

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, July 20, 2020, at 6:31 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** - (Video recording 11:41minute mark)

- Councilor MacPhail – Starting Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. Dyer Library Annual Book Sale – Follow COVID PPE recommendations.
- Councilor Copeland – Conservation Commission is pledging \$1,000 of annual funds to Saco Middle School Students to purchase land conservation consisting of 8 acres abutting 4 Grace Lane in Saco and adjacent to 2 other Saco Valley Land Trust Conservation Properties.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT** - (Video recording 15:50 minute mark)

- Stefa Normantas, 90 Jenkins Road, Property owner in Saco – Thank you for the city business loan program.
- Kelly Archer, 185 Bradley Street and Chair of Historic Preservation Commission - The Commission has some appointments that are due.
- David Plavin, 2 Surf Street – Beach safety and Conservation Plan to cover the whole Saco area.
- Neil Schuster, 433 Ferry Road – Beach safety and protocols.

**VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**VIII. CONSENT ITEMS** - (Video recording 26:45 minute mark)

Councilor Copeland moved, Councilor Archer seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

**A. CONFIRM THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT TO THE COASTAL WATERS COMMISSION – LEONARD HURRELL** - “Be it Ordered that the City Council confirm the Mayor’s appointment of Leonard Hurrell as a full member of the Saco Coastal Waters commission, effective August 22, 2020 for a three-year term ending on August 22, 2023.” Further move to approve the Order.

The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

**IX. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. ADOPTION OF INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCY AND AWARENESS RESOLUTION** - (Video recording 27:45 minute mark)

Councilor Copeland moved, Councilor Johnston seconded “Be it Resolved that the Saco City Council supports the Affirming a Safe, Welcoming, and Diverse Community resolution below.”

**WHEREAS**, equality, inclusion, and safety for all persons is a core value in the City of Saco; and

**WHEREAS**, a safe community requires open communication, diverse perspectives, and foundation built on trust;  
and

**WHEREAS**, we know that communities succeed and achieve their best potential when all persons are welcome; and

**WHEREAS**, we celebrate our community’s diversity, and welcome all who live, work, or visit here regardless of their national origin, color, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity, race, age, disability, or financial or socioeconomic status.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, William Doyle, Mayor of Saco, on behalf of the City Council here by resolve:** All residents, visitors, and guests, are entitled to be treated with compassion, respect, and dignity; and

Any individual exhibiting discriminatory behavior, overt or subtle, will not be tolerated by the City of Saco, its employees, or officials in any form; and

The City of Saco encourages employees, board and committee members, and elected officials to identify their implicit and explicit bias to ensure the ideals of fairness and equality are upheld; and

We commit to building an environment and a community, in which everyone is valued, respected, and welcomed. We encourage the citizens of Saco to likewise affirm these values of inclusion.

Further move to approve the Resolution. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

**B. INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCY AND AWARENESS COMMITTEE FORMATION - (Video recording 32:38 minute mark)**

Councilor Archer moved, Councilor Copeland seconded “Be it Ordered that the City Council authorize the creation of an Intercultural Competency and Awareness Ad Hoc Committee and allow the Mayor to confirm appointment to the committee as necessary”. Further move to approve the Order.

Amendment – Councilor Johnston moved, Councilor Copeland seconded “Be it Ordered that the City Council authorize the creation of an Intercultural Competency and Awareness Ad Hoc Committee”. The motion passed with seven (7) yeas.

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

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. UNACCEPTED PORTION OF BERRY ROAD DISCUSSION - (Video recording 41:18 minute mark)**

Council, Code Enforcement Officer Richard Lambert, City Planner Emily Cole-Prescott, and Public Works Director Patrick Fox discussed the various options and city standards.

The Code Enforcement Officer and City Planner were asked to put together some options and to present them at a future meeting.

**B. ZONING ORDINANCE REVISION PROJECT: COMPLETION TIMELINE - (Video recording 1:39:48 minute mark)**

The proposed Zoning Ordinance Revision project timeline was reviewed. This item will move to the August 3, 2020 Council Meeting to be voted on.

**C. DISCUSSION OF BEACH SAFETY AND PROTOCOLS - (Video recording 1:43:29 minute mark)**

City Administrator suggested starting with signage alerting the public about parking, picking up after your dog, and protecting piping plover habitat.

