



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026 AT 5:00 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, 59 MAIN STREET, ORONO, MAINE

WATCH ONLINE AT <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81624380650>

CALL IN (312) 626-6799 Webinar ID: 816 2438 0650

Council Goals for Council Year 2025-2026: [\(PDF\)](#)

- Long-term Financial and Infrastructure Planning
- Improve Efficiency and Transparency
- Enhance and Expand Community Events and Engagement
- Economic Development and Housing
- *Services Promises: Your Voice Matters & Orono Stops*

AGENDA

1. Roll Call

2. Agenda Review - 5 minutes

a. Referred to Committee:

- Community Development Committee
 - Review effectiveness of metrics to reduce speed on Rt. 2 (On-going)
 - Kiddie Pool (end of summer)
- Finance and Operations Committee
 - Old Fire Station disposition (Revisit summer 2026)
 - 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
- 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: June 8, 2026 - 2 minutes

[2026-06-08 Town Council Meeting Minutes & Budget Adoption.pdf](#)

4. Public Comments - 5 minutes

The Orono Town Council welcomes feedback. A public comment should start by stating your first and last name, regardless of whether in person or on zoom (anonymous comment is not allowed). All comments are capped at 5 minutes maximum, and shorter time limits may be set by the Chair in advance based on anticipated meeting length and audience size. Generally, shorter comments are more effective. Comments about specific Town of Orono employees, whether they are positive or negative, are prohibited during Orono Town Council meetings. Complaints or allegations against specific employees are similarly prohibited, and should be addressed through established Town policies and procedures. Although the Council may briefly provide a factual answer to a question or correct a factual error, the Council primarily listens to public comment and response, if any, would come in Council discussion later in the meeting.

5. Presentations / Discussion Items -

a. Council Goals Discussion – 15 minutes

b. Comp Plan Update – 10-15 minutes

- Process for Updates
- Amendments to Ordinances
- Contracted Services
- Items on Consent Agenda

6. Public Hearings – 20 minutes

Public Hearings are formal opportunities for the community to provide feedback on specific items that will be considered by the Town Council. The Council Chair will open each hearing, recognize staff to provide an overview or presentation on the hearing topic, and then ask for questions or comments from the public. Those who wish to speak are asked to come to the microphone (in-person) or raise their hand (Zoom), state their name and affiliation, and then briefly address the Town Council Chair. Comments should not be repetitive and the Council Chair reserves the right to limit speaker time in order to allow for an orderly meeting and participation by all.

- A. An ordinance authorizing and approving the following capital improvement projects: Waste Pollution Control Facility (Sewer) Improvements; the Library Expansion Project; and Public Safety Building / Police Station Construction Project. Said projects will be financed through the issuance of up to \$9,000,000 of the Town's general obligation bonds.

[Orono Ordinance Approving 2026 Bond Projects\(19593742.1\).pdf](#)

[Sewer Improvements Bond Order \(\\$6MM\).pdf](#)

[Public Safety Building Bond Order \(\\$400K\).pdf](#)

[Library Bond Order \(\\$2.6MM\).pdf](#)

7. Acknowledgements by Council Members - 10 minutes

8. Consent Agenda - 5 minutes

The Town of Orono is an equal opportunity employer and service provider that celebrates diversity and is committed to creating an inclusive environment for our employees and those we serve.

The consent agenda is moved and voted on as a single action with no discussion by Town Councilors or members of the public. A member of the Town Council or the public can request that an order on the consent agenda be removed and added to new business to allow for explanation and discussion prior to the vote.

Order 26-136 Order, approving a Class I – Malt Liquor, Wine & Spirits Liquor License, Special Amusement Permit renewal for Music, Dancing and Entertainment and Victualer’s License for Marsh Island Brewing, LLC, 2 Main Street.

Order 26-137 Order, approving the renewal of a Marijuana Establishment (Retail Store) License for Red Brick & Mortar, d/b/a Firestorm of Orono, 6 Stillwater Avenue, Suite 300.

Order 26-138 Order, casting a vote for Clint Deschene to serve on the Maine Municipal Association’s Legislative Policy Committee for the 2026-2028 biennium.

