



Sanford City Council

City Council Meeting Minutes – September 3, 2013

The Sanford City Council met at 7:30 p.m. in the Chambers of the Sanford City Hall Annex on Tuesday, September 3, 2013. Those present were: **COUNCILORS:** Councilor Alan Walsh, Councilor Bradford J. Littlefield, Councilor Joseph Hanslip, Councilor Richard Wilkins, Councilor Maura Herlihy and Councilor Fred W. Smith. **CITY MANAGER:** Steven R. Buck **CITY STAFF:** Bette Smith, Executive Assistant, Ronni Champlin, Finance Director and Jim Gulnac, Director of Planning.

Mayor Herlihy called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The session began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

Roll Call: Mayor Herlihy performs the Council Roll Call: Councilor Smith, present; Councilor Burgess, present; Councilor Wilkins, present; Councilor Walsh, present; Councilor Littlefield, present; Deputy Mayor Hanslip, present; Mayor Herlihy, present.

Minutes

Executive Session: August 20, 2013; Deputy Mayor Hanslip moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Littlefield. The City Council voted 5-0-2.

Regular Meeting: August 20, 2013; Deputy Mayor Hanslip moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Littlefield. The City Council voted 5-0-2.

Mayor's Reports/City Council Sub-Committee Reports

The mayor reminded the public that no yard sale signs should be stapled to the telephone poles. Also, it is acceptable to use regular bags inside the orange bags as long as the orange bags are used on the outside and are visible.

Councilor Littlefield provided updates on the Zoning Board.

City Manager's Report

Haven Cove plan continues. Applications will be made to the DEP, and the Manager will continue to give updates. A new intern, Henry Pelletier, will be assisting in the Planning Department. The new trash program begins on September 16th. Residents should receive mailings this week which will include a free bag. The first business in the newly renovated mill opened this week. This is the culmination of a long-term project. City Manager Steve Buck will be in Augusta next week for the Legislative Policy Meetings. His personal goal will be to find solutions to the division between state and local governments

Communications/Presentations

Sanford Regional Economic Growth Council - Quarterly Update; Jim Nimon and Lorisa Ricketts of the Growth Council gave a presentation to the Council.

Assessment Presentation; City Manager Buck presented a detailed evaluation of our current tax situation and a comparison with previous years (Please see the attached presentation).

Presentation of Workers Compensation dividends; City Manager Buck briefly presented information of Worker's Compensation Dividends.

Public Participation

Ms. Florence Randall asked several questions concerning taxes, what constitutes an exempt property, whether trash bags will be available in a timely manner, and the Springvale paving.

Ms. Alicia Rowe inquired about holding a function at mid-town mall on October 5th.

Ms. Cricket Crockett voiced her opinion that taxes are "killing the middle class" and questioned the effect the new school will have on taxes. She suggested that services may need to be cut. Mayor Herlihy replied that much of the financial problem is at the state level.

The suggestion was made that a separate time may need to be scheduled for public participation, so the public doesn't have to sit through the business meeting. Questions were raised concerning the retirement fund shortfall.

Ms. Diane Connolly questioned the absence of Mr. Green, the Director of the Assessing Office, during a time when taxation was being reviewed. Manager Buck replied that he had taken the initiative in preparing the presentation and had felt he could answer questions.

Ms. Connolly also wanted more information concerning the camera recently installed in Springvale. Deputy City Engineer Mike Casserly offered clarification, stating the camera was used to ease traffic flow and was an alternative method that was installed during the road work. It lacks the capability to adequately identify each person in the area. Councilor Walsh requested additional information and questioned the absence of mention of the camera in the CIP budget. Councilor Littlefield suggested that more information be provided at the next meeting with Director Andreson being present.

Mr. Jonathon Mapes spoke concerning taxes and the deteriorating properties. He urged enforcement. Mayor Herlihy emphasized the deficit between council guidelines and the ability to enforce local ordinances.

Mr. Jim Drummey provided a handout concerning taxes and pointed to the size of government as a major issue, emphasizing the need to shrink the size of government as a means of controlling taxes.

Ms. Williams pointed to the loss of 35 school-side positions, while no positions were terminated on the city-side of the budget.

Public Hearings

The City Council will hold public hearings on the following:

1. **Charter Section 705. Bond Issues, Ballots** – Summary: to simplify the bonding process for bonds less than \$250,000 and retain referendum vote for bonds greater than \$250,000. Mayor Herlihy declared the public hearing open. There was no one to speak for or against. The public hearing was declared closed.
2. **Charter Section 1302 Petition for Overrule of Action of Council** – Summary: to clarify the time frame for initiating a petition to override actions of the City Council and to suspend such actions pending referendum vote. Mayor Herlihy declared the public hearing open. There was no one to speak for or against. The public hearing was declared closed.
3. **Charter Section 214 Public Hearing on Ordinances** – Summary: to change the time frame between public hearings on Ordinances from 14 to 10 days. Mayor Herlihy declared the public hearing open. There was no one to speak for or against. The public hearing was declared closed.
4. **Charter Section 607.2 Submission of School Budget and Message** – Summary: to provide the same required detail for School Budget presentation as required under Section 608.2 for the Municipal Budget as determined by the Budget Committee. Mayor Herlihy declared the public hearing open. Mr. Jonathan Mapes and Mr. James Drummey voiced their opposition. There was no one else to speak for or against.
5. **Charter Section 607.3 c. & 608.3 Submission of School/Municipal Budget and Message** – Summary: to provide greater detail of all revenue anticipated by both the School and Municipal Budgets to include offsetting revenue associated with any provisions. Mayor Herlihy declared the public hearing open. Superintendent Theoharides asked if this amendment would prevent the spending of any unforeseen revenue. Mayor Herlihy assured him it would not as this section does contain the word “Estimated”. There was no one else to speak for or against. The public hearing was declared closed.
6. **Charter Section 610.3 Capital Improvement Program** – Summary: to raise a percentage of the operating budget of School and City less the prior year’s Capital Improvement Program. Current percentages include prior year CIP.

