

STATE OF MAINE

COUNTY OF YORK

CITY OF SACO

The following are minutes of the January 22, 2007 Council Meeting.

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – A Council Meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 22, 2007 in the City Hall Conference Room.
- II. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS** – Mayor Johnston conducted a roll call of the members and determined that the Councilor present constituted a quorum. Councilor present: David Tripp, Leslie Smith, Jr. Ronald Morton, Roland Michaud, Arthur Tardif, Eric Cote and Christopher Jacques.

Mr. Richard R. Michaud, City Administrator and Lucette S. Pellerin, City Clerk were also present this evening.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 4, 2006

Minutes were approved as written.

V. GENERAL:

VI. AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. (Public Hearing) Bio Design Approval of Community Development Block Grant Application**

The Council may recall in May 2006, approving an application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Business Assistance grant for Saunders Electronics. The grant program funnels Federal money through the State and City to help local companies. Saunders received approval and has already created 10 jobs required and made capital investments of over \$300,000 – with more to come.

Another firm in the Industrial Park, Biodesign International, a subsidiary of Meridian Life Sciences, is seeking a \$200,000 grant to help fund its expansion. As part of the grant requirement, a public hearing is required. The Council is being asked to vote on whether to submit the grant, which is due on February 2.

The company is an industry leader in supplying monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies, purified antigens, assay development reagents and custom antibody services to

pharmaceutical, biotechnology and diagnostic companies, and to researchers. This biotechnology sector is one that state policy seeks to encourage, and a perfect match for other high tech firms in the industrial park.

The CDBG grant will help the company add 7 jobs. The company will invest over \$1.5 million in a 13,700 square foot expansion, which will more than double the size of their 10,000 sq. ft. local building, and has already been approved by the Planning Board.

Most aspects of the grant administration are routine, but one involving job creation responsibility should be brought to the Council's attention. Put simply, the city is required to return the money to the state if the company doesn't create the jobs. One way to eliminate the potential liability is for the company to do the project on a reimbursement basis and meet the job requirements before the grant is disbursed. This decision on indemnification can await the grant approval, and, should the grant application be successful, can be considered by the Council before final arrangements are made.

A team member of the parent company with the assistance of a company consultant prepared the application (actually pre-application), with additional help from the city. It is about 95% complete. Final touches and confidential financial information will be added before submission to the state.

Councilor Tripp moved, Councilor Smith seconded, to open the Public Hearing on the Biodesign International/Meridian Life Sciences CDBG Business Assistance grant application. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

Ms. Linda Diou, of Bio Design, gave a brief overview of the company's future goals for the Saco site and possible employment opportunities for Saco area residents.

Mr. Peter Morelli, Director of Planning and Development for the City of Saco, addressed the benefits of the expansion for Saco.

There were no comments from the public regarding this matter.

Councilor Tripp I moved, Councilor Smith seconded, to close the Public Hearing and Be it Ordered that the City Council move to adopt the following 'Saco City Council Resolution', approving submission of the \$200,000 CDBG, Business Assistance grant application for Biodesign International/Meridian Life Sciences. Further move to approve the Order. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. School Facilities Agreement Amendment

Several changes have been made to the School Facilities Agreement:

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- The City will be responsible for completing site improvements at the Middle School as provided for in the recent bond.
- School Department Information Technology employees will be based in the annex at 11 Cutts Avenue with the City Information Technology Department;
- The School will vacate the Open Door building within 24 months and programs formerly offered at the Open Door, The Adult Learning Center, will be relocated to 80 Common Street; and
- The School department is responsible for completing renovations at 80 Commons Street, as provided in the bond.

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Be it Ordered that the City Council approve the document titled, '**Facilities Agreement Amendment Three, dated November 16, 2006, By and Between the City of Saco, a Municipal Corporation and Saco School Department, acting through its Superintendent**'.

B. Transfer of Assets

Be it Ordered that the City Council does hereby approve with reference to Superior Court Docket #06-2021, of the transfer of the Defendant(s) in Rem, namely \$2,460, or any portion thereof, pursuant to 15 M.R.S.A. §5822(4)(A).

C. Confirmation of Appointments:

- a. Reappointment of Sandra Guay & Don Girouard – Planning Board

Be it Ordered that the City Council confirm the Mayor's reappointment of Sandra Guay and Don Girouard to the Planning Board, for a 3-year term to expire on January 2, 2010.

- b. Appointment of Roger Johnson - Planning Board

Be it Ordered that the City Council confirm the Mayor's appointment of Roger Johnson to the Planning Board for a 3-year term to expire on January 2, 2010.

- c. Appointment of Council Chris Jacques – Dyer Library Board of Directors

Be it Ordered that the City Council confirm the Mayor's appointment of Councilor Chris Jacques to the Dyer Library Association Board of Trustees for a 2-year term to expire in January 2009.

Councilor Tripp moved, Councilor Smith seconded, to approve the consent agenda. Further moved to approve the Order. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Smith moved, Councilor Tardif seconded, to adjourn. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas. TIME: 7:12 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Lucette S. Pellerin, City Clerk