

CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Andrew Brown, President; Raj Chawla, Vice-President; Dan Kerin; Amber Thibeault; George Tyler

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Regina Mahoney, City Manager

OTHERS PRESENT: Danielle Brown, Heidi Clark, Steve Eustis, Elaine Haney, Dennis Thibeault, RSM. S.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brown called the meeting of the City Council to order at 6:30 PM.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/ CHANGES

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

No changes. Thus no approval is required.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

None.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

a. Public Hearing on the Proposed Charter Changes

Ms. Mahoney presented the proposed Charter changes. These include the following: to allow a City Councilor to hold City employment under state statute, to allow former City Councilors to hold City employment immediately after leaving the City Council, to allow the City Council to appoint the Moderator and set the date of the City Informational Meeting. Mr. Brown opened public comment.

Mr. Eustis, who has served as the Village Moderator for many years, said it is important to keep the role of Moderator. He said he agrees this position should be appointed rather than elected. He suggested that the Council consider including something stating that the Moderator can moderate other meetings besides the City Informational Meeting. He suggested having more than one day between the City Informational Meeting and Annual Meeting and having the City vote on Town Meeting Day. Mr. Chawla said he agrees with moving the informational meeting, as ballots are now mailed to all voters. He said that this would help to engage the community and increase participation. The Council discussed the verbiage of Annual Meeting v. City Informational Meeting. City Informational Meeting is when the budget and ballot are discussed, and Annual Meeting is when voting occurs if not done by mail. Ms. Mahoney said that this is defined in state statute, and all agreed to leave the wording as is for the time being.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Discussion and Consideration on the Proposed Charter Changes

Mr. Brown said that this would be discussed again on March 13. However, no changes could be made at this time. Ms. Thibeault asked if a January 1st deadline would allow enough time to set a date and

48 coordinate with the school district. Mr. Brown said that this date could impact other deadlines and that he
49 felt that January 1st was sufficient. All agreed. Mr. Brown requested public comment, none was given.
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51 **RAJ CHAWLA made a motion, seconded by DAN KERIN, that the City Council accept the changes**
52 **to the proposed charter change amendments for inclusion in the annual meeting warning to be**
53 **considered on March 8, 2023. Motion passed 5-0.**
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55 **7. CONSENT ITEMS**

56 None.
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58 **8. READING FILE**

59 None.
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61 **9. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

62 None.
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64 **10. ADJOURN**

65 **RAJ CHAWLA made a motion, seconded by DAN KERIN, to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0 at 7:04**
66 **p.m.**
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68 Respectfully Submitted,
69 Darby Mayville
70 Recording Secretary
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