



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 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, Sarah Marx, Matt Powers, Jacob Baker, John Quinn, and Assistant Town Manager Mitch Stone.

2. Agenda Review *(Video Record Time: 2:09 – 2:56)*

- 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 9, 2026 *(Video Record Time: 2:56 – 3:14)*

Moved by Matt Powers and seconded by Andrea Hardison. The vote was in favor, 6-0-1 (Baker abstained).

4. Public Comments - None

5. Presentations / Discussion Items

- a. **FY 2027 Big Picture Budget of Orono Version 1.2** *(Video Record Time: 3:48 – 9:34)*
- b. **Fire Department Non-Transport Fee** *(Video Record Time: 9:34 – 21:16)*

- c. **360-Degree Survey Consultant Discussion** (*Video Record Time: 21:16 – 24:13*)

6. Public Hearings

- a. **Consider amendments to the Town of Orono code of Ordinances, Chapter 34 – Traffic and Vehicles.** (*Video Record Time: 24:13 – 25:12*)

Public hearing a. opened at 5:23 PM. No public comment was made. Public hearing a. closed at 5:24 PM.

7. Acknowledgements by Council Members (*Video Record Time: 25:12 – 26:53*)

Jacob Baker acknowledged the Finance Department for finishing the audit, starting another, and putting together the budget.

Sarah Marx acknowledged the Orono Observer, specifically the variety and array of programs offered by Parks and Rec and the Library.

Dan Demeritt acknowledged the Town and University's professionalism in the search for Chance Lauer.

John Quinn, Matt Powers, Andrea Hardison, and Rob Laraway made no acknowledgements.

8. Action Items

- Order 26-50** **Order, setting the date of April 13, 2026 at 5:00 PM for a Public Hearing to consider amendments to the Town of Orono code of Ordinances, Chapter 20 - Law Enforcement, Article III – Disorderly Property.** (*Video Record Time: 26:53 – 38:30*)

Moved by Rob Laraway and seconded by Matt Powers. All voted in favor, 7-0.

- Order 26-51** **Order, authorizing the Town Manager to reallocate the \$75,000 designated Fire Department defibrillators to be used for purchasing \$67,500 of turnout gear.** (*Video Record Time: 38:30 – 41:23*)

Moved by Andrea Hardison and seconded by Jacob Baker. All voted in favor, 7-0.

- Order 26-52** **Order, directing the Town Manager to review the results of the scored Orono Stops survey and present findings at the next Community Development Committee meeting. Town Staff's presentation will provide a high-level overview that includes:** (*Video Record Time: 41:23 – 48:36*)

1. **Project Recommendations – With focus on, but not limited to, the top nine survey scores, taking into account ongoing related initiatives and projects addressable within the normal Public Works cycle.**
2. **Initial Timelines – Recommendations on how and when to proceed with identified projects, including sequencing considerations.**

Moved by Matt Powers and seconded by Rob Laraway. All voted in favor, 7-0.

Order 26-53 Order, authorizing the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Laurie Bouchard of LBouchard & Associates, LLC to coordinate the 360-degree Town Manager and Town Council survey this year, as recommended by the Nominations, Evaluations, and Council Policies Committee. (*Video Record Time: 48:36 – 49:17*)

Moved by Matt Powers and seconded by Rob Laraway. All voted in favor, 7-0.

9. Council Committee Reports (*Video Record Time: 49:17 – 1:11:58*)

- a. Community Development Committee
 - Nothing additional
- b. Finance and Operations Committee
 - Audit presentation
 - Old Fire Station
- c. Nominations, Evaluations, and Council Policies Committee
 - Status of Council Policies and Procedures manual
 - Town Council Year Calendar
 - Appointments Update
- d. Ordinance Review Committee
 - Meeting this Thursday, March 26
- e. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee
 - Interpretive Plan
 - Book club starting in April
- f. Council Chair's Update
 - HOME committee applications open until March 25

10. Town Manager's Report (*Video Record Time: 1:11:58 – 1:17:05*)

- a. County Tax Bill
- b. Officer Patterson completed the 24-hour super plunge
- c. Officer Tufts completed drug recognition training
- d. Resignations
- e. Public works snow removal
- f. Staff working together when Clint was out

11. Public Petitions - None

12. Future Agenda Items And Councilor Requests for Supporting Items (*Video Record Time: 1:17:10 – 1:23:04*)

- Charter change – Bonding
- ALS awareness proclamation for May

13. Public Comment - None

14. Executive Session

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

At 6:22 PM, Jacob Baker motioned and Matt Powers seconded to move into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. All voted in favor, 7-0.

At 6:41 PM, Council returned to regular session.

15. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:42 PM by Jacob Baker and seconded by Andrea Hardison. All voted in favor, 7-0.

Minutes are not verbatim. A video-recorded version is available on the Town's website at www.orono.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Vanstone

Executive Assistant