

Minutes
Bar Harbor Town Council
By Video Conference
January 19, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER – 5:00 P.M. - In attendance were Councilors Jefferson Dobbs, Matthew Hochman, Valerie Peacock, Gary Friedmann, Joe Minutolo, Erin Cough, Jill Goldthwait; and Town Manager Cornell Knight.

A. Excused Absence(s) – all present.

II. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS - *Council to consider Appointments Committee recommendations to appoint the following with expiration date of July 31 of their applicable year:*

A. Communication & Technologies Committee

1. *Lucas Callado, term expiring 2023*

B. Cruise Ship Committee

1. *Jennifer Cough, Downtown Business Rep term expiring 2021*

2. *Jeremy Dougherty, Downtown Business Rep term expiring 2023*

C. Task Force on Climate Emergency

1. *Kristin Murphy, term expiring 2022*

2. *Ruth Poland, term expiring 2022*

Mr. Friedmann, with second by Ms. Goldthwait, moved the slate as read. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y

Hochman Y

Peacock Y

Friedmann Y

Minutolo Y

Goldthwait Y

Cough Y

Motion passed 7-0.

III. 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. Comments may be emailed in advance to the Council Chair at jdobbs@barharbormaine.gov to be read during the meeting or through the Zoom webinar using the raise hand function.* – None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- January 5, 2021 Regular Meeting

Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Goldthwait, moved to approve the January 5, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y

Hochman Y

Peacock Y

Friedmann Y

Minutolo Y

Goldthwait Y
Cough Y
Motion passed 7-0.

- V. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Chair Dobbs requested stopping the meeting at 5:30pm for 2 minutes in observance of the 400,000 people who have died from COVID. There were no objections. Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Goldthwait, moved to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y
Hochman Y
Peacock Y
Friedmann Y
Minutolo Y
Goldthwait Y
Cough Y
Motion passed 7-0.

- VI. **FINANCIAL REPORT** - *Review and possible motion to accept the financial report as presented.* Finance Director Stan Harmon summarized his report. Following Council comments, Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Goldthwait, moved to accept the financial report as presented. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y
Hochman Y
Peacock Y
Friedmann Y
Minutolo Y
Goldthwait Y
Cough Y
Motion passed 7-0.

- VII. **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. **Maine Service Centers Coalition** - *Possible motion to adopt the resolution to renew membership in the Service Center Coalition and appoint the Town Manager as representative.*

Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to approve the Consent Agenda as published. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y
Hochman Y
Peacock Y
Friedmann Y
Minutolo Y
Goldthwait Y
Cough Y
Motion passed 7-0.

- VIII. **REGULAR BUSINESS:**

A. Electrical Installations Ordinance Amendment – *Review changes and possible motion to schedule a public hearing for February 16, 2021.* Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to schedule a public hearing for February 16, 2021 to hear comments on proposed changes to Municipal Code Chapter 70 Electrical Installations as presented. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y

Hochman Y

Peacock Y

Friedmann Y

Minutolo Y

Goldthwait Y

Cough Y

Motion passed 7-0.

B. LUO Amendments June 2021 – *Possible motion to sign the Certifications and schedule a public hearing for February 16, 2021 for the following amendments:*

1. *Signage*

Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to sign the certification of proposed amendments known as Signage draft order dated December 16, 2020, amended at January 6, 2021 PB meeting and to tentatively place it on the Town Warrant, and to hold a public hearing on February 16, 2021. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y

Hochman Y

Peacock Y

Friedmann Y

Minutolo Y

Goldthwait Y

Cough Y

Motion passed 7-0.

2. *Regulation of Short-term Rentals.*

3. *Prohibition of Transferability of Short-term Rental Registrations.*

Council discussed B2 and B3 concurrently. Planner Michele Gagnon made the introduction and answered Council questions. Code Enforcement Officer Angie Chamberlain and Town Attorney Ed Bearor also participated in the discussion.

Mr. Friedmann, with second by Ms. Goldthwait, moved to sign the certification of proposed amendments known as Regulation of Short-Term Rentals draft order dated December 16, 2020, to remove §125-69 Y (1) “Protection Clause for Vacation Rental” and to set a two-night minimum stay for VR-1, and to tentatively place it on the Town Warrant, and to hold a public hearing on February 16, 2021. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs N

Hochman N

Peacock N

Friedmann Y

Minutolo N

Goldthwait Y

Cough N

Motion failed 2-5 (Nays: Dobbs, Hochman, Peacock, Minutolo, Cough).

Ms. Cough, with second by Mr. Hochman, moved to not sign the certifications as presented at this time and refer back to the Planning Department and Planning Board for further recommendations, including recommendations for licensing for Ch 190. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y

Hochman Y

Peacock Y

Friedmann Y

Minutolo Y

Goldthwait N

Cough Y

Motion passed 6-1 (Nay: Goldthwait).

