



CITY of HALLOWELL, MAINE

Web Site: <http://hallowell.govoffice.com/>

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024 AT 6:00 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor George Lapointe was not present for the meeting, in his place Council President Michael Frett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. COUNCILORS PRESENT:

Maureen AuCoin, Kate Dufour, Patrick Wynne, Walter McKee and Danielle Obery. John Bastey was also present, serving as the City Councilor for Ward 3 until this seat is filled at the next Election in November.

Also Present: City Manager Gary Lamb, City Clerk Lisa Gilliam, Finance Director Dawna Myrick, and Fire Chief Jim Owens.

3. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Councilor Wynne made a motion for the addition of 11A for Public Art Display at Vaughan Field; motion seconded by Councilor AuCoin. Motion carried by unanimous vote 7-0.

4. COMMENTS/QUESTIONS IN PERSON ONLY FROM THE PUBLIC CONCERNING MATTERS NOT RELATED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA BUT GERMANE TO CITY BUSINESS:

- Susan McPherson, a resident on Summer Street – Ms. McPherson addressed her concerns about limited housing in the Hallowell community and the large number of Air-B&B's that could be used to help with the current lack of housing. Councilor Frett suggested this topic be considered for discussion of the Ordinance Review Committee.
- Bob McIntyre, a resident of Perkins Lane – Mr. McIntyre expressed his concerns with the sale of the old Fire Station. He said there are several historic issues that need to be addressed if the building is sold. He said there are over 500 historic items at the old Fire Station and these items need to be addressed as soon as possible.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Request from Larry Davis to Celebrate Hallowell's Italian Heritage in October 2025.

Mr. Davis was present to speak about his hopes for having the Italian Heritage Celebration in Hallowell next year. Mr. Davis indicated that if approved, there would be Italian Flags flown in the City and crosswalks would be painted the colors of the Italian Flag. Discussion followed. Councilor Wynne spoke about his concerns with Columbus Day & Indigenous People's Day having a negative impact on the Italian culture; he said it would not be supporting this request due to the history. Councilor AuCoin also stated she was not in favor of this request. Motion by Councilor McKee to support the request to Celebrate Hallowell's Italian Heritage as indicated with flags and a painted crosswalk, and for the Council to refer this to the Hallowell Arts Committee; motion seconded by Councilor Bastey. Motion carried 4-2 with Councilors Wynne and AuCoin being opposed.

b. Parade Application from Hallowell Area Board of Trade & Hallowell Pride Alliance to sponsor the Scarecrow Parade on October 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. using the east or river side of Water Street in Hallowell. Parade will start at antiques store and end at Granite City Park.

Hannah Berry, a resident of Hallowell, spoke on the request to have a Scarecrow Parade on Water Street on the night of October 26th, starting at 6:00 p.m. It was noted that the insurance requirement would be met and they were hoping to close all of water Street for the parade. The parade route would be starting at the Hallowell Antique Mall and ending at Granite City Park. Discussion followed. The Hallowell Police are aware of the event and have no issues with it. The City Council asked the City Manager to look into closing Water Street for this small parade. Motion by Councilor AuCoin to approve the Parade Application submitted by HABOT and HPA for the Scarecrow Parade on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.; motion seconded by Councilor Obery. Motion carried by unanimous vote 6-0.

6. CURSORY DISCUSSION OF CITY ATTORNEY'S SEPTEMBER 19TH TAX COMMITMENT OPINION LETTER:

Councilor McKee discussed his review of the opinion letter from the city attorney and said unfortunately the tax commitment could not be undone. Councilor Dufour said the Finance Committee made a careful effort when putting this budget together. Councilor Dufour mentioned the impact that the County and School budgets have on the City budget which "eats away" at what the City can do. Discussion followed. The Council asked the City Manager to look into using TIF funds to renovate the Police Department and to also make improvements/repairs on City Hall. The Council suggested the City Manager continue to identify \$300,000 in line items that can be cut. No motions were made by the City Council.

