



# TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

## MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026 AT 5:00 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, 59 MAIN STREET, ORONO, MAINE

### MINUTES

#### 1. Roll Call

Present: Council Chair Dan Demeritt, Rob Laraway, Andrea Hardison, Matt Powers, John Quinn, and Town Manager Clint Deschene. Present via Zoom: Jacob Baker. Sarah Marx arrived at 5:04 PM.

#### 2. Agenda Review *(Video Record Time: 2:24 – 3:17)*

##### a. Referred to Committee:

- Community Development Committee
  - Review effectiveness of metrics to reduce speed on Rt. 2 (On-going)
- Finance and Operations Committee
  - Council approval and limits for spending (On-going)
  - Old Fire Station disposition (On-going)
  - Review monthly statistics from the SAFER grant positions (On-going)
- Nominations, Evaluations, and Council Policies Committee
  - Review the Council policies and procedures manual (On-going)
- Ordinance Review Committee
  - Ordinance Chapter 34 – traffic and vehicles (Public Hearing 3/23/2026)
- Full Council

##### b. Tabled Items *(Indefinitely Tabled Items have a 90 Day Limit):*

##### c. Agenda Review/Clarifications

*\*(More detailed information on schedule and timing can be found on Committee Agendas).*

[Orono Council Agenda Center](#): Past Agendas and posted agendas for upcoming meetings

[Council Calendar](#): List of Meetings for the entire year.

#### 3. Approval of Minutes of: March 2, 2025 Town Council Meeting and Workshop *(Video Record Time: 3:17 – 3:57)*

Moved by Andrea Hardison and seconded by Matt Powers. The vote was in favor, 5-0-1 (Laraway abstained).

#### 4. Public Comments - None

Sarah Marx arrived at 5:04 PM.

#### 5. Presentations / Discussion Items

- a. **Big Picture Budget of Orono Municipal Only** (*Video Record Time: 4:26 – 53:50*)
- b. **Discussion: Parks Ordinance - Camping** (*Video Record Time: 53:50 – 1:34:34*)

Councilor Baker left at 5:54 PM.

**6. Acknowledgements by Council Members** (*Video Record Time: 1:34:34 – 1:36:36*)

John Quinn wished the University of Maine Women’s Basketball team luck in the semifinals. He also congratulated the Orono Middle School chess team, who won the State Championship.

Matt Powers acknowledged the community members and Church of Universal Fellowship for their care with people experiencing homelessness.

Dan Demeritt acknowledged Victory Lane Oil Change, stating it is a fantastic new local business.

Sarah Marx, Andrea Hardison, and Rob Laraway made no acknowledgements.

**7. Consent Agenda** (*Video Record Time: 1:36:36 – 1:37:38*)

- Order 26-39**      **Order, approving a Victualer’s License renewal for Nest Coffee, LLC d/b/a The Nest, 24 Main Street.**
- Order 26-40**      **Order, approving a Victualer’s License renewal for Class XI Malt Liquor, Wine & Spirits Liquor License and Victualer’s License for Yama’s Inc., dba Yama’s Bar & Grill, 19 Mill Street.**
- Order 26-41**      **Order, appointing Election Clerks for two-year terms per Title 21a, §503-A as recommended by the Town Clerk, and Democratic - Republican Parties.**

**Democrats**

Aidan Andrews	Hana Palazzo	Marley Liszczynskyj
Alan Cobo Lewis	Helena Higgins	Mary Anne Hillary
Angela Kohtala	Ian Cobo-Lewis	Mary Cathcart
Barbara Smith	Irene K. Vonhoffmann	Mary Giglio
Belle Ryder	Jackson Day	Mary Tudor
Ben Cotton	Janice Poulsen	Meghan Gardner
Betsy Rose	Jennifer Bonnett	Michael Curtis
Briar Chapin	Jennifer Jain	Nancy Larson
Brooke Cooper	Jerry Longcore	Nancy Mckraig
Camden Bock	Jewel Powers	Neja Jayasundara
Cameron Hasselbaum	Jodi Clayton	Pamela Simon
Catherine Foxson	Joe Kelley	Paula Moore
Cathryn Marquez	Patricia Burns	Peg Killian
Cathy Anderson	Judith Hakola	Peggy Page-Holt
Chantal Bussiere	Judy Walker	Perniue Renedo
Colleen Frazier	Julie Monroe	Raymond Buckus
Connie Perry	Karen Boucias	Rebecca White
Constance Albertson	Kate Gagnon	Robert Glover

