

**CITY OF EASTPORT  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
SHEAD HIGH SCHOOL - BAND ROOM - 6:00 P.M.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION - 5:30 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M.

(Ref. WS700332 & WS700333)

\_x\_ Personnel Matters  
\_x\_ Real Property or Economic Development  
    Labor Negotiations  
\_x\_ Consultation w/Legal Counsel  
    Poverty Abatement Application

*Title 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A)*  
*Title 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(C)*  
*Title 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D)*  
*Title 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(E)*  
*Title 36 M.R.S.A. § 841*

**Those in Attendance:** Councilor Roscoe Archer, III, Councilor Hailley Bradbury, Councilor Scott Emery, Councilor Shannon Emery, and Council President, Gilbert Murphy. Also present were City Manager, Elaine Abbott; City Clerk, Ella Kowal; and Legal Counsel, Dennis Mahar.

Council President calls this portion of the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

**MOTION** ARCHER **SECOND** SHANNON EMERY **(PASSED 5-0) TIME: 5:31P.M.**  
To go into Executive Session for Personnel Matters under Title 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A), for Real Property or Economic Development under Title 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(C), and for Consultation with Legal Counsel under Title 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(E).

Councilor Scott Emery left the meeting.

**MOTION** SCOTT EMERY **SECOND** ARCHER **(PASSED 5-0) TIME: 6:00 P.M.**  
To come out of Executive Session.

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

(Ref. WS700334)

**Those in Attendance:** Councilor Roscoe Archer, III, Councilor Hailley Bradbury, Councilor Scott Emery, Councilor Shannon Emery, and Council President, Gilbert Murphy. Also present were City Manager, Elaine Abbott; City Clerk, Ella Kowal; and Legal Counsel, Dennis Mahar.

**Attendees in the Audience:** Elizabeth-Hastings Renner, Kathryn Lewis, Kendall Ziegler, Will Bradbury, Lisa Marquis-Bradbury, Aurea Stoll, Robert Scott, Ross Argir, and Lora Whelan.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Council President calls the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**II. ACTION from EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION ARCHER SECOND SHANNON EMERY (PASSED 5-0)**

To accept the resignation of the City Manager, Elaine Abbott, and the letter dated September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 which is reflective of a 6-month notice and to approve advertising immediately for a replacement.

**MOTION SCOTT EMERY SECOND ARCHER (PASSED 3-2)**

*Councilor Bradbury & Councilor Shannon Emery Voted "NO"*

To conditionally accept the offer for the old City Hall at 78 High Street for an amount of \$50,000.00 pending the refusal of the existing offer as it is understood that the people the City was going to sell to for \$45,000.00 is not moving forward with their offer.

**MOTION ARCHER SECOND SHANNON EMERY (PASSED 5-0)**

*Councilor Bradbury Voted "NO"*

To accept an offer of \$13,000.00 for the sale of 45 & 47 Third Street.

Council President notes that this property has been put out to bid many times with no bids received.

**III. PUBLIC HEARING - *THERE WERE NONE***

**IV. ACTION on PUBLIC HEARING(S) - *NOT APPLICABLE***

**V. ADJUSTMENT(S) TO AGENDA - *NONE***

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - *NONE***

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Concerns of Coyotes (*Requested by Councilor Roscoe Archer*)  
Discussion/Questions & Answers (*Maine Conservation Biologist/Geri Vistein*)**

Council President introduces Maine Conservation Biologist, Geri Vistein, from Morrell, Maine which is outside of Belfast.

City Manager, Elaine Abbott, updates that she has had residents come to her with concerns about coyotes in their yard one of which was states that three were in his yard and that it abuts the school property as well. Councilor Bradbury assisted with bringing Ms. Vistein here and that the information heard and brought forth is based on fact.

Ms. Vistein comments to say that what the City is doing is very “pro” active. She further states that what coyotes do is what comes natural to them but there is most generally a very high fear level of them. She also notes there are very territorial. She continues to say that this time of year their pups are born in April and May which is equivalent to a 10-12 human child. She explains that they are venturing and go out with parent coyote allowing the pups to explore. Thus, a naïve pup who knows nothing of humans; will end up in people's yards. At this age, they are curious plus looking for food. She educates to say that if you have bird feeders, it is drawing rodents (from small prey up to the size of a deer) to the property. She emphasizes that coyotes do not see humans as prey but rather they see us as a predator. She presumes that what people are seeing are young pups. She explains to let them be, but do not give them a food source. She also encourages those that have compost to keep it contained in an enclosure. Young pups live in what they know to be their natural habitat and are doing what they know and they too are experiencing awareness.

