

Mayor Levesque called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of Auburn Hall and led the assembly in the salute to the flag. All Councilors were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

I. Consent Items - None

II. Minutes – November 15, 2021, Regular Council Meeting

Motion was made by Councilor Milks and seconded by Councilor Walker to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2021, Regular Council meeting.

Passage 7-0.

III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions

- Communication from Kennebec Behavioral Health
- Communication from Mayor Levesque - Comprehensive Plan-Future Land Use & Strip zone information
- Presentation recognizing the service of Councilor Lasagna (2 terms), Councilor Boss (1 term), Councilor Carrier (2 terms), and Councilor MacLeod (1 term).
- Council Communications (about and to the community)

Councilor Lasagna – wanted to give thanks to members of the community that have shown up time after time in support of the work they’ve done. She noted that it has been extremely meaningful and educational for the Council to hear from them.

IV. Open Session – No one from the public spoke.

V. Unfinished Business

1. Ordinance 31-07192021

Amending the Low-Density Country Residential and Rural Residential Strips abutting the Agriculture/Resource Protection Zone from the current depth of 450 Feet from center line of the roadway to a depth of 750 Feet from the centerline of the roadway or the rear property boundary, whichever is less. Public hearing and second reading.

Motion was made by Councilor MacLeod and seconded by Councilor Boss for passage.

Public hearing:

Thomas Shields, Maple Hill Road had a number of questions regarding the proposed amendment. Why did Planning Board vote no on this? If a lot expanded 450 from road and add another 300 if the land allows, what is the purpose of that? How many houses and septic systems are going to be put there? He noted that adding further density to those kinds of places is difficult. He also wanted to know many house lots are on the map on the Maple Hill Road and Dillingham Hill Road area.

Fred Holler, 352 West Auburn Road, stated that this was the third time he has attended a public hearing on this and he hasn’t heard anyone that has talked in favor of this proposed amendment.

He said that he feels it is a major change for the city and would like more concern to be given on this matter.

Michael Heskanen, 380 Youngs Corner Road supports the Planning Board's recommendation to not approve this amendment.

Cynthia Alexander, 582 West Auburn Road, thanked the Council for all of the work they do and the time they put in. She stated that she agrees with all of the comments that have been made thus far. Comprehensive plan is focused on growth but doesn't consider all residents and where they are at. She stated that she values her privacy and would not want neighbors to build behind her home, and she would like to know how to get an exemption if this were to pass.

Sid Hazelton, 121 Conant Avenue and Auburn Water District Superintendent, spoke in opposition to the proposed amendments to the Lake Auburn Watershed overlay zone. It would put the filtration waiver at risk. A study was done, and the zone changes were discouraged. A filtration system would cost approximately 40 million dollars.

Susan Brown, 152 Dillingham Hill Road stated that she was grateful that Sid Hazelton spoke.

Scott Alexander, 582 West Auburn Road stated that his land is not suitable for leach field, so his leach field is on someone else's land. By expanding his land to be buildable lot when it is not a buildable lot to begin with. He stated that his taxes would go up but there would be no value to him. He stated that he is very concerned, and very frustrated adding that a lot of thought should be given to how it will be developed.

Mike Parent, 275 Dillingham Hill Road said that he thinks this proposed amendment is discriminating to people who chose to buy and live in those areas.

Kathy Shaw, 1200 Sopers Mill Road said that she has talked to a lot of longtime residents of the city, one person told her that when she first moved here 35,000 acres were protected in the agriculture resource protection zone, now we have approximately 18,000 acres that are protected and they are talking about removing another 1,000 acres. She said she understands why people are frustrated - they are seeing land being taken from them to raise taxes.

Bill Sylvester, 1128 South River Road said he Feels this should be in the comprehensive plan. He serves on the Agriculture Committee and they did not recommend a zone change. He stated that this is a poor time to be making decisions about zoning in any town or city due.

Dan Herrick, 470 Hatch Road stated that he is also frustrated and feels the agricultural resource protection areas are being squeezed out.

Steve Damian, 703 South Witham Road stated that the Planning Board did a good job voting against passing this at this time, adding that he is opposed to the proposed change.

Michael Morrissey, 825 Perkins Ridge Road stated that he is opposed to the proposed change, adding that the proposed changes in the watershed protection zone will poison our water system.

Carl Skilling, 1425 Riverside Drive, stated that people use his land to recreate. He said he did not buy the property to have a bunch of houses around him and he would like the things to stay as is.

Chuck Naum, 968 Perkins Ridge Road stated that he is already at the 750 feet but he does not support proposal adding that we should listen to our Planning Board.

Motion was made by Councilor Gerry and seconded by Councilor Boss to postpone this item indefinitely.

Passage to postpone indefinitely, 4-3 (Councilors Walker, Milks, and Carrier opposed). A roll call vote was taken.

2. Ordinance 38-11152021

Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Sec. 2-25 Salaries (Mayor) effective 12/18/2023. Second reading.

Motion was made by Councilor Boss and seconded by Councilor MacLeod for passage.

Public comment – No one from the public spoke.

Motion was made by Councilor Carrier and seconded by Councilor Lasagna to amend by including an effective date of 1-1-2022.

The vote was 3-3-1 (Councilors Boss, MacLeod, Gerry opposed, Councilor Milks abstained) resulting in a tie vote and in accordance with the City Charter, Article III, Section 3.3, the Mayor voted to break the tie vote, voting in favor of the amendment. Amendment passes.

Passage of the ordinance as amended 4-3 (Councilors Gerry, MacLeod, and Milks opposed). A roll call vote was taken.

3. Ordinance 39-11152021

Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Sec. 2-382 Salaries of school committee members. Second reading.

Motion was made by Councilor Carrier and seconded by Councilor Walker for passage.

Public comment – No one from the public spoke.

Motion as made by Councilor Carrier and seconded by Councilor Boss to include an effective date of 1-1-2022 and the full amount of \$4,000 annually.

Passage 5-2 (Councilors MacLeod and Gerry opposed).

Passage of the ordinance as amended 6-1 (Councilor Gerry opposed). A roll call vote was taken.

4. Ordinance 40-11152021

Amending Chapter 2 - Administration, Division 4 – Planning Board, Sec. 2-466 by adding section (f) compensation of Planning Board members. Second reading.

