

REPORT OF THE
GORHAM TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING VIA ZOOM
November 10, 2020

Chairperson Phillips opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. There were 7 members of the public in attendance via zoom.

Roll Call: Chairperson Phillips, Councilors Shepard, Hartwell, Hager, Pratt, Kuech and Wilder Cross. Also in attendance were Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak, Director of Community Development Tom Poirier, and Town Clerk Laurie Nordfors.

Proposed

Order #20-117

Moved by Councilor Hager, seconded by Councilor Shepard and Ordered, that the Town Council appoint Councilor Lee Pratt as the Chair for the 2020-2021 year. **7 yeas**

Councilor Lee Pratt took over the meeting as Chairperson.

Proposed

Order #20-118

Moved by Councilor Wilder Cross, seconded by Councilor Hager and Ordered, that the Town Council appoint Councilor Suzanne Phillips as the Vice Chair for the 2020-2021 year. **7 yeas**

Moved by Councilor Hager, seconded by Councilor Phillips and VOTED to accept the minutes of the October 6, 2020 Regular Town Council Meeting. **7 yeas**

Councilor Communications

Councilor Hager announced that he received the Town's financial status from the Finance Director and reported that the Town is in decent shape as of right now. He also added that a sub-committee of the Industrial Park Committee was formed to interview Real Estate Brokers that will help move forward with selling parcels in the Industrial Park.

Councilor Phillips thanked the voters who turned out to help re-elect her to the Council and expressed her appreciation for all of their support. She is looking forward to getting back to work.

Councilor Wilder Cross attended the latest GPCOG Metro Regional meeting and learned about the "30 year plan" for Public Transportation as well as homelessness. She also attended a couple of MMA zoom seminars including one on how to create an age friendly community as well as one on implicit bias. Councilor Wilder Cross also attended a seminar on Identities and Privileges and reported that this was the best seminar that she has ever attended. It dealt with ways that we identify our self and how other people identify us. She also reported that the Gorham Village Alliance has urged everyone to shop local this holiday season to help support local businesses. They also want people to be prepared for another "shut-down" if one should occur. She also congratulated Councilor Shepard and Councilor Phillips on their reelection to the Town Council.

Councilor Shepard also thanked the voters who re-elected him to another 3 years on the Council and is looking forward to representing the citizens of Gorham. He also reported that the Ordinance Committee met on October 24th and took up several items that are on the agenda.

Councilor Hartwell reported that the Comprehensive Plan Committee met recently and received the results from the Town wide survey. They will be using the data to possibly tweak the boundaries in the South Gorham Crossing area to protect neighborhoods but also plan for a future turnpike spur and future development. He also revealed that the Metro recently reinstated fees for riding the bus and reminded people of the discounts offered to Veterans.

Councilor Kuech thanked the many Veterans in and around Gorham and is glad that Maine recognizes Veterans by celebrating Veterans Day.

Chairperson Pratt reported that the Jetport Noise Committee met on October 29th and discussed that flights are down massively and are running about 94% behind on flights at the Jetport. They also discussed using GPS waypoints to get around Peaks Island which is a key point for jetport noise. He suggested that if there is a complaint that needs to be filed, there is a form on the jetport website to fill out and log the flight that was going over your house, so that they can track that flight and see what the problem was. He also reported that the Joint Capital Facilities Committee met and discussed RFQ's and goals that they are looking to obtain by this study and another Committee will be formed to go over these RFQ's and goals. He also thanked the many Veterans that have served and defended our Country.

Town Managers Report

Town Manager Paraschak thanked the Town Councilors and Town employees who are also Veterans and thanked them for their service to our Country. He also reminded the public about the reevaluation that will soon start and will be a huge project in the Town. He also reported that the Town is following and observing the Governor's new order of wearing facemasks in public places and urged everyone to comply to help stop the spread of Covid-19. He was recently on a call with surrounding Town managers and the item of topic was how to stop the spread of Covid-19 and how we would adjust if there is potential closures due to the spread. The Town is working on a plan to keep everyone safe. He again reminded residents that the Town is discontinuing the use of Town Trash bags and transitioning to trash tags in 2021. Town Manager Paraschak extended his thanks to everyone involved with the Election including the Election Staff, Town Clerk's Staff as well as Public Works Staff for all of their hard work.

