

COUNCIL MINUTES OF
February 8, 2024

COUNCIL PRESENT: Elijah Ames, Marcia Delaware, Andrew Bermudez, Adam Briggs, Danny Hutchins, Levi Ladd and Heidi Kinney

EXCUSED ABSCENSE: NONE

I. PUBLIC HEARING

NONE

II. MINUTES

1. Approve/Amend Council Minutes of January 11, 2024

Motion to approve: **Andrew Bermudez**

Second: **Levi Ladd**

Vote: 5-2 (Ladd & Kinney abstain), motion passes

III. NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS, & ELECTIONS

NONE

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Manager's Report

Trampas King thanked everyone for coming and started by saying that the Dexter Fish & Game will be hosting the fishing derby on the 17th & 18th of February. There are usually four to five hundred people there and it is very fun and exciting. There is a raffle with great prizes and tickets can be bought now at P.J.'s Bait Shop and also that weekend at Lakeshore Restaurant. This is their biggest fundraiser, and they always make a donation to the Hooked-on Fishing event by the Kiwanis. **Mr. King** stated that the Town will be receiving a new float dock for the little lake through a grant from the State. He went on to say that the dirt roads are getting very soft, and they will be posting the roads on Monday so hopefully they don't soften up a lot over the weekend. **Mr. King** thanked the Highway and Police departments and stated the Police are starting to see a lot more domestic violence. **Mr. King** asked everyone to keep an eye on their neighbors.

2. Departmental Reports

Marcia Delaware commented on the event at the library called A Blind Date with a Book and thought it was a great idea.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Order A2024-06 Accept Donation from Hartley Charitable Foundation

BE IT ORDERED that the Dexter Town Council hereby accepts the generous donation from the Hartley Family Charitable Fund in the amount of \$1800.00.

Filed February 8, 2024
ELIJAH AMES

Second: **Heidi Kinney**

Trampas King stated that the money is to be used for things to better the Town that might not necessarily be things tax dollars should be spent on. In the past it has been used for banners downtown, the summer work camp, and most recently, the mural at the Police Station.

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

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2. Order A2024-07 Transfer Money from Highway Equipment Reserve

BE IT ORDERED, that the Dexter Town Council hereby authorizes the Finance Officer to transfer \$27,500 from Highway Reserve Account #R130-10-402-13 to Highway New Equipment Account #R105-01-507-10.

Filed February 8, 2024

HEIDI KINNEY

Second: **Elijah Ames**

Trampas King stated that we bought the truck at the last meeting. It is a 2010 with 57,000 miles. The interior looks brand new although there is rust underneath due to salt on the roads. They will sell one of the other trucks and that money will be put back into the account.

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

3. Order A2024-08 Appointment of Treasurer

BE IT ORDERED, that the Dexter Town Council hereby approve the appointment of Trampas King as Treasurer for the Town of Dexter for the year ending December 31, 2024.

Filed February 8, 2024

ANDREW BERMUDEZ

Second: **Danny Hutchins**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

4. Order A2024-09 Tax Payment Extension

BE IT ORDERED, that the Dexter Town Council, pursuant to Chapter 2, Administration; Article VII Sec. 2-192 of the Dexter Code of Ordinances, hereby extends until March 6, 2024 the time period for owners of record and lien holders to bring their accounts current. Owners of record and lien holders are required to make full payment of all property taxes and costs assessed against properties that have tax liens that mature on February 5, 2024. Municipal Quit Claim deeds will be issued at the April 11, 2024 meeting on properties that have satisfied full payment of their taxes. Action will be taken to dispose of any remaining properties with outstanding tax balances with matured liens.

Filed February 08, 2024

DANNY HUTCHINS

Second: **Levi Ladd**

Trampas King informed the Council that they all had a packet with all the accounts, and it shows all three years that would be due in the thirty days. The owner would get the property back if paid. **Mr. King** stated that we ended up with eleven properties but two of them are trailers that we don't want. **Levi Ladd** asked if the owners had been notified. **Mr. King** stated that we had, and the paperwork had said that it foreclosed on Monday. He had asked the council for an extension because of the office being closed on Monday but it leads to more problems if we don't follow the rules that are in place.

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

5. Discussion on Ordinance Change – Article VII. Management of Town-Owned property

Trampas King explained that Maine and Minnesota are the only two States that sell a tax acquired property and keep the proceeds. The Supreme Court ruled that this was not legal so the

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rules need to be changed. The homeowner is now given ninety days to respond in writing if they would like their property to be sold by a realtor. If we don't hear from them, we can sell the property however we would like. The new laws require that any amount in excess of taxes owed, administrative fees, realtor fees, lawyer fees etc. will need to be returned to the property owner. Also, we will now have to take the highest bid or offer. The State still has a lot of details to work out so the Ordinance change will be a work in progress with more changes to come as new laws come out. The Council discussed the new ordinance and made some changes.

Andrew Bermudez made a motion to move the proposal to March for Public Hearing

Second: **Adam Briggs**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

VI. PUBLIC FORUM

Theresa McManus addressed the Council asking if they would consider recording the Council meetings and putting them on YouTube where everyone can see them. She stated that it would cut down on the he said/she said situations. **Ms. McManus** went on to address the issue of solar farms again. **Marcia Delaware** stated that it is currently in the hands of the Planning Board.

Susan Reed, Council Secretary, informed everyone that the Planning Board had scheduled a meeting for March to discuss it. The meeting will be on March 22nd at 6:30.

Amanda Mancuso addressed the Council and stated that the Highway crew does a fantastic job plowing when they do. They have only been plowing every other storm. They do the #10 Road to Pleasant Ridge but don't do their portion of the road. She stated that the end of the driveway and into the road is very icy and it is an accident waiting to happen. She also informed the Council that there was never a mirror put up and the trees weren't cut. **Marcia Delaware** stated that the Town Manager would check with the Highway Department to see what is going on.

Andrew Bermudez made a motion to go into executive session per MRSA 405 6 (a) at 7:30pm

Second: **Heidi Kinney**

Vote: unanimous in favor, motion passes

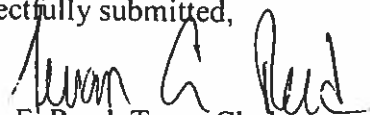
Andrew Bermudez made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:15pm

Second: **Adam Briggs**

Levi Ladd made a motion to adjourn at 8:16pm

Second: **Andrew Bermudez**

Respectfully submitted,


Susan E. Reed, Town Clerk

