

Mechanic Falls Town Council

November 4, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cathy Fifield, Chair
Nicholas Konstantoulakis

John Emery II
Kieth Bennett

STAFF PRESENT:

Zakk Maher – Town Manager
Julie Ward – Town Clerk

John Rowe-Public Works
Steve Turner- Transfer Station

OTHERS PRESENT:

Milton Walker
Paula Stotts
Martha Yates
Rena Berry
Pam Grondin
Paul Harvey
Kelsey Earle

Walter Berry
Penny Emery
Sandra Ballard
Tom Webster
Victoria Cleary
Tarsha Downing
Tyler Thayer

Eriks Petersons-Sun Journal
Norma Crabtree
Tim Nugent
Catherine Pressey
Valerie Emery
Rudy Kyllonen
Nancy Lausier

Mark Gary
Pat Crowder
Charles Vincent
Laurie Crane Turton
Brenda Coleman
Sean Cleary

1.0 Councilor Fifield called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

2.0 We stood and saluted the flag.

3.0 Roll Call complete, Councilor Hackett-absent

Councilor Fifield announced that Councilor Hackett has resigned from the council effective immediately by written letter.

4.0 General Reports:

4.1 Council Meeting Minutes for October 7, 2019

Councilor Konstantoulakis moves to accept all the September minutes as written, seconded by Councilor Bennett and voted to accept by unanimous vote.

4.2 Municipal Financial Reports

Councilor Bennett moves to accept the Financial Reports as submitted, seconded by Councilor Emery. All in favor, so voted.

5.0 Public Hearings:

5.1 Liquor License: Village Pizzeria

No Comments from the public

Councilor Bennett motioned to approve the license for Village Pizzeria, seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis, all in favor so voted.

6.0 Comments from the Public:

Eriks Petersons-Sun Journal asked when will the council replace Wayne Hackett's seat. Councilor Konstantoulakis suggested Tarsha Downing since she ran for the position in June. Martha Yates also suggested Paula Stotts.

Catherine Pressey of Bucknam Street stated she had a conversation with Councilor Konstantoulakis about the survey that was done on the road measurements and she felt that he didn't believe the surveyor. Councilor Fifield stated that this will be looked at during the codes review and they are trying to work on the issues.

Kelsey Earle of Jordan Road stated that she appreciated all the effort the council was doing to make things better.

Sandra Ballard of Clifford Street asked if the Town had the right to ask someone to remove a fence.

Pam Grondin of Elm Street asked if the Water Department could advertise when they do the hydrant flushing in the Spring she felt that a lot of people were unaware.

TJ Thayer of Lane Rd wanted to make himself available to help with Marijuana and Zoning Ordinance's. He would like to see the council form a committee to help work the Marijuana language since he was approved by the Planning Board to open a Medical Marijuana Store Front. Councilor Fifield asked Town Manager Zakk Maher if they could do a committee and he suggested going to the next planning board meeting, they have spoken highly of him and his knowledge.

Kelsey Earle of Jordan Rd asked if we had looked at what other towns are doing.

Paul Harvey of Oak Street was wondering how to go about making Oak Street not a through way street due to the large amount of traffic that uses it and doesn't obey the speed limit. Town Manager Zakk Maher stated it's a process that has to go through the council. Someone also recommended E. Dwinal be on that list as well.

Milton Walker of Riverside Dr asking about the Police Officer that was leaving and if the Town had paid for him to attend the academy and if there was a time frame, they must remain on the Police Department for Mechanic Falls. The officer did not finish out training due to injury. He also recommended that the police need to patrol more in town on the side streets instead of Rt 121 and Rt 26. He said maybe we need more officers on to Patrol.

Rena Berry of Bucknam Street asked about Lou Annance coming back to replace Wayne Hackett since his term was cut short.

7.0 Old Business:

7.1 Codes Review Agent

Robert Overton works for City of Augusta as a Code Officer has agreed to do limited research for free of charge. Councilor Emery motioned to approve Mr. Overton, seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis, all in favor, so voted.

7.2 Governance & Codification

Town Manager Zakk Maher wanted to update on working on codification, he would like to digitize all of the Towns

Ordinance and Governance documents, and look into getting legal codification done once, every thing is scanned in to the system.

7.3 22 Pleasant Street update

Town Manager Zakk Maher spoke to the realtor and there has been no formal interest on the building, Rock Bottom Realtor suggested a price reduction in the spring. The current asking price is \$600k.