Ms. Cough, with second by Mr. Hochman, moved for the June ballot, to have a straw poll on transferability. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y

Hochman Y

Peacock Y

Friedmann N

Minutolo Y

Goldthwait N

Cough Y

Motion passed 5-2 (Nays: Friedmann, Goldthwait).

C. Cruise Ships

1. 2021 Season

Ms. Goldthwait, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to add no additional ships to the existing schedule for 2021. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y

Hochman Y

Peacock Y

Friedmann Y

Minutolo Y

Goldthwait Y

Cough Y

Motion passed 7-0.

2. Updates on survey, etc.

Mr. Knight presented an email handout noting that 5 proposals were received and reviewed by staff. The recommendation is to hire Pan Atlantic Research to conduct a community wide survey and pay the costs from account 21-59-6300 (CI Parks-Benches.) Mr. Friedmann, with second by Mr. Hochman, moved to approve the hiring of the consultant as recommended by the Town Manager.

Roll Call Vote:
Dobbs Y
Hochman Y
Peacock Y
Friedmann Y
Minutolo Y
Goldthwait Y
Cough Y
Motion passed 7-0.

D. FY22 Budget – *Town Manager’s introduction of the proposed FY22 Budget.* Mr. Knight highlighted his budget memo and answered Council questions. Budget review starts Thursday at 5pm. No action taken.

E. Resolution – *Recognizing Stan Harmon, Finance Director.* Chair Dobbs read the resolution. Council and Mr. Knight expressed their appreciation to Stan. Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to approve the Resolution recognizing Stan Harmon, Finance Director as presented. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y
Hochman Y
Peacock Y
Friedmann Y
Minutolo Y
Goldthwait Y
Cough Y
Motion passed 7-0.

**Resolution of the
Bar Harbor Town Council**

WHEREAS, Finance Director Stan Harmon is to be congratulated and thanked after twenty-six years of employment with the Town of Bar Harbor; and

WHEREAS, Stan will start his well-deserved retirement starting January 29th; and

WHEREAS, Stan has overseen not only the General Fund finances but also the Water and Wastewater finances, the Cruise Ship Fund, the Parking Fund and the Capital Improvement Fund with great accuracy, precision and aplomb, and

WHEREAS, Stan has maintained the highest credit rating possible from Standard & Poor’s throughout his tenure in Bar Harbor which has saved taxpayers thousands of dollars in interest costs, and

WHEREAS Stan has assisted department heads, councilors and the public with questions about finances, debt and capital improvements with great patience and professionalism, and

WHEREAS, Stan will truly be missed by all; and now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Honorable members of the Bar Harbor Town Council do hereby recognize and express their appreciation to Stan Harmon for his 26 years of service to his community, friends, neighbors and the Town of Bar Harbor; and it be further

RESOLVED, that the members of the Bar Harbor Town Council wish to extend their best wishes to Stan Harmon and enjoyment in his retirement.

F. Treasurer's Warrant - Request of Treasurer to authorize paid bills. – Mr. Hochman, with second by Mr. Friedmann, moved to sign the Treasurer's Warrants for paid bills. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y

Hochman Y

Peacock Y

Friedmann Y

Minutolo Y

Goldthwait Y

Cough Y

Motion passed 7-0.

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S COMMENTS – Mr. Knight relayed a disappointing event. The Fire Department received 100 vaccine doses. The temperature gauge inside the shipment said the temperature had been compromised. The doses all had to be discarded. They contacted the company and they are overnighting another 100 doses.

X. COUNCIL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Minutolo talked about the meeting with the Planning Board. A couple good things came out of that. Working on communication was one. Just to keep us all on task, maybe in the future when we come up with our Council goals is working with the Planning Board on some of these goals to see where we can share some common thoughts to move forward. And when we are back in Council Chambers, posting those goals on the wall just as a simple reminder that might be helpful to all of us.

Ms. Peacock, along with Erin, spent two full days in the Racial Equity Institute workshop. It was a very packed and full two days and a lot to think about. It was awesome. It was great to have so many people participate from our community and beyond. I look forward to see how it impacts our work. I'm glad we voted to do it and I hope we can follow up on it. And regarding Zoom meetings, to see if there is an opportunity to reach out to Chairs and offer support for Zoom meetings like a fundamentals and basics of Zoom, handling chat and public comment.

Ms. Cough followed up suggesting maybe Cornell put together basic guidelines on how to run a Zoom meeting. Discussion on Zoom followed.

Mr. Dobbs offered photos he took of parklets for the annual report. He is also looking forward to tomorrow's inauguration.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (None)

XII. ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Hochman, with second by Mr. Friedmann, moved to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs Y

Hochman Y

Peacock Y

Friedmann Y

Minutolo Y

Goldthwait Y

Cough Y
Motion passed 7-0.

Sharon M Linscott, Town Clerk