School Committee Report

Chairman Stewart McCallister reported the following:

COVID 19 Update

The Gorham School Department just recently had its 2nd positive case of COVID 19 associated with the schools - GHS specifically - this past weekend. Although we can't share too many details we can say that this second case impacted approximately 25 people who were identified as close contacts and were asked to quarantine for 14 days. Our hope is that our safety protocols will once again prove effective (as they did the first time) and we will see no additional cases stemming from this within the Gorham Schools. Again, to be clear, this is just our 2nd confirmed positive case of COVID 19 associated with the schools over the 10 week period that our schools have been back in session.

Winter Sports

Overall, we've had an awesome fall in terms of our co and extracurricular programs. Whether it is our drama students not letting COVID get them down by putting on an old fashioned radio play, or our athletic teams participating in our sports programs safely. It's been a great fall. Many are wondering what the winter will bring now that we are going to have to move inside due to the cold. Late last week the MPA issued a joint statement with the MDOE, MSMA, MSSA, and DHHS that creates guidelines through which our winter athletics can occur. There are still a lot of details to work out, but these new guidelines basically create a chronology that is similar to Vermont and New Hampshire models:

As with fall sports, specific sports are categorized as low, medium, or high risk and assigned corresponding levels of play. The six levels of play are assigned based on the activity level's own risk (ranging from skill building to competition), protocols to allow activity to happen safely, and circumstances with COVID-19 in Maine. The winter sports start dates for these levels are as follows:

December 7, 2020: Level 1: Skills and drills sessions at home, alone or with household members

December 14, 2020: Level 2-3: Practices and competitions (e.g. intra-squad scrimmages) within teams

January 11, 2021: Level 4: Competition among teams from the same geographic area

The start dates of December 7 and January 11 allow for time to pass after holidays when people may be travelling or at gatherings that increase the risk of COVID-19 spread. Start dates for Levels 5 and 6 of competition will be determined in January. The January 11 start date for Level 4 competition will also be reviewed in early January based upon the status of the public health situation at that time.

Facilities Update

The Facilities Committees of both the Town Council and School Committee met last night to work together and move forward on the Joint Facilities study RFQ process. Last night's meeting successfully allowed us to map out clear next steps and a clear vision for the work. We hope to have a vendor identified and ready for approval by both boards (SC and TC) by the end of November 2020.

Referendum Bond Approval

Thank you to the Town Council for your part in helping us to get the most recent bond approved on November 3. We are looking forward to working with the Town Council on taking next steps. Superintendent Perry is working with the Town Manager to identify an optimal timeline to move forward with the bonding process in close consultation with both Hollis Cobb and Sharon at the Town levels.

Next Regular Meeting

Our next School Committee regular meeting will be on Thursday, November 12, 2020 beginning at 7 pm. The location will be at the High School in the Auditorium. This will be preceded by our organizational meeting at 6pm which will be in the High School Library.

A reminder for School Committee Meetings - as they are currently in-person meetings - that all social distancing and masking requirements will be enforced for anyone attending our meetings as required by current state mandate.

Election Report

Town Clerk Laurie Nordfors reported that the 2020 Presidential election will definitely be one to be remembered. Between Covid-19 and a record number of voters, this election was one for the record books. There were a total of 11238 ballots cast, with 8029 of them being absentee. That was a record 74% voter turnout. There were over 450 new voters registered since October 1st. The State provided sneeze guards, masks and hand sanitizer to help keep our voters and election workers safe. A grant was applied for and received from The Center for Technology and Civic Life in the amount of \$5300 which was used to help with election costs. The Town Clerk thanked the many dedicated election workers, office staff, Public Works Department and Gorham PD for all of their help. Everyone worked together to help provide voters a safe and successful election.

