

# Mechanic Falls Town Council

## December 2, 2019

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cathy Fifield, Chair  
Nicholas Konstantoulakis

John Emery  
Kieth Bennett

### STAFF PRESENT:

Zakk Maher – Town Manager     Steve Turner- Transfer Statin  
Julie Ward – Town Clerk

### OTHERS PRESENT:

Norma Crabtree	Rena Berry	Bobbi Jo Nugent
Milton Walker	Walter Berry	Victoria Cleary
Eriks Petersons-Sun Journal	Paula Stotts	Nancy Lausier
Valerie Emery	Penny Emery	Sean Cleary
Mark Elliott	Sandra Ballard	
Tarsha Downing	Dorothy Bouchles	
Rudy Kyllonen	Peter Ford	
Natalie Kyllonen	Sharon Webster	
Rudy Kyllonen Jr	Thomas Webster	
Martha Yates	Tyler Thayer	
	Brenda Coleman	
	Tim Nugent	

**1.0** Councilor Fifield called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**2.0** We stood and saluted the flag.

**3.0** Roll Call complete, all present

### **4.0 General Reports:**

#### **4.1 Meeting Minutes for November 4<sup>th</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup>**

Councilor Bennett motioned to approve the meeting minutes for November 4<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> seconded by Councilor Emery, all in favor so voted.

#### **4.2 Department Reports as submitted**

Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to approve department reports, seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor so voted.

### **5.0 Public Hearings:**

#### **5.1 Liquor License: American Legion 150**

No public comment

#### **5.2 Special Amusement: Little Brick Pub**

No public comment

### **5.3 Special Amusement: American Legion 150**

No public comment

### **5.4 Proposed changes to the Land Use Code**

No public comment

### **6.0 Comments from the Public:**

Steve Turner of North Main Street just wanted to thank the town for the transparency and making notices of meeting more readily available in the town office and on the electronic sign. He also thought the town should review the amount the council gets paid to be on the council.

### **7.0 Old Business:**

#### **7.1 22 Pleasant Street Update**

Town Manager Zakk Maher stated no showings or interest, realtor is suggesting relist and price reduction in the spring due to buyers' market. He will also have realtor speak to the council to discuss further.

#### **7.2 Council Discussion Topics**

Councilor Fifield stated the Town has the best employees, and volunteers, and the Council and Town manager are working together. The Council and Town Manager had attended the class last month and she was asking the community to give them a chance. She would like to see less negativity in order to move forward. She spoke to the gentleman who did the work shop in Bridgton and would like to have him come the Town for a private session. Donald Gerrish has 19 years as Gorham Town Manager and 20 years as Brunswick Town Manager. He will work on improving working relationships and help to under the Towns Charter. This workshop will help move forward even more in a positive manner. She asked other council members how they felt. Councilor Emery agreed that the Council and Town Manager need to sit down together, he does not want it to regress back to June, and wants the Town to succeed. Councilor Bennett and Councilor Konstantoulakis agreed with both Councilor Fifield and Councilor Emery. Councilor Fifield stated the cost would be \$300.00 for one session if they felt the needed more it would be approximately \$200.00 an hour after. Councilor Fifield also stated the workshop/class would not be open to the public, but if it was necessary to continue another meeting with Mr. Gerrish the Council would be open to public attendance.

Pam Grondin of Elm Street asked if the Council would be willing to share with other Boards and Committees for the Town. Councilor Fifield said she has been speaking to other Towns on how they do things and there are many options that the Town could look into. Some towns have round table meetings with all the Boards and Committees to just talk and throw out ideas, and other Towns have a Public Meeting to discuss yearly goals.

Councilor Fifield stated that she is all for constructive criticism but all the council has been getting is negativity and that has to stop. Councilor Fifield also asked Town Manager Zakk Maher to reach out to Mr. Gerrish to set up a time and place for the workshop. Town Manager agreed.

### **7.3 Interim Council Member Appointment**

Council received two applications for council position from Tarsha Downing and Paula Stotts. Each candidate was interviewed prior to appointment.

