

CITY OF HALLOWELL, MAINE
City Council Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2019
Web Site: <http://hallowell.govoffice.com/>

1. Mayor Walker called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.
2. Councilors-at-Large Lapointe and AuCoin, Councilors Dufour, Frett, Walker, Circo, and Wynne were present.
3. **COMMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC CONCERNING MATTERS NOT RELATED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA: None**
4. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**
Lapointe-AuCoin – Moved to add item 7A. Trash Can Discussion Unanimously approved
Circo-Lapointe –Moved to change Item 15g. from Protection to Recreation Unanimously approved
5. **OTHER BUSINESS:**
 - A) Acceptance of Gift of bench for Water Street to City from Vision Hallowell and Summit Natural Gas.
Vision Hallowell proposes to donate a commercial-grade bench to the City for placement on Water Street.
Lapointe-Wynne – Motioned to accept this donation. Unanimously approved
 - B) Vision Hallowell request for use of Second Street Fire Station truck bay on October 5-6, 2019 for Maine Craft Weekend craft fair. *Vision Hallowell proposed to use the truck bay for music and craft demonstrations and workshops.*
Lapointe-Frett – Motioned to approve this request. Unanimously approved
 - C) Donated sponsorship for Third Annual Maine Luthiers Exhibition and Music Showcase:
City Council will consider accepting donated funds from area businesses and organizations to support the Third Annual Maine Luthiers Exhibition and Music Showcase to be held in Hallowell over Maine Craft Weekend.
Circo-Wynne – Motioned to accept donations and direct the City Manager to use the funds for costs associated with the music festival event.
Vote: 6 Yea (Dufour, Frett, Lapointe, Walker, Circo, Wynne) 1 Nay (AuCoin) Motion passed
 - D) Event at Granite City Park: Miles Across Maine is sponsoring a Miles Across Maine 5K, September 29, 2019, 9 am to 12 noon. All proceeds go to Alford Cancer Center.
Lapointe-Circo – Moved to approve this request. Unanimously approved
6. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - a. City Council Minutes for July 8 Regular Meeting.
 - b. Roll of Accounts for August 12, 2019.
 - c. Department/Office Reports: Treasurer, Public Works, Police, Code Enforcement, Fire.Lapointe-Wynne – Motioned to accept the consent agenda with a correction to the July 8, 2019 meeting minutes. Unanimously approved

City Council Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2019

Item 10. SECOND READING – FY20 EXPENSE AND REVENUE BUDGETS: Dufour-Circo – Motioned to approve the Second Reading of the FY20 Municipal Expense and FY20 Revenue Budgets as

described in (1) Trio Custom Budget Report Expense 2020 Elected, (2) Trio Custom Budget Report Revenue 2020 Elected and (3) Potential TIF Fund Allocations Scenario 4 7/2/2019 meeting. These reports are in the Council packet. Unanimously approved

Correction: Vote: 5 Yea (Dufour, Frett, Walker, Circo, Wynne) 1 Nay (AuCoin) Motion passed

7. **SPIRIT OF AMERICA AWARD:** Mayor Walker honored Deb Fahy by presenting her the Hallowell 2019 Spirit of America award for her outstanding community service.

7a. TRASHCAN DISCUSSION

Lapointe-AuCoin – Motion – Put trashcans back at Granite City Park, evaluate what happens for six months, add reminders about carry in/carry out policy, and refer this issue to the Protection Committee. Unanimously approved

8. **THIRD READING OF ORDER 19-04 ADOPTION OF THE MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET FOR FY20 (JULY 1, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020):**

Lapointe-Dufour – Motioned – Approve third reading of Order 19-04, adoption of the FY20 municipal expenditure budget as amended.

Vote: 6 Yea (Dufour, Frett, Lapointe, Walker, Circo, Wynne) 1 Nay (AuCoin) Motion passed

Lisa Harvey-McPherson, 13 Jamies Pond Road, spoke about the increase in the property tax rate as “astounding. “ She said that she had two worries: (a) Multi-generational families not being able to pass properties down because taxes were too high and (b) We have created a transient population that loves our city but can’t afford to live here. Hallowell’s economic challenge is more significant.