Proposed Order #20-119

Moved by Councilor Hager, seconded by Councilor Shepard and
Ordered, that the Town Council appoint the following people to various
Committees:

1. Council Finance Committee: James Hager, Chair; Suzanne Phillips, Janet Kuech
2. Council Ordinance Committee: Ron Shepard, Chair; Virginia Wilder Cross; Ben Hartwell
3. Council Appointments / Personnel Committee: Virginia Wilder Cross, Chair; Ron Shepard; James Hager
4. Council Economic Development / Capital Improvements Committee: Suzanne Phillips, Chair; Ben Hartwell; Janet Kuech
5. Representative to Greater Portland Council of Governments: Virginia Wilder Cross; Ephrem Paraschak
6. Representative to Ecomaine: James Hager
7. Representative to Jetport Noise Abatement Committee: Lee Pratt
8. Representative to PACTS Policy Committee: Ephrem Paraschak
9. Representative to GPCOG's METRO Regional Coalition: Virginia Wilder Cross
10. Gorham High School Building Committee: Lee Pratt, Ron Shepard
11. Gorham Athletic Campaign Committee: Suzanne Phillips, James Hager
12. Cable Franchise Committee: James Hager, Virginia Wilder Cross
13. GPCOG Regional Voice Committee: Ron Shepard
14. Industrial Park Steering Committee: James Hager, Lee Pratt
15. Comprehensive Plan Amendment Committee: Virginia Wilder Cross, Suzanne Phillips, Ben Hartwell
16. Council Liaison to Board of Health: Virginia Wilder Cross

Order #20-119 was VOTED. 7 yeas

Public hearing #1
On Item #2020-11-04

Public hearing to hear comments on a proposal to issue a renewal Liquor License to JBN1, LLC DBA as Junction Bowl. (Admin. Spon.)

Chairperson Pratt opened public hearing #1. There were no comments from the public and the hearing was closed.

Proposed
Order #20-120

Moved by Councilor Wilder Cross, seconded by Councilor Phillips and ordered, that the Town Council approve a renewal Liquor License for JBN1, LLC, DBA Junction Bowl, 7 Railroad Avenue. **7 yeas**

Public hearing #2
On Item #2020-11-05

Public hearing to hear comments on a proposal to issue a renewal Liquor License to Sebago Brewing Company. (Admin. Spon.)

Chairperson Pratt opened public hearing #2. There were no comments from the public and the hearing was closed.

Proposed
Order #20-121

Moved by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Hager and Ordered, that the Town Council approve a renewal Liquor License for Sebago Brewing Company, 29 Elm Street.

Moved by Councilor Hager, seconded by Councilor Phillips and VOTED to let Councilor Hartwell be recused from the vote on Order #20-121 due to a conflict of interest. **6 yeas**

Order #20-121 VOTED. 6 yeas 1 recused (Hartwell)

Public hearing #3
On Item #2020-11-06

Public hearing to hear comment on a proposal to issue a renewal liquor license to Grand Central Wine Bar. (Admin. Spon.)

Chairperson Pratt opened public hearing #3. There were no comments from the public and the hearing was closed.

Proposed
Order #20-122

Moved by Councilor Wilder Cross, seconded by Councilor Hager and Ordered, that the Town Council approve a renewal Liquor License for Grand Central Wine Bar, 7 Railroad Avenue. **7 yeas**

Public hearing #4
On Item #2020-6-05

Public hearing to hear comment on a proposal to create an Emergency Management Ordinance. (Admin. Spon)

Chairperson Pratt opened public hearing #4. There were no comments from the public and the hearing was closed.

Proposed
Order #20-123

Moved by Councilor Shepard, seconded by Councilor Wilder Cross and Ordered, that the Town Council adopt the following Emergency Management Ordinance:

Moved by Councilor Hager, seconded by Councilor Phillips and VOTED to waive the reading of Order #20-123 due to length. **7 yeas**

TOWN OF GORHAM
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

Section 1. Purpose.

