

KITTERY TOWN COUNCIL
September 11, 2023

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair McGuire called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. Introductory

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call Councilors present Councilor Bragg, Councilor Clark, Councilor Hamm, Councilor Stevens.

Councilors not in attendance- Councilor Dow and Chair Spiller

5. Agenda Amendment and Adoption

Vice Chair McGuire cast one vote to adopt Agenda as presented.

6. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager reported on the Climate Action Open House and the November 7 Election.

Upcoming dates:

Shellfish License Issuance Day – September 23

Proposed Climate Actions Open House –September 23

3rd Annual Taste of Kittery – September 23

Route 1 Corridor Feasibility Study Info Session – September 27

7. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

- July 17, 2023

All were in favor of accepting minutes as presented.

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.

- a. (090123-01) The Kittery Town Council moves to establish an overlay amount of \$_____, resulting in a mil rate of _____ per mil, and to charge an interest rate of 4% per annum on past due accounts and an interest rate of 2% on overpayment of property taxes, and confirms the dates of October 31, 2023, February 15, 2024 and May 31, 2024, as the due dates for property and personal taxes.

Paul McKenney, Assessor, gave a presentation.

Councilor Stevens moves to establish an overlay amount of \$163,630 resulting in a MIL rate of \$13.61 and to charge an interest rate of 4% per annum on past due accounts and an interest rate of 2% on overpayment of property taxes, and confirms the dates of October 31, 2023, February 15, 2024 and May 31, 2024, as the due dates for property and personal taxes, seconded by Councilor Hamm.

Councilor Clark asked about the tax increase exemption and what exemption that was. Mr. McKenney responded.

Vice Chair McGuire stated that all this means a less than a 1% increase on the budget and that given the economy we are in we are very lucky to see such a small increase. He also thanked Mr. McKenney for his presentation and his hard work.

Motion passes
5-0-0

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS

11. DISCUSSION

- a. Discussion by members of the public (three minutes per person)

Vice Chair McGuire read an email from Vanessa Marquez, 55 Woodlawn Ave, where she inquired as to when the Town planned on replacing the trees removed from the Emery Field Project alongside the Pickleball courts.

Vice Chair McGuire read an email from Filomena Knowles, 2 Estuary Drive, where she reported she does not believe that the additional funds of the Town should go to non-essential programs and should have gone to schools, Police and Fire Departments as well as road maintenance.

- b. Response to public comment directed to a particular Councilor
- c. Chairperson's response to public comments

Vice Chair McGuire asked the Town Manager to respond to Vanessa Marquez.

Vice Chair McGuire responded to Filomena Knowles.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS -

13. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Donations/gifts received for Council disposition.
- b. (090123-02) The Kittery Town Council moves to accept a request from St. Raphaels Church to place signage around town from October 21, 2023 to November 5, 2023, for their annual Holiday Bazaar.

Move to approve the request by Councilor Clark, seconded by Councilor Bragg.
Motion passes 5-0-0

- c. (090123-03) The Kittery Town Council moves to approve the Annual General Assistance Appendices A-H for the 2023-2024 year.

Town Clerk, Jillian Richards gave an overview.

Vice Chair McGuire moves to accept, seconded by Councilor Stevens.

Motion passes
5-0-0

14. COUNCILOR ISSUES OR COMMENTS

Councilor Bragg stated that there will be a September gathering for the Youth Ad Hoc Committee, there was a break for the DEI Committee and The Climate Committee will be seeing the community on September 23 to discuss what we can do for climate adaption.

Councilor Stevens wanted to acknowledge that today is the anniversary for September 11. She wanted to comment on the letter received about the distribution of the Towns surplus funds. She stated that she believes it is the Councils responsibility to take care of everyone within the Town and that the distribution of the funds was fair and appropriate. She also stated that the Seacoast BIPOC festival is happening on September 24 in Portsmouth held at the Vida Cantina.

Councilor Clark stated that Vice Chair McGuire did a great job tonight.

Councilor Hamm stated his appreciation of the Vice Chair filling in tonight. He also stated that he echoes Councilor Stevens comments regarding September 11. He discussed a recent family trip to New York and how the country has rebuilt. He also thanked the Kittery Dems for hosting the annual picnic this past weekend.

Vice Chair McGuire thanked everyone for their comments and support. He stated that 9/11 had a huge impact on our country and we lost many people on that day. He also discussed that there is unfortunately more degradation in adherence to ethics in our judiciary system and people should be paying attention and holding our local officials responsible for this.

15. COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

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

Councilor Hamm stated that the Housing Committee continue to have discussions on implementing LD 2003 and that the implementation should be ready to go on December 31 of this year.

Vice Chair McGuire stated that we are fortunate to be in community that has forward thinking when it comes to housing as the ADU's were looked at in a positive way by the State.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

17. ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn made by Councilor Hamm, seconded by Councilor Stevens.
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.