



Presque Isle City Council Meeting

September 6th, 2023

5:00 p.m.

Council Chamber

Executive Session @ 5:00 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED by Chairman J. Shaw seconded by Deputy Chairman K. Freeman to enter into executive session at 5:07 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D) to discuss negotiations. G. Nelson arrived at 5:32, C. Green at 5:52pm.

Vote: 5-0

Out of executive session at 5:20 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED by Chairman J. Shaw seconded by M. Chasse to advertise the position of Facilities Manager for two weeks, agree with the 14-placement level and invite Tyler Clark to apply.

Vote: 5-0

BE IT RESOLVED by Chairman J. Shaw seconded by Deputy Chairman K. Freeman to enter into executive session at 5:20 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D) to discuss negotiations.

Vote: 5-0

Out of executive session at 5:37 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor M. Chasse seconded by D. Cyr to counter offer a 2% COLA to current wage scale per year and not to consider proposed language changes.

Vote: 6-0

BE IT RESOLVED by Chairman J. Shaw seconded by Deputy Chairman K. Freeman to enter into executive session at 5:40 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) to discuss personnel matters.

Vote: 6-0

Out of Executive Session at 5:56pm

Call to Order - Roll Call

Present: Chairman J. Shaw, Deputy Chairman K. Freeman Councilors C. Green, M. Chasse, D. Cyr, Councilor G. Nelson and Councilor J. Willette.
City Manager Martin Puckett and City Clerk Kimberly Finnemore were also present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearing

1. Approval of a marijuana license renewal to Richardson Remedies-Presque Isle LLC, with a location of 719 Main Street.

Chairman J. Shaw opened the public hearing at 6:03 p.m.

City Manager M. Puckett informed Council that all the City requirements have been met and have no issues.

There were no citizens comments.

Chairman J. Shaw closed the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor J. Willette, seconded by Councilor C. Green to approve the renewal of a medical marijuana license to Richardson Remedies Presque Isle, LLC. with a location of 719 Main Street.

Vote: 7-0

2. Approval of a marijuana license renewal to Jonathan Martin d/b/a Cloud 9, with a location of 28 Houlton Road.

Chairman J. Shaw opened the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

City Manager M. Puckett stated staff recommends approval.

There were no citizens comments.

Chairman J. Shaw closed the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED by Deputy Chairman K. Freeman, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to approve the renewal of a marijuana license to Jonathan Martin, d/b/a Cloud 9 with a location of 28 Houlton Road.

Vote: 7-0

3. Approval of a marijuana license renewal to Chad Junkins d/b/a Northern Euphoria LLC with a location of 11 Davis Street.

Chairman J. Shaw opened the public hearing at 6:06 p.m.

City Manager M. Puckett said that Chad hadn't called to have the inspection done. M. Puckett stated that we could make a motion to accept the application at the time the inspection is completed or we could table it until the next Council meeting.

There were no citizens comments.

Chairman J. Shaw closed the public hearing at 6:07 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to table the application until Mr. Junkins can finish the requirements.

Vote: 7-0

4. Approval for a special permit for music, dancing and entertainment for the University of Maine at Presque Isle, with a location of 181 Main Street.

Chairman J. Shaw opened the public hearing at 6:08 p.m.

City Manager M. Puckett stated staff recommends approval.

There were no citizens comments.

Chairman J. Shaw closed the public hearing at 6:08 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor M. Chasse, seconded by Deputy Chairman K. Freeman to approve a special permit for music, dancing and entertainment for University of Maine at Presque Isle, with a location of 181 Main Street.

Vote: 7-0

5. Approval of an automobile graveyard permit/junkyard permit for Cowett's Used Auto Parts with a location of 259 Fort Road.

Chairman J. Shaw opened the public hearing at 6:08 p.m.

City Manager M. Puckett said staff recommends approval.

