

City Council Annual Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2015

Annual Meeting  
Jeff's Catering

Tuesday, November 17, 2015  
6:00 p.m.

The annual meeting was called to order by City Clerk Pamela J. Ryan. The city clerk called the roll:

Councilor-elect Goss	-	Present
Councilor O'Connell	-	Present
Councilor Ferris	-	Present
Councilor-elect Vachon	-	Present
Councilor Uhlenhake	-	Present

The city clerk declared a quorum present. City Manager Bost and City Solicitor Dearborn were also present.

The city clerk read the notice for the meeting.

TO: Joseph Ferris, Jerry Goss, Matthew Vachon, Kevin O'Connell and Beverly Uhlenhake  
MEMBERS OF THE BREWER CITY COUNCIL You are hereby notified the annual meeting of the City Council will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Jeff's Catering, 15 Littlefield Way, Brewer, Maine to consider and act on the items on the attached agenda.

s/Matthew Vachon  
Mayor and Chairman of the City Council

a true copy, attest: s/Pamela J. Ryan  
City Clerk

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OFFICER'S RETURN

I have on the date(s) and time(s) indicated given notice of this meeting by giving in hand or by leaving at the usual dwelling place of the within named an attested copy of this notice of meeting:

Given/Delivered to:	by (person delivering)	Title	Date	Time
Joseph Ferris	S. Young	Ptl.	11/13/15	1654
Matthew Vachon	P. Ryan	CC	11/13/15	4:00 pm
Beverly Uhlenhake	S. Young	Ptl.	11/13/15	1645
Jerry Goss	S. Young	Ptl.	11/13/15	1717
Kevin O'Connell	S. Young	Ptl.	11/13/15	1703

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**BREWER CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015 6:00 P.M.  
JEFF'S CATERING, 15 LITTLEFIELD WAY**

1. Call to Order (City Clerk)
2. Invocation: Rev. Roger Davis
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
4. Swearing in of Councilors-Elect
5. Swearing in of School Committee Members-Elect, Student Representative to the School Committee and H.S. District Trustee-Elect
6. Election of Mayor
7. Swearing in of Mayor
8. Election of Vice-Chairperson
9. Swearing in of Vice-Chairperson
10. Mayor's Address
11. Appointments and Committee Establishments
  - a. Establish a Committee on Finance (Mayor)
  - b. Appoint Sub-Committee to Interview Candidates for Standing Boards and Committees (Mayor)
  - c. Other Committee Establishments (Mayor)
12. (2015-B056) RESOLVE, Establish Location for Regular Meetings.  
(Councilor Goss)
13. (2015-B057) RESOLVE, Establish Time and Dates of Regular Meetings.  
(Councilor Ferris)
14. (2015-B058) RESOLVE, Adopt Ethical Principles for Excellence in Government.  
(Councilor O'Connell)
15. (2015-B059) RESOLVE, Adopt 10 Habits of Highly Effective City Councils.  
(Councilor Vachon)
16. Mayor Announcement of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Brewer School Committee.
17. ADJOURN.

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Reverend Roger Davis, Chaplain for the Brewer Police Department led the council members and others present in the invocation. He also asked for thoughts and prayers for all of the people who keep our country and us safe and also asked that everyone pray for the less fortunate and that ways are found to help them in these needy times.

The City Clerk led members of the council and others present in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

The City Clerk swore in Jerry Goss and Matthew Vachon members of the City Council of the City of Brewer for three year terms.

City Council Annual Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2015

The City Clerk swore in Kevin Forrest and Tammy Smith as members of the Brewer Superintending School Committee, each for three year terms, Ashley Blanchard for a one year term to fill a vacancy and Sarah Maxsimic as the Student Representative Member of the School Committee. Daniel O'Connell was sworn in as High School District Trustee for a five year term..

CITY CLERK: The next item on the agenda is the election of the mayor. At this time do I have any nominations on the floor?

COUNCILOR FERRIS: Ms. Clerk, I'd like to nominate Beverly Uhlenhake for mayor.

CITY CLERK: Not hearing any other nominations for the position of Mayor, nominations will cease.

The motion was seconded.

CITY CLERK: All in favor of Beverly Uhlenhake as the Mayor/Chairperson of the City Council of the City of Brewer? 5 to 0 vote.

The City Clerk swore Beverly Uhlenhake in as Mayor/Chairperson of the City Council of the City of Brewer.

MAYOR UHLENHAKE: At this time we would like to elect a Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairperson of the City Council. Do I have any nominations?

COUNCILOR GOSS Mr. Mayor, I'd like to nominate Kevin O'Connell.

MAYOR UHLENHAKE: Any further nominations?

COUNCILOR FERRIS: I move that nominations cease.

The motion was seconded.