[Ballot for Election to MMA's LPC Committee.pdf](#)

Order 26-139 Order, authorizing the Town Manager to enter into a Contract Agreement with Isabelle Lee (formerly Oechsle), dba IOV Community Planning + Consulting for comprehensive plan implementation and ordinance related services for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 with funds drawn from the approved FY27 Planning Budget.

[IOV Community Planning + Consulting Contract Professional Services Agreement - comp plan and ordinance implementation.PDF](#)

Order 26-140 Order, authorizing the Town Manager to enter into a Contract Agreement with Isabelle Lee (formerly Oechsle), dba IOV Community Planning + Consulting for consulting services for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 with funds drawn from the approved FY27 Planning Budget.

[IOV Community Planning + Consulting Contract Professional Services Agreement - consulting services.PDF](#)

Order 26-141 Order, authorizing the Town Manager to purchase one (1) 2025 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Hybrid from Quirk Auto Group for the Police Department in the amount of up to \$46,825; plus up to \$18,063 paid to Island Technology Services Group for equipment purchase and set-up to be drawn from the approved FY27 Capital Equipment Budget.

[FY27 Cruiser memo.pdf](#)

[FY27 Patrol Car.pdf](#)

[FY27 ITS Equipment Quote.pdf](#)

Order 26-142 Order, setting the date of August 10, 2026 at 5:00 PM for a Public Hearing to consider amendments to the Town of Orono Code of Ordinances Chapter 18 –

Land Use.

[OBC Property Rezoning Memo July 2026.pdf](#)

Order 26-143 Order, setting the date of August 10, 2026 at 5:00 PM for a Public Hearing to consider a zone change request by the Town of Orono to rezone the parcels located at Tax Map 31-2, lots 26, 28, 29A, and 29B from MDR, to C-2.

Order 26-144 Order, setting the date of August 10, 2026 at 5:00 PM for a Public Hearing to consider amendments to the Town of Orono Code of Ordinances Chapter 12 – Cemeteries.

[Cemetery MEMO to Council.july2026.pdf](#)

[CURRENT Chapter 12 CEMETERIES.docx](#)

[REDLINED Chapter 12 CEMETERIES.docx](#)

[CLEAN Chapter 12 CEMETERIES.docx](#)

Order 26-155 Order, confirming the Town Manager’s appointment of Kimberly Zaagsma as the Local Plumbing Inspector (LPI)

9. Action Items – 45 to 60 minutes

After orders under Action Items are read by the Council Chair, other members of the Council will move and second that they be placed “on the floor” for discussion. The Chair will recognize staff to provide background and then “open the floor” for discussion. It is at this time that members of the public can be recognized to ask questions or provide comments. Those who wish to speak are asked to come to the microphone (in-person) or raise their hand (Zoom), state their name and affiliation, and then briefly address the Town Council Chair. Comments should not be repetitive and the Council Chair reserves the right to limit speaker time.

Order 26-145 Order, authorizing bonds to finance sewer system improvements and a tax levy therefor.

[Sewer Improvements Bond Order \(\\$6MM\).pdf](#)

Order 26-146 Order, authorizing bonds to finance public safety building/police station and a tax levy therefor.

[Public Safety Building Bond Order \(\\$400K\).pdf](#)

Order 26-147 Order, authorizing bonds to finance library improvements and a tax levy therefor.

[Library Bond Order \(\\$2.6MM\).pdf](#)

Order 16-156 Order, authorize the Town Manager to execute all agreements and proceed with a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$3,538,761 with Benchmark

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Construction for the construction of Orono Police Department at 56 Main Street.

[Orono Police Department Town Council Memorandum 7-7-26.pdf](#)

- Order 26-157 Order, authoring the allocation of \$65,500 of overlay, for Fiscal 2027, to balance revenues and expenditures and sustain overall budget tax commitment.

[Fiscal Year 27 Budget Reconciliation Summary.pdf](#)

- Order 26-148 Order, authorizing the Town Manager to deposit the annual distribution of \$2,700 from the Park Library Trust to the Library Construction Account.

[Park Library Trust Memo June 2026.pdf](#)

- Order 26-149 Be it ordered the Town Manager is authorized to apply, on behalf of the Town of Orono, for federal financing assistance under the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, Public Law 88-578 for the development of Marden Park; and further authorize the Town Manager to enter into the Land and Water Conservation Fund Project Agreement with the State subsequent to federal approval of the project.

