

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, September 21, 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

IV. GENERAL

V. COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT - (Video recording 11:32 minute mark)

- Cynthia Chadwick-Granger, 3 Sean Place – On June 5th, my life and Bella's was changed. Thank you for looking at the Dog Ordinance and voice command. The dogs that attacked my dog Bella and I were under voice command and they did not listen. I do not feel safe and I am afraid to walk in the community and just started walking my dog again in our development. Some changes need to be made.
- Andrew Fersch, 7th Grade Teacher at Saco Middle School on the Sebago Project Based Learning Team – The team instituted Community Project Blocks such as the conservation project and climate emergency declaration project. Hundreds of hours have been put in on these projects. Please support our environment and children and the work they are doing by passing the Climate Emergency Declaration and donating to the Conservation project. Thank you for your support.
- Thomas Klak, Saco Resident & Conservation Commission member – Climate change impacts are real and impact Maine. Please support the children's Climate Emergency Declaration.
- Margaret Mills, 168 Simpson Road – Public Trail along Stackpole Creek. Received notice from Saco River Corridor Commission about permissions to put the trail in. My property abuts the Saco River, Stackpole Creek, and Ecology School. I am concerned about this on a couple different levels, such as the children attending the ecology school, erosion of the land and public access to the land. I would ask that the council revise the contract zone to omit the public access of this private land.
- Anna Segal, Maine Strikes and Maine Students for Climate Justice - We worked with the students and support the climate emergency resolution lead by the students at Saco Middle School. I urge you to pass the resolution and work with the students. This is a state-wide and national movement.
- Cole Cochrane, -Supports the resolution endorsing the Declaration of Climate Emergency and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate. The effects of climate change and global warming are facing Maine in its enormity.
- Soren Kumar, Resident of Bar Harbor – Bar Harbor declared a climate emergency as a step towards a better future. This is scary to teenagers who are facing this global crisis. I ask that you declare this a climate emergency. Take steps now for the future.
- Josh Wood, Resident of Sanford – In support of the climate resolution being passed. We all have the potential of building a better future. The kids will be left with the consequences if we do not pass the resolution. Commend the students in Saco for doing the right thing and passing a climate resolution.
- Heather Leeman-Kenyon, Resident of Scarborough – In support of climate resolution and the conservation land purchase. Taking steps now is imperative to addressing the environmental issues that we face. Waiting to address such issues is also economically wise.
- Lillian Hubbard, Resident of Cape Neddick – Speaking tonight to encourage the Town of Saco to join the 1,700 other town and cities across the globe in declaring a climate emergency. Spoke on the climate effects happening to Maine. Make the right decision and protect Maine beautiful environment and people.
- Meg E. Jones, Non-resident, Works for the Ecology School – Speaking on behalf of Sebago 17 at Saco Middle School and the work they are doing with their climate emergency declaration and the purchase of

land for conservation. This chance to apply real world skills and tools is the impact of what place based education can do and how it transfers to larger real world issues.

