

REPORT OF THE
GORHAM TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
February 6, 2018

Chairman Hartwell opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. There were 3 members of the public in attendance at the start of the meeting.

Roll Call: Chairman Hartwell, Councilors Benner, Shepard, Stelk, Hager, Smith and Phillips. Also in attendance were Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak and Town Clerk Laurie Nordfors.

Moved by Councilor Stelk, seconded by Councilor Shepard and VOTED to accept the minutes of the January 2, 2018 Council Meeting. **7 yeas**

Councilor Communications

Councilor Benner reported that she attended the Metro Coalition meeting and things are moving along quickly to bring Metro to Gorham. The bus roots and bus stops have been determined and she is excited to see the service begin. She also noted that the Ordinance Committee met and discussed a few items that are on the agenda tonight.

Councilor Stelk announced that the Appointments Committee will be meeting soon to review Boards and Committees Applications. She also reported that she attended a workshop with Tom Poirier and Chairman Hartwell on Farm Friendly Community which looks into ways of making Gorham more Farm friendly. She also reminded citizens that the Gorham Village Alliance is still looking for volunteers to help with their efforts in making the Town more vibrant.

Councilor Hager thanked our Finance Director Sharon LaFlamme for her hard work in preparing the Towns annual Comprehensive Financial Report. Gorham received a very clean audit report and was the recipient of the Certificate of Achievement award from the GFOA for the 15th year in a row.

Chairman Hartwell thanked the School Committee and the Councilors for their attendance at the informal meeting between the two which was held last month. He would like to have these meetings each month to keep everyone up to date and informed of any issues that arise.

Town Managers Report

Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak welcomed Christy Young as the new HR director for the Town of Gorham. He also reported that the Department Heads will be turning in their budgets on Friday and he hopes to bring forth a clean and responsible budget to the Council. Ephrem thanked Fire Chief Lefebvre and crew for their presentation to the Council on the Sprinkler System.

School Committee Report

Chairman Darryl Wright reported that the School Committee will be discussing and voting on next year's School Calendar at their next meeting. Several stakeholder meetings have taken place with GHS staff and students and the GHS Building Committee and they are currently developing a community wide survey. There have also been several discussions regarding the GHS building site including removing the federal restrictions on the Tennis courts and a meeting with a nearby property owner to talk about potential use of their land for the project. The School Committee voted to use \$125,500 in the CIPS budget this year for the purpose of moving forward with preparations for possible portable classroom needs in the fall of 2018. The School Committee will receive the budget from the Superintendent on February 14, 2018 and future budget meetings are scheduled. Darryl pointed out that they will be losing State subsidy this year due mostly to increased property values across the State. Gorham High School Musical "Once on This Island" opened last weekend and Darryl reported that the show is excellent. The final shows will be held this Friday and Saturday night. He also reported that the Gorham High School's Unified Basketball team competes against other unified teams from schools in our area. The next game is February 15th at 4pm at GHS. The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2018.

Chairman Hartwell opened public hearing #1. There were no comments from the public and the hearing was closed.

Proposed
Order # 9306 Moved by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Shepard and ORDERED, that the Town Council issue a renewal liquor license to MK Kitchen, LLC, 2 School Street. **7 years**

Proposed
Order # 9307 Moved by Councilor Shepard, seconded by Councilor Benner and ORDERED, that the Town Council appoint Stephanie Strzalkowska and Joshua Haiss to the Gorham Conservation Commission to fill two vacancies for the remainder of their terms. **7 years**

Proposed
Order # 9308 Moved by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Shepard and ORDERED, that the Town Council appropriate up to \$3,000 from the Open Space Impact Fee Fund for the purpose of surveying a recreational trail easement to be conveyed by Avesta Housing to the Town of Gorham. **7 years**

Proposed
Order # 9309 Moved by Councilor Stelk, seconded by Councilor Smith and ORDERED, that the Town Council refer a request to update the Town department administrative service, licensing and permit fees to the Finance Committee for their review and recommendation. **7 years**

Proposed
Order #9310

Moved by Councilor Benner, seconded by Councilor Stelk and ORDERED, that the Town Council refer a request to amend the Land Use & Development Code, to allow varied density in the Village Centers and Urban Commercial District, to the Ordinance Committee, for their review and recommendations. **7 yeas**

Proposed
Order #9311

Moved by Councilor Benner, seconded by Councilor Smith and ORDERED, that the Town Council accepts the recommendation of the Ordinance Committee that no action be taken to amend the Fireworks Ordinance. **7 yeas**

Moved by Councilor Hager, seconded by Councilor Smith and VOTED to adjourn. **7 yeas**
Time of adjournment; 7:20pm

A True Record of Meeting

ATTEST _____
Laurie Nordfors, Town Clerk