Larry Davis, 123 Town Farm Road, spoke about the proposed 10% increase in the property tax rate.

Lapointe-Dufour – Motioned to reduce the Expenditure Budget by not funding Item line 90-10-47 Culverts for \$108,000. Vote: 3 Yea (Dufour, Lapointe, Walker) 3 Nay (Circo, AuCoin, Wynne) 1 Abstain (Frett) Motion failed

Discussion about reductions to the Expense Budget followed.

Lapointe-Frett – Motioned for reconsideration to reduce the Expenditure Budget by not funding Item line 90-10-47 Culverts for \$108,000. Unanimously approved

Lapointe-Dufour – Motioned to reduce the Expenditure Budget by not funding Item line 90-10-47 Culverts for \$108,000.

Vote: 4 Yea (Dufour, Frett, Lapointe, Walker) 3 Nay (Circo, AuCoin, Wynne) Motion passed

Lapointe-Dufour – Motioned to reduce the Expense Budget by pro-rated salary and benefits of the Assistant Clerk position:

Budget Item Line: 10-35-08 Asst Clerk	\$14,445	
Budget Item Line Items – Insurance Benefits	\$ 6,317	Unanimously approved

Mayor Walker declared a 10 minute recess at 7:48 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 7:58 p.m.

9. **THIRD READING OF ORDER 19-05 ADOPTION OF THE MUNICIPAL REVENUE BUDGET FOR FY20 (JULY 1, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020):**

Lapointe-Wynne – Motioned to approve third reading of Order 19-05, adoption of the FY 20 municipal revenue budget as amended, reduce the amount to be raised by property tax (10 Administration by \$134, 393) and (17 State Payments by \$1,440) to equal the amount to be raised by the prior vote (THIRD READING OF ORDER 19-04 ADOPTION OF THE MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET FOR FY20)

Councilor AuCoin opposed the \$50,000 carry over. This figure is \$175,000 less than last year. She expressed her concerns that this figure should be a greater amount.

Vote: 6 Yea (Dufour, Frett, Lapointe, Walker, Circo, Wynne) 1 Nay (AuCoin) Motion passed

10. ORDER 19-06 ORDER OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS TAX DUE DATES:

Lapointe-Circo – Motion – Approve reading of Order 19-06, adoption of the FY 20 tax due dates.
Unanimously approved

11. ORDER 19-07 ORDER OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS INTEREST RATE FOR DELINQUENT TAXES:

Lapointe-Walker – Motion – Approve reading of Order 19-07, adoption of the FY20 interest rate for delinquent taxes.
Unanimously approved

12. ORDER 19-08 ORDER OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS INTEREST RATE FOR OVERPAYMENT OF TAXES:

Lapointe-Dufour – Motion – Approve reading of Order 19-08, adoption of the FY20 interest rate for overpayment of taxes.
Unanimously approved

13. ORDER 19-09 ORDER OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS PURSUANT TO 36 M.R.S.A. SECTION 906 BUDGET:

Lapointe-Frett – Motion – Approve reading of Order 19-09, adoption of the FY 20 authorizing application of property tax payment against outstanding or delinquent taxes in chronological order.
Unanimously approved

14. REVIEW OF BOAT LANDING DESIGN PLAN:

Lapointe-Circo – Motioned to direct City Manager Rudy to contact Maine Bureau of Public Lands for design issues related to extending the sidewalks and to install a tip-down on the driveway corner that would allow for a crosswalk across Water Street at the Temple Street intersection and to determine the cost to the City for making these changes to the design.

Councilor Circo said the necessary change would be a curb “tip-down”- a lowering angle at the end of a sidewalk near the boat landing’s exit south of Lucky Garden restaurant. This change would also require about 15 to 20 feet of sidewalk. CM Rudy said “Since the project would be done on state-owned property, the Conservation department would have to approve the work.”

David Wood, 4 The Ledges, rebuked the potential additional pavement and the loss of green space in the current boat landing design plan. He also advocated for a restroom and a dock parallel to the launch.

