

REPORT OF THE
GORHAM TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 7, 2019

Chairman Hartwell opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. There were 20 members of the public in attendance at the start of the meeting.

Roll Call: Chairman Hartwell, Councilors Phillips, Shepard, Hager, Smith, Pratt and Wilder Cross. Also in attendance were Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak and Deputy Town Clerk Paula Nystrom.

Moved by Councilor Shepard, seconded by Councilor Pratt and VOTED to accept the minutes of the April 2, 2019 regular Town Council meeting. **7 yeas**

Open Public Communications

Phillip Gagnon, Gordon Farms Road voiced his concern about an application before the Planning Board for Plowman Grady Farms subdivision at the Planning Board meeting May 6, 2019.

Ingrid Semle, Gorham Residents for Responsible Growth spoke again this month regarding the Sober Living House at 24 School Street. She is concerned having learned there will be 15 occupants and only 1 supervisor on duty at a time beginning June 1, 2019. She presented an Alcohol & Drug-Free Housing License Document checklist used by other towns when they have such a facility in their town. She is frustrated that surrounding businesses did not receive notice of the facility and they are learning about it after the fact.

Krista O'Sullivan, Village Woods Circle is a Pharmacy Technician and sees drug abuse all the time. The turnover in this sober house is 3-6 months, which she believes is not enough time needed for recovery. She also believes many of these people will be back out on the streets where drugs are readily available again.

Paula Green, Pheasant Knoll spoke about the social impacts the Sober Living House will have on surrounding businesses, which include two daycares and a dance studio within walking distance. She expressed safety concerns for the young children and concerns about how this facility could hurt area businesses.

Councilor Communications

Councilor Pratt appreciated how Representative Andrew McLean responded to his email he sent to all our representatives asking for help with some research.

Councilor Wilder Cross attended the monthly meeting for the Greater Portland Metro Coalition where the discussion continued regarding affordable housing for the Portland area. Gorham was approved to

be the second Opioid Prevention Community following Falmouth. She also attended the New England Steel Band Festival this past weekend, which she really enjoyed.

Town Manager Report

Town Manager Paraschak reminded citizens of the Joint Town Council and School Committee Workshop Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 6:30 pm to discuss the proposed School budget. On Thursday, May 23, 2019 there is a Legal Workshop on issues concerning the Council, which is open to the public. However, the Town Council will not be commenting on any public's concerns at this meeting. A Preventing Opioid Misuse meeting will be held beginning at 6 pm on Tuesday, May 28 at the Gorham High School library.

School Committee Report

Darryl Wright, Chairman thanked the Town Council for the joint workshop held last week regarding the growing space needs at our elementary schools. Looking forward to the joint Town Council and School Committee Budget Workshop May 14th at 6:30 pm. Google Doc is again available this year for councilors to submit questions. The School Committee recently reviewed our transportation policy and made a few small adjustments to aid with clarity of language for parents noting that policy practices will not change for next year. Chairman Wright went on to report that our schools continue to move forward in implementing ALICE training. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. Huge thank you to the Gorham Police Department to provide training to all staff across five schools. We will next focus training on parents and students in early fall and more staff training over the next school year. We hope to be "fully operational" in ALICE informed practices by the mid-point next school year. This week May 6-10, 2019 is Teacher Appreciate Week. Wednesday, May 8, 2019 is School Nurse Appreciation Day. We thank all of them for their support and guidance for all our students. We are seven weeks from the close of school and residents can keep up to date with all the activities by checking the calendar on the school districts website. Chairman Wright commented that education has seen adjustments to our evaluation system for teachers and principals, legislation impacting how we can or cannot collect overdue balances from students in our school lunch programs, addition of financial literacy instruction into our curriculum, mandated trainings on sexual assault for all staff, reduction of probationary period for teachers from 3 years to 2 years and changes to our immunization policies for children. There are three bills Chairman Wright would like the Town Councilors to write to our local delegation to ask that they DO NOT SUPPORT LD 117 which would create binding arbitration, LD 1041 which would give teachers the right to strike, and LD 240 which would allow teachers to negotiate educational policy. Each one on its own would have significant implications to local costs for education which would mean potential for increased taxes. The next regular School Committee meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2019 her in Council Chambers, 7 pm.

Chairman Hartwell opened Public Hearing #1 on Order #9439

Phillip Gagnon, Gordon Farms Road voiced his concern for the lack of planning by the Town for the proposed modulars at Narragansett School. He feels there has been no preparation, notice or planning for them and now the School Department is rushing to get a referendum for \$2,800,000 to push this through.

Janet Kuech, Narragansett Street is an Education Tech at Narragansett School commented on prior speaker Mr. Gagnon's comments. She said there has been a long term plan for the modulars and this has been discussed at length at many meetings. It is in the Town's best interest to move forward with the modulars at Narragansett School to relieve the overcrowding as these students make the transition to the Middle School and then on to the proposed High School renovations.