MAYOR UHLENHAKE: Okay. The nominations have been taken and ceased. Now I need a vote for the Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairperson position, Kevin O'Connell. All those in favor? 5 to 0 vote. Kevin O'Connell is the Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairperson.

The City Clerk swore in Kevin O'Connell as the Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairperson of the City Council of the City of Brewer.

MAYOR UHLENHAKE: At this time, I will give my Mayor's address.

REMARKS OF BEVERLY UHLENHAKE – CITY OF BREWER ANNUAL MEETING 2015

Good evening and thank you for entrusting to be your mayor for the coming year.

Before I begin, I want to congratulate my fellow city councilors Goss and Vachon on their reelection, school committee members Forrest, Smith, and Blanchard on their elections, and Trustee O’Connell on his extremely hard-fought, albeit uncontested, reelection. I also want to thank everyone who ran for office for stepping up and being willing to take on the role of public service for our fellow Brewer residents. More candidates means more conversations throughout our city about how we can make this a better place to live and learn. It can only make us better.

I’d like to welcome the representatives from Bangor and Hampden councils who have joined us, as well as our State Representative Archie Verow.

I also want to take a moment to introduce my family who is with me tonight. My wife, Sue, and our three kiddos, Ben, Ansley, and Quinn. For the superintendent and the school board members here tonight, you should know that our kids each think that their teacher is the best in the entire school. Actually, I think Ben has said that every single year. We’re lucky to have such great teachers.

And I have another pair of guests here that you can’t see. My parents are joining us via Facetime here on my iPad. Please say hello to Bob and Helen Uhlenhake. Dad and I have always talked about politics a LOT. I know how high his standards for public servants are; I hope I can live up to them!

We’ve had a very busy year here in Brewer. We’ve given away 11 Keys to the City, with more on the way. We’ve celebrated new businesses and businesses that have been around for a very long time. There is a lot of good things to talk about.

That said I’m not going to spend time tonight to discuss Brewer’s strengths or its challenges and make promises about how we might fix any issues. Rather, I want to talk about the role of Brewer City Council and how we make decisions. It is my firm belief that if we continue to act with integrity and with a keen eye on the present and future residents of Brewer, we will find the path to the best solutions for the City.

In a few minutes, and indeed, as we have at every annual meeting for a number of years, we shall adopt the 10 Habits of Highly Effective City Councils and the Ethical Principles of Excellence in Government. You’ll hear us pledge to think and act strategically, to allocate time and energy appropriately, and to get a valid assessment of the public’s concerns. We’ll define a true Brewer public servant as one who has the courage of his or her convictions, does not succumb to peer or political pressure, and never forgets that he or she is working for the people – ALL the people.

Rotarians also have a simple test for making decisions that I tend to use. It goes like this: In all things we think, do, or say:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- Is it beneficial to all concerned?

I propose an additional question for us on Brewer City Council: Will it be beneficial to residents of Brewer today and tomorrow? Because if it doesn't benefit Brewer citizens in some way, we shouldn't be doing it.

In addition to advocating for each of you when you hit the proverbial (and inevitable) pothole, we'll also be doing things you might not see. We'll be working closely with our surrounding communities to improve the region as a whole. We'll be paying attention to state and federal politics that can impact our citizens. And we'll be meeting with our delegations to Augusta and to Washington DC to "advocate up" so they know precisely how their decisions might positively or negatively impact you, their constituents.

While we are paying attention to the big picture, our City Staff will continue to focus on making this the best place to live in Maine. From entertaining and educating our kids in the Rec program and at the library to making our roads safe to ensuring we have clean water to drink to literally putting out the fires, our city staff are to be commended for their dedication to you, our citizens. A few years back when Jerry Goss stood in this position at a time when the city was taking possession of our former schools while also dealing with the foreclosure crisis, he urged the staff to take up the mantra of "fix it or flatten it". While thankfully we don't have to worry now as much about buildings, I'll urge you to continue in the same strain: Make good decisions for the citizens of Brewer, and then simply get it done.

All of us, both staff and council, over the next year will continue to use a very clear lens – one that requires us to ask the question: Will this be beneficial to present and future Brewer citizens?

Over the last two years, I've gotten to know these gentlemen to my right and the city staff, and I know that I can speak for them when I say that we pledge to be here for you, that we will act with integrity, and we will indeed keep a keen eye on the needs of the residents of Brewer of today and tomorrow.

Thank you again. This is a humbling experience. I'm looking forward to a fabulous year ahead.  
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MAYOR UHLENHAKE : Continuing on with the agenda, appointments and committee establishments. I appoint all of the City Councilors to the Committee on Finance. The rest of the appointments of Councilors to committees will be done at the December 8, 2015 regular City Council meeting.

