



SACO CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES **AUGUST 3, 2026 - 6:30 PM**

CITY HALL AUDITORIUM

1. CALL TO ORDER

On Monday, August 3, 2026, at 6:30 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, and Nathan Johnston. Councilor Tricia Huot was excused this evening. City Administrator Ryan Pelletier was also present this evening.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. GENERAL

A. Thornton Academy Girls Lacrosse Recognition

Mayor MacPhail recognized the Thornton Academy Girls Lacrosse as follows:

Tonight, we recognize and celebrate the historic accomplishments of the 2026 Thornton Academy Girls Lacrosse team.

Led by first-year Head Coach Kelly Foley and a coaching staff that includes four Thornton Academy Girls Lacrosse alumni, this talented group finished the season with a 15-2 record, an undefeated home season, and one of the state's top defensive performances. Additionally, fifteen of the team's twenty-five players scored at least one goal during the season—a testament to the unselfish, team-first style of play that defined this championship run.

More importantly, they made history. They became the first team in program history to win a regional semifinal, the first to reach the Class A State Championship, and the first girls' ball sport team in Thornton Academy history to win a state championship. Their championship banner and trophy will be the first of their kind displayed in the new Miles Field House.

Along the way, the team earned seven SMAA All-Star selections, four players surpassed 100 career points, and senior goalkeeper Sophia Auger surpassed 400 career saves. Several players and coaches also received statewide recognition. Senior captain Olivia Frederickson earned the prestigious Flossie Smith Award, Coach Kelly Foley was named the Portland Press Herald Coach of the Year, and junior Oceanna LaMarre and sophomore Olivia Lamey were both named to the Portland Press Herald All-State Team. LaMarre was also recognized as a USA Lacrosse All-American, one of only seven players in Maine to receive that honor. Four of the team's eight graduating seniors will continue their lacrosse careers at the collegiate level.

More than the records, awards, and championship, this team represented Thornton Academy and the City of Saco with pride, sportsmanship, and determination, inspiring the next generation of student-athletes. Congratulations to the 2026 Thornton Academy Girls Lacrosse team on an unforgettable season and on bringing home the first girls' ball sport state championship in school history.

Team Members: Sophia Auger, Charlotte Beane, Julia Blanchette, Brooke Bodnar, Alessia Capece, Rhys Cote, Brooklyn Desrochers, Vanessa Dyer, Kyle Evans, Olivia Frederickson, Madi Gallagher, Trinnity Hall, Marin Hilshey, Angelina Hoffmann, Bella Jung, Avery Keegan, Oceanna LaMarre, Adelaide Lamey, Olivia Lamey, Emma Morton, Lyla Picard, Avery Root, Savannah Root, Olivia Sirois, Sophia Sirois.

Coaching Staff: Head Coach Kelly Foley.

Assistant Coaches: Abby Brown, Haley (Nason) Magnell, Adeline Paradis, Steve Gallo.

I, along with the members of City Council, would like to congratulate these players for their hard work and dedication. The community is proud of you!

Mayor MacPhail also read a special statement on the success of this year's team from former Councilor Phil Hatch, Ward 5, whose granddaughters were members of the team.

The team members, and coaches received a standing ovation and pictures were taken.

Mayor MacPhail called for a recess at 6:36 p.m.

Mayor MacPhail reconvened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

5. COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL

- Councilor Edwards - Just want to say congratulations to the Saco Main Street organization for putting on a successful Pride in the Park event this past Saturday. It looked by all accounts it looked very wonderful, sunny and looked like everyone was having a good time. I want to remind everyone, particularly those viewers who are at home wanting to join the action for Saco Main Street, that there are at least well 2 more events coming up at least, not including the Festival of Lights, there is the Bark in the Park and the Pumpkin Harvest Festival. For more information, please go to the sacomainstreet.org website.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals chose to speak:

- Gary Prolman, 743 Portland Road
- Kathy Dobbins, 28 Meserve Circle
- Barb Thomas, 2 Meserve Circle
- Lisa Desrochers, 18 Pine Haven Street
- Hope Lambert, 14 Pheasant Road
- Donna Bailey, 7 Scrimshaw Lane
- Sarah Truman, 11 Locke Street
- Beth Johnston, 62 Pleasant Street
- Sarah Belanger, 5 Sparrow Drive
- Mary-Lynne Leach, 19 Gallant Drive

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Edwards moved, Councilor Gayle seconded, to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2026 City Council meeting as written. The motion passed with five (5) yeas.

8. CONSENT ITEMS

Councilor Johnston moved, Councilor Edwards seconded, to approve consent agenda items #A, #B, #C, and #D as follows:

A. Confirm Mayor's Reappointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals - George Chase and Robert Dziadzio and Promotion from Alternate Member to Regular Member - Robert Dziadzio - Be it ordered that the City Council confirm the Mayor's reappointments of George Chase and Robert Dziadzio, for terms expiring on August 3, 2031, and for the promotion of Robert Dziadzio from alternate member to regular member. Further move to approve the Order.

B. Confirm the Mayor's Reappointments to the Coastal Waters Commission - Richard Milliard, Leonard Hurrell, and James Katz - Be it Ordered that the City Council confirm the Mayor's reappointments of Richard Milliard, Leonard Hurrell, and James Katz to serve on the Saco Coastal Waters Commission, effective September 12, 2026, each for three-year terms ending on September 11, 2029. Further move to approve the Order.