Item #9439 Moved by Councilor Shepard seconded by Councilor Hager and ORDERED, that the Town Council approve a referendum to authorize the Town to borrow and expend up to \$2,800,000 on modular classrooms, cafeteria space and other related work at Narragansett Elementary School. **7 yeas**

Chairman Hartwell opened **Public Hearing #2 on Item #9440**. There were no comments from the public and the hearing was closed.

Item #9440 Moved by Councilor Wilder Cross, seconded by Councilor Hager and Ordered, that the Town Council approve a new Massage License for Eric James Sawyer, doing business at Gorham Hair & Co., 18 Mechanic Street. **7 yeas**

Item #9441 Moved by Councilor Hager, seconded by Councilor Phillips to waive the reading due to the length. **7 yeas**

Moved by Councilor Hager, seconded by Councilor Phillips and Ordered, that the Town Council authorize the Town Clerk to issue the warrant for the June 11, 2019 School Budget Validation Election; and

Be It Further Ordered, that the polls be open from 7:00am until 8:00pm; and

Be It Further Ordered, that the Town Council appoints the following persons for the designated voting districts and if any of the following should fail to serve, the Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to appoint substitutes:

District 1-1 – Susan Emerson, Warden and Laurel Smith, Ward Clerk

District 1-2 – Katherine Corbett, Warden and Cornelia Loughran, Ward Clerk

District 2 – Martha Towle, Warden and Nancy Kenty, Ward Clerk

Central – Paula Nystrom, Warden and Teresa Sanborn, Ward Clerk

Be It Further Ordered, that the Registrar of Voters be in session during the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 and Wednesday, June 5, 2019; between the hours of 8:00am and 6:30pm on Thursday June 6, 2019, between the hours of 8:00am and 1:00pm on Friday June 7, 2019 and between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm on Monday June 10, 2019, and

Be it Further Ordered, that the Town Clerk be authorized to process absentee ballots on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 10:00am, 2:00pm and 8:00pm. **7 yeas**

Item #9442 Moved by Councilor Phillips , seconded by Councilor Wilder Cross and Ordered, that the Town Council approve the transfer of \$1,132.75 to the Town of Gorham pursuant to Title 15 MRSA Section 15824 (3) and 5826 (6) seized in a criminal case (Docket No. CR-18-3787) and Be it further ordered that the Town Manager is authorized to sign the approval form on behalf of the Town of Gorham.

7 yeas

Item # 9443 Moved by Councilor Pratt, seconded by Councilor Shepard to accept Councilor Phillips' abstaining from the vote to chair the Founder's Festival Committee.

5 yeas, 1 nay (Hartwell), 1 abstain (Phillips)

Moved by Councilor Pratt, seconded by Councilor Shepard to accept Councilor Phillips acceptance to chair the Founder's Festival Committee. **6 yeas, 1 abstain (Phillips)**

Moved by Councilor Hager, seconded by Councilor Shepard and Ordered, that the Town Council appoint Councilor Phillips to chair the Founder's Festival Committee. **6 yeas, 1 abstain (Phillips)**

Item # 9444 Moved by Councilor Hager, seconded by Councilor Pratt and Ordered, that the Town Council forward to the Ordinance Committee, for its review and recommendation, amending the Land Use & Development Code to allow for mobile vending units at farmer's markets. **7 yeas**

Two people from the Greater Gorham Farmers Market spoke in favor of food trucks being allowed at the Farmers Markets and possibly Gazebo Music Nights.

Item #9445 Moved by Councilor Shepard, seconded by Councilor Phillips and Ordered, that the Town Council appropriate five hundred dollars (\$500) from the contingency account to purchase a town sponsorship to encourage Municipal Officials and Staff to attend the next "Build Maine Conference". **7 yeas**

Item #9446 Moved by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Smith and Ordered, that the Town Council forward to the Ordinance Committee, for its review and recommendation, amending the Senior Property Tax Assistance Ordinance.

7 yeas

Item #9447 Moved by Councilor Wilder Cross, seconded by Councilor Smith and Ordered, that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement to extend the term of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Gorham-Windham Professional Firefighters Association through June 30, 2019, subject to the terms of the Extension of Collective Bargaining Agreement attached to this order and incorporated herein by reference. **7 yeas**

Item #9448

Moved by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Hager and Ordered, that the Town Council nominate School Resource Officer Wayne "Pooch" Drown posthumously for the Spirit of America Award, in recognition of his outstanding service and dedication to the citizens and students of the Town of Gorham.

7 yeas

Moved by Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Shepard and VOTED to adjourn. **7 yeas**

Time of adjournment: 7:43 pm

A True Record of Meeting

05/07/2019

ATTEST _____

Paula Nystrom, Deputy Town Clerk