MAYOR UHLENHAKE: We will now take up the four resolves on the agenda:

City Council Annual Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2015

2015-B056

November 17, 2015

TITLE: RESOLVE, ESTABLISH LOCATION FOR REGULAR MEETINGS.

filed November 11, 2015  
by Jerry Goss

WHEREAS, the Charter of the City of Brewer requires that the City Council establish a place for holding its regular meetings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that for and during the year from November 17, 2015 and including November 14, 2016 the place for holding regular meetings of the City Council be established as the Council Chambers in Brewer City Hall.

**ACTION:** Councilor Goss moved that the resolve be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed.

The resolve was adopted by unanimous vote.

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2015-B057

November 17, 2015

TITLE: RESOLVE, ESTABLISH TIME AND DATES OF REGULAR MEETINGS.

filed November 11, 2015  
by Joseph Ferris

WHEREAS, the Charter of the City of Brewer provides that a regular meeting of the City Council shall be held at least once per month; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that for and during the year from November 17, 2015 to and including November 14, 2016 regular meetings of the City Council shall be held at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Monday, November 14, 2016

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Tuesday, March 29, 2016

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Tuesday, August 9, 2016

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

**ACTION:** Councilor Ferris moved that the resolve be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed.

The resolve was adopted by unanimous vote.

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2015-B058

November 17, 2015

TITLE: RESOLVE, ADOPT ETHICAL PRINCIPLES FOR EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT.

filed November 11, 2015  
by Kevin O'Connell

WHEREAS, public service is a public trust and public servants have the obligation to serve the public's interest and to perform and serve with integrity; and

WHEREAS, the many difficult decisions facing public servants involve tough choices between competing claims which involve loyalty to the City, respect for authority, recognition of the policy role of City Council positions, responsiveness to the public's right-to-know and sensitivity to the need for confidentiality when appropriate; and

WHEREAS, an individual's character is measured through the management of one's ego, envy, timidity, ambition and/or craving for personal publicity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the true Brewer public servant:

- *will not act out of spite, bias, or favoritism;*
- *contributes to a climate of mutual trust and respect;*
- *does not succumb to peer or political pressure;*
- *refuses to let official action be influenced by personal relationships, including those arising from past or prospective employment;*
- *has the courage of his or her convictions;*
- *does not try to shift blame to others;*
- *never forgets that he or she is working for the people – all the people;*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the Brewer City Council formally adopt and actively pursue the Ethical Principles for Public Servants provided by the "Council for Excellence in Government," 1992;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this proclamation of ethics be provided to all appointed personnel of the City and the City Manager for dissemination to all employees of the City of Brewer.

**ACTION:** Councilor O’Connell moved that the resolve be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed.

Councilor O’Connell asked to read the resolve to the audience to show the true ethical principles that their public servants hold true.

The resolve was adopted by unanimous vote.

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2015-B059

November 17, 2015

**TITLE:** RESOLVE, ADOPT 10 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE CITY COUNCILS.

filed November 11, 2015  
by Matthew Vachon

WHEREAS, Thomas Cronin, a recognized authority on public policy, has observed hundreds of governing bodies over many years and has identified 10 “habits” of highly effective municipal councils; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the Brewer City Council that adopting and observing these 10 “habits” can make the Brewer City Council highly effective and competent in leading the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 10 “habits” of Highly Effective Councils, set forth below, are herewith adopted by the Brewer City Council for the 2016 calendar year:

1. Think and Act Strategically
2. Understand and Demonstrate the Elements of Teams and Teamwork
3. Master Small-Group Decision Making
4. Clearly Define Roles and Relationships
5. Establish and Abide by a Council-Staff Partnership
6. Make a Systematic Evaluation of Policy Implementation
7. Allocate Council Time and Energy Appropriately
8. Set Clear Rules and Procedures for Council Meetings
9. Get a Valid Assessment of the Public’s Concerns and An Evaluation of the Council’s Performance
10. Practice Continuous Personal Learning and Development As a Leader



City Council Annual Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2015

**ACTION:** Councilor Vachon moved that the resolve be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed.

Councilor Vachon read the resolve to the audience to show the "habits" that our City Councilors try to follow in their roles are public leaders of the City.

The resolve was adopted by unanimous vote.

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TOWLE came forward at the request of Mayor Uhlenhake and announced that Mark Farley was election Chairman of the Brewer School Committee and Holly Lundquist was elected as Vice-Chairman.

MAYOR UHLENHAKE: Councilor Vachon would you please come forward. Mayor Uhlenhake congratulated and recognized Councilor Vachon for serving as Mayor of the Brewer City Council for the past year by presenting him a plaque and a gavel inscribed with the dates of his service.

MAYOR UHLENHAKE: I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

COUNCILOR GOSS: I move that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded.

MAYOR UHLENHAKE: The motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor? Opposed? The motion to adjourn passes by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 P.M.

ADJOURNED, ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ Pamela J. Ryan  
City Clerk

A TRUE COPY, ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ Brewer, Maine