Regular Council Meeting

March 28, 2022

Chairman Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., with all councilors present except Councilor Harmon and Councilor McLaughlin were present through ZOOM.

Public Comments: None.

**I. Minutes: It was moved by Councilor Tortello, seconded by Councilor Lake, that the Regular Council Meeting of March 14, 2022, be approved as presented, with all in favor.**

II. Old Business

**A. (020222-2) Chairman Robinson declared the Public Hearing open on the following: The Town of Houlton ordains that taxes are due and payable when rendered and no later than October 15, 2022, and delinquent taxes shall bear interest at the rate of 4% per annum from and after October 15, 2022 until paid in full, such interest to be added to and become part of the taxes. (Note: this is in accordance with MRSA 36, Sec. 505.4)**

**There being no public comments, the Chairman closed the Public Hearing.**

**It was moved by Councilor Lake, seconded by Councilor Tortello, to approve the order.**

**Town Manager Anderson noted that this is an annual requirement governed by State Statute.**

**Vote to approve the order was taken as follows: Councilor McLaughlin, yes; Councilor Horvath, yes; Councilor Harmon, yes; Councilor Peters, yes; Councilor Lake, yes; Councilor Tortello, yes.**

**The order passed.**

**B. (020222-3) Chairman Robinson declared the Public Hearing open on the following: the Town of Houlton ordains that taxes in excess of the final assessment shall be repaid from the date of overpayment at 1% interest in accordance with MRSA 36, Sec. 506A.**

**There being no public comments, the Chairman closed the Public Hearing.**

**It was moved by Councilor Lake, seconded by Councilor Tortello, to approve the order.**

**Town Manager Anderson noted that this is also an annual requirement.**

**Vote to approve the order was taken as follows; Councilor Tortello, yes; Councilor Lake, yes; Councilor Peters, yes; Councilor Harmon, yes; Councilor Horvath, yes; Councilor McLaughlin, yes.**

**The order passed.**

**III. New Business**

**A. (030222-1) It was moved by Councilor Tortello, seconded by Councilor Lake, to table this order until the next regular meeting: Council appoints \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to the RSU#29 School Board until the next regular Municipal Election.**

**Chairman Robinson noted that no names have been submitted as of this time.**

**Vote to table this order until the next meeting was taken as follows: Councilor McLaughlin, yes; Councilor Horvath, yes; Councilor Harmon, yes; Councilor Peters, yes; Councilor Lake, yes; Councilor Tortello, yes.**

**Order was tabled.**

**B. (030222-2) Chairman Robinson declared the Public Hearing open on the following: Council approves the application for a Victualer’s License by James Souza, d/b/a American Dream Pizza Hut, located at 136 North Street.**

**There being no public comments, the Chairman closed the Public Hearing.**

**On motion by Councilor Lake, seconded by Councilor Tortello, to approve the order, vote was taken as follows: Councilor McLaughlin, yes; Councilor Horvath, yes; Councilor Harmon, yes; Councilor Peters, yes; Councilor Lake, yes; Councilor Tortello, yes.**

**The order passed.**

**C. (030222-3) It was moved by Councilor Lake, seconded by Councilor Tortello, that Council approve execution of the Construction Area Agreement with Maine Department of Transportation for Project: 025153.00 & 025155.00 for Interstate 95 Northbound and Southbound Aroostook County.**

**Town Manager Anderson explained that this is a requirement of DOT and been reviewed by the Public Works Director.**

**Councilor Harmon asked the location of the project and if any travel would be over posted roads.**

**Public Works Director Chris Stewart said that the construction area is on I-95 and road limits would be removed by that time.**

**Vote to approve the order was taken as follows: Councilor Tortello, yes; Councilor Lake, yes; Councilor Peters, yes; Councilor Harmon, yes; Councilor Horvath, yes; Councilor McLaughlin, yes.**

**The order passed.**

**D. (030222-4) It was moved by Councilor Tortello, seconded by Councilor Lake, that Council confirm the Town Manager’s appointment of Kimberly M. Denbow as Treasurer for the Town of Houlton.**

**Town Manager Anderson introduced Kim and looks forward to working with her.**

**Vote to approve the order was taken as follows: Councilor McLaughlin, yes; Councilor Horvath, yes; Councilor Harmon, yes; Councilor Peters, yes; Councilor Lake, yes; Councilor Tortello, yes.**

**The order passed.**

**IV. Discussion and Reports**

**A. Town Manager’s Reports.**

**Town Manager Anderson sincerely thanked the many departments and organizations that assisted the Town during the tragic fire on Mechanic Street and assisted the families that were affected.**

**B. Councilors’ Remarks.**

**Councilor Tortello thanked the Town Manager for her comments. She pointed out that affordable housing is difficult to find right now and suggested that it might be an issue to focus on in the coming year. She also suggested that Chief Cone review if there were any shortfalls in their equipment that should be addressed in the future.**

**Councilors also thanked the community and organizations for all coming together and expressed condolences to the family.**

**V. Adjournment: On motion by Councilor Lake, seconded by Councilor Tortello, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m., with all in favor.**

**Signed,**

**Cathy J. O’Leary**

**Recording Secretary**

**The minutes of the meeting as presented and/or corrected became a part of the official Town of Houlton records on April 11, 2022.**