

KITTERY TOWN COUNCIL
November 13, 2023

1. Call to Order

Chair Spiller called the meeting to order.

2. Introductory

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Oath of Office to Newly Elected Officials

Deputy Town Clerk, Jennifer Wheeler, administered the oath for Councilor Hamm and Councilor Mason.

5. Roll Call

Councilors present- Councilor Mason, Councilor Stevens, Councilor Clark, Councilor Hamm, Councilor Bragg, Councilor McGuire, Councilor Spiller

6. Election of Council Chair and Council Vice Chair

Councilor McGuire nominated Councilor Spiller for Chair, seconded by Councilor Clark.

Motion passes 7-0-0

Councilor Clark nominated Councilor McGuire, seconded by Councilor Hamm.

Motion passes 7-0-0

7. Agenda Amendment and Adoption

Chair Spiller moves to add New Business 15. f. The Kittery Town Council moves to appoint Michael O'Keefe to the Kittery Port Authority for a five-year term per § 4.11.2 expiring December 31, 2028.

Chair Spiller casts one vote in favor of adoption as amended.

8. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager congratulated the newly appointed Councilors.

Town Manager reported on the November 7th Election and thanked the Town Clerk and her staff for their hard work throughout the election process. Town Manager also thanked the Kittery Police Department, The Kittery Community Center and the DPW for their assistance and the behind the scenes work on the election. She also reported on the Walker/Wentworth/Gate 1 and misinformation worthy of correction.

Town Manager also congratulated Sergeant Gary Eaton on his recent retirement.

Upcoming Dates:

Used Coat & Boot Drive – November 19

Housing Advocacy Boot Camp – November 15

Freebie Barn – Closed in December

Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting – December 2

Town Offices and Services Closed Thanksgiving – November 23, 24

Councilor Stevens conveyed her frustrations with the continued discussion of the misinformation put out there by a former Councilor.

Chair Spiller stated that she agrees with Councilor Stevens.

9. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

10. Interviews for the Board of Appeals and Planning Board

11. All items involving the town attorney, town engineers, town employees or other town consultants or requested offices.

12. PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. (110123-01) The Kittery Town Council moves to hold a public hearing on a new Liquor License for Board LLC, 5 Shapleigh Rd, Kittery.

Chloe Scala, owner of Board, stated that she would like to amend the address on the application to include suite 108 and to change the landlord's name to Driscoll Realty Inc. She continued to say that they are very excited to be a part of Kittery and gave a brief overview of her establishment.

Move forth the application with said amendments by Councilor Clark, seconded by Councilor Bragg.

Motion passes

7-0-0

13. DISCUSSION

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

George Dow, 1 Bartlett Road, wanted to congratulate Councilor Hamm and Councilor Mason. He also thanked Councilor Bragg for appearing at the school committee meeting and speaking on the mental health aspect of the Lewiston tragedy. Mr. Dow stated that he agrees with Councilor Stevens statements about the misinformation and told Chair Spiller that he will miss her and appreciated her comments regarding what he believes was gun laws. He believes that maybe the change can start within our Kittery community.

Jeff Thomson, congratulated the new Councilors who were appointed. He stated that based on the results of the election the vast majority of the community is very pleased with the Town Councils direction. Mr. Thomson also stated that he too, agrees with Councilor Stevens comments earlier. He asked the Council to work on the maximization of non-property tax revenue and the reimbursement for military dependents for the 2024 goals.

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

Chair Spiller agreed with Mr. Thomson that our efforts need to be stronger when trying to obtain more reimbursement for military dependents.

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS -

15. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Donations/gifts received for Council disposition.
- b.(110123-02) The Kittery Town Council moves to discuss Council Rules for the ensuing year.
- c. (110123-03) The Kittery Town Council moves to discuss appointments of Council members to standing and ad hoc committees.
- d.(110123-04) The Kittery Town Council moves to appoint a Councilor along with the Chair of the Shellfish Conservation Committee to interview Barry Hayes for a three-year term on the Shellfish Conservation Committee.

Chair Spiller moves to appoint Councilor Bragg to interview Barry Hayes, seconded by Councilor Clark.

Motion passes
7-0-0

- e.(110123-05) The Kittery Town Council moves to approve a request from the Fire Department to conduct a boot drive on November 25 at the Resource Recovery Facility, and December 9 on the Mall Road/Route 1, to raise funds for local, holiday-related charities.

Move to approve by Vice Chair McGuire, seconded by Councilor Stevens.

Motion passes
7-0-0

- f. The Kittery Town Council moves to appoint Michael O'Keefe to the Kittery Port Authority for a five-year term per § 4.11.2 expiring December 31, 2028.

Move to appoint Michael O'Keefe to the Port Authority by Councilor Stevens, seconded by Councilor Bragg.

Motion passes
7-0-0

16. COUNCILOR ISSUES OR COMMENTS

Councilor Hamm thanked everyone who supported him who helped him run a good campaign. He stated that Chair Spiller spoke really well about the mass shooting in Lewiston and is optimistic that gun laws will change. He also expressed his disappointment on question 8 on the ballot and believes that question is a very slippery slope. He also wanted to note that he agrees with Councilor Stevens remarks on the misinformation and he wanted the employees involved to know that Council sees them and that they are going to do better.

Councilor Clark congratulated the new Councilors on their appointments.

Councilor Bragg, spoke about getting the Town of Kittery named a Purple Heart Town. She asked the Council to approve allowing the Town Manager to look into the process. She also spoke about Mainspring's groundbreaking and asked anyone who can make it to attend and show them our community's support.

Councilor Mason stated that it is an honor to be there and said that all the support he received was humbling.

Vice Chair McGuire congratulated Councilor Hamm and Councilor Mason. He thanked former Councilors Dow and Thomson for coming in and speaking. Vice Chair also expressed his appreciation for the Town Clerk and her staff on the election. He noted that he is unfortunately out of town for the date on the groundbreaking of Mainsprings but supports them completely. Lastly, he expressed his happiness with the ethics code that has been adopted within the Supreme Court and was disappointed in the eliminationist language entering the political discourse.

Chair Spiller asked the Town Manager to put together a chicken ordinance for residential zones in Kittery. She also mentioned that she got a message from a concerned citizen about the lack of any kind of signal or slowing mechanism at the transfer station. Chair Spiller wanted to remind everyone that there is an upcoming workshop November 20 for LD2003, the holiday parade is on December 2 and that December 11 is the only meeting for that month. She stated

that she believes that we have an exciting year coming up with a great Council, an excellent Town Manager and an outstanding staff.

17. COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

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

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

19. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Bragg motioned to adjourn, 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.