

KITTERY TOWN COUNCIL
June 26, 2023
6:00PM

1. Call to Order

Chair Spiller called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Introductory

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call Councilors present: Councilor Bragg, Councilor Dow, Councilor Clark, Councilor Hamm, Councilor Stevens, Vice Chair McGuire and Chair Spiller.

5. Agenda Amendment and Adoption

Chair Spiller moves to add 13. d. under New Business Kittery Town Council moves to approve placement on Sunday September 10 of signs at the following locations; Fort Foster, Cemetery across from the Congregational Church, Town Recreation recovery Center, approaching the Traffic Circle, small park behind Shipyard entrance on 103, Crockett Neck Road, 103 Intersection, John Paul Jones Park and intersection of Haley Road and Pepperrell Road by the gas station by the Kittery Democrats for their annual picnic.

Chair Spiller casts one vote for adoption as amended.

6. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager reported on the following, Election results, Nominations for Elected Positions, Kittery Block Party, Emery Field and Summer Meeting Schedule.

Upcoming Dates:

Understanding Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Kittery Survey Available Now

There is No Planet B: Climate Change in Kittery – Thursday, June 29

Senior Municipal Property Tax Credit Applications Due – July 1

Town Hall Closed for 4th of July – Tuesday, July 4

Councilor Hamm inquired about past summer election attendance and wondered how this year's numbers compared.

Town Manager responded.

Chair Spiller stated that there is a civic duty and responsibility for residents to remember elections happen every year in June and November. She also congratulated the Kittery Block Party on their successful event despite the rain.

7. Acceptance of Previous Minutes- None
8. Interviews for the Board of Appeals and Planning Board- None
9. All items involving the town attorney, town engineers, town employees or other town consultants or requested offices.
10. PUBLIC HEARINGS
11. DISCUSSION
 - a. Discussion by members of the public (three minutes per person)
 - b. Response to public comment directed to a particular Councilor
 - c. Chairperson's response to public comments
12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a. (060223-01) The Kittery Town Council moves to continue the full assessment on the Town of Kittery Fire Department.

Chief O'Brien did a brief recap of the presentation given at the June 12, 2023 meeting.

Councilor Dow thanked the Chief for coming back. He stated as a Council they made decisions for the ambulance bay based on "what if's" and that they really needed to take a look at the process on how the decisions they make are made and would like to see a cost assessment on the fire department as well as the Police Department so that everyone can see where the costs come from.

Chair Spiller clarified that all of Councilor Dows comments were in regard to the Council and not the Chief or his presentation.

Councilor Clark stated that he fully supports a fulltime Fire department especially with the growing population and hopes that everyone will vote in favor.

Councilor Stevens stated that she really found the Chief's report helpful and would like to see these reports done across the board in all departments. She stated that she felt as though Council approved the ambulance bay as a form of revenue and after seeing the Chief's report, she believes that that is not the case and believes that is what she believes was meant by Councilor Dow's comments. She also asked the Chief to explain how it works with mutual aid did with the Town's most recent fire.

Chief responded to Councilor Stevens question and explained the mutual aid agreements between the surrounding communities.

Councilor Dow asked how many firefighters go to mutual aid calls.
Chief responded.

Vice Chair thanked the Chief for the report as well as for everything his team does to protect

our community. He also discussed the ambulance bay and thinks that if the Chief's report had come out sooner, it may have influenced the decisions that were made. He also stated the importance of a fully staffed fire department and he appreciates all the info that the Chief provided.

Chief stated that when he started on the Fire Department back in 1975 there were 70 on call firefighters and he has watched as the numbers continued to drop and he stated that he is very concerned about the number on his team.

Town Manager stated that it was brought forward to the council on two different occasions with the SAFER Grant what the cost and the need for those firefighters are and at the last vote the Council was not comfortable with the cost of 8.

Chair Spiller stated that one of the most concerning factors with the Days Inn fire was all the grass fires and her concern with what will happen in our town when the rain does stop. She stated that she has done some research and found that based upon professional standards the Town should have 18 fulltime firefighters on staff. She also asked about the Kittery Point fire station and if anyone was staffed there.

Chief responded to the Chair's question.

Councilor Clark asked about the timeline on the SAFER Grant.
Town Manager responded.

Councilor Clark asked the Council what they were going to do if the Town does not get approved for the Grant.

Councilor Stevens asked if the Chief had an idea as to why he thinks there has been such a decline in the number of fire fighters.
Chief responded to her question.

13. NEW BUSINESS

a. Donations/gifts received for Council disposition.

(060223-02) The Kittery Town Council moves to accept a donation from the Officer Sean A. Collier Memorial Fund, Inc in the amount of \$4,500.00 to be deposited into account #3600, to be used towards the RAD (Rape Aggression Defense System) Program.

Move to accept by Councilor Hamm, seconded by Councilor Clark
Motion passes 7-0-0

(060223-03) The Kittery Town Council moves to accept a donation from the Rice Public Library Corporation in the amount of \$65,000.00 to be deposited into account #4060.

Moved to accept by Councilor Hamm, seconded by Councilor Dow

Motion passes 7-0-0

- b. (060223-04) The Kittery Town Council moves to schedule a public hearing on July 17, 2023 for Title 16 – Zoning Map Revision

Move to schedule the Public Hearing by Vice Chair McGuire, seconded by Councilor Hamm
All were in favor

- c. (060223-05) The Kittery Town Council moves to submit a letter of support for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation National Coastal Resilience grant application.

Town Manager gave an overview.

Move to submit letter of support by Vice Chair McGuire, seconded by Councilor Hamm
Motion passes 7-0-0

- d. The Kittery Town Council moves to approve placement of signs one week in advance of the Kittery Democrats September 10 picnic in

Moved to approve signage by Vice Chair McGuire, seconded by Councilor Hamm
Motion passes 7-0-0

14. COUNCILOR ISSUES OR COMMENTS

Councilor Stevens stated she does not have anything to add.

Councilor Hamm stated that on a national level the Kittery Town Council has more upstanding values in how they conduct themselves than the Supreme Court and that impropriety reigns on the national level which is disappointing.

Councilor Clark stated that Councilor Hamm will be performing live tonight after the meeting at the Book in Bar, playing guitar and singing.

Councilor Dow stated he had nothing else to say.

Councilor Bragg stated that if it was within her power, she would hire all 8 requested firefighters and thanked the Chief and his department for coming to support him tonight.

Vice Chair McGuire stated that he echoed Councilor Hamm's comments about the high courts. He also thanked the Town Clerk for the election and the Town's communication surrounding the election. He stated his appreciation on the volunteers with the Block Party preparation and noted that the KCC did an outstanding job.

Chair Spiller did not have anything at this time.

15. COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

- a. Communications from the Chairperson
- b. Committee Reports

Chair Spiller stated that the Climate Adaptation Committee is sponsoring the event at the Rice Public Library this Thursday at 5 pm.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

17. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Bragg, seconded by Councilor Hamm.
All were in favor.

Submitted by Jennifer Wheeler

Disclaimer: The following minutes constitute the author's understanding of the meeting. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, the minutes are not intended as a verbatim transcript of comments at the meeting, but a refer to the video of the meeting on the Town of Kittery website.