

MINUTES
FREEPORT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING #24-23
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 30 MAIN STREET, FREEPORT
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023
6:00 PM

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Councilor Chair Daniel Piltch, 25 Quarry Lane	X		
Council Vice Chair, John Egan, 38 Curtis Road	X		
Councilor Matthew Pillsbury, 36 Todd Brook Rd	X		
Councilor Chip Lawrence, 93 Hunter Road			X
Councilor Darrel Fournier, 3 Fournier Drive	X		
Councilor Jake Daniele, 264 Pownal Road	X		
Councilor Edward Bradley, 242 Flying Point Road	X		

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: Pledge of Allegiance

ITEM # 206-23 To consider action relative to the appointment of a Town Manager.

The Chair reviewed briefly the process the Town had followed in hiring the new Town Manager.

BE IT ORDERED: That Sophia L. Wilson be appointed Freeport’s Town Manager.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the Employment Agreement between Sophia L. Wilson and The Town of Freeport, dated October 24, 2023 be approved. **MOVED AND SECONDED:** (Piltch & Bradley) **VOTE:** (6-Ayes)(0-Nays)(1-Excused Lawrence)

Councilor Bradley relayed his experience in the interview process and talked about the question that secured his support of Ms. Wilson. The Councilors all welcomed the new Town Manager in turn.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of property at 22 Main Street and if the Town Council should consider placing an item on a future agenda for public input on pursuing a real estate transaction to possibly purchase the property.

Councilor Bradley: 22 Main Street is an open space between Town Hall and the Fire Station that is owned by Moser Furniture. It was for sale and development use. It was for a housing project that was part of what this town’s Downtown Vision had focused on. A huge amount of information and response occurred, most of it negative, based on a group of people in the community who believed it was the gateway to the town and the project that was proposed would interfere with it’s vision and it’s function. There were a series of decisions made and the developer and seller walked away from each other. A group of residents got together, approached and negotiated with the Moser’s about purchasing the land. An offer from the Moser’s was presented to the Town in Executive Session last meeting.

COUNCIL MEETING #22-23
DECEMBER 5, 2023

The Moser's offered to sell 22 Main Street to the Town for \$500,000. It had been on the market for \$650,000. The group that felt it should be taken off the market and committed to public use offered to raise \$100,000 of that. He felt the Council would be very optimistic. They, however, raised a lot of good questions as to what the purpose is and whether it's worth \$400,000. They decided as a Council to go into a process that would include having a public meeting that would identify purposes for the use of that property that are now not on the table. That would be done in quick fashion out of respect to the Moser family.

(Councilor Bradley)(10 minutes)

END OF AGENDA (Estimated time of adjournment 6:30 PM)