

STATE OF MAINE

COUNTY OF YORK

CITY OF SACO

I. CALL TO ORDER – On Monday, January 8, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. a Council Meeting was held in the City Hall Auditorium.

II. RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS PRESENT – Mayor Marston Lovell recognized the members of the Council and determined that the Councilors present constituted a quorum. Councilors present: Marshall Archer, Roger Gay, William Doyle, Lynn Copeland, Alan Minthorn, Micah Smart and Nathan Johnston. City Administrator Kevin Sutherland and City Clerk Michele Hughes were also present this evening.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. GENERAL

- Weather warming up – Mayor Lovell warned people of ice dams when it warms up this week. The warm weather may also cause flooding, so avoid the flooded streets.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- John Harkins, 4 Christopher Terrace - When are we going to get the quarterly financial reports? The City Administrator stated they would be available next week.
- Susan Littlefield, 171 Simpson Road – I would like to encourage councilors to give priority to instituting a Policy of Annual Performance Reporting of all TIFs and CZ at the workshop this evening. A prime example of why this policy is needed is the Riverbend Farm proposal. If the council does decide to extend the contract zone agreement for Riverbend Farm, there needs to be a guarantee of annual monitoring to oversee the restrictions of the contract. The contract limits the number of weekly participants, total days and scope of operation and delivery hours, and mandates preservation of the existing historically significant buildings. The contract exchanges services rendered to the Saco school system in lieu of taxes, but must be a defined level. A contract zone is a legal document, stating what a developer must do for the benefit of the city in exchange for over-ruling some zoning rules. A contract zone should not put an unfair burden on current homeowners who follow the rules and expect the city to encourage growth close to services as stated in Saco's Comprehensive Plan.
- Inga Browne, 161 Simpson Road – I would like to address comments made by councilors last week during the 1st reading of the Ecology School's amendment request for an extension to the contract zone. There seems to be a misunderstanding regarding the lawsuit that has required the school to apply for the amendment extension. I would like to read into the record a few sentences quoting from the official York County Superior Court filing that identifies the plaintiff and the defendant in this lawsuit. I'm not a Saco Valley Land Trust board member or nor do I have any formal affiliation with them. Document: "State of Maine, York County Superior Court Civil Action Docket No. RE-16-44. Thomas W. Merrill & Mary R. Merrill, Plaintiffs v. Saco Valley Land Trust, Defendant. Plaintiffs Thomas W. Merrill and Mary R. Merrill move for summary judgement on Counts I and II of their three-count complaint for declaratory judgement. Plaintiff's complaint stems from an objection defendant Saco Valley Land Trust ("SVLT") raised to the sale of plaintiffs' property to the Ecology School pursuant to a conservation easement burdening the plaintiffs' property in Saco." I would ask that Councilors and the Mayor duly note this information and from today forward any councilors who identify The Saco Valley Land Trust as the plaintiff in this lawsuit be immediately and unequivocally corrected by the Mayor and let the record show this correction. Continued defamation of the Saco Valley Land Trust is not acceptable. Furthermore, the City of Saco was not involved in any litigation related to this project. However, last week the Councilor from Ward 3 stated as part of his comments "We've litigated this once...." and the Councilor from Ward 5 added in his comments, "We don't want to re-litigate this again," both statements are incorrect and also a careless and misleading choice of words under the circumstances. Lastly, and on a positive note, I would like to offer this: another long-standing Saco non-profit organization is celebrating an anniversary this year. The Saco Valley Land Trust is celebrating 30 years of land stewardship in their goal of preservation of open spaces to wild life, water quality, and quality of place for southern Maine residents. SVLT is an all-volunteer organization with a highly involved Board of Directors and a group of core volunteers form the community. SVLT owns almost 700 acres of Biddeford, Saco, and Buxton, as well as conservation easements on 530 acres. Their holdings are diverse, from small wood lots and working farms.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA
VII. AGENDA

A. BUDGET AMENDMENT – FIRE BOAT TRAINING

The Coastal Waters Commission met with the Harbormaster in the Fall of 2017 and are recommending to Council that they utilize Camp Ellis parking, docking, and pier use revenue to provide Fire Boat Rescue training.

This request came after the FY2018 Budget had been approved by Council. In an honest effort to create greater transparency with special revenue funds, the City Administrator is requesting the Council approve a budget amendment to move these funds for this specific training.

Councilor Copeland moved, Councilor Minthorn seconded “Be it ordered that the City Council approves the first reading of Budget Amendment #3 FY2018” and moves to a second and final reading scheduled for January 16th, 2018.” The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

VIII. COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

- Councilor Copeland – Reminded people to care about your neighbors and check on shut-ins, it is very cold out. People need help shoveling driveways, and the Fire Dept. with shoveling around hydrants and storm drain openings.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Minthorn moved, Councilor Doyle seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

Attest: _____
Michele L. Hughes, City Clerk