Councilor Fifield called Tarsha Downing to podium and asked if she would like to add any additional comments. Tarsha said she would like to be part of the town and learn more behind the scenes and would be transparent. She was asked if she would be able to attend a class in December and Tarsha said she would be able to. Councilor Emery stated that he keeps up in social media and stated he saw some negative comments and a video of Tarsha at one of the council meetings and asked if she would like to explain it. Tarsha stated that she was unaware at the time that you were not allowed to address people in the crowd and that she was told after the fact that people may only speak to the Chair of the Council and going forward, she did that. She also explained that she has 2 very vocal sisters and that should not reflect the person she is. She believes that it is important to serve the community. Councilor Emery said that he too was on video and the public can forgive it just takes time.

Paula Stotts came forward and wanted to thank the councilors for their service and was pleased with the transparency and effort of the council to make things right. She explained that her family chose Mechanic Falls 21 years ago because of the community and since she feels that we are all supposed to serve our community. She is currently on the planning board and also helps her husband with the homeless teen center in Oxford. She is honest and black and white; she would like to see the town heal and do her very best if chosen. Councilor Emery wanted to know about the meeting in July when Paula was asking about removing Councilor Fifield as the liaison of the planning board. Paula stated that a long time ago when Town Manager John Hawley was here, there was a workshop that happened and only 2 members of the planning board showed up and Councilor Fifield was there as well and the Code Enforcement Officer at the time was pushing for a vote on an Ordinance. And Councilor Fifield was asked to step in to vote. The following day Paula called the Town Manager John Hawley and spoke to him about the illegal vote that happened the night before and he agreed that Councilor Fifield should not be the liaison for the Planning Board because the fact Councilor Fifield was a Realtor. Paula stated that because she was the Chair of the Planning Board, she felt it was in the best interest of the board to address the issue. When she spoke To Fred Collins the Interim Town Manager at the time told her he would look into it. Councilor Emery asked if there was a personal issue with Councilor Fifield and Paula said absolutely not, Cathy sold their house the them and she thinks she is a nice person and seen her serve the community over the years. Paula also stated that she would be available for the December class if chosen.

Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to appoint Tarsha Downing, seconded by Councilor Emery, all in favor 3-1 opposed by Councilor Bennett. Ms. Downing was sworn in.

Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to appoint Councilor Bennett to Vice, Chair, seconded by Councilor Emery, all in favor so voted.

Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to take over the Planning Board as Liaison, Councilor Fifield to School Committee, and Councilor Downing to Recreation Committee, seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor unanimous.

### **8.0 New Business:**

#### **8.1 Water Department Budget**

Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to approve the Water Department Budget, Councilor Bennett seconded, all in favor unanimous.

## **8.2 Library Trustee Appointment**

Councilor Emery motioned to approve appointment of Ann Hobart to the Library Committee, seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor so voted.

## **9.0 Ordinances, Resolves & Licenses:**

### **9.1 Liquor License; American Legion 150**

Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to approve the American Legion Liquor License, seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor so voted.

### **9.2 Special Amusement: Little Brick Pub**

Councilor Emery motioned to approve Special Amusement Permit for Little Brick Pub, seconded by Councilor Downing, all in favor so voted.

### **9.3 Special Amusement: American Legion 150**

Councilor Bennett motioned to approve Special Amusement Permit for American Legion 150, seconded by Councilor Downing, all in favor so voted.

### **9.4 Proposed Changes to the Land Use Code**

Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to approve proposed Changes to the Land Use Code, seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor unanimous. Effective January 1, 2020

### **9.5 Comprehensive Traffic Ordinance**

Town Manager Zakk Maher wanted to give this information out since there has been conversations about through ways and parking bans, any changes would have to be done through this Ordinance. 2011 was the last time the Ordinance was updated. Councilor Konstantoulakis asked if the Planning Board review. Oak Street and E Dwinal have been mentioned in previous meetings about the traffic flow.

Pam Grondin of Elm Street asked again about the Water Department Flushing notices, Town Manager Zakk Maher stated they will be put in the water bills, social media, website and electronic sign.

### **9.6 Holiday Staff Party**

Staff Party will be held Friday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 12pm

### **9.7 Office Closure: Christmas**

Town Office and Departments will be closed @ 12pm on Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day December 25<sup>th</sup>, and New Year's Day January 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **10.0 Executive Session: NONE**

**11.0 Adjourn:**

Councilor Konstantoulakis motioned to adjourn, Seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor, so voted. Meeting adjourned 7:40pm