



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

June 08th, 2020 | 6:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84581857085>

Council Members Present: Ann McGonigle Santos, Chair; Julie Smith-Galvin, Vice-Chair; Mehreen N. Butt; Jonathan P. Chines; Paul R. DiNocco and Edward F. Dombroski, Jr.

Council Member Absent: Peter J. May.

Administration Present: Sherri A. Dalton, Town Council Clerk; Stephen P. Maio, Town Administrator; Town Counsel Thomas Mullen.

Call to Order: Councilor Santos called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Councilor Santos led the body in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Engagement: John Ross of 1 Eaton Street and Vice-President of the Community Partnership participated via Zoom and would like to discuss at the next Town Council meeting of June 22nd, 2020 some concept conceptual plans for a multi organizational effort in the downtown area in the later months.

Eric Bertrand of 41 Crescent Street, who is also the owner of Wakefield Computer Hospital participated via Zoom to portray his disgust for the proposed plans for outdoor restaurant dining. He was hoping that all of Main Street and Water Street would be used fully for the restaurants.

Dwight Dunning of 695 Main Street participated via Zoom agreed with Eric Bertrand's comments.

William Pitman, owner of Omelette Headquarters submitted comments via email stating he is interested in having outdoor dining on the side of their building.

Rich Bruno of 148 Montrose Avenue submitted comments via email stating that he would like to change how the town votes on issues going forward as his tax bill has increased and would like to make public voting on issues over a certain dollar amount.

Sylvia Scharf of 69 Pleasant Street submitted comments via email stating that when a call is placed to 911, police, fire and an ambulance is dispatched to the location. She asked if they were a way to separate these services to only get what you need given that the presence of police is a source of anxiety to many.

Christina Joseph, a graduating student at Wakefield Memorial High School who will be attending Temple University in the Fall studying Legal Studies. She spoke about going through the Wakefield School system being a black kid in a predominantly white school. She became involved with social justice and believes things have gotten better in Wakefield particularly with the walk yesterday and hopes that events like this continues.



Rada Frohlichstein acknowledged and applauded the idea of helping restaurants with outdoor dining but asked that retail stores are not forgotten about.

Maria Muti, Chair of the Human Rights Commission read a statement of apology regarding a recent incident that took place during the May 7, 2020 Human Rights Pride Subcommittee meeting where commission members engaged in dialog that was inappropriate and hurtful.

Approval of Minutes: Councilor DiNocco motioned to approve the May 28, 2020 regular Town Council Meeting Minutes. Councilor Chines seconded. Motion passed 6-o-o by a roll call vote.

Police Officer Training: Chief Skory briefly discussed the protocol of when someone in Wakefield calls 911 for assistance. The dispatching officer also contacts the officer whose patrol route that is to respond as they are trained in basic first aid and CPR. Chief Skory also discussed Wakefield Police Officer training. He stated that Wakefield is a state certified police agency which requires them to have the most up-to-date policies. Officers are mandated to receive 40-hours of in-service training every year. Councilor Dombroski stated that Wakefield has tremendous leadership. Councilor Butt asked that the training that was done in 2015 be done again as it is not a one-time touchpoint. Councilor Chines asked that a future agenda item have the annual review of force incidents as it would be a helpful exercise to go through.

COVID-19 Updates: Hopefully in the near future there will be community testing for all stated Town Administrator Maio. Town Hall will be opening to the public next Monday June 15th, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. by appointment only but most business can be done either electronically or by phone.

The proposal for outdoor restaurant dining was presented by Town Administrator Maio along with map locations for specific restaurants; use of streets and sidewalk areas per the plans; temporary license agreement and sidewalk and street use permit. He proposed the hours from Thursday's at Noon through 10:00 p.m. Sunday's for the closure of certain public parking spaces and public ways. Councilor Chines motioned to approve the use of streets and sidewalk areas per the plans presented. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Councilor Dombroski amended the motion to approve the use of streets and sidewalk areas per the plans subject to minor variations as the Town Administrator may deem appropriate. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 6-o-o by a roll call vote. Councilor Chines stressed that this is something new and if this does not work he would advocate for thinking differently on how this is approached. Councilor Dombroski motioned to approve the temporary hours from Thursday's at Noon through Sunday's at 10:00 p.m. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 6-o-o by a roll call vote. Councilor DiNocco motioned to designate the Town Administrator with input from the Emergency Management Director and Health Director to approve the alteration of liquor licenses, food service permits and temporary license agreements. Councilor Dombroski seconded. Motion passed 6-o-o by roll call vote. Councilor Chines motioned to allow retail businesses to enter the public way provided that access is sufficient via Department of Public Works and ADA requirements. Councilor Dombroski seconded. Motion passed 6-o-o by a roll call vote.

There are two (2) Town Meeting Warrant Articles that will be lower than what was actually talked about. The Refuse Article will be 2.1 million dollars and the New Salem Street Drainage Article will be \$500,000.00.

Donation: Councilor DiNocco motioned to accept and expend a gift or gifts to the Library in the amount of \$7,125.00 from various donors with thanks. Councilor Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 6-o-o by a roll call vote.

Announcements: Councilor Chines noted the student march was inspiring and moving and recognized and thanked the students that organized the event; early ballot applications are still being collected by the Town Clerk's office; his monthly office hours are Saturday June 13th, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. on Facebook Live.

Councilor Smith-Galvin also noted the student march was inspiring.

Councilor Butt also noted the march was a great day; congratulated the seniors.

Councilor Dombroski made everyone aware of the Public Safety Building forum that will be Wednesday evening and will be broadcasted from WCAT; he noted the discussions that have been happening online today relating to the Human Rights Commission Pride Day Subcommittee meeting that took place on May 7, 2020 in which the comments were disappointing and disgraceful and asked Councilor Santos to begin a dialogue with the School Committee to determine how to best address this issue and prevent anything like this from ever happening again. Councilor Santos agreed that we could all do better.

Councilor Santos agreed that we could all do better and expressed sympathy for it happening as it affected some other folks as well; recognized a great day the student march was and also the senior car parade.

Matters Not Anticipated: Councilor Dombroski motioned to appoint Jack Dubow to the Youth Council for a one-year term through June 30, 2021. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 6-o-o by a roll call vote.

Adjournment: At 8:19 p.m. Councilor Smith-Galvin motioned to adjourn. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 6-o-o by a roll call vote.

Next Council Meeting: The next regular Town Council meeting is June 22, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri A. Dalton
Town Council Clerk