

STATE OF MAINE

COUNTY OF YORK

CITY OF SACO

Note: Council meeting packets and video recordings are posted on the city website, available for public review.

I. CALL TO ORDER – On Monday, April 27, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. a Council Meeting was held via video conference due to the national health emergency COVID-19 pandemic.

II. RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS PRESENT – Mayor William Doyle recognized the members of the Council and determined that the Councilors present constituted a quorum. Councilors present: Marshall Archer, James Purdy, Joseph Gunn, Lynn Copeland, Alan Minthorn, Jodi MacPhail and Nathan Johnston. City Administrator Bryan Kaenrath was also present this evening.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Due to video conference limitations, this was forgone this evening.

IV. GENERAL - (Video recording 0:25 minute mark)

Mayor Doyle had the following update:

- COVID-19 Emergency Loan Fund – Clarification

V. COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT - (Video recording 3:23 minute mark & Addendum at the end of this document)

City Administrator Bryan Kaenrath read the following public comments pertaining to the FY21 Municipal Budget that he received:

- Lindsey Mulcahy, Teacher in Saco School System, Non-Resident
- Lindsey Pilon, Dyer Library Board President, Saco Resident
- David Plavin, 2 Surf Street. Saco

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 21, 2020 - (Video recording 14:18 minute mark)

Councilor Minthorn moved, Councilor Purdy seconded to approve the April 21, 2020 minutes as written. The motion passed with five (5) yeas and two (2) nays – Councilors Copeland and Johnston.

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. COUNCIL RESOLUTION FOR SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING CHANGE - (Video recording 15:20 minute mark)

Councilor Minthorn moved, Councilor Copeland seconded for the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, each year the City must prepare a City budget as part of its annual Municipal Budget; and

WHEREAS, each year the City must incorporate a proposed School budget into its annual Municipal Budget; and

WHEREAS, the City Charter mandates that the City adopt an annual Municipal Budget composed of the City budget and the School budget (“combined municipal budget;” see Section 6.04 of the City Charter); and

WHEREAS, the Charter obligates the City to “adopt the Municipal Budget at a Special Council Budget Meeting the second week of May;” and

WHEREAS, due to the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor of the State has issued certain Executive Orders (14 FY 19/20; 19 FY 19/20; 28 FY 19/20) which limit the ability of persons and parties to meet in groups; and

WHEREAS, these Orders are to remain in effect to May 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has enacted Emergency Legislation (LD #2167) which was intended to provide certain forms of relief and certain governing rules and processes, including for municipalities, during the State wide COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature (see PART D, E, and G of LD 2167) intended to allow relief to municipalities so they could reasonably act, enact budgets, conduct meetings, and otherwise continue the vital operations of local communities during the State wide COVID-19 emergency;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to authority delegated by the Legislature including, but not limited LD 2167, the City Council resolves, and does herein Order, that the Annual “Special Council Budget Meeting” of the City of Saco will be scheduled for the first Tuesday (May 26, 2020) after Memorial Day Monday.

Special Budget Meeting shall be held in public at the Saco City Hall, 300 Main Street, Saco; and, the public shall be allowed to attend should they wish to make comment; but the City Council will mandate and make use of social distancing procedures and other accommodations to protect all individuals attending from undue risk of transmission of the COVID 19 virus.

This Order may be rescinded if the Governor of the State of Maine extends the State wide quarantine Orders—including those limiting meetings to no more than ten (10) people— past May 15, 2020. In lieu of rescission, the Council may, in the alternative, conduct the Special Budget Meeting in City Hall as a public session at City Hall with no more than ten (10) persons attending (Mayor, seven (7) Councilors, City Administrator and Clerk), and with a roll call vote but if so the Council will implement special processes that allows for interactive public participation including such services as ZOOM.

The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

B. ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET – (PUBLIC HEARING) -
(Video recording 20:04 minute mark)

Councilor Johnston moved, Councilor Minthorn seconded to open the Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2021 City Budget and the Water Resource Recovery Department. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

These individuals spoke against the Superintendent’s Office and School Board recommended budget cuts:

- Tyler Cadorette, 9 Patriot Drive, Saco
- Constandina Gikas, 1 Blake Ave, Saco, Teacher at Burns School
- Rebecca Corliss, 30 Peppereil St, Saco, Teacher at Burns School
- Sarah Baines, 17 Winter Street Ext, Saco, Employee of Saco School District
- Tracy Galante, 5 Vines Road, Saco, Teacher in Saco School District
- Tricia Welch, 12 Blake Ave., Saco, Employee of Saco School District
- Tracey Collins, 378 Main Street, Saco
- Kerry Johnson, 30 Douglas Avenue, Saco, Teacher in Saco School District
- Deborah McGonigle, 13 Stone Street. Saco – Former Teacher in Saco School District

