

APPROVED
TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes
August 17, 2023
Special Meeting 6:30 P.M.
Town Hall - Council Chambers
85 Union Street, Brunswick, Maine

Councilors Present: W. David Watson, Stephen S. Walker, Abby King, Sandra Updegraph, Jennifer Hicks, Nathaniel Shed, James Mason, Kathy Wilson, and Dan Ankeles

Councilors Absent: None

Town Staff Present: John S. Eldridge, III, Town Manager; Fran Smith, Town Clerk; Julia Henze, Finance Director; Taylor Burns, Assessor; and the video crew.

Chair Mason opened the meeting and acknowledged the meeting had been properly noticed. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: *([This item was discussed at 6:36 p.m.](#))*

Debbie Bridges, Wildwood Drive, said that those living in the new apartment buildings should have to buy town trash bags.

NEW BUSINESS

125. The Town Councils will consider providing further direction to staff regarding the recently completed revaluation project and will take any appropriate action (Town Manager) ([This item was discussed at 6:38 p.m.](#))

Chair Mason spoke regarding this item.

Assessor Burns spoke regarding this item.

Attorney Collins spoke regarding this item.

Councilor Walker, Councilor Shed, Councilor Hicks, Councilor Ankeles, Councilor Updegraph, Councilor Watson, Councilor Wilson, and Councilor King asked questions to which Assessor Burns, Attorney Collins, and Manager Eldridge responded.

Public Comments

Susanna Roe, 174 Bracket Road

Mike Healy, 48 Union Street

Mark Rosenthal, 280 Durham Road

Werner Wellman 277 Hacker Road

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Ronna Casper, 14 Sunset Way
William Devries, 21 Wood Point Road
Dan Harris, 1 Mountain Ash Avenue
Chris Teel, 656 Gurnet Road
Brenda Day, 395 Durham Road
Tom Fletcher, 66 Bunganuc Road
Irl Rosner, 396 Princess Point Road
Mike Giordano, 9 Androscoggin Road
Jim Coffin, Prince Point Road
Jenne Johnson, 532 Harpswell Road
Sean Crean, 624 Gurnett Road
Jennifer Johnson, 10 Wadsworth Rd
Jim Trusiani, 149 Maine Street
Debbie Bridges, 64 Wildwood Drive
David Marple, 67 Weymouth Street
Alex Brownell, 31 Shen Street.
Lori Bozeman, 11 Bailey Lane
Linwood Townsend, 8 Tufton Street
Diane Garcia, 58 Adams Road
Bob Bauman, 4 Hovey Lane
Marsha Good, Bay bridge estates
Paul Roane, 14 Teaberry Lane
Kristin Jhamb, 44 Macomber Way
Matthew Bowen, 135 Columbia Avenue
Andrew Sarapas, 50 Weymouth Street
Victor Saremi, 343 Mere Pt Road
Diane Kew, Pennell Way
Yusum Hodapp, 8 Sumac Drive
John Hodapp, 8 Sumac Drive
Rich Ellis, 231 Adams Road
Erin Hartill, 345 Casco Road
Joe Ciarrocca, 532 Harpswell Road

MOTION:

Chair Mason moved, Councilor Walker seconded, to accept the Assessor's recommendation to delay full implementation of the 2023 revaluation until the 2024-2025 budget year, in order to provide additional time for taxpayers to understand and prepare for any increased assessments as a result of the revaluation, and to provide time for affected taxpayers to discuss the new valuations with staff before they are finalized and implemented. The Council supports limited implementation of the new valuations for this year's commitment, as justified for certain properties and neighborhoods that were previously significantly underassessed due to errors identified in the prior 2017 revaluation or discovered in the normal course of review.

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Councilor Wilson, Councilor Watson, Chair Mason, and Councilor Ankeles spoke on this motion.

Manager Eldridge and Attorney Collins responded to Council questions.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chair Mason moved, Councilor Walker seconded, to accept the Assessor's recommendation to delay full implementation of the 2023 revaluation in order to provide additional time for taxpayers to understand and prepare for any increased assessments as a result of the revaluation, and to provide time for affected taxpayers to discuss the new valuations with staff before they are finalized and implemented. The Council supports limited implementation of the new valuations for this year's commitment, as justified for certain properties and neighborhoods that were previously significantly underassessed due to errors identified in the prior 2017 revaluation or discovered in the normal course of review. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

MOTION 2:

Councilor Ankeles moved, Councilor Wilson seconded, to ask the Assessing Office to report back to the Council about considerations around mobile parks and neighborhood codes. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

MOTION 3:

Councilor Ankeles moved, Chair Mason seconded, to direct the Finance Committee members to include discussion as to what could potentially be done at the local level with the problem with assessments around the working waterfront.

Councilor Walker, Councilor Hicks, and Councilor Shed spoke regarding this amendment.

VOTE ON MOTION 3:

Councilor Ankeles moved, Chair Mason seconded, to direct the Finance Committee members to include discussion as to what could potentially be done at the local level with the problem with assessments around the working waterfront. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas. Councilor Shed was opposed.

MOTION 4:

Chair Mason moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to direct the Finance Committee to do the following: 1) to hold public forums to get public input on the revaluation process to include how properties are assessed and any related topics that come up in discussion and emails regarding this subject; 2) to take a holistic view on fees and licensing to reduce the property taxes burden; and 3) to report back to the Council within 6 months.

Councilor Hicks, Councilor King, Councilor Watson, Manager Eldridge, Councilor Shed, and Councilor Wilson spoke on the motion.

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Although not included in the motion, the Council supported the idea that the Finance Committee should also look at prospects for commercial development and business development is going in this town.

VOTE ON MOTION 4:

Chair Mason moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to direct the Finance Committee to do the following: 1) to hold public forums to get public input on the revaluation process to include how properties are assessed and any related topics that come up in discussion and emails regarding this subject; 2) to take a holistic view on fees and licensing to reduce the property taxes burden; and 3) to report back to the Council within 6 months. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

Councilor Updegraph spoke of the upcoming Finance Committee meeting, which will include one on August 31st to have conversations on some of these issues.

Councilor Watson moved, Councilor Walker seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

[The meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m.](#)

PLEASE NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE ACTION MINUTES. THE ENTIRE MEETING CAN BE VIEWED AT WWW.BRUNSWICKME.ORG.

*Frances Smith
Town Clerk
August 18, 2023*

September 5, 2023
Date of Approval

Council Chair