To reduce the annual increase from ½% per year to ¼% per year until it reaches 4%. This action would reduce the required amount raised for CIP by only using the operating budgets. Mayor Herlihy declared the public hearing open. Explanation was that this would slow the increase during economic hard times. Superintendent Theoharides, Mr. Drummey and Mr. Mapes all voiced their opinion in opposition.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Herlihy sought comments or opposition on the following item. Councilor Walsh mentioned that the Council and city have been working with the American Legion on some issues and suggested a postponement on this issue. Councilor Walsh moved to table, seconded by Councilor Littlefield. The City Council voted 5- 2.

13-148.02 Ordered, to approve a blanket letter application for a license to operate Games of Chance (2- Sealed Ticket Games, 1 Meat Raffle, 1 Dice) for the American Legion Post #19, 656 Main Street, Sanford, ME.

Old Business

None

New Business

13-149.03 Ordered, to accept a bid for the purchase of two 2014 Dodge Charger Police package sedans from Newcastle Chrysler Dodge of Newcastle, ME in the amount of \$41,588.00 (this price includes \$8,000 trade-in value). Councilor Walsh moved to approve, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hanslip. The City Council voted 7-0 to approve.

13-150.04 Ordered, to accept a bid for the purchase of a 2014 Ford SUV Police Interceptor from Casco Bay Ford of Yarmouth, ME in the amount of \$23,132.00 (this price includes \$3,500 trade-in value). Councilor Walsh moved to approve, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hanslip. The City Council voted 7-0 to approve.

13-151.05 Ordered, to accept a bid for the demolition of building at 37 River Street, Sanford, ME from Green Environmental, Inc. in the amount of \$53,500.00. Councilor Walsh moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Wilkins. Mike Casserly, Town Engineer confirmed that references had been verified. The City Council voted 7-0 to approve.

13-152.06 Ordered, to accept a request for proposal for Real Estate Listing and Marketing Services for the Sale of Tax Acquired Property. Councilor Walsh moved to approve with Century 21/ Samia Realty, Seconded by Councilor Wilkins. The City Council voted 7-0 to approve.

13-153.07 Ordered, to authorize the Sale of Tax Acquired Properties as listed: Councilor Walsh moved to approve as listed, seconded by Councilor Wilkins. The City Council voted 7-0 to approve.

Map R25B Lot 14 Gulliver Drive, Sanford, ME
Map L33 Lot 8 Berwick Avenue, Sanford, ME
Map R24 Lot 46C Country Club Rd #3, Sanford, ME

- 13-154.08 Ordered, to accept a Maine Short Form Warranty Deed from Townhouse Properties to the City of Sanford. Councilor Walsh moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Wilkins. The City Council voted 6-0-1 to approve. Mayor Herlihy abstained.
- 13-155.09 Ordered, to authorize a communication to the Maine Department of Transportation rejecting the alternative location of the proposed Sanford Downtown Transportation Center within the Gateway Park. Councilor Walsh moved to approve, seconded by Councilor Littlefield. The City Council voted 7-0 to approve.
- 13-156.10 Ordered, to discuss the Gateway Park Design. Councilor Walsh moved to table, seconded by Councilor Wilkins. The City Council voted 7-0 to table.

The time being 10:00 pm, Mayor Herlihy requested a motion to continue the meeting. Councilor Littlefield made the motion to continue until 10:15 pm, seconded by Councilor Smith. The City Council voted 5- 2. Since unanimous vote is required, the meeting was discontinued.

- 13-157.11 Ordered, to accept the proposed Charter amendments as follows:
1. **Charter Section 705. Bond Issues, Ballots** – Summary: to simplify the bonding process for bonds less than \$250,000 and retain referendum vote for bonds greater than \$250,000.
 2. **Charter Section 1302 Petition for Overrule of Action of Council** – Summary: to clarify the time frame for initiating a petition to override actions of the City Council and to suspend such actions pending referendum vote.
 3. **Charter Section 214 Public Hearing on Ordinances** – Summary: to change the time frame between public hearings on Ordinances from 14 to 10 days.
 4. **Charter Section 607.2 Submission of School Budget and Message** – Summary: to provide the same required detail for School Budget presentation as required under Section 608.2 for the Municipal Budget as determined by the Budget Committee.
 5. **Charter Section 607.3 c. & 608.3 Submission of School/Municipal Budget and Message** – Summary: to provide greater detail of all revenue anticipated by both the School and Municipal Budgets to include offsetting revenue associated with any provisions.

6. **Charter Section 610.3 Capital Improvement Program** – Summary: to raise a percentage of the operating budget of School and City less the prior year's Capital Improvement Program. Current percentages include prior year CIP. To reduce the annual increase from ½% per year to ¼% per year until it reaches 4%. This action would reduce the required amount raised for CIP by only using the operating budgets.

Council Member Comments

Councilor Smith: The process concerning the former Six-G's sight is going well. It is expected to be torn down soon

Councilor Burgess: None

Councilor Wilkins:

Councilor Walsh: None

Councilor Littlefield: An appeals process exists if you disagree with your property assessment

Deputy Mayor Hanslip: None

Mayor Herlihy: None

Future Agenda Items

Adjournment

Mayor Herlihy moved to adjourn at 10:05pm

Respectfully submitted by

Bette Smith, Executive Assistant