



Presque Isle City Council Meeting

September 7th, 2022

6:00 PM

Sargant Family Community Center

Call to Order - Roll Call

Present: Chairman K. Freeman, Deputy Chairman J. Shaw, Councilors C. Green, D. Cyr, M. Chasse, G. Nelson and J. Willette.

City Manager Martin Puckett and City Clerk Kimberly Finnemore were also present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman K. Freeman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing

1. Approval of Marijuana License Renewal to Richardson Remedies-Presque Isle LLC. With location of 719 Main Street.

Chairman K. Freeman opened the Public Hearing at 6:01 PM.

City Manager M. Puckett spoke on the Renewal Application was up to all Code requirements and State law. Staff Recommended Approval

There were no citizens comments

Chairman K. Freeman closed the Public Hearing at 6:02 PM

BE IT RESOLVED by Deputy Chairman J. Shaw seconded by Councilor J. Willette 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 K. Freeman opened the Public Hearing at 6:02 PM

City Manager M. Puckett spoke on the application and Staff Recommends approval.

There was a citizen that asked a question about how Marijuana stores are helping with the taxes or what portions comes to the City.

Assessor Lewis Cousins spoke the Retail Facilities are assessed at a higher rate for Real Estate Tax, as well as all the fixtures, cash registers and equipment etc. used inside the store is assessed as Personal Property.

Chairman K. Freeman asked Galen Weibley what the City Fees were. Galen said that Medical Marijuana store are \$2,500.00, Cultivation License can range from \$5,000.00-\$30,000.00 based on the plants they grow. Chairman K. Freeman asked what Convenience stores year license was and there is no fee for them.

Chairman K. Freeman closed the Public Hearing at 6:07 PM

BE IT RESOLVED by Deputy Chairman J. Shaw and 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 for a Special Permit for Music, Dancing and Entertainment for the University of Maine at Presque Isle, with location of 181 Main Street.

Chairman K. Freeman opened the Public Hearing at 6:07 PM

City Manager M. Puckett spoke on the Application for UMPI for all the dances they put on and Stated we have had no issues with them in the past and recommend approval.

There were no citizens comments

Chairman K. Freeman closed the Public Hearing at 6:08 PM

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green and seconded by Deputy Chairman J. Shaw to approve a Special Permit for Music, Dancing and Entertainment for University of Maine at Presque Isle, with location of 181 Main Street.

Vote 7-0

4. Approval of a Malt, Spiritous and Vinous Liquor License and A Special Permit for Music, Dancing & Entertainment for Bethany Graves, d/b/a Lotus Lounge, with a location of 149 State Street.

Chairman K. Freeman opened the Public Hearing at 6:08 PM

City Manager M. Puckett spoke on the Application said it made all State and Local Requirements. Recommended Approval

There were no citizens comments

Chairman K. Freeman closed the Public Hearing at 6:09 PM

BE IT RESOLVED by Deputy Chairman J. Shaw and seconded by Councilor M. Chasse to approve a Malt, Spirituous and Vinous Liquor License and a Special Permit for Music, Dancing & Entertainment for Bethany Graves, d/b/a Lotus Lounge, with location of 149 State Street.

Vote 7-0

5. Approval of an Automobile Graveyard Permit/Junkyard Permit for Cowett's Used Auto Parts, with location of 259 Fort Road.

Chairman K. Freeman opened the Public Hearing at 6:10 PM

City Manager M. Puckett spoke on the Application said it met all Code Requirements. Recommended Approval.

There were no citizens comments.

Chairman K. Freeman closed the Public Hearing at 6:10 PM

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor M. Chasse and seconded by Councilor C. Green to Approve an Automobile Graveyard Permit/Junkyard Permit for Cowett's Used Auto Parts with location of 259 Fort Road.

Vote 7-0

6. Acceptance of ACAP's Housing Assistance Program CDBG Grant Application

Chairman K. Freeman opened the Public Hearing at 6:11 PM

City Manager M. Puckett spoke on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application from Aroostook County Action Program (ACAP). Said Galen Weibley did a great overview in the Memo. The City of Presque Isle is assisting ACAP with their CDBG Housing Assistance Program to renovate 1 Edgemont Drive into a 13-unit emergency housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or need emergency shelter.

Galen Weibley spoke that this is the final steps for the CDBG. For council to make a Resolution accepting ACAP' CDBG Program Funds for the Housing Assistance Program.

Sherry Locke clarified that it is 13 units of supportive housing not Emergency Housing. The folks that will be living there will be long term and have leases. There is a day Center for individuals who need support.

There were no citizens comments.

Chairman K. Freeman closed the Public Hearing at 6:17 PM

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green and seconded by Deputy Chairman J. Shaw to approve the resolution submitted in our packet, accepting the City's administration of ACAP's Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Program to renovate 1 Edgemont Drive into 13 units for individuals and families experiencing need for long term needs for supporting shelter.

Vote 7-0

7. NMCC Community Development Block Grant Application

Chairman K. Freeman opened the Public Hearing at 6:17 PM

City Manager M. Puckett spoke on the Memorandum that Galen Weibley Did.

Program Overview- To help address the challenges in workforce development, Presque Isle DECD collaborated with the Northern Maine Community College (NMCC) in preparation of their draft Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) public Service Program application. NMCC is proposing the creation of a new workforce development program that will be the first of its kind in Maine to house a workforce development program with close proximity of an industrial park. The program will offer support services for international persons and families wanting to be part of the workforce in Aroostook County. NMCC will target resettlement efforts to twelve (12) available units on campus for working aged international persons and families. This approach by NMCC's workforce program coordinator will lead to successful integration of new working -aged families while not adding additional pressure to the local housing stock.