This individual spoke in favor of the Superintendent’s Office and School Board recommended budget cuts:

- Eileen Siegfried, 64 Woodman Avenue, Saco

Councilor Johnston moved, Councilor Minthorn seconded to close the Public Hearing, and be it Ordered that the City Council set the vote on the FY21 Municipal Budget and the Water Resource Recovery Department for May 26, 2020. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

C. ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 – 2025 CAPITAL PROGRAM – (PUBLIC HEARING) - (Video recording 1:15:54 minute mark)

Councilor Gunn moved, Councilor Copeland seconded to open the Public Hearing on the FY21-FY25 Capital Program. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

There were no public comments.

Councilor Gunn moved, Councilor Minthorn seconded to close the Public Hearing, and be it Ordered that the City Council set the vote on the FY21-FY25 Capital Program for May 26, 2020. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

D. CONTRACT ZONE AGREEMENT – OWNERSHIP TRANSFER REQUEST - (Video recording 1:19:05 minute mark)

Councilor Archer moved, Councilor Minthorn seconded “Be it Ordered that the City Council approves the first reading of the ownership transfer of the Contract Zone Agreement by and between Herve C. Thibodeau, Trustee of the Thibodeau Family Property Trust and the City of Saco, dated February 14, 2012 to Herve C. Thibodeau, Jr., and Next Generation Realty LLC, and further moves to schedule the second and final reading on May 11, 2020. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

E. HARDSHIP FOREGIVNESS FOR MEDICAL PATIENT - (Video recording 1:27:06 minute mark)

Councilor Copeland moved, Councilor Minthorn seconded “Be it Ordered that the City Council authorize the Finance Director to accept \$55 as payment in full on the outstanding Ambulance Bill of \$548. Further move to approve the order. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. 90 TEMPLE STREET – CHAPTER 81 REVIEW - (Video recording 1:35:28 minute mark)

Councilor Johnston moved, Councilor Minthorn seconded to schedule the first reading on May 4th regarding the following order: “Be it Ordered that the City Council hereby authorizes the City Administrator to initiate a Request for Proposal for disposition of city-owned property at 90 Temple Street. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

XI. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE - (Video recording 1:53:07 minute mark)

City Administrator Bryan Kaenrath provided administrative updates.

XII. COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND COMMENT - (Video recording 1:55:15 minute mark)

➤ Councilor Archer

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - (Video recording 1:55:56 minute mark)

Councilor Minthorn moved, Councilor Copeland seconded “Be it Ordered that the City Council enter into executive session, pursuant to [M.R.S.A. Title 1, Chapter 13, Subchapter 1, §405(6)]: (E) Consultation with Attorney on settlement agreement regarding 5 Wiley Road. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas. Time: 8:28 p.m.

XIV. REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION - (Video recording 2:30:48 minute mark)

Councilor Minthorn moved, Councilor Purdy seconded “Be it Ordered that the City Council exit executive session, pursuant to [M.R.S.A. Title 1, Chapter 13, Subchapter 1, §405(6)]: (E) Consultation with Attorney on settlement agreement regarding 5 Wiley Road. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas. Time: 9:02 p.m.

Councilor Minthorn moved, Councilor Gunn seconded to authorize the City Administrator to execute the revised settlement agreement and any related documents to effectuate the settlement provided the other parties; Saco Schools, Toddle Inn also agree to execute the revised settlement agreement. The motion passed with six (6) yeas and one (1) nay – Councilor Johnston.

XV. ADJOURNMENT - (Video recording 2:33:43 minute mark)

Councilor Minthorn moved, Councilor Copeland seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas. Time: 9:04 p.m.

Attest: _____
Michele L. Hughes, City Clerk

April 27, 2020

To whom it may concern,

My name is Lindsey Mulcahy. Although I am not a resident of Saco, I am a current fifth grade teacher at CK Burns Elementary School and have been a part of the Saco Schools community for the past five years. As an educator and avid champion for my students, I am writing to you to express my favor with the Saco School Board budget proposal that was decided during the last meeting on April first. Primarily, I would like to address the imperativeness of keeping the curriculum coach positions, resource room position, and interventionist position at CK Burns.