Cynthia Blease  
Cynthia Smith  
Dana E. Carver-Bialer  
David Chase  
David Cox  
Deborah Weiss  
Debra Brooks  
Dennis Coyne  
Dick Newbauer  
Edward Brazee  
Elizabeth Calkins  
Ellen White  
Emily Hasbrouch  
Fiona Soresen Hamilton  
Frances A. Haines  
Genevieve Young  
Genia Boko  
Geoff Gordon  
Geoffrey Wingard  
Gwethalyn Phillips  
Anne Lichtenwalner  
Deborah Bergman

Katherine Taylor  
Katie Flynn  
Katie Mason  
Kerry Sweet  
Kyra Pederson  
Eve Wollinsky  
Laurie O'Brien  
Laurie Sidelko  
Leah Cingranelli  
Lilana Sapiel  
Lily Koffman  
Lisa Buck  
Lucia Helder  
Lynn Caron  
M. Sue Erich  
Mackenzie Lablanc  
Maeve Durkee  
Margret Criner  
Marina Mcmanus  
Mark Haggerty  
Noah Bubier

Sally Dobres  
Samuel G. Kunz  
Sandy Cyrus  
Sarah Chang  
Sarah Joughin  
Scott Wilkerson  
Sophie Shortsleeves  
Sophie Walton  
Stephen Dexter  
Stephen O'Connell  
Steve Norton  
Suzanne Estler  
Suzanne Gordon  
Taylor Holmes  
M. Teri Hutchinson  
Thomas Grindle  
Thomas Perry  
Thomas Spitz  
William Diggins  
Zoe Zellhart  
David Wilson

Republicans

Alan Butler  
Allison Applebee  
Amanda Bertana  
Anna Leek  
Brian Scheider  
Colleen Mazilli  
Connie Bates  
Daniel Lapointe  
Dawn Kitchen  
Dennis Cross  
Dillon Colson  
Donna Slopey  
Doug Palmeter  
Francine Palmeter  
Grace Robinson  
Gwen Fenderson  
Helen Blumenstock  
Helen Lewis  
Howard Whelden

James Dunning  
Jamie Giguere  
Jeannie Griffin  
Jennifer Daires  
Jennifer Desmond  
Jennifer Weigang  
John Beckett  
Joshua Smith  
Judith Cyr  
Katherine Schmidt  
Kayla Flewelling  
Laura Urquhart  
Linda Dougherty  
Lisa Chubbuck  
Margaret Russell  
Mark Brewer  
Matthew Shannon  
Mary Lapin  
Nancy Deveau

Patricia Thompson  
Paul Pangburn  
Peter Triandafillou  
Robin B. Beckett  
Raymond Thomas  
Richard Bowie  
Robert Bass Jr.  
Robert Bowie  
Sally Brooker  
Sandra Curtis  
Scott Abbott  
Scott Thomas  
Shane Martin  
Shannon Robertson  
Sierra Blade  
Sophie Norton  
Susan Perry  
Theresa Jipson  
Travis Blackmer

Unenrolled

Abby Anderson	Frank Kelly	Linda E. Pletka
Abby Grunwald	Gage Thompson	Lindsey Baker
Adam Toothaker	Glenn Roberts	Lisa Feldman
Alison Settele	Helena Kay	Madeline Hanlon
Cassie Cappiello	Hope Milan	Margaret Ladd
Connor Dadmun	Jacob Chaplin	Nathan Deveney
William Walker	James Higgins	Rachel Gross
David Mitchell	James Newkirk	Robin Hamilton
Denise O'Donnell	James Settele	Ronnie Roberge
Ella Bunkartas	Jennifer Dann	Ryan Lynch
Emily Ebersman	Johanna Toothaker	Seamus Keough
Emily Molino	Joseph Fucci	Sebaston Blackwood
Frank Alley	Julia Ober	Stella Collins

**Green Independent**

Mackenzie Hayes	Ellie Collins	Helen Walter
Konner Boucher	Grace Young	

- Order 26-42** Order, approving the Town Manager's closure of the Town Office on April 8, 2026 for staff training.
- Order 26-43** Order, approving the Urban Forest Management Plan 2026 from the Tree Board.
- Order 26-44** Order, setting the date of March 30, 2026 at 5:00 for a Special Town Council Meeting to coincide with the already scheduled Council Budget Workshop.
- Order 26-45** Order, authorizing the Town Manager to submit an application to the Governor's Office of Policy and Innovation for the Housing Opportunity Program Municipal Ordinance Development Grant for \$15,000; accepting any funds awarded; and, further authorizing the Town Manager to expend said funds in accordance with the grant.