Galen Weibley spoke on the \$80,000 that NMCC was requesting was no local tax payers' funds that are going towards the project. Instead it is Federal dollars that get allocated to the State, Then the State Allocates it to the City which we are the pass-through entity. So, we don't get any of these funds. They just go directly to the proposed project.

Timothy Crowley spoke on Behalf of Northern Maine Community College. Spoke about the workforce challenges in Aroostook County and the City of Presque Isle.

There were no citizens comments.

Chairman K. Freeman closed the Public Hearing at 6:29 PM

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green and seconded by Chairman K. Freeman to proceed with submitting NMCC's CDBG application to Maine's DECD for further review.

Vote -7-0

Citizen Comments

Granville Lamb of Centerline Rd. spoke on his concerns for the Gay Pride Parade/Month, the Drag Queens that are coming to a local bar in October. Granville is wondering if there is away with the city or with whatever organization we have to be able to establish some way to protect the dignity of our children. Granville would like the city to regulate or put an ordinance in place to help common families. Granville is worried about the splash pad, Riverside Park, Rec. Dept. Forum, Mantle Lake Park, and the Library, Having these types of events at them or near them.

Danielle Fienberg of Turner St., Meg Hegman of Dudley St. and Sarah Mclean a social worker spoke on there concerns that everyone has equal rights, The Bullying of children because of their gender identity, the high number of suicides because of the bullying. Sarah spoke on the LGBTQ community and the caring people of the community that take in to consideration where and how the Gay Pride Parade is presented.

Kyle Washington of Blake St. Spoke on having a Transgender child and the Bullying they have faced.

Becky Matenz Spoke on her concerns that the splash pad should be only for Children Activities no Adult Activities/Events should be held there.

Consent Agenda

8. Approve Minutes from August 3 & August 29, 2022 meeting.
- 9.. Approve 2022 Warrants #26-#32 totaling \$2,670,189.53

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green and seconded by Councilor J. Willette to Approve the Consent Agenda as Presented.

Vote 7-0

Old Business

10. Spirit of America Award.

City Manager M. Puckett spoke on the Spirit of America Foundation is a 501 (C) (3) public charity established in Augusta, ME to encourage volunteerism & it allows the Spirit of America Foundation Tribute to the presented in name of any Maine municipality. There is no fee involved, and local officials chose their community's 2021 Spirit of America winner in 150 + towns.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor M. Chasse seconded by Councilor C. Green to honor the Rodney and Mary Barton Smith Family Foundation.

Vote 7-0

New Business

11. Budget Calendar

City Manager M. Puckett spoke on the up and coming Budget Calendar and doing back to back meetings but keeping it to a two-hour window.

12. Schedule a Public Hearing for Dangerous Buildings.

City Manager spoke on the request for a Public Hearing on November 2, 2022 for the Dangerous buildings at 11 Dobson Street, 13 Judd Street, 9 Water Street and 14 Water Street.

BE IT RESOLVED by Chairman K. Freeman seconded by Deputy Chairman J. Shaw to schedule a public hearing for Dangerous buildings on November 2, 2022

Vote 7-0

13. Five Year Fee Schedule

Discussion only

Manager's Report

City Manager M. Puckett spoke on the Budget process and the Capital Improvement Program Book that was passed out.

Announcements

1st Budget Meeting will be September 28, 2022 @ 6:00 PM in the Sargent Community Center. The following Boards/Committees have vacancies the Zoning Board, Planning Board. Get applications from the City Clerk or apply online. The Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce will be selling Apple Crisp on September 222 at the North Street Plaza beginning at 9:00 AM the cost will be \$5.00

Adjournment

BE IT RESOLVED by Deputy Chairman J. Shaw seconded by Councilor J. Willette to enter into Executive Session at 7:14PM pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 841(2) for an application for a Poverty Abatement.

Vote: 7-0

Out of executive session at 7:39 PM.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor M. Chasse, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to deny the poverty abatement

Vote: 7-0

BE IT RESOLVED by Chairman K. Freeman, seconded by Deputy Chairman J. Shaw to enter into Executive Session at 7:40 PM pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(E) to discuss Legal Consultation

Vote 5-0

Deputy Chairman J. Shaw and Councilor M. Chasse were no longer present

Out of executive session at 8:45 PM

BE IT RESOLVED by Chairman K. Freeman, seconded by Councilor C. Green to approve the sale of 257 Chapman for \$15,000 to David and Laurie Lichko and authorize the city manager to sign required documents.

Vote 5-0

BE IT RESOLVED by Chairman K. Freeman, seconded by Councilor G. Nelson to enter into Executive Session at 8:46 PM pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D) to discuss Negotiations.

Out of executive session at 9:02 PM

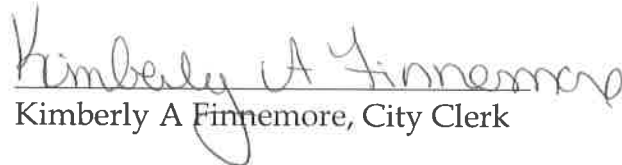
BE IT RESOLVED by Chairman K. Freeman, seconded by Councilor C. Green to approve the public works proposal for employee retention and authorize \$2,000 for relocation reimbursement for the new Public Works Director.

Vote 5-0

BE IT RESOLVED to adjourn by Deputy Chairman K. Freeman, second by Councilor J. Willette at 9:02 PM.

Vote 5-0

Attested by:


Kimberly A Finnemore, City Clerk