The problems have increased with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councilors, Public Works Director Patrick Fox, and Police Chief Jack Clements discussed beach PPE safety and enforcement, parking, signs, and piping plover safety. Councilor Copeland submitted e-mails she received from residents pertaining to beach parking safety, piping plovers, and PPE enforcement.

Hello Lynn

First, thank you for your representation of our neighborhoods. I have been resident of Kinney Shores for 10 years and this summer have seen the most cars and traffic in our neighborhood as well as along Seaside Ave. I live along Oceanside Ave and the number of trash items we pick up has increased: broken flip flops, boogie boards, beer cans to name a few. Honestly - I know we live on a public beach and I don't mind the increased traffic from Saco residents during the summer and during these corona virus times - I'd rather see people outside enjoying our beach but would hope that they would be respectful of the neighborhood.)

Parking continues to be an issue with signs that are confusing - (No parking corner to here, here to corner etc.). Additionally, people continue to squeeze in 3 cars where there should only be 2 and it makes getting out of driveways dangerous and difficult. I would propose hash marks painted on the streets to indicate legal parking spots to avoid confusion - along the lines of what they have in downtown Saco.

I understand that the piping plovers are an issue and its a real tragedy but the parking situation is dangerous to people's lives - there are a ton of people walking down the street and if you can't see out of your driveway because people have parked too close to the edge its an accident waiting to happen. And I realize the response is to call the Parking Code Enforcement Officer - but wouldn't marking and prevention be a better option?

Thanks again,  
Lisa Gorman  
44 Oceanside Drive, Saco

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Lynn,

I want to thank you for the email. This meeting would have gone right past me.

I have been going to the beach quite a lot over the last 7-8 weeks and I'd like to share my observations.

I have gone fishing off the jetty 6 times in the last 4 weeks. Social distancing has been very good. There are not many masks being worn but there also was not much congestion. I did not feel the need to wear my mask and kept it in my pocket.

My family and I use primarily the beach entrances off Dune Ave. and Outlook Ave. There are 3 groups of us traveling separately. We meet and keep our distances. Everyone has a mask but we do not wear it a lot. Social distancing has been more than adequate except for the large groups. There can be anywhere from 5 to 25 people who feel it is necessary to sit in close proximity to the rest of the group. The beach access ramps at these 2 locations normally work out fine as people wait for the group ahead of them to exit at either end. Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> was an exception. Lots of people and social distancing was not what it should be.

Parking at Piney Woods, Dune, Outlook, and Oceanside Dr. has been adequate although very busy. The overflow parks on Seaside Ave. and walks.

Bayview is of course an issue. Between the public parking and the Seaside Ave. overflow this access and beachfront are overwhelmed.

People are not social distancing well and most do not wear masks.

I was there yesterday to observe the beach and the beach access.

Most groups upon exiting the beach access find a spot with little distancing from others. As the day goes on, the congestion gets excessive. Very few people wear masks.

The parking area with the public restrooms was overwhelmed. I would estimate there were 50 people all waiting on someone else in their group before going to their cars.

I believe the issue is at Bayview and can be managed by The City of Saco. The City of Saco gets revenue from the public parking yet does not monitor the goings on. It is their responsibility to manage this location.

Take the time and effort to manage Bayview and the complaints and issues will go away.

Craig Wood

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Dear Lynne,

I am a summer resident of Kinney Shores and wish to express my concern about the parking on Seaside Avenue. Allowing parking on this road creates a dangerous situation for other cars, bicyclists, pedestrians and people exiting their parked cars. In addition, it makes it impossible for cars exiting Kinney Shores and pulling onto Seaside Avenue to see oncoming traffic. I would support eliminating parking on Seaside Avenue.

I would have sent a paper copy of this to you also, but I don't have access to a printer. I hope this email will be enough. Thank you.

Christine M. Doran

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Mark and Ellen Gross  
87 Oceanside Drive  
Kinney Shores, Saco ME 04072  
Mailing address: P.O. 7263  
Ocean Park ME 04063

Dear Mayor Doyle and Members of the City Council:

There are a number of issues the Council should consider regarding safety, beach use, and parking in the Kinney Shores/Bayview area.