Please understand that our coaches are the backbone of our school. Lauren Olerio, our ELA coach, is a skilled professional whose invaluable expertise is a necessity for our ongoing rigorous ELA curriculum. As a fourth year teacher who recently switched to teaching fifth grade ELA, I have relied heavily on Lauren's support. She works tirelessly to organize coaching cycles that meet the needs of every teacher in the school, helping us to work toward student centered goals. In every coaching cycle that I have worked with Lauren, I have met my student centered goals and moved my students to a higher degree of learning than they ever would have with only my teaching repertoire. With her assistance, I was able to get each of my students to an 80% or higher on their post assessments for the reading and writing units of study that we covered together. Most of these students scored a 0% on their pre-assessments, prior to their learning with Mrs. Olerio. If you have had the chance to view the difference between the CK Burns MEA data from last year to the data from two years ago, you would notice the same upward trend in student literacy success. We can attribute this to Lauren's abilities as an educational coach and her unprecedented knowledge of district mandated curriculum. Having worked with the curriculum developers at Columbia University, Lauren has become a resource we cannot lose. If her position is cut, our school will feel the effects of that set back for years to come.

Carrie Lamothe, our highly skilled math instructional coach, is one of the most respected and knowledgeable leaders within our district. Carrie's position as a coach has benefited CK Burns School beyond her coaching. Four years ago when we lost our principal, she stepped up and assumed the temporary role of assistant principal. Having been the assistant principal for our school prior to becoming a coach, she has been highly regarded as an effective leader for her entire career in education. Leadership roles aside, her abilities as a coach have shown remarkable skill in collaborating with staff and raising our student achievement in mathematics to the high standard that it is today. Take the Eureka math program, for example. When I was first beginning my teaching career, I started as a third grade teacher, where I was first introduced to this math program. If you have ever experienced Eureka math, you know that it is a much different approach to teaching mathematics than traditional methods. Though it is embedded in research based best practice, there is a huge learning curve to understanding the program, teaching the program, and helping students understand the program. Without the

support of Carrie Lamothe, I would not have been successful at teaching math that first year. In fact, due to her support through our coaching cycles, I began to feel more confident teaching math than I did ELA. My third grade students were receiving a highly rigorous and successful math education due to Carrie's support. If her position is to be cut, our math program will suffer and our school leadership will lose the curriculum support it needs. This will have extreme negative consequences on our students, who will now only be able to reach a minimal capacity for their math education.

Furthermore, our math and reading interventionists are already so few in number that we regularly have to put students on the waiting list to receive tier III support. Our students who do not meet the grade level benchmarks, year after year, have been pushed along because there is just not enough room for them on a tier III cycle. With class sizes so large, it is nearly impossible for their classroom teacher to work with their struggling students to the extent that they need to catch up to their peers. Taking one of these precious interventionist positions away will leave out even more students from receiving services, effectively widening our achievement gap. This year, I had a student who was very far below the fifth grade reading benchmark, reading at an instructional level N, when his peers were able to access texts at a level S or T. This student was lucky and was able to be pulled for intervention services right away. By February, this student had made two years worth of progress, in their reading ability, and can now read texts at a benchmark level T. This is because we have fabulous interventionists who work with our most at risk students, capturing them before they fall through the cracks. Taking away one of these positions is telling many of our struggling learners that they do not matter; they won't be able to receive the help that they so desperately need and deserve.

Our resource room educators are equally as valuable as our coaches and interventionists. These educators help our neediest and most vulnerable students, ensuring that we are meeting their IEP goals. These students are so diverse in their educational needs that they need specialized education, which often exists outside of the mainstream classroom. With so many students in need of special education services, how can we take from them even one of our few qualified special educators? How can we say that we are giving our students a quality education? This position would inevitably need to be filled by at least two educational technicians, costing the school department an almost equal amount of money as the single, highly qualified special educator.

If these positions are cut, our school will be devastated. To make matters worse, these unprecedented times of school closure makes the need for these positions even more pertinent than they already are. The COVID-19 pandemic is not going away any time soon, as stay at home orders continue to be extended and the number of cases across the state are increasing daily. We know that this reality has been highly distressing for the majority of families within the Saco community. However, very few of us recognize the dire educational consequences that this pandemic continues to have on our students.

As students and teachers continue to do their work at home, practicing some degree of normalcy through online learning maintenance, there are an unforeseeable number of negative consequences that this long term event will have for our children. Despite the best efforts of teachers and families, distance learning is simply not equivalent to in school, face to face learning. When schools were first shut down, our teachers had to scramble to collect vital teaching materials, resources meant to be implemented in a classroom setting. Without our classroom materials and research based best practice supports, we have been unable to teach our students in any kind of normal capacity. Because of this, we have had to improvise our online learning. Though our district has risen to this occasion in a remarkable effort of collaboration and ingenuity, this form of teaching is unable to achieve the degree of rigor and success expected of Saco Schools. Furthermore, while students and teachers are attempting to work together from afar, the student experience with online learning continues to be widely divergent. Each variable that contributes to the level of learning that a student is receiving from their online work is tightly bound to their life at home. We know it is especially difficult for most families right now, causing additional stressors to students who are attempting to do their homeschooling. This form of online learning will inevitably lead to a decline in the educational standard that we hold our schools to. These consequences can include anything from significant student learning loss to our achievement gap widening to a degree that we have never seen before. Come fall, our students will need all of the support and resources that we can offer them to ensure their educational success.

