

Minutes
Bar Harbor Town Council
August 3, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 P.M.

A. Excused Absence(s) Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to excuse Councilor Friedmann as provided by Town Charter section C-12.B(1)(d). Motion passed 6-0.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD—*The Town Council allows at this time up to fifteen minutes of public comment on any subject not on the agenda and not in litigation with a maximum of three minutes per person.*—Eben Salvatore commented that the Eden Street Multi-Use Path looks good and is being maintained well.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 20, 2021 Regular Meeting—Ms. Cough requested a correction to errors in her name on page 4 of the draft minutes. Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to approve the July 20 Regular Meeting minutes as amended. Motion passed 6-0.

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA— Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

V. CONSENT AGENDA - *A single vote has been scheduled to approve the following routine items of business without discussion, unless individual agenda item action is requested by a Councilor:*

A. Certification of Property Owners Mailing List – *Possible motion to sign the certification of the mailing list used for notice of the Town Council’s Public Hearings August 17, 2021 for six LUO Amendments for the November 2, 2021 Special Town Meeting warrant.*

B. Maine Municipal Association—*Annual election. Possible motion to elect the slate as proposed on the MMA Executive Committee ballot as presented.*

Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to approve the consent agenda as published. Motion passed 6-0.

VI. REGULAR BUSINESS:

A. Jackson Laboratory—*Annual update.* S. Catherine Longley, Executive Vice President and COO, and Michael McKernan, Director of Government and Community Relations, gave a presentation about Jackson Lab activities over the past year and answered Council questions. John Fitzpatrick, JAX Senior Director for Facilities Services, participated in the discussion. Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to thank the group for the presentation update on Jackson Lab. Motion passed 6-0.

B. Conners Emerson School—*Bond issue discussion and possible motion to put on warrant.* Conners Emerson principal Barb Neilly, school committee chair Lilea Simis, school committee member Kristi Losquadro, and architect Carla Haskell reviewed the

options discussed at the joint Town Council/School Committee workshop in June. Following discussion, Ms. Goldthwait, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to accept the school committee's recommendation of Option C and prepare a school bond issue question in the amount of \$3 million to be placed on the warrant for the November 2021 Special Town Meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

- C. Chapter 174 Short-Term Rental Registration Ordinance**— *Review draft ordinance for Short-Term Rental Registration. Possible motion to schedule public hearing for September 7, 2021 to consider repeal of existing Chapter 190, Vacation Rentals, and replace it with the proposed new ordinance.* Planning Director Michele Gagnon discussed the proposed ordinance and answered Council questions. Following discussion, Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to schedule a public hearing on September 7, 2021 on the repeal of Chapter 190 and on the adoption of Chapter 174 Short-Term Rental Registration. Motion passed 6-0.
- D. Curb Cut**—*Possible motion to approve.* Public Works Director Bethany Leavitt answered Council questions about the application. Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to approve the curb cut application as submitted by Ron and Nancy Woodward, 18 Glen Mary Road. Motion passed 6-0.
- E. Transfer Station**—*Trailer update.* Mr. Knight discussed the possible purchase of a trash trailer using funds from the trailer account in Transfer Station Capital Improvement budget and answered Council questions. No action was taken.
- F. Cruise Ships**—*Workshop review.* Council discussed next steps from the August 2 workshop. Eben Salvatore, chair of the Cruise Ship Committee, participated in the discussion. A second Council workshop was set for August 10 at 5:30 p.m. No action was taken.
- G. Permit and Paid Parking Policy**—*Possible motion to amend.* Mr. Knight explained the proposed change and answered Council questions. Public Works Director Bethany Leavitt participated in the discussion. Then Ms. Goldthwait, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to amend the Permit and Paid Parking Policy to include the Ballfield lot in section V, Paid Parking Areas. Motion passed 6-0.
- H. Treasurer's Warrants** – Request of Treasurer to authorize paid bills. Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to sign the Treasurer's Warrants for paid bills. Motion passed 6-0.