1. When Route 9 (Seaside Avenue) was widened some years ago, a state official addressed the Kinney Shores Association, at its annual meeting, about the project. The official stated that as part of the widening project, no parking would be permitted on EITHER side of Route 9 and that there would be a dedicated bike lane. Now, cars routinely park along one side of the entire stretch of Route 9 in the Kinney Shores/Bayview area. There is not enough space for cars to park on the side of the road, so the parked cars take up space on the actual roadway, forcing cars driving by to hug the middle line or worse. People exiting these cars on the driver's side must step directly into this very busy road. Allowing cars to park on EITHER side of Route 9/Seaside Ave. make it a very dangerous stretch of road. As originally promised, no parking should be allowed on EITHER side of Route 9/Seaside Ave.
2. Because all the east/west streets in Kinney Shores are narrow, most of them do not allow parking. For some reason, Shore Avenue—also very narrow—allows parking on one side. When cars park on Shore Avenue, two cars cannot pass each other on the street; one always has to either back up onto Seaside or Oceanside or pull into private driveways or onto lawns to let the other car pass. Most important, it is very difficult to see children coming out between parked cars to go to the beach or to ride their bicycles. Finally, despite signage, cars on Shore Road park right up to the corners, making it very dangerous to turn onto Route 9. Cars are also allowed to park on one side of much of Oceanside Drive. Oceanside Drive is not a wide street. When cars are parked on Oceanside, the people in homes across from the parked cars find it almost impossible to pull in or out of their driveways. Unless the driveway is three cars wide, there simply is not enough room between the end of the driveway and the parked cars to make the necessary 90-degree turn.
3. Restricting parking in this area will not deprive the public of access to the public beach. There are three parking lots at Bayview, as well as ample parking in Ferry Beach State Park. In addition, both those areas have bathroom facilities, which Kinney Shores does not.

Sincerely,



Mark and Ellen Gross

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Hi Lynn

Edmund and I enjoyed our conversation with you on our Oceanside Drive deck a few seasons ago relating to use of, respect for, and parking, at our neighborhood beach community in Kinney Shores, including all the issues you brought up in your recent email. We appreciate your understanding and support of our concerns.

For the safety of us all during this pandemic, enacting mask and social distancing policies, restricting parking and beach access by initiating vehicle permits would go a long way in regulating a situation that has gotten out of control. NO one at the beach is wearing masks, so we aren't able to go since we are at high risk for Covid illness.

Regarding neighborhood parking problems and out of state visitors: Ferry State Beach is well suited for large numbers of out of state visitors, but isn't being fully utilized because it is free to come to Kinney Shores (other

neighboring beaches in Saco have paid parking). Why not require ALL out of state vehicles to use the state beach and allow local residents to buy a local resident permit for the smaller neighborhood beaches? This has been effective in many of our neighboring communities. Kinney Shores doesn't have the services or infrastructure to support the numbers. OOB and the State beaches can accommodate large numbers, provide ample parking and services.

Since enforcement is challenging, especially on the beach, a parking permit system is a simple and effective control that would provide additional revenue to the City and peace of mind to residents.

There has been much discussion in our community meetings about this and resident parking permits always come up as a reasonable solution requiring simple signage and a simple application process on line, by mail or in person. Speaking for ourselves, we support this solution as fairest to everyone wishing to enjoy the beaches.

We appreciate you making our views known to the Council at the appropriate time.

Warm regards,

Mary Kathleen Ernst  
Edmund Spivack  
81 Oceanside Drive  
Saco, Maine 04072

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- > Thank you Lynn for bringing this up.
  - > Yesterday we saw the largest crowd yet down here in kinneyshores.
  - > Seaside avenue was crowded with cars and we had a second report of a cyclist almost getting clipped.
  - > The beach was crowded with no possible way of social distancing and I only saw a handful of masks.
  - > The plover area was surrounded by beach goers most of who are clueless as to why the area is roped off.
  - > I have suggested in the past that we prevent parking on seaside during this pandemic to limit the traffic. I do not understand why the city is turning a blind eye. An officer was asked last week to ticket a car on pineywoods blocking a driveway and he said as long as she could get out of the driveway they are fine. I reminded him that cars have to be 10 feet away and this car was blocking at least three feet of the interior of driveway. He did not ticket.
  - > The parking enforcement officer drove by two cars illegally parked on the corner and I was called by a neighbor. I then called the police for them and asked why they are not ticketing. They sent him back down and he ticketed only after a complaint.
  - > We understand the police department is busy and clearly annoyed by reports of illegally parked cars. There are solutions to these issues and we are only asking for the city to work with our community.
  - > For now, please keep these crowds low by limiting parking, Allow us to mark possible parking spaces on our streets. If the city feels they can not police the crowds, shut down the beach for the next few weeks.
  - > Our numbers are going up. This community is scared.
  - > Thank you for speaking up.
  - > Pam Cardin