James Smith of the audience shares of the deer population as well as multiple babies and he expresses that he feels it is because of the increase in deer population that the coyotes have returned and that the food source they are seeking are the deer. Ms. Vistein responds to say it is a combination of that as well as the area of habitat. She shares that a coyote, whether it be a pup or adult, can pick up on rodents that we as humans would not necessarily see or smell. She also comments to say that deer are grazing with no fear. Research finds that there should be no more than 17 in a deer herd. More than that, the deer become ill and suffer terribly. Deer are not meant to be so close together. She also touches on the aspect of lime disease. She explains that coyotes lives a complex social life, and when they leave their parents, they disperse to territories where no coyotes are living. She explains what we are experiencing as a community is sociological and ecological which involves learning of coexisting skills.

Former Councilor Mary Repole shares that we have experienced a great deal of feeding wild animals and that food is also put out for the cats which draws skunks, raccoons, rats, and mice and shares that this becomes a breeding ground as well. Ms. Vistein comments to say that we must change our ways to live more ecologically. The species that are being drawn are coyotes prey. She continues to say that healthy wild coyotes do not want to see us anymore than we want to see them. However, if they are returning to a property or hanging out there; there is a source of food there. She educates that rodents are the biggest disease carriers. She emphasizes that it is a personal responsibility to educate ourselves in all aspects.

Lora Whelan from the audience asks Ms. Vistein what advice she could could to someone, whether it be an adult or a child, as to how one should act in the presence of a coyote. She responds to say that if we are in a natural area which is territorial to them, we do not want to haze them away as it is their home. Although there may tend to be different situations and our natural instinct is to react adversely, she notes

to take it from the coyotes point of view. Most generally, they are quick and gone; but there are curious pups that will stand there and stare and are trying to read you. They are very intelligent animals. If we do not expose fear, they will go on their way. However, this takes time for people to evolve with that. Should one be afraid, she encourages to put your hands up and to yell very loud and very aggressively and walk towards them (which is called hazing) and they generally will move along. Research finds that coyotes are most receptive to the method of hazing.

Councilor Shannon Emery addresses Ms. Vistein with regard to her comment that coyotes will prey on animals up to the size of a deer and asks how a coyote would know the difference between a small domesticated dog and a porcupine or a raccoon or even a baby that may be playing outside. She responds that a five pound dog is not looked as a canine and are not seen as prey. When they see them smaller, it is the size of their prey and recognize them as such. With living in an ecological world, the behavior is shifting as predators are returning. All measures are precautionary. She continues to say that wolves and coyotes have a benevolence to babies of any kind. She informs that coyotes sleep through the day, especially in the summer time. Councilor Shannon Emery recaps that Ms. Vistein recommends that we stop feeding animals, do not let your small dogs out at dusk or early in the a.m. Councilor Shannon Emery also asks if coyotes get rabies. She responds that in the eastern part of the United States the most animals susceptible to rabies are raccoons, skunks, and foxes and have the highest level of rabies. Coyotes have the lowest level of rabies and that it is very rare. Councilor Shannon Emery shares that recently Eastport has had documented cases of rabies and asks if a coyote could contract rabies that way. Ms. Vistein shares that rabies comes from saliva, so if a raccoon bit a coyote and drew blood and explains once it goes through the GI system, rabies does not live long and that it is very rare. She further educates that a wild animal more apt to be successful in being reproductive when they have food. Keeping in mind too, that an animal that is rabid and the potential that it has encountered another animal and possibly bitten it does cause concern for the passing of rabies from one animal to another. Thus, exposure. She re-emphasizes not to leave food out. Councilor Shannon Emery asks if there is a study to find out if there are coyotes within a three-mile radius. Ms. Vistein is not aware of one, however, the State of Maine would only possibly know of those statistics. She reminds that it is about the availability of food in that territory that the coyote is claiming and it is very unlikely that you would experience a mass of them. Her thought is that there may be a maximum of maybe three coyote families and reminds that they are territorial and would never go anywhere else. She explains that a mother coyote could have anywhere from nine to thirteen and a stable coyote maybe three to five with one or two to survive. The average life span of the parent coyote is typically three years old due to the fact that they are heavily exploited. If they were not exploited the average life span would be seven or eight years old.

Will Bradbury from the audience asks how many coyote attacks there have been in Maine. She responds that she has not heard of any in Maine at all. He speaks to

the feeding of the deer, past history of ferrell cats, and exposure of rats more than usual. Coyotes know their predator. The predator affects the eco system which creates an imbalance. The coyotes are a canine that can live among us. Her recommendation to the City is let the coyotes be and learn co-existing skills. She is adamant about expressing that no food be left out.

Questions came from the audience about parenting of the coyotes and she responds they parent in July and July. If the parent dies, the pups will die of starvation. When pups become effective hunters, they are not hungry.

Councilor Hailley Bradbury asks if coyotes are shot, could this increase the prevalence of people seeing them. It could be, as they are probably venturing out for a food source.

Councilor Scott Emery leaves at 6:54 p.m.

