

Oakland Town Council Minutes  
September 13, 2023

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll Call – Michael Perkins, Chairman      Dana Wrigley      Absent: Donald Borman  
David Groder      Robert Nutting

Others present:

Janice Porter, Town Clerk	Kathleen Paradis, Deputy Town Clerk	
Kelly Michaud, Finance	Abby Marshall	
Christine Nutting	Matt Tarasevich, Town Attorney	
Robert Smith	Patricia Collins	James Matthews
Penny Bolduc	Gary Bennett	Brenda Bennett
Kevin Quirion	Tina Boag	Dave Boag
Brandy Robinson	Donald Ponitz	Jean Ponitz
Kelly Smith	Joe Reese	Donna Griffin
Kay Ladd	Patrick Linehan	Alicia Collins
Hardy Taylor	Michelle Fontaine	K. Andrew Barry
Nicole Goodheart	Cynthia Reese	Jim Bouton
Rona Backstrom	John Joler	Ruth Sholl
Prudy Marcoux	Anita Chadderton	Janet Lund
Nate Bernier	R.C. Snyder	Elizabeth Adams
Danny Adams	Adam Mushero	Patty Mushero
Joyce St. Pierre	Jennifer Reese	Abby Thrower
Lucie Poirier	Joshua Bickford	Laurie Joler
Daniel Joler	Fran Dubord	Molly Rancourt
Karen Heck	Bruce Olsen	Wendy Burton
Barbara Haskins	Michael Lemieux	Amy Calder, Sentinel
Angela Jurdak	Jon Cox	Shawn Nava
Claudine Maillet	Jacqueline Fortune	Edward Cornwall
Edith Cornwall	Jean Petley	Steve Petley
Peter Tewksbury	Rick Haskins	Ned Hammond
Alicia Barnes	Kelly Roderick	Thomas Lemieux
Margaret McMorrow	Terry Booker	Christopher McPherson
Landon St Peter	Phyllis Capanna	Robyn Deveney
Janna Townsend	Linda Warner	Brandon Brown
Susan Leigh	Jeffrey Hanson	Sheila Thorne
Gerald Roderick	Tobi Schneider	Melissa Webster
Jayne Fagan	Adam Sirois	Rick Stubbart
Tim Dow	Emily Newell	Abigail McMahan
Mark McMahan		

Business Agenda:

1. It was moved by Dana Wrigley seconded by David Groder and voted 4-0 to appoint Janice Porter as temporary Deputy Treasurer/Deputy Tax Collector.

2. It was moved by Dana Wrigley seconded by Robert Nutting and voted 4-0 approving the minutes from the August 23, 2023, Council meeting and to sign the weekly warrant.

3. Alicia Barnes – Discussion of Town Charter

Ms. Barnes stated that she has concerns with our loosely written current Town Charter. Ms. Barnes highlighted some of those areas pertaining to recent action taken by the Council when placing the Town Manager Ella Bowman on non-disciplinary paid administrative leave. She expressed her desire for a Charter revision. Later in the meeting it was agreed that the current Charter and their concerns would be discussed at their next regular meeting on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

4. Cynthia Reese – Support of Town Manager

Ms. Reese spoke in support of the Town Manager, Ella Bowman. Mrs. Reese read a prepared document for those in attendance. She requested that the document be attached to the minutes of the meeting. (Document attached)

5. Karen Heck – Support of Town Manager

Ms. Heck spoke in support of the Town Manager, Ella Bowman, as a business owner in the Town of Oakland.

A short recess was called at 6:30 pm while waiting for the Town Attorney to arrive. Back in session at 6:35 pm.

6. Town Attorney Matt Tarasevich

A Public Statement was read to those in attendance by the Town Attorney Matthew Tarasevich. The recent action taken by the town which placed the Town Manager on non-disciplinary paid administrative leave. Mr. Tarasevich stressed that the Manager has not been suspended.

Additionally, he noted that Section 415 of the town Charter does not apply in this situation because the Council has taken no action to suspend nor terminate Ms. Bowman's position.

Attorney Tarasevich continued to field audience comments and questions, but many times referred to the legality of not being able to answer questions as it is a personnel issue.

Adjournment: It was moved by David Groder seconded by Robert Nutting and voted 4-0 to adjourn at 7:20 pm.

