



Presque Isle City Council Meeting

January 6, 2021

5:00 PM

Presque Isle City Council Chambers

Call to Order - Roll Call

Present: Chairman K. Freeman, Deputy Chairman M. Chasse, Councilors J. Shaw, R. Smith, and J. Willette.

Absent: Councilors D. Cyr (arrived at 5:08 P.M) and C. Green (arrived at 5:09 P.M.)

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman K. Freeman called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Administer Oath of Office to newly re-elected City Councilor Kevin Freeman.

City Clerk Thomas King administered the Oath of Office to Councilor Freeman.

2. Election of City Council Chair for 2021

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor M. Chasse, seconded by Councilor R. Smith to elect Councilor K. Freeman as Chairman of the 2021 Presque Isle City Council.

Vote: 4 - 0 - 1

Councilor Freeman abstained

3. Election of City Council Deputy Chair for 2021.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor R. Smith, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to elect Councilor M. Chasse as Deputy Chairman.

Councilor Chasse declined the nomination.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor M. Chasse, seconded by Chairman K. Freeman to elect Councilor J. Shaw as Deputy Chairman.

Vote: 4 - 0 - 1

Councilor Shaw abstained

Organization

4. 2021 Appointment of Municipal Officials
 - a. City, Boards & Committee Appointments
 - b. City Council Appointments to Boards & Committees

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor M. Chasse, seconded by Deputy Chairman J. Shaw to approve the appointments and reappointments as presented in the following list for the City, Board, and Committee appointments.

Vote: 6 - 0

CITY ATTORNEY

RICHARD CURRIER as the City Attorney per Article 4.10 of the City Charter.

CITY CLERK

THOMAS C KING as the City Clerk per Article 4.10 of the City Charter.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

GEORGE HOWE as the Code Enforcement Officer, Building Inspector, Housing Inspector, Electrical Inspector, Local Health Officer (term expires 12/31/23) and Plumbing Inspector.

AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD

Larry Clark and **James Quinn** (terms expire 12/31/24) to the Airport Advisory Board.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

TBD for a one-year term on the Audit Committee, term to expire on 12/31/21.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

Frank Bemis and **Michael McPherson** (terms expire 12/31/23) and **Gregory Roderick**

(term expires 12/31/21) as an alternate.

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Cindy Thibodeau (terms expires 12/31/23) to the Library Board of Trustees.

PLANNING BOARD

Bruce Roope and **Sean Nordenhold** (term expires 12/31/2024) to the Planning Board.

PRESQUE ISLE DEVELOPMENT FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sarah Gardiner and **Mike MacPherson** (term expire 12/31/23) to the Presque Isle Development Fund Board of Trustees.

PRESQUE ISLE DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

Floyd Rockholt and appoint **Deborah Roark** (terms expire 12/31/24) to the Presque Isle Downtown Revitalization Committee.

RECREATION & PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AJ Cloukey and appoint **Sidney Tawfall** (terms expire 12/31/24) to the Recreation & Parks Advisory Committee.

PRESQUE ISLE UTILITIES DISTRICT

Rick Nadeau and **Brian Sipe** (terms expire 12/31/24) to the Presque Isle Utilities District.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Carl Allen (terms expire 12/31/23) to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

City Clerk T. King administered Oath of Office to newly re-elected Councilor Craig Green.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Councilor R. Smith to approve the Council Appointments as follows:

AROOSTOOK WASTE SOLUTIONS

Dana Fowler and Chairman K. Freeman (terms expire 12/31/21) to the Aroostook Waste Solutions Board.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chairman K. Freeman and Deputy Chairman J. Shaw for a one-year term on the Audit Committee, term to expire on 12/31/21.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilor C. Green and Councilor R. Smith for a one-year term on the Finance Committee, term to expire on 12/31/21.

PRESQUE ISLE DEVELOPMENT FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Councilor J. Willette and Councilor K. Freeman for a one-year term on the Presque Isle Development Fund Board of Trustees, term to expire on 12/31/21.

PRESQUE ISLE INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Councilor K. Freeman for a three-year term on the Presque Isle Industrial Council Board of Directors, term to expire on 12/31/23 or remainder of Council term, whichever is shorter.

Vote: 7 - 0

5. Set City Council meeting times and places for 2021

BE IT RESOLVED by Chairman K. Freeman, seconded by Councilor R. Smith that the regular City Council meetings be held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 12 Second Street, Presque Isle, Maine.

In instances when the first Wednesday is a recognized holiday, or in cases of severe weather when offices are closed, the regular meeting shall be held on the following

Wednesday at 6:00 PM. At regular meetings the City Council shall decide if it wants to call a special meeting at a date and time determined by the City Council.

