

**COUNCIL MINUTES OF
August 10, 2023**

COUNCIL PRESENT: Charles Ellms, Marcia Delaware, Adam Briggs, Heidi Kinney, Andrew Bermudez, and Levi Ladd

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Peter Haskell

I. PUBLIC HEARING

NONE

II. MINUTES

1. Approve/Amend Council Minutes of July 13, 2023

Motion to approve: **Marcia Delaware**

Second: **Charles Ellms**

Vote: 4-2 (Bermudez and Ladd Abstained), motion passes

III. NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS, & ELECTIONS

NONE

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Manager's Report

Trampas King thanked everyone for coming. He reminded everyone of the Red Hotdog Festival on Saturday and thanked everyone involved as there is a lot of planning and a lot of work involved. **Mr. King** stated that the paving is about three weeks out depending on the rain. The highway department has been doing a lot of work ahead of the paving and the ditches look great. They are currently shorthanded as there are two employees out with injuries. **Mr. King** stated there is a new clerk in the office, **Stasia Hurley**, and she is fitting in well and is doing a great job.

2. Departmental Reports

Levi Ladd asked about the new hire for the Police. **Mr. King** stated that he would be starting on Monday and once he got acclimated, he would start having the station open so people can come in. He is also a green pin so he will be able to help with patrol as well.

3. Continued Discussion on Broadband

Trampas King stated that he thought the broadband was a dead issue since we had missed out on grants, but Consolidated Communications will be bringing it into Town in 2024 or 2025. They will be using fiber optics and will be giving Spectrum a run for their money. The pricing will be about \$50 for 100/100 and 1 gig will be \$110-\$120.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Order A2023-39 Amendment to Resolution B2023-2024-2

BE IT ORDERED that the Dexter Town Council hereby amends Resolution B2023-24-2 by changing the interest rate from 4% to 8%.

Filed August 10, 2023
CHARLES ELLMS

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Second: **Marcia Delaware**

Trampas King stated that at last months meeting we had voted on it but there was an error and it should be 8% not 4%.

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

2. Order A2023-40 Appointment of Public Health Officer

BE IT ORDERED that the Dexter Town Council hereby appoint Nancy Hoskins as Health Officer for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2023 and expiring December 31, 2025 in compliance with Title 22 MRSA § 451.

Filed August 10, 2023

HEIDI KINNEY

Second: **Marcia Delaware**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

3. Order A2023-41 Accept Bid for Cleaning

BE IT ORDERED that the Dexter Town Council hereby accepts the bid submitted by Bears Hills Cleaning Service LLC. in the amount of \$600 a month for weekly cleaning at Abbott Memorial Library and at the Police Station.

Filed August 10, 2023

MARCIA DELAWARE

Second: **Adam Briggs**

Vote: Unanimous in favor, motion passes

VI. PUBLIC FORUM

Theresa McMannus addressed the Council and gave kudos to the Historical Society and stated that everyone needs to go in and see the buildings if they haven't. She stated that her neighbors told her that there was going to be a solar farm on the #10 Road and one across from P & L Market. She asked if we have an Ordinance against solar farms, so we aren't overtaken by them. She stated that she could produce nine or ten articles that show solar farms are harmful. **Ms. McMannus** went on to report that she had checked into being on the School Board and that you aren't allowed to do much when you first join. She has done a lot of research about the curriculum that the State uses, and the Council needs to look it up. If we don't go with their curriculum, they will cut our funding starting with the school, but the Council has the power with their budget. She doesn't have a problem with their budget she has a problem with their curriculum, and not being allowed to go into the schools and she still wants to know what their moral compass is. **Ms. McMannus** asked if anyone has asked the kids what they know about American History and stated we need to teach reading, writing, and arithmetic. Dexter is a great Town, and she is proud of it, but she needs help from the Council, and she would like to see the Pastors get together once a month and help. **Levi Ladd** had stated that he had knowledge of the School Board and the curriculum so **Ms. McMannus** asked if he would meet with her. **Mr. Ladd** stated that he feels the person in the position of Curriculum advisor isn't doing their job, but it is difficult to eliminate it because of the Union. He also disagrees vehemently about not being taught history. The teachers are making the most out of a difficult situation. **Mr. Ladd**

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agrees with them not allowing people without children into the school considering the way the world is today. **Ms. McMannus** stated that after hours would be fine, she just wants to know what is happening. **Mr. Ladd** stated that he has some of the same concerns with the curriculum and he agreed to talk with her about it.

Alisha and Rick Ames addressed the Council with concerns about communication with the Code Enforcement Officer. **Ms. Ames** stated that they have lived in Dexter for a couple of years and feels like they have had issues with everything they have tried to do. She didn't really want to say anything due to fear of repercussions. She has had to involve **Trampas King** with her dealings because she either gets a half response or none at all. Everything has been very difficult, and she feels if Dexter wants to grow, we need someone in that position that will do better. They have been trying to put in a garage and it took four weeks for him to finally tell her they needed to go to the Planning Board. They missed the meeting that was coming up and it has been two weeks since the last email with him. **Mr. Ames** is also trying to move his Chiropractic business here as well and they have six kids total including a five-year-old and Dexter is where they want to be but continually hitting a brick wall all the time with Code Enforcement is very frustrating. **Ms. Ames** asked if she isn't the only one that is having issues why is he in this position? She has talked to many other people, and they have also had issues. **Andrew Bermudez and Marcia Delaware** thanked her for coming forward and stated they didn't know of these issues.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

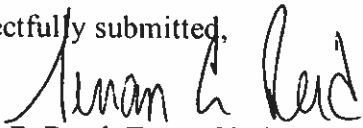
NONE

Adam Briggs made a motion to adjourn at 7:42

Second: **Marcia Delaware**

Vote: unanimous in favor, motion passes

Respectfully submitted,



Susan E. Reed, Town Clerk