It is the intent and purpose of this ordinance to establish an emergency management team in compliance and in conformity with the provisions of 37-B M.R.S. §§ 781 et seq. to ensure the complete and efficient utilization of the Town's facilities and resources to combat disaster as defined herein.

Section 2. Definitions.

The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation of this ordinance:

- A. The term "Emergency Management Director" shall mean the director of the Town's emergency management team, appointed as prescribed in this ordinance.
- B. The term "disaster" shall mean the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or man-made cause, including but not limited to fire, flood, earthquake, wind, storm, wave action, oil spill or other water contamination requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage, disease, epidemic, pandemic, air contamination, critical material shortage, infestation, explosion or riot.
- C. The term "emergency management team" shall mean the entire group of Town departments working under this ordinance for the preparation for and the carrying out of all emergency functions, other than functions for which military forces are primarily responsible, in order to minimize and repair injury and damage resulting from disasters or catastrophes caused by enemy or terrorist attacks, sabotage, riots or other hostile action or by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or man-made causes. These functions include, without limitation, firefighting, police, emergency medical services, emergency welfare, rescue, engineering, public warning and communications services, evacuation of persons from stricken areas, allocation of critical materials in short supply, emergency transportation,

other activities related to civilian protection and other activities necessary to the preparation for the carrying out of these functions.

D. The term “emergency management team forces” shall mean the employees, equipment and facilities of all Town departments, boards, institutions and commissions, and in addition it shall include all volunteer persons, equipment and facilities contributed by or obtained from volunteer persons or agencies.

Section 3. Team organization.

A. The Town Manager shall be responsible for the emergency management team’s organization, administration and operation. The Town Manager may employ such permanent or temporary employees as he or she deems necessary and prescribe their duties.

B. The Town Council shall review the existing operational organization to ascertain the emergency management team’s ability to cope with its responsibilities and shall approve the Town’s Emergency Operations Plan, as defined below.

Section 4. Emergency Management Director.

The Town Manager shall recommend to the Town Council his or her appointment for Emergency Management Director; this appointment will be subject to Council confirmation as outlined in 37-B M.R.S. § 782. The Emergency Management Director shall coordinate the activities of all Town departments, organizations and agencies for civil emergency preparedness within the Town and maintain a liaison with other emergency management agencies and public safety agencies and have such additional duties as prescribed by the Town Manager.

Section 5. Policies.

The Emergency Management Director shall prepare, under the direction of the Town Manager, such policies as may be deemed necessary for the administration and operational requirements of the team, which policies must be approved by the Town Council prior to becoming effective.

Section 6. Emergency proclamation.

A. The Town Manager shall have the power and authority, upon consultation with the Town Council members to issue a proclamation that an emergency exists whenever a disaster or civil emergency exists or appears imminent. The proclamation may declare that an emergency exists in any or all sections of the Town. If the Town Manager is temporarily absent from the Town or otherwise unavailable, the person designated by the Town Manager pursuant to Article III, Section 304 of the Town Charter may issue the proclamation that an emergency exists. If neither the Town Manager nor the person designated to act in the Town Manager’s absence is available, then the following persons shall have the power and authority to issue a proclamation that an emergency exists, in the following order of succession: the Emergency Management Director, the Fire Chief, the Police Chief, and the Public Works Director. A copy of such proclamation shall be filed within twenty-four (24) hours in the office of the Town Clerk.

B. Notwithstanding the above, when consultation with the Town Council members would result in a substantial delay in an effective response in alleviating or preventing an emergency or disaster, the

Town Manager, or his successor as outlined above, is authorized to take whatever actions are necessary to prevent the loss of life and property in the Town.

C. The Town Manager and/or the Emergency Management Director shall be responsible for submitting a full report to the Town Council of all actions taken as a result of the declared emergency as soon as the Town Council can be convened.

Section 7. Termination of emergency.

A. When the Town Manager, or his or her successor as outlined above, is satisfied that a disaster or civil emergency no longer exists, he or she shall terminate the emergency proclamation by another proclamation affecting the sections of the Town covered by the original proclamation, or any part thereof. Said termination of emergency shall be filed in the office of the Town Clerk.

