



SACO CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES **APRIL 6, 2026 - 6:30 PM**

CITY HALL AUDITORIUM

Mayor MacPhail started the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Workshop - TIF (Tax Increment Financing) 101 - Phil Saucier, Esq.

Philip Saucier, Esq. of Bernstein Shur presented a high-level Tax Increment Financing overview which covered: What is a TIF District, Types of TIF Districts, How Can TIF Revenue Be Spent, Tax Shift Benefits, and City of Saco TIFs.

Attorney Saucier and Economic Development Director Tracey Desjardins addressed councilors questions.

1. CALL TO ORDER

On Monday, April 6 2026, at 6:55 p.m. a City Council meeting was held in the City Hall Auditorium.

2. RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Jodi MacPhail recognized the members of the Council and determined that the Councilors present constituted a quorum. Councilors present: Douglas Edwards, Joshua Parks, Jeffrey Onnen, William Gayle, Tricia Huot, and Nathan Johnston. City Councilor William Doyle was excused this evening. City Administrator Ryan Pelletier was also present this evening.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. GENERAL

5. COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL

- Councilor Edwards - Amazingly, we still have tickets available, Saco Main Street tells me, for the 25-year Gala. And just to remind those who have not been watching on a weekly basis, they will be hosting a 25th Anniversary Gala on May 16th from 6:00 to 10:00 p. m. at River Winds Farm. The evening will bring together community leaders, volunteers, past staff, business owners, and supporters to recognize the many people and partnerships that have helped shape our downtown over the past 25 years. If you go to the website: sacomainstreet.org, you can find out a lot more about it and buy your tickets. They're going fast. Not fast enough, though.
- Councilor Johnston - I just wanted to revisit my comments from last meeting I had committee correspondence, but specifically my comments from Traffic Safety Committee. I thought they were pretty clear, but I seems to be some confusion with the public. So, just wanted to reiterate that the Traffic Safety Committee voted. This is in regards to the Route#1 Road Diet, voted to continue discussions with Maine DOT towards a potential implementation of a road diet demonstration, not a permanent road diet. Again, that vote was just to continue the discussions. It wasn't even a vote to implement a road diet demonstration plan. So, I know that we received some emails that was contrary to reality. So, I just want that to be clear.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals chose to speak:

- David Arenstam, 4 Baxter Lane
- Ted Sirois, 38 Summer Street
- Inga Browne, 161 Simpson Road

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Huot moved, Councilor Parks seconded, to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2026 City Council meeting as written. The motion passed with six (6) yeas.

8. CONSENT ITEMS

Mayor MacPhail read the Consent Agenda items into the record.

Councilor Johnston requested that Consent items #A and #B be moved. Mayor MacPhail stated items #A and #B would be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Action Items.

Councilor Johnston moved, Councilor Edwards seconded, to approve Consent Agenda items #C and #D as follows:

C. Confirm Mayor's Appointment to the Traffic Safety Committee - Arthur Archie - Be it ordered that the City Council confirm the Mayor's appointment of Arthur Archie to the Traffic Safety Committee, for a three-year term ending on April 6, 2029. Further move to approve the order.

D. Confirm the Mayor's Reappointments to the Shoreline Commission - David Plavin, Marc Bourassa, and Richard Milliard - Be it ordered that the City Council confirm the Mayor's reappointment of David Plavin, Marc Bourassa, and Richard Milliard to the Shoreline Commission, for three-year terms ending on April 6, 2029. Further move to approve the order.

The motion passed with six (6) yeas.

9. ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda items #A and #B were moved to Action Items. All other Action Items will be renumbered.

A. Confirm the Mayor's Appointment to the Lucia Kimball Deering Trust Board - Jean Saunders

Councilor Parks moved, Councilor Huot seconded, be it ordered that the City Council confirm the Mayor's appointment of Jean Saunders to the Lucia Kimball Deering Trust Board for a six-year term ending on April 6, 2032. Further move to approve the order.

Tabled - Councilor Johnston moved, Councilor Gayle seconded, to table the appointment pending future consultation with the City Solicitor. The motion was a tie with three (3) yeas and (3) nays - Councilors Edwards, Parks, and Huot. Mayor MacPhail broke the tie by voting yea. The motion passed with four (4) yeas and three (3) nays.

B. Confirm the Mayor's Appointments to the Historic Preservation Commission-David Arenstam and Promotion from Associate Member to Regular Member - Elizabeth Johnston

Councilor Huot moved, Councilor Onnen seconded, Be it ordered that the City Council confirm the Mayor's appointment of David Arenstam as an associate member to the Historic Preservation Commission with a term expiring on June 30, 2026, and for the promotion of Elizabeth Johnston from associate member to regular member on the Historic Preservation Commission for a term expiring on June 30, 2026. Further move to approve the Order. The motion passed with five (5) yeas and (1) abstention - Councilor Johnston.

C. (Public Hearing) Renewal Application for a Special Entertainment Permit - Huot's Seafood LLC

Councilor Onnen moved, Councilor Edwards seconded, to open the Public Hearing. The motion passed with six (6) yeas.

There were no public comments.

Councilor Onnen moved, Councilor Edwards seconded, to close the Public Hearing and be it ordered the City Council grant the renewal application submitted by Huot's Seafood LLC d/b/a Huot's Seafood Restaurant for a Special Entertainment Permit to be concurrent with the establishment's liquor license. Further move to approve the order.

Councilor Huot noted for the record although my name is Huot, I'm not related to the owners of Huot Restaurant. I also want to declare I do have a child that works there in the summer. So if anybody wants me to recuse myself, let me know.

Mayor MacPhail asked the councilors if they were okay with Councilor Huot. They responded they were.

Mayor MacPhail called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed with six (6) yeas.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY2027 Budget Presentations

Assessing Department - Director Kate Kern and Deputy Director Sean McCarthy presented the FY2027 departmental budget.

Facilities Department- Director Don Roth and Deputy Director Andrew Saksa presented the FY2027 departmental budget.

Police Department - Chief Jack Clements presented the FY2027 departmental budget.

Economic Development Department - Director Tracey Desjardins presented the FY2027 departmental budget. Deputy City Administrator Emily Cole-Prescott was also in attendance to address councilors' questions.

City Clerk Department - Director Michele Hughes presented the FY2027 departmental budget.

Parks and Recreation Department- Director Ryan Sommer presented the FY2027 departmental budget.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

City Administrator Ryan Pelletier provided administrative updates.

12. COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

- Councilor Johnston - I had made the motion to table. I believe Madame Mayor that you voted yes to break that tie. Mayor MacPhail - Yes. Councilor Johnston - Okay, you just inadvertently you said the motion failed. Mayor MacPhail - Yes, and then I corrected yes. It did pass. Councilor Johnston - All right. Mayor MacPhail - Just that was recounting the numbers to make sure when I did that. Councilor Johnston - That's fine. I just wanted to make sure it had. Mayor MacPhail - So, yes, the motion passed. It is tabled and it will be brought back.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Edwards moved, Councilor Huot seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with six (6) yeas. Time: 9:37 p.m.

Attest: _____

Michele L. Hughes, City Clerk