Without the support of our coaches, resource room educators, and interventionists, our students will be facing a deficit on top of a deficit. Each of these individuals who are facing position cuts will play a pivotal role in decreasing the gap widened by the school shutdown. We can predict with certainty that most of our students will be behind the beginning of the year benchmarks for their grade levels, and without the support of these crucial teaching positions, we would be placing them at an even higher disadvantage. Please consider the children who have suffered enough during these unprecedented times before you make the decision to further cut funding for them.

Saco City Counselors, we are asking that you consider the children who will be hurt the most by the decision to cut these positions. Saco is a wonderful town where people want to live, a place where families move so that their children can receive a high quality education. As I am sure you would agree, we would like Saco Schools to stay this way, a place where a child's education is of utmost importance. A community is only as strong as the education that it is willing to give its children.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Mulcahy

Bryan Kaenrath

From: Linsey Pilon <linsey.pilon@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 6:36 PM
To: Budget
Subject: In support of the Dyer Library and Saco Museum Budget Request

[CAUTION: THIS EMAIL ORIGINATED FROM OUTSIDE THE CITY OF SACO DOMAIN]

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

To Mayor William Doyle and the Saco City Council

The Dyer Library Association, encompassing both the Dyer Library and Saco Museum, continues to serve as an important community resource for patrons of, literally, all ages. We offer educational opportunities from Medicare to watercolors to reading to toddlers and social opportunities for adults and children. The financial support that we receive from the City of Saco makes it possible for us to provide dedicated staff, services and fine physical spaces to our citizens.

Our executive director continues to research and apply for grants to preserve our historic buildings. We actively fundraise for capital projects and necessary maintenance such as replacing a fallen cornice and repairing vehicle-damaged steps and railing at the front of the Library, replacing outdated computers and ancient hot water heaters. Annual fundraising events such as the Book Sale and Festival of Trees are not only crucial to our financial wellbeing, but have become beloved community events.

Both the Library and Museum continue to support education and culture in Saco and Southern Maine. The Library offers extensive programming and oversight for children from infancy through middle school and above. The Museum hosted the Maine Art Educators' exhibit in January and February, an event that alternates bi-yearly with the Saco Student Art Exhibit. Honors English students visited the museum to enhance their understanding of Victorian Era literature, and Middle School students came to learn about the Revolutionary era. Our education and program manager has worked with Saco Schools to create Native American curriculum mandated by the State.

In this pandemic-driven time of isolation, citizens of Saco are missing the culture and services of the Dyer Library and Saco Museum. Looking forward to the time, hopefully soon, when we can open our doors to our community, keeping both patrons and staff safe, we will all more fully appreciate how important these services are. I urge the Saco City Council to support this community resource by voting in favor of our very judicious budget request.

Thank you.

Linsey Pilon
Board President
Dyer Library Association



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Linsey Pilon
207-590-0508

April 24, 2020

As a lifelong education advocate, it disturbs me to see the quibbling between the school board, the City Council and Superintendent to pass an education budget. These disputes put our students in the crosshairs and they are our most important resource. It is paramount that Saco students have access to the best education we can provide.

These are difficult times and the instinct to cut, cut and cut more in hard times is not the answer. This is when the time is right to look at alternative financing, grants and other means to retain what we have, or even look for growth opportunities. The need for education does not fluctuate with pandemics. The need for teachers and staff does not diminish either.

Anyone thinking you can do more with less because these are not normal times, is to be mistaken. Sacrifices are part of the equation, but it is wrong to compromise the quality of education. Students returning to schools in the fall - if they can return - will have been out of the classroom for five months. Staff will be more important than ever to transition a return to the classroom, or if at-home learning has to be continued. This is not the time to cut staff. Look elsewhere if there is no money.

What can be done ? How about finally getting Toddle Inn resolved. How about using undesignated funds. How about a long-range plan for the future of schools in Saco with more applications for grants and alternative funding. It's time to come together and make smart decisions with the students in mind. Do not short change them, or our teachers. Be smarter than that.

David Plavin
2 Surf St.