B. No state of emergency may continue for longer than five (5) days unless renewed by the Town Council.

Section 8. Town Manager's duties and emergency powers.

A. During any period when an emergency proclamation is in effect, the Town Manager may implement rules and/or regulations as he or she deems necessary to protect life and property and to preserve critical resources within the purposes of this ordinance. Such regulations may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Regulations prohibiting or restricting the movement of vehicles in areas within or without the Town;
- (2) Regulations facilitating or restricting the movement of persons within the Town;
- (3) Regulations pertaining to the movement of persons from hazardous areas within the Town; and
- (4) Such other regulations necessary to preserve public peace, health, safety and welfare.

B. The Town Manager may suspend the enforcement of any ordinance or rules prescribing the procedures for conduct of Town business if strict compliance with the provisions of the ordinance or rule would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency.

C. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority or responsibility of any department to proceed under powers and authority granted to it by State statute, Town ordinance or the Town Charter.

D. The Town Manager or his designee may order the evacuation of persons from hazardous areas within the Town.

E. The Town Manager, or his or her designee, shall be authorized to request aid or assistance from the State or any political subdivision of the State, utilize any such aid received, and render assistance to other political subdivisions under the provisions of Title 37-B, Chapter 13, of the Maine Revised Statutes.

F. The Town Manager may obtain vital supplies, equipment and other items found lacking and needed for the protection of health, life and property during an emergency without following normal purchasing or formal bid procedures.

G. The powers of the Town Manager and any regulations promulgated hereunder shall terminate at the end of the declared emergency.

Section 9. Emergency Operations Plan.

A. The Emergency Management Director shall prepare an all hazard Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for the Town, which shall be submitted to the Town Council for approval. The EOP shall incorporate the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) and shall include those elements required by 37-B M.R.S. § 783.

B. It shall be the responsibility of all municipal departments and agencies to perform the functions assigned and to maintain their portions of the EOP in a current state of readiness. The EOP shall be reviewed periodically by the Town Manager in conjunction with all the Town department heads and the Emergency Management Director.

Section 10. Immunity from liability.

All emergency management team forces, while engaged in emergency management activities, shall be immune from liability, as set forth in 37-B M.R.S. § 822.

Section 11. Compensation for injuries.

All emergency management team forces appointed to specific functions, whether paid or volunteer, shall be deemed to be employees of the Town when engaged in training or on duty and shall have all of the rights of Town employees and will be covered by the Town's workers' compensation insurance for the duration of the training or incident. All persons responding to assist the Town as part of existing mutual aid agreements will be covered by their employer or by the State of Maine under the Workers' Compensation Act as set forth in 37-B M.R.S. § 823.

Section 12. Violations of regulations.

It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provision of this ordinance or of the regulations or plans issued pursuant to the authority contained herein or to obstruct, hinder or delay any emergency management team forces as herein defined in the enforcement of the provisions of this ordinance or any regulation or plan issued hereunder.

Section 13. Penalties.

Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this ordinance or any rule or regulation promulgated hereunder, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$500 and the costs of prosecution, including attorney's fees.

Section 14. Severability.

Should any provision of this ordinance be declared invalid for any reason, such declaration shall not affect the validity of other provisions or of this ordinance as a whole, it being the legislative intent that the provisions of this ordinance shall be severable and remain valid notwithstanding such declaration.

Section 15. Conflicting ordinances and regulations superseded during emergency.

At all times when an emergency proclamation is in effect, the orders, rules and regulations made pursuant to this ordinance shall supersede all existing ordinances, orders, rules and regulations, insofar as the latter may be inconsistent herewith.

Order #20-123 was VOTED 7 yeas

Public hearing #5

On Item #2020-1-10

Public hearing to hear comment on the proposed amendments to the Gorham Municipal Employees Personnel Ordinance. (Admin. Spon)

Chairperson Pratt opened public hearing #5. There were no comments from the public and the hearing was closed.