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Hi Lynn and Bill. As an owner of two properties in the Kinney Shores area, I'm writing to express my content with the current parking situation. When we purchased both homes five years ago, we did so knowing full well that during the summer months, visitors would be parking in front of our home and on the surrounding streets. The extra traffic lasts no more than 8 weeks and predominantly occurs on the weekends. I enjoy the fact that we are able to share our good fortune of living the "beach life" with those in surrounding areas. Thank you. Linda Clemons 8 & 10 Outlook Ave.

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Hi Lynn,

Thank you for sending along this information! I've discussed this very topic with my family, friends and neighbors over the years, both from the perspective as a home owner and shoreline cottage rental owner in Saco. It seems odd that we (the citizens of ward 4) can't go to adjacent towns' beaches due to the parking regulations and expensive permits required, but when my family attempts to go to our own beaches, we need to compete for access from non residents. It doesn't pass the smell test for the citizens of Saco (especially ward 4), who would just like a perk once in a while after paying the high taxes that we do to live near, enjoy and access the beach in a safe, non crowded manner.

Again, thanks for bringing up this topic...

John Cannon

Resident 56 Plymouth Dr., Saco and previous rental cottage owner

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Thank you, Lynn for bringing this to the council.

Today was nuts down here in terms of outsiders coming into Kinney Shores and filling every available parking spot - including illegally within 10' of driveways. We did not venture to the beach today over concerns of the overcrowding and non-compliance with social distancing.

We are particularly concerned with the parking along Seaside Avenue - what was meant to be a bike path was full of parked cars all the way from Goosefare Brook to Bay View. Just the other day I had to yell across the street to a mom who wasn't paying attention and her young children nearly walked right into traffic right in front of our home. She had no idea. Something needs to be done to avoid a serious incident, not to mention to address our COVID concerns with the large crowds.

I might add that it is upsetting that Bay View Road is all no parking with only a handful of residents who live along that stretch - AND they have a sidewalk where people could safely walk down to the beach. From what I understand, there used to be parking along there. I believe there should be parking along that road to relieve to congestion down our way.

In any case, that is my perspective. It would be great to take some form of action to address these issues. Thank you in advance for your continued support of our home!

Kind Regards,  
Brian

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Hi Lynn:

Thank you for advancing the beach safety item on the council agenda for July 20. It is much needed and we all support you on this.

I would love to have this expanded to the entire coastal area. As you know I have crusaded a few times for a more wide reaching plan to deal with coastal traffic, parking and respect for our neighborhoods. Please consider doing more as I have proposed in the past. We can upgrade the area for very little cost. I am glad to help in any way.

David Plavin, 2 Surf St.

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It was noted that the Traffic Safety Committee would be the place to address parking issues.

Mayor Doyle noted that Councilor Johnston excused himself from the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

**XI. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE - (Video recording 2:59:40 minute mark)**

City Administrator Bryan Kaenrath provided administrative updates.

**XII. COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND COMMENT - (Video recording 3:02:00 minute mark)**

- Councilor Archer – 60 Bayview Road Sign Removal and not in favor of a contract zone. Signs for the Beach and also signs that dogs be leashed be put up.
- Councilor Copeland – Sign for no smoking at the beach & 60 Bayview Road Sign Removal
- Councilor Minthorn – Devote attention to what we can do to make Saco a better place. Look at developer language in our ordinances and tighten things up.
- Mayor Doyle – School Board representatives Ms. Shea and Mr. Richard will be sworn in on Wednesday, July 22, 2020.
- Councilor Minthorn – Thank you to Director Roth and crew for all their hard work.

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**XIV. REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**XV. ADJOURNMENT - (Video recording 3:12:42 minute mark)**

Councilor Minthorn moved, Councilor Copeland seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 p.m. The motion passed with six (6) yeas.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michele. L. Hughes, City Clerk