She closes that she will be holding a talk at the Chamber of Commerce tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m. in the Port Authority building and that the public is welcome to attend. She will be offering up information on co-existing skills and also notes that she will have a resource to an educational website which not only educates the public but will also assists town leaders in any decisions.

The Council thanks Ms. Vistein for coming and this portion of the meeting is closed at 6:57 p.m.

**b) Opening & Award of FY2019 Sand Bids**

The City Clerk updates the Council that there are a total of five sand bids gives them to the Council President for opening. Councilor Hailley Bradbury asks for affirmation that they are all providing the same service and the Council President confirms that they are. Will Bradbury from the audience asks if Eastport is supplying the salt and Council President responds that is correct.

Bid #1 from B&A Transport @ \$10.70/per yard - Total Cost of \$21,400.00  
Bid #2 from The By Us Company @ \$16.10/per yard - Total Cost of \$32,200.00  
Bid #3 from Brown's Logging @ \$10.49/per yard - Total Cost of \$20,980.00  
Bid #4 from Downeast Masonry @ \$10.00/per yard - Total Cost of \$20,000.00  
Bid #5 from Hallowell Construction @ \$12.75/per yard - Total Cost of \$25,500.00

Councilor Shannon Emery asks who we had last year and if there were any issues. The City Manager responded that it was awarded to Downeast Masonry and there were no issues.

**MOTION** SHANNON EMERY **SECOND** BRADBURY(PASSED 4-0)

To accept and award the **FY2019 Sand Bid** to *Downeast Masonry* for a total amount of **\$20,000.00** at **\$10.00 per yard** to be delivered, mixed, and piled with the City of Eastport supplying the salt.

c) **Opening & Award of FY2019 Fuel Bids (Heating Oil & Propane)**

The City Clerk informs Council that there is only one bid. Councilor Shannon Emery asks who we had last year and the City Manager updates that it was Eastern Plumbing & Heating. She also asks if there were any issues. The City Manager responds there were no issues and that they have been very responsive.

Council President opens the bid received which is from Eastern Plumbing & Heating. They quoted #2 Heating Oil for both the Municipality and General Assistance at \$2.68/per gallon and a quote for propane for both the Municipality and General Assistance at \$1.79/per gallon.

**MOTION** SHANNON EMERY **SECOND** ARCHER **(PASSED 4-0)**

To accept and award the FY2019 Fuel Bid to Eastern Plumbing & Heating for a price of \$2.68/per gallon for #2 heating oil for both the municipality and General Assistance and \$1.79/per gallon for propane for both the municipality and General Assistance.

d) **Council Approval for a Write Off on Sewer Acct. #62 - \$36.64**

**MOTION** ARCHER **SECOND** SHANNON EMERY **(PASSED 4-0)**

To approve a write off in the amount of \$36.64 to Sewer Account #62.

e) **Council Approval for a Write Off on Sewer Acct. #28 - \$22.53**

**MOTION** BRADBURY **SECOND** SHANNON EMERY **(PASSED 4-0)**

To approve a write off in the amount of \$22.53 to Sewer Account #28.

f) **Council Approval for Buy Back of up to Two Weeks of Vacation/Comp Time**

**MOTION** SHANNON EMERY **SECOND** ARCHER **(PASSED 4-0)**

To authorize and approve the Buy Back of up to two weeks of Vacation/Comp time.

g) **State & Municipal Election Warrant for November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**MOTION** BRADBURY **SECOND** SHANNON EMERY **(PASSED 4-0)**

To approve the State & Municipal Election Warrant for November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 as submitted by the City Clerk.

h) **Council Liaison/Manager Updates**

The City Manager presents her report. The Council President reminds everyone that DEMS meets quarterly which will be the end of this month but that they remain financially solvent.

**MOTION** SHANNON EMERY **SECOND** BRADBURY **(PASSED 4-0)**

To accept and approve the Council Liaison/Manager Updates as given and presented.

**i.) Council Approval of Consent Agenda**

**MOTION** BRADBURY **SECOND** ARCHER **(PASSED 3-1)**

To approve the Consent Agenda as presented and given.

**VIII. COUNCIL ISSUES**

Council President, Gilbert Murphy, extends an appreciation and thank you to the City Manager and the volunteers for all the hard work and efforts done out at Cony Park with its transformation and encourages anyone that has not yet been out there to do so.

The City Manager updates that there are outdoor musical instruments made of fiberglass and metal that will be shipping soon which will be permanently installed. She also notes that there is an interpretive panel/sign that gives the history of Cony Farm to Cony Park to the dump which will also have pictures a thanks to the Quoddy Tides and she also notes of a picture from the Penobscot Marine Museum of Cony Park in the 1930's.

**IX. ADJOURN**

**MOTION** ARCHER **SECOND** BRADBURY **(PASSED 4-0) TIME: 7:26 P.M.**

To adjourn.