Proposed

Order #20-124

Moved by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Kuech and Ordered, that the Town Council approve the amendments to the Gorham Municipal Employees Personnel Ordinance.

Moved by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Kuech and VOTED to table Order #20-124 until the next Council Meeting to make changes and get advice from the Town Attorney. 7 yeas

Public hearing #6

On Item #9415

Public hearing to hear comment on a proposal to adopt an ordinance establishing conditions for the issuance of all licenses, permits, and other approvals from the Town of Gorham. (Admin. Spon.)

Chairperson Pratt opened public hearing #6. There were no comments from the public and the hearing was closed.

Proposed

Order #20-125

Moved by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Shepard and Ordered, that the Town Council adopt an ordinance establishing conditions for the issuance of all licenses, permits, and other approvals from the Town of Gorham as follows:

Moved by Councilor Wilder Cross, seconded by Councilor Phillips and VOTED to waive the reading of Order #20-125 due to length. **7 yeas**

TOWN OF GORHAM

MUNICIPAL LICENSE ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF ALL LICENSES, PERMITS AND OTHER APPROVALS FROM THE TOWN OF GORHAM

Section 1 - Prerequisites for Issuance

- 1.1. No application for an approval shall be accepted, and no approval shall be issued by any Licensing Authority of the Town of Gorham, if the Licensing Authority determines, as of the date of the application for the approval, that:
- A. The owner or lessee of the premises has any outstanding real estate or personal property taxes due to the Town of Gorham;
 - B. There are any real estate or personal property taxes due and payable to the Town on the premises for which the approval is requested;
 - C. There is an outstanding final judgment against the owner or lessee of the premises for which the approval is requested that is due and payable to the Town; or
 - D. There is any other account of the owner or lessee due and payable to the Town of Gorham.
 - E. For an application for a site plan or subdivision approval, the applicant is a potential purchaser under a purchase and sale agreement and owes any of the amounts set forth under subsections A-D above.

Section 2 - Definitions

- 2.1. "Licensing Authority" means that Town body or Town official who is authorized to issue approvals under the particular Ordinance of the Town of Gorham listed in subsection 2.2 below, as may be applicable to a given matter.
- 2.2. "Approval" means any license, permit, certificate or other approval that an applicant may seek to obtain for any premises under any of the following Ordinances of the Town of Gorham:
- A. Land Use and Development Code, Chapter 1 (Zoning Regulations);
 - B. Land Use and Development Code, Chapter 3 (Subdivision);
 - C. Land Use and Development Code, Chapter 4 (Site Plan Review);
 - D. Massage Establishment and Massage Therapist Regulatory Ordinance;
 - E. Mobile Home Park Ordinance;
 - F. Marijuana Cultivation or Manufacturing Facility Licensing Ordinance;
 - G. Victualer's Ordinance;

- H. Ordinance for Optional Program for Local Building Plan Review;
- I. Historic Preservation Ordinance;
- J. Special Amusement Ordinance and Permits;
- K. Fire Suppression Systems Ordinance;
- L. Ordinance to Regulate Fraternity and Sorority Houses;
- M. Variance Requests on Vacant Property Ordinance; and
- N. Large Outdoor Event Ordinance.

2.3. "Applicant" means a natural person or entity that submits an application for approval to the Licensing Authority.

Section 3 - Exceptions

3.1 Real or personal property taxes or final judgments that are either (i) less than thirty (30) days past due as of the date of the application for approval and are less than \$250.00; or (ii) are determined in the sole discretion of the Town Manager or his or her designee not to be owed by the applicant or owner, shall not be considered due and payable to the Town for purposes of this ordinance.

3.2. The Town Council, upon written request by the applicant, may waive the requirements in Section 1 upon good cause shown by the applicant.

3.3. The Licensing Authority may not refuse to issue an approval because of a tax delinquency that is subject to a pending request for an abatement of, or an appeal of, the tax assessment that is claimed to be delinquent.