Moved by Rob Laraway and seconded by Matt Powers. All voted in favor, 6-0.

**8. Action Items**

- Order 26- 46** Order, approving amendments to the Town of Orono Personnel Policy Handbook. *(Video Record Time: 1:37:38 – 1:38:00)*

Moved by Matt Powers and seconded by Sarah Marx. All voted in favor, 6-0.

- Order 26-47** Order, authorizing the Town Manager to submit a grant application to the office of Congressman Jared Golden for Community Project Funding of up to \$1,000,000 to be used toward new technology and infrastructure for the 56 Main Street police department renovation. *(Video Record Time: 1:38:00 – 1:40:19)*

Moved by Matt Powers and seconded by John Quinn. All voted in favor, 6-0.

**Order 26-48**     **Order, to reconsider Order 26-37, Approving the FY2027 Capital Improvement Program.** *(Video Record Time: 1:40:19 – 1:41:20)*

Moved by Sarah Marx and seconded by Rob Laraway. All voted in favor, 6-0.

**Order 26-37**     **Order, approving the FY2027 Capital Improvement Program.** *(Video Record Time: 1:41:20 – 1:41:54)*

Moved by Matt Powers and seconded by Rob Laraway. All voted in favor, 6-0.

**Order 26-49**     **Order, authorizing the Town Manager to execute easements for 19 College Avenue.** *(Video Record Time: 1:41:54 – 1:49:38)*

Moved by Andrea Hardison and seconded by Matt Powers. All voted in favor, 6-0.

**9. Council Committee Reports** *(Video Record Time: 1:49:38 – 1:54:57)*

- a. Community Development Committee
  - Route 2 Safety Data
- b. Finance and Operations Committee
  - Audit will be presented on March 23 and to the Council at the first meeting in April
- c. Nominations, Evaluations, and Council Policies Committee
  - No update
- d. Ordinance Review Committee
  - No update
- e. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee
  - Welcome to Orono Website
  - Ramadan Book Club
- f. Council Chair's Update
  - Condition of Union Street
  - Good Neighbor Committee meeting held today

**10. Town Manager's Report** *(Video Record Time: 1:54:57 – 2:02:49)*

- a. Police Safety Information Sheet
- b. Town Annual Report/Council Goals Report/Comp Plan Tracker
- c. Bangor Natural Gas/Unitil 19/College Ave
- d. Margin Street Drainage Grant
- e. HRDQ Communication Style
- f. Spirit Week: Orono's 220th Birthday
- g. Budget Survey
- h. Microsoft Conversion
- i. Out of Office Next Week

**11. Public Petitions** - None

**12. Future Agenda Items And Councilor Requests for Supporting Items** (*Video Record Time: 2:02:50 – 2:04:30*)

Councilor Hardison requested an update on Orono Festival Day 2026 and what Council can do to help.

She also stated that the next Town Council Community Potluck will be Sunday, April 12 from 4:30 to 6:30, in which Clint Deschene will be in attendance to discuss the budget.

**13. Public Comment** - None

**14. Executive Session**

**a. Pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6)(D) Regarding Labor Negotiations**

At 7:04 PM, Sarah Marx motioned and Matt Powers seconded to move into executive session to discuss labor negotiations. All voted in favor, 6-0.

At 7:55 PM, Council returned to regular session.

**b. Pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6)(A) Regarding a Personnel Matter**

At 7:55 PM, Andrea Hardison motioned and Matt Powers seconded to move into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. All voted in favor, 6-0.

At 7:58 PM, Council returned to regular session.

**15. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 7:58 PM by Matt Powers and seconded by Rob Laraway. All voted in favor, 6-0.

Minutes are not verbatim. A video-recorded version is available on the Town's website at [www.orono.org](http://www.orono.org).

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Vanstone

Executive Assistant