7. REPORT OF JOINT WORKSHOP MEETING OF ORC / CITY COUNCIL / HOUSING COMMITTEE AND PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ORDINANCE CHANGE:

Councilor McKee reviewed the meetings where they worked on getting the changes necessary to bring the Ordinance into compliance. Motion by Councilor McKee to amend Chapter 9 of the Ordinance and to incorporate LD2003; motion seconded by Councilor Obery. Motion carried 6-0.

8. DISCUSSION WITH ACTION WHETHER OR NOT TO RATIFY THE CITY MANAGER'S APPOINTMENT OF SGT. CHRIS GILES TO BE OUR INTERIM POLICE CHIEF:

Councilor AuCoin suggested the Council change this agenda item to 16A for an Executive Session to Discuss Personnel matters: 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6) (A). The City Council agreed with the change to the agenda. No motion necessary.

9. DISCUSSION WITH ACTION – SHOULD THE CITY COUNCIL RECOMMEND A PAY INCREASE FOR POLICE POSITIONS:

City Manager Lamb said there have been no applications received for any of the current positions at the Police Department. He said there are currently two Police Officer along with the Sheriff's Department and the State Police covering Hallowell at this time. Discussion followed concerning the salary for the Police Officers and whether or not it should be increased in order to draw some interest in these job openings. Motion by Councilor McKee to adopt the MOA and increase the hourly rate by \$4.00 for the Police Officers and to also keep one Police Officer position vacant until the end of the fiscal year; motion seconded by Councilor Dufour. Motion carried by a vote of 4-2 with Councilors AuCoin and Wynne opposed.

10. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE CHAPTER 6 SECTIONS 6-525 AND 6-526 OF THE REVISED CODE OF ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF HALLOWELL (1997), UPDATING FEES FOR THE PURCHASE OF CEMETERY GRAVES AND FOR BURIALS:

Motion by Councilor AuCoin for the City Council to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance Chapter 6 Sections 6-525 of the Revised Code of Ordinance for the City of Hallowell with updated fees for the purchase of cemetery graves and for burials; motion seconded by Councilor Wynne. Motion carried by unanimous vote 6-0.

10A. PUBLIC ART DISPLAY AT VAUGHAN FIELD:

Motion by Councilor Wynne to approve the project pending a review by the Recreation Committee; motion seconded by Councilor McKee. Discussion followed. Deb Fhay from the Arts & Cultural Committee spoke about the art work that would be displayed at Vaughan Field. She said the project is all paid for and the art will be displayed on the large stones. Motion carried by unanimous vote 6-0.

11. MMA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING & VOTING DELEGATES CREDENTIALS:

The Council removed this item from the agenda.

12. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. City Council Meeting Minutes: March 11, 2024
- b. Roll of Accounts for September 2024 for the amount of \$669,585.72.
- c. Department/Office Reports: Treasurer, Public Works

Motion by Councilor McKee for the Council to approve the consent agenda as presented; motion seconded by Councilor Obery. Motion carried by unanimous vote 6-0.

13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Lamb reviewed his report which included a brief discussion about DEI Training for City Employees and the maintenance of storm water drains around the city.

14. CONSENT AGENDA – PRESENTATION OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. Age-Friendly Committee
- b. Tree Board

Motion by Councilor McKee for the Council to approve the consent agenda as presented, motion seconded by Councilor Obery. Motion carried by unanimous vote 6-0.

15. MAYOR'S REPORT/APPOINTMENTS:

There was no Mayor's Report or Appointments for this meeting.

15A. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:02 p.m., motion by Councilor AuCoin to enter into Executive Session and to include City Manager Gary Lamb; motion seconded by Councilor Obery. Motion carried by unanimous vote 6-0.

At 8:44 p.m., motion by Councilor Obery to leave Executive Session; motion seconded by Walter McKee. Motion carried by unanimous vote 6-0.

Discussion followed concerning the appointment of an Interim Police Chief until the position is permanently filled. Motion by Councilor McKee to appoint Police Officer Christopher Giles as the Interim Police Chief, motion seconded by Councilor Obery. Motion was tied 3-3; Council President Michael Frett, who was filling in for the Mayor during this meeting, broke the tie vote and voted in favor of the appointment of Christopher Giles as the Interim Police Chief.

16. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Councilor Dufour to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Councilor McKee. Motion carried by unanimous vote 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lisa J. Gilliam, City Clerk