3.4. The requirements set forth in Section 1 do not apply to the issuance of any approval necessitated by the disability of the applicant or property owner, including without limitation disability variances issued by the Board of Appeals pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. § 4353(4-A).

Order #20-125 was VOTED. 7 yeas

Item #2020-11-07

Action to consider designating Saturday, November 28, 2020 as "Small Business Saturday" (Councilor Philips Spon.)

Proposed Order #20-126

Moved by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Kuech and Ordered, Whereas, the Town of Gorham, celebrates our local small businesses and the contributions they make to our local economy and community; according to the United States Small Business Administration, there are currently 28.8 million small businesses in the United States, they represent 99.7 percent of all businesses with employees in the United

States, are responsible for 63 percent of net new jobs created over the past 20 years; and

Whereas, small businesses employ 48 percent of the employees in the private sector in the United States; and

Whereas, on average, 33 percent of consumers' holiday shopping will be done at small, independently-owned retailers and restaurants; and

Whereas, 91 percent of all consumers believe that supporting small, independently-owned restaurants and bars is important; and

Whereas, 76 percent of all consumers plan to go to one or more small businesses as part of their holiday shopping; and

Whereas, the Town of Gorham supports our local businesses that create jobs, boost our local economy and preserve our neighborhoods; and

Whereas, advocacy groups as well as public and private organizations across the country have endorsed the Saturday after Thanksgiving as Small Business Saturday.

Now therefore be it resolved that this Council proclaims, November 28, 2020, as SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY and urges the residents of our community, and communities across the country, to support small businesses and merchants on Small Business Saturday and throughout the year.

Order #20-126 VOTED. 7 yeas

Item #2020-11-08

Action to consider implementing mixed use in the Mosher's Corner area as called for in Gorham's Comprehensive Plan. (Councilor Hartwell Spon.)

**Proposed
Order #20-127**

Moved by Councilor Hartwell, seconded by Councilor Shepard and Ordered, that the Town Council instruct the Ordinance Committee to review Mixed-Use in the area of Mosher's Corner as called for by the Comprehensive Plan and provide recommendations to the Town Council. **7 yeas**

Item #2020-11-09

Action to consider expanding the village districts as called for in Gorham's Comprehensive Plan. (Councilor Hartwell Spon.)

**Proposed
Order #20-128**

Moved by Councilor Hartwell, seconded by Councilor Shepard and Ordered, that the Town Council instruct the Ordinance Committee to review expansion of the village areas as called for by the Comprehensive Plan and provide recommendations to the Town Council. **7 yeas**

Item #2020-11-10

Action to consider adopting a resolution formally thanking Gorham's Election Workers. (Councilor Philips Spon.)

**Proposed
Order #20-129**

Moved by Councilor Hager, seconded by Councilor Phillips and Ordered, Whereas, the November 2020 municipal, state and federal elections had an unprecedented turnout; and

Whereas, thousands of absentee ballots were cast before Election Day in Gorham and needed to be processed; and

Whereas, COVID-19 presented unique challenges to the operations of our local elections; and

Whereas, the continued professional handling of our elections are paramount to our democracy;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Gorham Town Council formally recognizes, commends and thanks all staff and volunteers who made the November 2020 elections possible.

There was a motion by Councilor Hartwell to make an amendment to change the word Democracy to Republic. There was no second and the motion failed.

Order #20-129 was VOTED. 6 yeas, 1 nay (Hartwell)

Item #2020-11-11

Action to consider authorizing a new snowmobile trail on the Little Falls Recreation Field Property. (Councilor Phillips Spon.)

Proposed


Order #20-130

Moved by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Hager and Ordered, that the Town Council authorizes a new trail to be maintained by the Gorham SnoGoers for use on the Little Falls Recreation Field Property to allow for better access to the Little Falls Village area. **7 yeas**

Moved by Councilor Phillips, seconded by Councilor Hager and VOTED to adjourn. **7 yeas**

Time of Adjournment: 8:12PM

A True Record of Meeting
11/10/2020

ATTEST  _____ 11/12/2020
Laurie Nordfors, Town Clerk