Penny Emery of Clifford Street stated that the realtor promised to get the price he quoted, so why would he suggest a price reduction.

8.0 New Business:

8.1 Registrar accepting new voters

Councilor Emery motioned to accept, seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor, so voted.

8.2 Processing of Absentees on Election Day

Councilor Bennett motioned to accept the processing of absentees, seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis, all in favor so voted.

8.3 Appointment of Election Clerks

Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to approve, Jacqueline Preston, Michelle Emery, and Nancy Petersons, seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor, so voted.

8.4 DOT Spot Improvement

The Dot will be working on the retaining wall on Pleasant Street and will be accepting bids for spring.

Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to approve the 2019-2020 GA Maximums set by the state, Councilor Bennett seconded, all in favor sot voted.

8.5 Andro PSAP & Dispatch Contract Renewal

The total cost for renewal for the town is \$35,129.29. Councilor Emery motioned to approve the contract renewal seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis, all in favor, unanimous.

8.6 Water Department Budget Meeting Schedule

The budget meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 20, 2019 @ 6:30pm @ the Water Department office. Council will approve budget in December. The Water Line extension is also complete.

8.7 Historical Society

Councilor Konstantoulakis said they need help to find their own space. They are currently at the Anglican Church

and they are down to using one room. Most of the items are currently in boxes. It takes so long to pull stuff out to go through just to put it back in the boxes. Councilor Konstantoulakis would like to see if they can rent or buy a place, and with the Historical Society having limited or no funds it will be difficult. There is no room currently at the Town Office. There would be a need to look into a grant to help do this. Norma Crabtree of Highland Ave asked if they could use the old medical building since the town owns it.

8.8 Authorization of Bank Access

Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to remove Fred Collins from the Santa Account and add Julie Ward and Michelle Emery, seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor, Councilor Emery abstained, so voted by remainder.

Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to remove Fred Collins from the Home Coming account and add Ashley Cleaves, seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor, Councilor Emery abstained, so voted by remainder.

8.9 PD Union Negotiation Liaison

Town Manager Zakk Maher is asking for a council member to join himself and the Police Chief to be a part of the negotiation process, Councilor Emery volunteered to be the Liaison.

8.9 Council Long Range Planning

Last month the Council and Town manager attended a workshop in Bridgton, they would like to revisit the Comprehensive Plan, and Councilor Fifield would like to see some changes in the Agenda. Councilor Konstantoulakis said that it was nice to hear that other Towns go through the growing pains as well. They seem to have a better understanding of their jobs. Councilor Fifield asked if there was any way they could start redrafting the Council Bylaws. Town Manager Zakk Maher said he would provide a working draft to the Council Chair and they would work on changes to present to the rest of the Council.

Sean Cleary of Elm Street said the RSU 16 meetings are over lapping with Town Council Meetings, due to the holidays the RSU is going by their own schedule and the council has no control over it.

9.0 Ordinances, Resolves & Licenses:

9.1 Liquor License: Village Pizzeria

Motioned to approve in 5.1

9.2 Conflict of Interest Resolution

9.3 Transparency in Action Resolution

9.4 Council Qualifications Resolution

9.5 Town Manager Role Resolution

Councilor Emery motioned to accept all the resolutions and sign them, seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor, unanimous.

9.6 Poverty Abatement

Will be discussed in Executive Session

Councilor Emery motioned to suspend Robert's rule of order to discuss appointment of interim Council Member, seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor so voted. Councilor decided to wait until next month to appoint

someone and anyone interested can fill out a standard committee application to fill the seat until June 2020. Pam Grondin of Elm Street wanted to know if the process would be public, and it will be done at the next council meeting.

Councilor Fifield would like to add council discussion every month to the agenda so they would have time to talk about things that need to be discussed.

Martha Yates was asking why the Town Manager had a 4-year contract when the Charter only states 3 years. Councilor Bennett explained the previous Town Manager and the council was unaware of the 3-year term.

10.0 Executive Session:

10.1 Poverty Abatement

Councilor Emery motioned to go into executive session Title 1 M.R.S.A Section 405(6) Sub-section C seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis, all in favor so voted.

Councilor Fifield declares executive session is over at 7:30pm

Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to accept abatement request for 2018 taxes for \$512.42, seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor 3-1.

11.0 Adjourn:

Councilor Bennett motioned to adjourn, Seconded by Councilor Konstantoulakis, all in favor, so voted. Meeting adjourned 8:34pm