



Presque Isle City Council Meeting

May 6, 2020

6:00 PM

Remote Access Meeting

Call to Order - Roll Call

Present: Chairman K. Freeman, Councilors D. Cyr, C. Green, J. Shaw, R. Smith, and J. Willette.

Absent: Deputy Chairman M. Chasse.

City Manager Martin Puckett and City Clerk Thomas King were also present.

Special Guests: State Senator Michael Carpenter, State Representatives David McCrea and Harold "Trey" Stewart; From Northern Light Health/ AR Gould: Greg LaFrancoise; From Presque Isle's Sister City, Epping, New Hampshire: Adam Munguia, Chairman, Bob Jordan, Vice Chairman, and Gregory Dodge, Town Administrator.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman K. Freeman called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing

1. Traffic Pattern Change to Chapman/Riverside Intersection

City Manager Puckett reports he received one e-mail comment regarding the possible placement of a stop sign at the north end of Chapman where it intersects Riverside. The commenter did not feel this would be safe, creating a potential for pedestrians to cross between stopped vehicles.

Rec and Parks Director Chris Beaulieu advised that MDOT informed him that a stop sign cannot be placed at the north end of Chapman due to the location of the crosswalk. Beaulieu reports that the MDOT traffic engineer is willing to work with the City to improve that intersection.

Public Services Director Dana Fowler advised the Uniform Code of Traffic Control does not allow a stop sign, as MDOT had stated. Options include moving the flashing beacon and crosswalk 100 feet south, or removing the crosswalk.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor J. Willette, seconded by Councilor C. Green to authorize the City Manager to secure the services of a traffic engineer to conduct a study of the Riverside Drive and Chapman Road intersection.

Vote: 6 - 0

2. Hearing: Dangerous Buildings

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor R. Smith, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to reschedule the Hearing for Dangerous Buildings to June 3, 2020.

Vote: 6 - 0

Citizen Comments

Greg LaFrancois: Northern Light Health/AR Gould are going to start opening various services for appointments soon. The hospital has plenty of capacity for any spike in Covid-19 cases, and, to date, have had no positive cases at any of their facilities. There is no community transmission in Aroostook County. They have 17 ICU beds available. Mr. LaFrancois further stated that Aroostook County is past the peak infection rate period and more testing will be available soon, as well as antibody testing coming, possibly by mid-May.

Senator Michael Carpenter: Senator Carpenter advised that contrary to rumor, there is still \$275,000,000 in the State's "Rainy Day Fund". Senator Carpenter believes there will be adjustments to the State's opening phases. Given drops in revenue, budget adjustments will be necessary when the legislature goes back into session. The will likely affect revenue sharing.

Representative Harold "Trey" Stewart: Representative Stewart is hopeful for an accelerated opening. Economists are predicting a 25% drop in the State's GDP. The Department of Labor's unemployment situation is "a mess" and will be a slow fix. In regards to revenue sharing, federal funds can be redirected to municipalities. How that will proceed remains unknown.

Representative David McCrea: Representative McCrea states he has been very impressed and proud of County folk for their overall compliance with CDC

recommendations. He is a little concerned for surge of cases when the County becomes more open and folks are moving about more.

Consent Agenda

3. Consent Agenda

- a. April 1, 2020 Minutes
- b. Warrants #12 - #16, totaling \$1,319,390.27

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Vote: 6 - 0

Old Business

4. Goal Setting Session

Discussion only. Not all surveys were returned. City Manager Puckett presented the initial results and will collect the remainder of the surveys and compile the results for the Council for the June 3, 2020 City Council Meeting.

New Business

5. Paving Account Transfer

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Councilor R. Smith to approve the transfer of \$10,000 from the Asphalt Account (009-09-04) to the Street Overlay reserve account (098-01).

Vote: 6 - 0

6. Assessing Update

Assessor Lewis Cousins presented the City Council with an update on his department's regional work with their contracted municipalities. Mr. Cousins also discussed potential impacts the Covid-19 situation may have in regards to setting the tax commitment in July.

Councilor Green exited the meeting at 7:36 PM.

Manager's Report

City Manager Puckett:

- Commended the work of Kim Smith on virtual tours of various historic buildings in and around the City.
- Reports the Farmer's Market is set to open May 22.
- City parks are ready to open for the season.
- A generous donation was made to the Library.
- Presque Isle Fire and Ambulance has received the two ambulances from Pennsylvania and commended Councilor D. Cyr with his input regarding transportation for the rigs to Maine.
- The District Attorney's Office has another drug related forfeiture. Requests approval from the Council to accept the forfeiture.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor R. Smith, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to accept the Drug Forfeiture proceeds as presented.

Vote: 5 - 0

Announcements

- Anyone interested in serving on a City Board or Committee is asked to contact the City Clerk or apply online.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Presque Isle City Council is on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

A brief discussion with the representatives from Epping, N.H. proceeded adjournment.

Adjournment

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor R. Smith, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM.

Vote 5 - 0

Attested by: _____
Thomas C. King, City Clerk