City Council approval, City Council Resolves and Orders receiving first and final reading, City Council Orders receiving the first of two required readings.

Orders (One Reading Required)

**Order 2023-28. Authorizing Participation in National Opioids Settlement & Authorizing Expenditure of Funds**

Motion to approve the first and final reading of the legislation.

Moved by Councilor Shaughnessy, seconded by Councilor Munro.

President Turcotte opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke:

None

**Motion carried. Order 2023-28 adopted. (Vote 7-0)**

Ayes: Shaughnessy, Morse, Chau, Rairdon, Munro, Rwaganje, Turcotte

Nays: None

**Order 2023-29. Authorizing Expenditure for Phase I Environmental Update Work Related to Riverfront Land Purchase**

Motion to approve the first and final reading of the legislation.

Moved by Vice President Morse, seconded by Councilor Chau.

President Turcotte opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke:

Councilor Shaughnessy, Mayor Foley

**Motion carried. Order 2023-29 adopted. (Vote 7-0)**

Ayes: Shaughnessy, Morse, Chau, Rairdon, Munro, Rwaganje, Turcotte

Nays: None

### Orders (Two Readings Required)

#### **Order 2023-30. Authorizing Purchase of Plow Truck**

Motion to approve the first of two readings of the legislation.

Moved by Councilor Rairdon, seconded by Councilor Munro.

President Turcotte opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke:

None

**Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.**

#### **Order 2023-31. Authorizing Purchase of Replacement Facilities Maintenance Pick Up Truck**

Motion to approve the first of two readings of the legislation.

Moved by Councilor Munro, seconded by Councilor Rairdon.

President Turcotte opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke:

None

**Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.**

#### **Order 2023-32. Authorizing Emergency Repairs to Engine 4**

Motion to approve the first of two readings of the legislation.

Moved by Councilor Rairdon, seconded by Councilor Munro.

President Turcotte opened the floor for comments on the motion. The following individuals spoke:

Mayor Foley

**Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.**

## **XII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Turcotte opened the floor for the second and final public comment portion of this meeting. The following individuals spoke: Phil Spiller, Jr. (76 Sawyer Road)

## **XIII. REFERRALS**

There were no referrals for consideration.

## **XIV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Foley recommended removing two items from the Facilities & Streets Committee referrals: (1) the Sidewalks & Traffic at Haskell Street, and (2) Condition of Westbrook Middle School Baseball Field.

Motion to remove the above-stated items from the Facilities & Streets Committee referral list.

Moved by Councilor Rairdon, seconded by Councilor Chau.

**Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.**

The following items remain in their City Council Committees for deliberation:

### Committee of the Whole

Residential Landlord Registration

Amending Land Use Ordinance to Expand Medical & Recreational Marijuana Businesses

Comprehensive Ethics Reform

Adopting Policy to Protect Employees' Access to Reproductive Healthcare Services

Facilities & Streets Committee  
Austin Street Extension

Public Safety Committee  
Use of Force Policy Analysis

**XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There were no requests for an Executive Session.

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 7:26pm.

Moved by Councilor Rwaganje, seconded by Councilor Munro.

**Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.**



**MAYOR'S OFFICE**



**Mayor Michael T. Foley**

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## **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

March 3, 2023

## **VETERAN'S ACTIVITIES**

Our Veterans Coffee & Information Sessions continue at the Westbrook Community Center with our next event on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 9am. At these sessions our Veteran's Service Officer Arty Ledoux updates veterans on various issues affecting them and we hear stories from those present about their service to our country.

## **DOWNTOWN PARKING, CONSTRUCTION & TRAFFIC PATTERN UPDATES**

Downtown streets were reopened to traffic late year, returning normal flow to our downtown this winter. Various closures or delays have been taking place in the area for construction deliveries with tremendous progress being made. In the coming weeks, the final deliveries will be taking place and the large crane will be removed from the site as work continues on the inside of the structures. We encourage everyone to sign up for traffic and construction updates at [www.seeingorangewestbrook.com](http://www.seeingorangewestbrook.com). We thank everyone in advance for their patience as we work hard to lay the foundation for Westbrook's future in a safe and efficient manner.

## **WINTER PARKING UPDATES**

We'd like to remind everyone that the City's Winter Parking Ban is in effect from November 15<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup> from 12am – 6am. In addition, we have special winter parking regulations for the downtown. These parking restrictions are necessary to help our Public Services crews clear the streets and lots in a safe and effective manner. This team does an outstanding job, and we thank them for their continued efforts to keep our roads safe and clean during the winter despite being short staffed.

## **DISCOVER DOWNTOWN WESTBROOK'S WINTERFEST**

We want to thank everyone from Discover Downtown Westbrook for hosting Winterfest this year with many exciting events despite being rescheduled due to this weekend's weather. The event was well attended and we hope everyone had a good time. We look forward to next year's events.

## **HOUSING ADVOCACY**

This past Friday I visited Augusta with my colleagues from the Maine Mayors Coalition to testify before the Joint Select Committee on Housing and also meet with Governor Mills to advocate for housing & homelessness issues facing our communities. We hope this will result in more policy changes for the future and will keep the community updated on any changes coming.

## **REMOVAL OF REFERRALS**

During the Committee Reports section of this evenings agenda, we are recommending the removal of two outstanding items before the Facilities & Streets Committee. The first is a referral for Sidewalks & Traffic at Haskell Street, over the last couple of years this street has been reconstructed and repairs have been made that we feel addresses the original reason for the referral and we have not heard anything since. This referral has been on for a number of years and we recommend removal this evening. The second is the Condition of WMS Baseball Field, given this is a school facility, long term repairs to this facility is the responsibility of the School Department and they have integrated this into future capital planning. This referral has been on for a number of years and we recommend removal this evening as well.