Chairman J. Shaw closed the public hearing at 6:09 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor J. Willette, seconded by Councilor M. Chasse to approve a special permit for automobile graveyard/junkyard permit for Cowett's Used Auto Parts, with a location of 259 Fort Road.

6. Charter amendments.

Chairman J. Shaw opened the public hearing at 6:09 p.m.

City Manager M. Puckett spoke on the hand out with the revisions.

At the August 2nd council meeting, Deputy Chairman K. Freeman discussed a July 20th email with proposals of changes to the charter. Council reviewed the email and decided on the following items to make changes:

1. Reduce the number of signatures required to run for council from 75 to 50 to match running for state elections,
2. Allow for remote meetings,
- 3 Review the language for the rainy-day fund (options discussed did not obtain consensus).
4. Change Warden and Warden Clerk to appointed positions,
5. Change the term Chair to Mayor.
6. Vacancies (forfeiture of office) & tie votes.

Jayne Farrin of Hillside Street spoke in favor of the changes for Warden to be appointed.

Donald Savage was concerned about the emergency reserve.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to move forward the change in the nomination for elected officers by petition to 50 signatures consistent with the State Representatives from the number of 75.

Vote: 7-0

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor M. Chasse, seconded by Councilor J. Willette allow for remote meetings to be put on the ballot.

Vote 7-0

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor M. Chasse, seconded by Deputy Chairman K. Freeman to strike the rainy-day fund from the ballot.

Vote 7-0

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Deputy Chairman K. Freeman to change the Warden and Ward Clerk to appointed positions.

Vote: 7-0

BE IT RESOLVED by Deputy Chairman K. Freeman, seconded by Councilor C. Green to change Chairman to Mayor.

Vote: 5-2

BE IT RESOLVED by Chairman J. Shaw, seconded by Councilor C. Green to Strike vacancies (forfeiture of office) & tie votes from the ballot.

Vote: 7-0

Citizen Comments

Councilor M. Chasse had a citizen request for a blinky light on the crosswalk on Academy Street. Another citizen was frustrated that the road behind Dunkin Doughnuts hasn't been paved,

Consent Agenda

- 7. Approve minutes from August 2, 2023.
- 8. Approve 2023 warrant # 28-#34 totaling \$4,161,681.87
- 9. Application for utility location permit.

Deputy Chairman K. Freeman amended the minutes to reflect the next Council meeting to be September 6th not the 27th.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Councilor M. Chasse to approve the consent agenda items #7-#9 as presented with the amendment Chairman K. Freeman made.

Vote: 7-0

Old Business

- 10. Employee handbook.

City Manager M. Puckett made the recommendation to wait until the next City Manager is hired to make any changes to the employee handbook

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Deputy Chairman K. Freeman to table the employee handbook until a new City Manager is hired.

Vote: 7-0

- 11. City Hall committee updates

City Manager M. Puckett stated information provided at meeting to seek additional funding to design and construct a front entrance to address deficiencies. Committee recommends approval of additional funds

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor M. Chasse, seconded by Deputy Chairman K. Freeman to reengage ABS for a proposal for the front entrance.

Vote: 7-0

New Business

12. Approve Echo Lake proposal and excess funding.

City Manager M. Puckett spoke on new information came in this morning and staff recommends tabling this item.

Galen Weibley spoke the US Department of Environmental Protection put strings on the money we are granted with the material has to be made and bought in America. We didn't have the items in the bid packets.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Councilor M. Chasse to table until the next meeting.

Vote 7-0

13. Five-year fee schedule.

City Manager M. Puckett discussed each year as part of the budget schedule we review the fees that each department charges for specific fees. For Council to review. Capital Improvement book was also handed out.

Discussion only

14. Downtown redesign public meeting

City Manager M. Puckett stated staff wants to make Council and public aware that next meeting for the redesign will be October 11th 6-8 p.m. at the campus center at UMPI.