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S COMMENTS—Mr. Knight said he grew up on the ocean, and used to see tankers going through the channel on the way to Portland, and boats in the cove near his house. The Prince of Fundy would go by when it first started going to Yarmouth in the early 70s. Then he went off to school and started managing towns and never was back on the water again until 2014 when he was fortunate to become manager here. He said it has been terrific to be back on the ocean, but after 40 years of town management he has decided to retire in January. He said he appreciates all the support he has gotten here.

He also said the parking fund has passed \$1 million in revenue for this season, so we will be close to \$2 million for the year (different than fiscal year).

Ms. Goldthwait thanked Mr. Knight for what she considers to be heroic service in an increasingly difficult town. She said it's heartbreaking to read what she sees online about

issues and people that we know, our friends and neighbors, being disrespectful and unkind to people who are working hard to do the best that they can for this community. She appreciates Mr. Knight's strength and fortitude in managing to try to ignore that as much as it's possible, and always have the best interests of our town at heart. She said we're in really great shape and he is most of the reason why. She'll miss him. Mr. Dobbs said 40 years of service is a landmark and retirement is well-deserved.

VIII. COUNCIL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Minutolo said he was sad to learn about the retirement, but thanked Mr. Knight and said it had been a pleasure getting to know him. He wished Mr. Knight the best and hopes he can play a lot of golf, enjoy himself and just be.

Ms. Cough said she wishes Mr. Knight the best and it has been an absolute honor to be on the Council with him here.

Ms. Goldthwait, with second by Mr. Hochman, moved that the Town Council accept the Town Manager's resignation and seek proposals from firms to do a recruitment search. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Cough noted that there have been recent words that have been said by certain citizens to certain town officials and to business owners in town that were threatening. One of the things the Council does that it fantastic is, even when we adamantly disagree, we're civil. Sometimes passions run deep; however, we're civil—there's no threats, no potential bricks through windows. She hopes the citizens can appreciate how difficult it is sometimes to volunteer in this town for our boards and committees.

Ms. Peacock said she is beginning her second year on Council and it has been a roller coaster, the intensity and the complexity of the problems, and the volume they're at. She's thankful and proud to be sitting in this seat, but it is a really challenging seat to be in. She's happy for Mr. Knight that he's getting to a place where he can get out of some of this madness, but she's not happy to lose him.

Ms. Peacock also asked whether there had been recent traffic studies of downtown or comprehensive parking studies. Mr. Knight said a 2014 parking study was used to develop the parking program.

Mr. Hochman thanked Mr. Knight. He said he's been doing this for coming up on six years on Council, two years on the Warrant Committee and a couple of years on the former Communications Technology Task Force before that, and Mr. Knight has been doing this for 40 years! It can be difficult sometimes being on town staff or working on our boards and committees. When he sees some of the things that get sent to Mr. Knight and his very, very civil responses, he doesn't think he would be able to be nearly as civil. It has helped him appreciate Mr. Knight's management style and what he has done for the town over the last seven years. We're all going to miss that and he wishes him the best of luck in his retirement.

Mr. Hochman also said he appreciates hearing that the Jackson Lab plans to increase their PILOT, but suggested the town ask if they would like to contribute to the new school. They are a nonprofit but they do have high operating revenue. If they were you or I their tax bill would be about \$700,000/year. Even just doubling their PILOT would make a huge difference in that bond payment.

Mr. Dobbs said he hopes Mr. Knight has a great retirement. He said he remembers the interviews when three or four manager candidates came to talk to the local citizenry; he knew that Mr. Knight was the guy. He hopes we can find a brilliant successor; someone who can fill Mr. Knight's shoes. It's been a pleasure working together and he looks forward to the next six months.

Mr. Dobbs also said he had made a mistake that morning in answering an email from a citizen about procedure during the process of nominating members to boards and committees. He thought he knew the answer, but said he was wrong and in the future will remember to ask for additional nominations for each position per Robert's Rules. He apologized for the mistake.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION—None.

X. ADJOURNMENT— Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to adjourn at 9:33 p.m. Motion passed 6-0.

Elizabeth Graves, Town Clerk