Vote: 7 - 0

Recess

Chairman K. Freeman called for a recess of the City Council Meeting at 5:18 PM in order to hold the Presque Isle Industrial Council Annual Membership Meeting.

The meeting was called back to order at 5:50 PM by Chairman K. Freeman.

Public Hearing

6. Ordinances due to "Sunset Provision"

Chairman K. Freeman opened the Public Hearing at 5:52 PM.

There were no citizen comments.

Chairman K. Freeman closed the Public Hearing at 5: 52 PM.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor M. Chasse, seconded by Councilor R. Smith to approve the ordinances listed (below) and changes to Chapter 5 - Traffic Regulations Ordinance as presented.

Vote: 7 - 0

- Chapter 3 Council Procedure
- Chapter 5 Traffic Regulations
- Chapter 9 License & Public Hearing Fees
- Chapter 18 Fire Prevention code Ordinance
- Chapter 23 Pawnbroker's Ordinance
- Chapter 24 Sidewalk Snow Removal
- Chapter 35 Curb Cut
- Chapter 36 Domesticated Animal
- Chapter 38 Floodplain
- Chapter 40 Conduct on Public Parks
- Chapter 41 Bike Walkers Path
- Chapter 41A Special Amusement
- Chapter 46 Addressing Ordinance

- Chapter 47 Restricting Vehicle Weight
- Chapter 49 Administration of Government
- Chapter 50 Advisory Board
- Chapter 55 Pet Welfare
- Chapter 56 Changeable Signs
- Chapter 62 Consumer Fireworks Ordinance

7. A hearing to condemn a dangerous building pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 17 § 2851 owned by: Roger Pelkey & Robin (Pelkey) Legassie - 9 Allen Street

Chairman K. Freeman opened the hearing at 5:56 PM.

City Manager Puckett provided background and reminded Council that this item had originally been discussed on June 3, 2020, but due to the Pelkey's uncertainties of how to attend that meeting due to COVID precautions and the online - Zoom format, the Court requested the matter be re-examined by Presque Isle City Council.

Code Enforcement Officer George Howe reported that the building was originally condemned in August, 2019; that the Pelkey's acquired no building permits to work on said property; CEO Howe had seen no change or remediations to the situation at the building; and that there had been no response from the Pelkey's to follow-up requests.

Mr. Pelkey addressed the Council. He spoke of issues with another property, not part of this hearing. He claimed he did not need permits from the City to perform repair work to the building, and that his attorney had advised him of such as well. Mr. Pelkey indicated he had spoken with the Maine Fire Marshal's Office and they had inspected the property and had no issues with it. Mr. Pelkey indicated that he doesn't believe the property is in the condition described by CEO Howe and should not be condemned. Mr. Pelkey provided the Council with a binder of photographs he took to counter claims by CEO Howe. Mr. Pelkey was not willing to have the property re-inspected by CEO Howe but ultimately agreed to allow CEO Howe to inspect if other members of the Council or City Hall were present as well.

Randall Cole accompanied Mr. Pelkey to the podium, stating he felt partly responsible for the situation as he recommended the attorney Mr. Pelkey retained to represent him in this matter.

Councilor Green volunteered to be a part of the viewing of Mr. Pelkey's property.

The hearing was closed at 6:36 PM.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor M. Chasse, seconded by Deputy Chairman J. Shaw to Table this matter until a City Employee or Councilor and CEO G. Howe could again inspect the building and take current photographs of any deficiencies.

Vote: 7 - 0

Citizen Comments

Ethan Hill of Presque Isle spoke on behalf of Presque Isle Youth Hockey and the desire of the group to keep the Forum open for youth hockey programs. Mr. Hill was advised that the Council would be discussing the Rec and Parks Department later in the meeting and would welcome more comments from him at that time.

Consent Agenda

8. 2020 Minutes

December 2, 2020 Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED by Chairman K. Freeman, seconded by Deputy Chairman J. Shaw to approve the minutes from December 2, 2020.

Vote: 7 - 0

9. 2020 Warrants #47 - #50, totaling \$3,903,806.67

- a. Warrant # 47 - \$169,355.39
- b. Warrant # 48 - \$754,471.01
- c. Warrant # 49 - \$2,226,570.45
- d. Warrant # 50 - \$753,409.82

10. Approve Solid Waste Hauler Licenses

- a. Gil's Sanitation, Inc.
- b. McNeal's Trucking
- c. Pine Tree Waste, Inc.
- d. Star City Sanitation, Inc.