15. Northern Boarder Regional Commission Award.

Kim Smith Grant Writer gave a over view of the Northern Boarders Regional Commission grant is a federal offering for the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and the northern part of New York. There were 63 applications in the State of Maine alone totaling almost \$60 million in requests with an overall NBRC availability for all states of only \$43.6 million. In other words, competition was fierce. O those 63 applications, 15 were successful with a total of \$11,000,0000 being awarded in Maine. The City of Presque Isle applied for \$1,000,000 for the new passenger terminal at the airport. In order to be successful, our application needed to meet as many of the grant criteria as possible. NBRC priorities included: transportation infrastructure, workforce development, and climate resiliency. Our application was for the new terminal which is transportation infrastructure. As you know, the new terminal will be 25,000 sq. ft as opposed to the existing 10,000 sq. ft. This will allow for 100-200 new direct and indirect

jobs. As for climate resiliency, the carrier is planning in using biomass fuel; the airport will install EV charging stations; and the positioning of the terminal will allow for solar efficiency on the apron. In addition to meeting NBRC criteria, our application also needed to meet the criteria of the Aroostook Washington Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Our project did so in the same areas as NBRC priorities: workforce development, infrastructure, and the environment. Lastly, the application also needed to comply with the State of Maine's Economic Strategy. Our application did so by providing a supporting infrastructure. The Maine Economic Strategy also addresses Hubs of Excellence. The Maine Strategy indicates that in order for a hub to be economically competitive, it requires frequent air service. Because our application checked off all of these important criteria, we were awarded the full amount of our request, the maximum allowed for this category in the amount of \$1,000,000.

16. Budget Calendar

City Manager M. Puckett started the Council discussion by asking what the Council would like to modify the meeting dates.
Council is going to email City Manager about what works best for each Council member.

Managers' Report

City Manager M. Puckett one more notice from MDOT on demand public meeting for phase 2 on the Bypass. It is on our web site or on Maine.gov.

Announcements

Maine State Firefighters Annual Convention is September 8-10th.

A walk for Hospice will be held at the Nordic Heritage Outdoor Center on September 9th at 9:00 a.m.

Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce will hold an Apple Crisp Sale at North Street on September 21st.

Acoustic afternoons in the Garden at the Vera Estey House Museum on September 23rd from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Nomination papers for two (2) council seats and two (2) MSAD #1 School Board Members are available from the City Clerk for the November 7th, 2023 Municipal Elections. Deadline to submit nomination papers is September 8th, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

The City has the following employment vacancies: Firefighter/Paramedic, Public Works Truck Driver, Facility Director, Public Works Director.

We have the following vacancies for Boards/Committees:

Assessment Review, 2-one-year alternates

Audit Committee, 1-four-year member

Zoning Board, 1-three-year member and 1-one-year alternate

Planning Board, 1-one-year alternate

Rec & Parks, 2-one-year alternates
Downtown Revitalization, 1-four-year member
Please see the City Clerk for an application or apply online.
The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Presque Isle City Council will be on
Wednesday September 27th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. (5:00 p.m. for executive session) in the
Council Chambers at City Hall

Adjournment

BE IT RESOLVED by Deputy Chairman K. Freeman, seconded by Councilor J. Willette
enter into executive session at 7:40 p.m. pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) to discuss
personnel matters.

Vote: 7-0

Executive Session

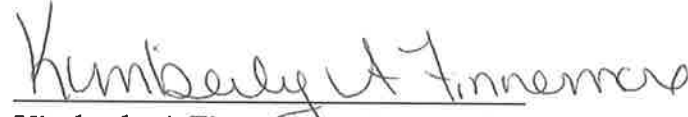
Out of executive session at 8:25 p.m.

Councilor M. Chasse left the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

BE IT RESOLVED by Chairman J. Shaw, seconded by Deputy Chairman K. Freeman to
have a council meeting on September 14, 2023 at noon and adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Vote: 6-0

Attested by:


Kimberly A Finnemore, City Clerk