- Representative Maggie O’Neil, Sheila Circle – On behalf of Saco delegation I am here to express support for both passing the emergency climate declaration and partnering on the North Saco conservation project that has been spear headed by Saco Middle School students. Thank you to the young people for their persistence on both of these projects.
- Stella Foye, Evergreen Dr. & Saco Middle School Student – In support of the conservation of the 8-acre piece of land. What would you do if you were an animal and did not want this beautiful forest to be taken away to put in more neighborhoods? You would want your home to stay your home. Where else would they go? If we get this 8-acre piece of land we will be able to save some animals.
- Kathleen Worth, Resident of Kennebunk & Saco Middle School Librarian – I want to speak in support of the Saco Middle School Sebago Team students who have been working with the Saco Valley Land Trust to purchase and conserve the 8-acres of land along the Nonesuch River and the emergency climate resolution. The parcel they are looking to preserve will tie together with other parcels that have been conserved.
- Melissa Field, 160 Bradley St. & Conservation Commission member – Support the climate declaration the work the Energy & Sustainability Committee and Conservation Commission did to create the final draft with the students and Andrew. I support that use of funds from the open space fund to acquire the 8-acre piece of land. The Conservation Commission has given \$1,000 to that project, and would like to see the city provide some funding as well.
- John DeJorge, 585 Ferry Road – Daughter Samantha is part of the Sebago 17 Team. We support the climate emergency declaration and conservation land purchase. Secondly, we are displeased with the new parking restrictions at Kinney Shores. These restrictions limit tax payer access to the public beaches. These restrictions benefit a few residents at the expense of the rest of the city. I request that the council remove these restrictions for a more fair parking regulation such as permits.
- Ruby Peterman, Resident of Hollis – I support the initiatives of the Saco Middle Students. I urge you to think about the impact these students are having in young Mainers building these connections and bridges. These are future leaders that are going to change the world.
- Cassie Kane, 96 Shadagee Road – I work for 350 Maine and through this I have worked with the Saco Middle School students. We are asking the city to declare a climate emergency and support their land conservation project. The crisis will only get worse.
- Gabrielle Price, Lincoln Street, 8th Grade Team Sebago Student – Support both the climate emergency declaration and land purchase effort. Global warming is affecting the world massively. There are many animals in Maine struggling to survive due to their living conditions. The New England cottontail rabbit is one of the most endangered species with only 13,000 left.
- Nicole Benaski, Resident, 8th Grade Team Sebago Student - For the past year, the Sebago Team has done a wonderful job working on how they can help our environment. Fossil fuels and stuff are getting put into the air which is heating the Earth up. It is causing more wildfires and hurting our animals and people we have here in Maine and other states. There are also tropical storms damaging our environment. I support both the climate resolution and purchase of 8 acres of land to preserve.
- City Administrator Bryan Kaenrath received a public comment as follows: Christina Shea, Ward 1 School Board Member – I support the Saco Land Trust project spear headed by Saco Middle School Team Sebago. Climate change is real and no matter where in the world that environmental impact happens, it affects us all. Every impact to Saco’s ecosystem is an impact to on us all as well. I fully support team Sebago and their efforts which benefit Saco and the entire state.
- Ashley Gonzalez, Conservation Commission member & Biology Student at Southern Maine – I support the Saco Middle School students on the climate change declaration. We need to protect the environment for future generations.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS - (Video recording 1:12:25 minute mark)

Councilor Copeland moved, Councilor Johnston seconded to remove item #A – Approve Change to Maine PERS Plan Adding COLA for Firefighters and #D - Confirm the Mayor’s Appointment to the WRRD Coastal Resiliency Ad Hoc Committee – Greg Copeland. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas. These items will be reviewed under Action Items as #A & #B and current Action Items #A & #B will be renumbered.

Councilor Minthorn moved, Councilor Copeland seconded to approve consent agenda items #B and #C as follows:

B. CONFIRM THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT TO THE INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCY AND AWARENESS AD HOC COMMITTEE – RYAN PRESCOTT - “Be it Ordered that the City Council confirm the Mayor’s appointment of Ryan Prescott to the Intercultural Competency and Awareness Ad Hoc Committee”. Further move to approve the Order.

C. CONFIRM THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT TO THE ARTS COMMISSION - “Be it Ordered that the City Council confirm the Mayor’s appointment of Kathleen Pierce to the Arts Commission”. Further move to approve the Order.

The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. APPROVE CHANGE TO MAINE PERS PLAN ADDING COLA FOR FIREFIGHTERS

- (Video recording 1:16:39 minute mark)

Councilor Archer moved, Councilor Johnston seconded “Be it Ordered that the City Council approves participation in Special Plan 3C for all current and future Firefighters, for future service only. Service rendered prior to July 1, 2020 remains under Special Plan 3N for the period from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2020 and under Special Plan 2N for the period before July 1, 2016.

The City Council authorizes the finalization of this Agreement between the City of Saco and the Maine Public Employees Retirement System”. Further move to approve the Order. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

B. CONFIRM THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT TO THE WRRD COASTAL RESILIENCY AD HOC COMMITTEE – GREG COPELAND - (Video recording 1:20:12 minute mark)

Councilor Jodi Mac Phail moved, Councilor Minthorn seconded “Be it Ordered that the City Council confirm the Mayor’s appointment of Greg Copeland to the WRRD Coastal Resiliency Ad Hoc Committee”. Further move to approve the Order. The motion passed with six (6) yeas, zero (0) nays, and one (1) abstention – Councilor Copeland.

C. RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE - (Video recording 1:22:51 minute mark)

Councilor MacPhail moved, Councilor Minthorn seconded “Be it Ordered that the City Council approves the Resolution Endorsing the Declaration of a Climate Emergency and Emergency Mobilization Effort to Restore a Safe Climate”. Further move to approve the Order.

Mayor Doyle allowed to members of the public to speak:

Zachary Arsenault - Member of the project since the beginning gave a brief overview of the project.

Betty Brunswick, 11 Old Orchard Road – I think the work done on this is fabulous and applaud our youth for bringing this forward.

Mayor Doyle called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

D. PROPOSED I-2 ZONING AMENDMENT – LARGE COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SALES AND SERVICE USE - (FINAL READING) - (Video recording 1:46:02 minute mark)

Councilor Johnston moved, Councilor Minthorn seconded to approve the following order, in substantially the same form as presented: “Be it Ordered that the City Council accept the new permitted use in the I-2 Zoning District of Large commercial vehicle sales and service: An establishment primarily for the sale of new and used specialized vehicles and/or construction equipment, all larger than 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating, including but not limited to mobile cranes, earth moving equipment, fire and rescue apparatus, drivable RV’s, and semi-tractor trailer trucks. This use includes repair, manufacturing, fabrication, and assembly, but does not include the processing or storage of raw materials or salvaging operations.

Amendment – Councilor Johnston moved, Councilor Archer seconded to insert “conditional” in between the words “permitted” and “use”. The motion failed with one (1) yea and six (6) nays – Councilors Archer, Purdy, Gunn, Copeland, Minthorn, and MacPhail.

Councilor Johnston retracted the main motion he previously read.

Councilor Minthorn moved, Councilor Archer seconded the main motion and waived the reading of the suggested motion.

Amendment – Councilor Copeland moved, Councilor Minthorn seconded to add “restricted to parcels over 10 acres”. The motion passed with six (6) yeas and one (1) nay – Councilor Gunn.

Mayor Doyle called for a vote on the main motion as amended. The motion passed with six (6) yeas and one (1) nay – Councilor Johnston.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Doyle called for a recess at 8:40 p.m.

Mayor Doyle reconvened the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

A. OPEN SPACE FUND DISCUSSION - (Video recording 2:27:44 minute mark)

Parks & Recreation Director Ryan Sommer explained how the fund works and future projects.

B. SACO MIDDLE SCHOOL LAND PURCHASE - (Video recording 2:41:14 minute mark)

Saco Middle School Teacher Andrew Fersch and students Abigail Lizotte and Gianna Palleschi discussed all the work put into the climate and land purchase efforts. They requested the city consider contributing \$35,000 to the purchase of the land. This piece of land connects to 2 other trails and will extend them.

C. PAINTING CROSSWALKS - (Video recording 3:01:30 minute mark)

City Administrator Bryan Kaenrath presented the crosswalk painting idea. Saco Main Street Executive Director Rob Biggs discussed the proposed project and Police Chief Jack Clements discussed the safety aspect of the project.

This item will fall under the purview of the Traffic Safety Committee.

D. DISCUSSION ON DOG CONTROL - (Video recording 3:16:11 minute mark)

City Administrator Bryan Kaenrath, Councilors, and Mayor Doyle discussed the dog ordinance.

XI. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE - (Video recording 3:34:50 minute mark)

City Administrator Bryan Kaenrath provided administrative updates.

XII. COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - (Video recording 3:37:57 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)]: (C) Purchase of Property. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas. Time: 10:00 p.m.

XIV. REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION - (Video recording 4:14:47 minute mark)

Mayor Doyle, City Councilors: Archer, Purdy, Gunn, Copeland, Minthorn, MacPhail, Johnston, and City Administrator Kaenrath were all present.

Councilor Minthorn moved, Councilor Archer 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)]: (C) Purchase of Property. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas. Time: 10:36 p.m.

Councilor Minthorn stated there was no report this evening.

XV. ADJOURNMENT - (Video recording 4:15:46 minute mark)

Councilor Minthorn moved, Councilor Johnston seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas. Time: 10:37 p.m.

Attest: _____
Michele L. Hughes, City Clerk

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