11. Approve Policy on Treasurer's Disbursement Warrants for Employee Wages and Benefits.

12. Approve Municipal Officers' Policy on Disbursement of Municipal Education Costs

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to approve Consent Agenda items #9 through #12 as presented.

Vote: 7 - 0

13. Ex-Officio Appointments to Boards and Committees

AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Deputy Chairman J. Shaw to appoint **MARTIN PUCKETT, TOM POWERS** and **SCOTT WARDWELL** as Ex-Officio non-voting members for a one-year term to the Airport Advisory Board, term to expire on December 31, 2021.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Furthermore, BE IT RESOLVED to appoint **SONJA EYLER** and **BRADLEY TURNER** as Ex-Officio non-voting members for a one-year term to the Library Committee, term to expire on December 31, 2021.

PRESQUE ISLE DEVELOPMENT FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Furthermore, BE IT RESOLVED to appoint **MARTIN PUCKETT** as an Ex-Officio non-voting member for a one-year term to the Presque Isle Development Fund Board of Trustees, term to expire on December 31, 2021.

PRESQUE ISLE INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Furthermore, BE IT RESOLVED to nominate **GALEN WEIBLEY** as an Ex-Officio non-voting member for a one-year term to the Presque Isle Industrial Council Board of Directors, term to expire on December 31, 2021.

Vote: 7 - 0

14. Approve Drug Forfeiture

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor M. Chasse, seconded by Councilor R. Smith to authorize Chairman K. Freeman to sign the Approval of Transfer.

Vote: 7 - 0

Old Business

15. City Hall Update

Assessor Lewis Cousins and Councilor M. Chasse presented the Council with updates on the City Hall project. Assessor Cousins also gave a PowerPoint type presentation showing the most recent and likely final draft of the plans for City Hall renovations.

New Business

16. Recreation Update

Recreation and Parks Director G. Cronin addressed the Council regarding Recreation programming in light of the COVID-19 situation. Essentially Rec and Parks is following the Community Sports Guidelines: When the County and the Schools are in a Green model, indoor programming is allowed with established protocols and precautions. If either the County or the School enter a Red model, indoor programming is closed.

Dave Cowley and Ethan Hill from Presque Isle Youth Hockey addressed the Council to express their desire for the City and Rec and Parks to keep the Forum open for the Hockey Program. They explained their COVID policies and procedures and expressed the safety of the program in regards to the pandemic.

BE IT RESOLVED by Chairman K. Freeman, seconded by Councilor M. Chasse to support Recreation and Parks Director G. Cronin to keep recreation facilities open as long as MSAD#1 is in any COVID model other than Red, and acknowledging that if the County is moved to Yellow/Orange/Red community sports will follow the guidelines set forth by the State of Maine (from distance skills and drills to full closure of programs).

Vote: 5 - 2

Councilors J. Shaw and J. Willette against

Manager's Report

1. There is an opening on the Audit Committee. Anyone interested, please contact City Hall.
2. Goal Setting: Need to set some days to determine if the priority is the same or if changes are needed.
3. The City was awarded a second place trophy for Holiday decorating. Special thanks to Kim Smith and Galen Weibley.

Announcements

The next meeting of the Presque Isle City Council will be held in Council Chambers on February 3, 2021 at 6:00 PM.

Executive Session

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Deputy Chairman J. Shaw to adjourn the regular meeting before moving into Executive Session at 8:02 PM pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D) to discuss Negotiations.

Vote: 7 - 0

Council exited Executive Session at 8:30 PM.

BE IT RESOLVED by Chairman K. Freeman, seconded by Councilor R. Smith to approve document 1.6.21.

Vote: 7 - 0

BE IT RESOLVED by Chairman K. Freeman, seconded by Councilor C. Green to enter into Executive Session at 8:34 PM pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D) to discuss Negotiations.

Vote: 7 - 0

Councilors exited Executive Session at 9:35 PM with no action taken.

BE IT RESOLVED by Chairman K. Freeman, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to enter into Executive Session at 9:36 PM pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 841(2) to discuss an Abatement.

Vote: 5 - 0

Councilors exited Executive Session at 9:42 PM.

BE IT RESOLVED by Councilor C. Green, seconded by Councilor J. Willette to deny the Abatement.

Vote: 4 - 0 - 1

Chairman K. Freeman abstained

Adjournment

BE IT RESOLVED by Chairman K. Freeman, seconded by Deputy Chairman J. Shaw t to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 PM.

Vote 5 - 0

Attested by: _____
Thomas C. King, City Clerk