C. Confirm the Mayor's Reappointments to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee - Christopher Yanni, Andrew Bracy, and Jaime Marcotte - Be it ordered that the City Council confirm the Mayor's reappointments of Christopher Yanni, Andrew Bracy, and Jaime Marcotte to serve on the Parks and Recreation Committee effective August 3, 2026, each for three-year terms ending on June 30, 2029. Further move to approve the order.

D. Certification of Election Results - June 9, 2026, School Budget Validation Referendum Election - Be it Ordered that the City Council hereby approve the results of the June 9, 2026, School Budget Validation Referendum Election as presented. Further move to approve the Order.

The motion passed with five (5) yeas.

9. ACTION ITEMS

A. (Second/Final Reading) Dyer Library Funding Request

Councilor Parks moved, Councilor Johnston seconded, Be it Ordered that the Saco City Council approves the Final Reading of the Dyer Library Funding Request in the amount of \$75,000. Further move to approve the Order. The motion passed with five (5) yeas.

B. (Second/Final Reading) Proposed Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 60 Ambulance Service to provide for an Annual Educational Funding Allocation and Annual Ambulance Division Equipment Reserve Fund

Councilor Parks moved, Councilor Johnston seconded, Be it Ordered that the Saco City Council hereby ordains the ordinance amendment to Chapter 60 Ambulance Service to provide for an Annual Educational Funding Allocation and Annual Ambulance Division Equipment Reserve Fund. Further move to approve the Order. The motion passed with five (5) yeas.

C. (One Reading) Smith-Stockman Connector Review

Councilor Johnston moved, Councilor Gayle seconded, Be it Ordered that the Saco City Council approves Option C and direct City Staff to complete the necessary next steps to support this direction. Further move to approve the Order. The motion passed with four (4) yeas and one (1) nay - Councilor Parks.

D. (First Reading) Proposed Charter Amendments

Councilor Parks moved, Councilor Johnston seconded, Be it Ordered that the Saco City Council approve the first reading of the following Charter amendments:

Section 2.03. Eligibility

Section 2.06. Vacancies, Forfeiture of Office, Filling of Vacancies

Section 2.07. Powers and Duties of the Mayor

Section 3.01. Appointment; Qualification; Compensation

Section 3.03. Acting City Administrator

Section 4.01. School Department and School Board

Section 5.06. City Solicitor;

and further move to schedule a public hearing and final reading for August 17, 2026, before a vote to add to the November referendum. This amendment, if approved by the voters, would have an effective date of January 1, 2027. Further move to approve the Order.

Amendment - Councilor Johnston moved, Councilor Edwards seconded, to remove the proposed Charter amendment Section 4.01. The motion passed with five (5) yeas.

Mayor MacPhail called for a vote on the main motion. The motion passed with five (5) yeas.

E. (One Reading) Emergency Ordinance to Establish a Temporary Prohibition on Data Centers

Councilor Onnen moved, Councilor Johnston seconded, Be it found by the Saco City Council that an emergency exists, and therefore be it ordered, that the City of Saco adopt the Emergency Ordinance to Establish a Temporary Prohibition on Data Centers. Further move to approve the order. The motion passed with five (5) yeas.

F. (First Reading) Mobile Home Park Lot Rent Stabilization Ordinance (Proposed to be Chapter 145 in City Code)

Councilor Parks moved, Councilor Edwards seconded, Be it Ordered that the Saco City Council approve the First Reading of the Mobile Home Park Lot Rent Stabilization Ordinance, proposed to be Chapter 145 in Saco City Code; and further move to schedule the Public Hearing on August 17, 2026. Further move to approve the Order. The motion passed with five (5) yeas.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Petition for a Contract Zone filed by TowerCo, LLC for a portion of Ricker Road (Map 101, Lot 25) currently zoned Rural Conservation (RC).

City Planner Charles Tetelman - I prepared you all a memo, that kind of gives a brief overview of the proposed Contract Zone as well as some other relevant information. Specifically, the federal review period under federal regulations and a brief overview of the proposed application process.

The process is beginning tonight with the new business item before City Council. On August 18th, the application will go for application completeness with the Planning Board and from there they will schedule a Planning Board hearing if found complete and potentially a site

walk as well.

At the point where the Planning Board is ready to make a recommendation, it will then come back to City Council for your review. So, following a fairly typical Contract Zone petition. The memo and application material kind of speak for themselves. So, the applicant TowerCo. LLC is looking to propose a Contract Zone for the future installation of a telecommunication tower out at Ricker Road. For your reference, the address because it's not numbered is 0 Ricker Road. So, a lot of the application material and noticing will be following that addressing, but it's Tax Map 101, Lot 25. It's currently located in the Rural Conservation District. The one thing to note is that this Contract Zone would not be approving the telecommunication towers to be built. It would once the Contract Zone is approved and implemented, it would have to go to Site Plan review by the Planning Board to be constructed.

City Planner Tetelman & Deputy City Administrator Cole-Prescott addressed Councilors questions.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

City Administrator Ryan Pelletier provided administrative updates.

12. COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

13. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Edwards moved, Councilor Onnen seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with five (5) yeas. Time: 8:07 p.m.

Attest: _____

Michele L. Hughes, City Clerk