Circo-Lapointe – Moved to direct the City Manager to enter discussions with the Maine Department of Transportation about design issues to a future project to reconstruct portions of Water Street at the North and South Gateways and the addition of a sidewalk on the Water Street side of the boat launch. He will report back to the City Council the cost for making these changes. Unanimously approved

15. PRESENTATION OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. Age-Friendly – Written report in Council packet.
- b. Hallowell Arts and Cultural Committee –Written report in Council packet. There were no questions or comments.
- c. Finance – Councilor Lapointe and Mayor Walker thanked Committee members for their extensive work and their dedication to the City’s finances.
- d. Highway – Councilor AuCoin reported that PW will review and address storm water issues. A walk thru of the Water Street projects was done. The City has not received a final invoice from Maine DOT. The Highway Committee recommended asking Council to request from BPL (1) a tip down or curb cut at the north end of the property near Front Street and the west side of the property across from Temple Street, (2) a sidewalk adjoining the two to create a pedestrian entrance to the boat launch. The Committee discussed the culvert project. Park Street may need

a skim coat. The Committee urges the City to become involved in future Maine DOT projects located in the North and South Gateways of the City.

- e. Ordinance Rewrite Committee – Written report in Council packet
- f. Property – No report
- g. Recreation Commission – The Commission voted to support Hallowell Pride Committee’s request to paint the wood steps at Granite City Park and review the need and safety of the steps in the spring. Councilor Circo thanked Public Works from HCC for placing poles for trail signs at the Res.

16. FIRST READING- SIGNS SECTION 9-637

Councilor Dufour gave a brief summation of the significant changes made to this Ordinance.

Lapointe-AuCoin – Motion – Approve First Reading to repeal in its entirety and be replaced with **SECTION 9-637 SIGNS** of the Revised Code of Ordinances, City of Hallowell.

Unanimously approved

Councilor Wynne suggested that it would be beneficial in the future to add a dark sky section for the Rural Farm District. He recommended an Ordinance from the Town of Tremont as an example.

17. FIRST READING – NO PARKING AREAS SECTION 4-405

Councilor Dufour gave a brief summation of the recommendations for changes made to this Ordinance by the Protection Committee.

Lapointe-Circo – Motion – Approve First Reading to amend **Section 4-405 NO PARKING AREAS** of the Revised Code of Ordinances, City of Hallowell.

Unanimously approved

18. FIRST READING – SHOOTING OF BOWS, PROJECTILE INSTRUMENTS REGULATED SECTION 4-611

Councilor Dufour gave a brief summation of the recommendations for changes made to this Ordinance by the Protection Committee.

Lapointe-Circo – Motion – Approve First Reading to amend **Section 4-611 SHOOTING OF BOWS, PROJECTILE INSTRUMENTS REGULATED**, of the Revised Code of Ordinances, City of Hallowell.

Unanimously approved

19. MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS / REPORT: No action taken.

Mayor Walker announced that there are three vacancies in the upcoming municipal election in November. Nomination papers are due back Tuesday September 3, 2019. *Councilor Circo requested that Mayor Walker appoint a second Councilor to the Recreation Commission as required by Ordinance.*

20. CITY MANAGER’S APPOINTMENTS / REPORT: No questions or comments from this report.

Mayor Walker requested a brief summary of his three weeks at Harvard. City Manager Rudy spoke of his learning experiences working with 71 classmates all over the USA, Australia, Ireland and Iceland. They worked through cases about Civics and American History and Government. There were practical discussions about problem solving and the difference between management and leadership.

- a. Proposed September meeting at Vaughan Homestead.

Frett-Circo – Motioned to approve Resolution 05-19-R: City Council will hold its regular monthly meeting, September 9th at the Vaughan Homestead, with rain location to be City Council Chambers and reception at City Hall.

Vote: 2 – Yea 2 – Nay 3 – Abstain: Mayor Walker voted Yea Motion passed

21. Lapointe-AuCoin – Motion – Adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Unanimously approved

Diane Polky, City Clerk