[LWCF-Application.pdf](#)

- Order 26-150 Order, approving the proposed Council Policies and Procedures Manual as recommended by the Nominations, Evaluations, and Council Policies Committee.

[Cover Letter Council Manual 07012026.pdf](#)

[Proposed Policies and Procedures Manual Draft 06172026.docx](#)

[Recommendations from NECP - Accepted 2024-10-07.PDF](#)

[Orono Town Council Policies and Procedure Manual.pdf](#)

- Order 26-151 Order, confirming the employment contract of Megan Hess as the Public Works Director for the Town of Orono, effective July 6, 2026 to June 30, 2029.

- Order 26-152 Order, approving a land swap with an abutter of Town-owned property on Godfrey Drive.

[Godfrey Drive Parcel Swap.pdf](#)

- Order 26-153 Order, approving the transfer of forfeited property to the Orono Police Department pursuant to 15 MRSA §5824(3) & §5826(6).

[Thibodeau Approval Cover Letter 22-3664.pdf](#)

[Thibodeau Approval 22-3664.pdf](#)

[Policy - Asset Forfeiture 12-9-19.pdf](#)

- Order 26-154 Order, authorizing the transfer of all unanticipated revenue funds received through GovDeals (a total of \$35,116) to a Capital Reserve Equipment Account for Public Works equipment purchases.

[Unanticipated Revenue Funds.pdf](#)

- Order 26-158 Order, approving the final language for the Town Manager and Town Council 360-degree performance surveys from Laurie Bouchard of LBouchard & Associates.

[2026 Town Council 360 Questions - DRAFT LJB 6.14.2026.pdf](#)

[2026 Town Manager 360 Questions for Public Feedback - DRAFT LJB 6.8.2026.pdf](#)

[2026 360 Performance Feedback - Internal - Clint Deschene.pdf](#)

10. Council Committee Reports - 15 minutes

- a. Community Development Committee
 - Update from Committee Chairperson
 - Orono Stops Update – Mitch Stone
- b. Finance and Operations Committee
 - Update from Committee Chairperson
- c. Nominations, Evaluations, and Council Policies Committee
 - Update from Committee Chairperson
- d. Ordinance Review Committee
 - Update from Committee Chairperson
- e. Heart of Orono Maine (HOME) Committee
 - Update from Council representative
- f. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee
 - Update from Council representative
- g. Update from Council Liaisons to Boards and Committees
- h. Council Chair's Update
 - Update from Council Chairperson

11. Town Manager's Report – 10 minutes

- a. Office Closure for Staff BBQ – August 18 from 11 AM to 1 PM
- b. Orono Festival Day
- c. Chief Joseph Orono Wabanaki Veterans Award (Presentation Date)
- d. County Budget Update
- e. Maine Trails Grant
- f. Work Fit Update
- g. Local Treasures
- h. Route 2 Update
- i. Owner's Representative Library Project

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12. Public Petitions

13. Future Agenda Items and Councilor Requests for Supporting Items - 5 minutes

- Consider Committee Assignment for Municipal Sex Offender Ordinances
- Fire Department Data/Service Levels (*possible future workshop*)
- Code Department Presentation

14. Public Comment - 5 minutes

15. Executive Session *Note: due to scheduling these may also occur at the beginning of the meeting.*

Executive sessions allow the Town Council to engage in discussions on topics that are confidential by state law. Pursuant to statute, only discussion related to the noticed topic is allowed and the session will not be open for the public to attend. In order to enter an executive session, the vote must pass with three-fifths of the Councilors present and voting. No formal action may be taken in executive session.

a. Pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6)(C) Regarding Acquisition of Real Property or Economic Development – 10 minutes

Note: action anticipated

Order 26-159 To Be Discussed in Executive Session

b. Pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6)(D) Regarding Labor Negotiations – 5-10 minutes

Order 26-160 Order, authorizing the Town Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with AFSCME Council 93.

c. Pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6)(D) Regarding Labor Negotiations – 10 minutes

d. Pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6)(A) Regarding a Personnel Matter (Auditor Renewal) – 10 minutes

16. Adjournment

ADA Notice - Requesting Reasonable Accommodation

Please contact the Town Manager's Office at (207) 889-6905 or manager@orono.org prior to scheduled meetings or events to discuss auxiliary aids or services needed to fully participate in Orono Town Council activities.
