



**TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 3, 2022  
LISBON TOWN OFFICE**

Mark Lunt 2022  
Donald Fellows 2022  
Jason Smith 2022  
Fern Larochelle, Chair 2023  
Harry Moore, Jr., Vice Chair 2024  
Raymond Robishaw 2024  
Christine Cain 2022

**CALL TO ORDER.** The Chairman, Fern Larochelle, called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at 5:05 PM.

**ROLL CALL.** Members present were Councilors Fellows, Lunt, Larochelle, Robishaw, Smith, and Cain. Councilor Moore was present by remote video. Also present was Ryan McGee, Interim Town Manager; there were no citizens in the audience.

**COUNCIL ORDERS, RESOLUTIONS, & ORDINANCES**

**APPROVE FERRY ROAD CLOSURE FOR CONSTRUCTION WEEK OF AUGUST 21, 2022**

**INTRODUCTION:** Interim Town Manager Ryan McGee explained the construction company would like to put in the new culvert at Brooks Corner the week of August 21 in order to have it done before the school year starts. He said there will be detour signs and electronic detour signs in advance to notify the public

**COUNCILOR COMMENTS:** None.

**VOTE (2022-171)** Councilor Fellows, seconded by Councilor Robishaw, moved to approve the closure of Ferry Road for construction purposes for the week of August 21, 2022.

**Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

**APPROVE MAIN STREET CLOSURE ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2022**

**INTRODUCTION:** Chief McGee explained that the Main Street businesses would like to do a Block Party to help recoup losses due to the Main Street construction. He explained that they would like to include Friday, August 19, from 4:00 to 9:00 PM in the closure.

**COUNCILOR COMMENTS:** Councilor Fellows read an email from Positive Change Lisbon Chair Bill Kuhl in support of the closure and the use of the PCL permits for live music.

**VOTE (2022-172)** Councilor Lunt, seconded by Councilor Fellows, moved to approve the closure of Main Street on Saturday, August 20, 2022 from Union Street to Route 196. Councilor Fellows, seconded by Councilor Robishaw, offered a motion to amend the order to include Friday, August 19, 2022 from 4:00 PM in the street closure. The amendment to the motion was passed **Vote 7-0**.

**Amended Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

**APPROVE MAIN STREET BUSINESSES TO EXTEND ONTO MAIN STREET ON AUGUST 20, 2022**

**INTRODUCTION:** None.

**COUNCILOR COMMENTS:** Councilor Cain stated her abstention from the vote since she is a Main Street business owner with a liquor license.

**VOTE (2022-173)** Councilor Robishaw, seconded by Councilor Fellows, moved to approve the Main Street businesses to extend their liquor licenses onto Main Street on August 20, 2022. Councilor Lunt, seconded by Councilor Fellows, offered a motion to amend the order to include Friday, August 19, 2022 from 4:00 PM in the extension. The amendment to the motion passed **Vote 6-0. (Abstention: Councilor Cain)**

**Amended Order passed - Vote 6-0. (Abstention: Councilor Cain)**

**APPROVE EXTENSION OF SIGN ORDINANCE MORATORIUM FOR AN ADDITIONAL 90 DAYS****INTRODUCTION:****TOWN OF LISBON  
EMERGENCY SIGN ORDINANCE**

**THE TOWN OF LISBON** adopts an Emergency Sign Ordinance as follows:

**WHEREAS**, concerns have been identified regarding the Town's existing sign ordinance, Chapter 70, Article VI, Division 5 of the Lisbon Code of Ordinances, that require review, recommendation and consideration by the Town Council and Planning Board as to potential revisions to the sign ordinance;

**WHEREAS**, the Town needs time to study its Code of Ordinances to determine the implications of current and potential revisions to the sign ordinance and to develop reasonable ordinance amendments;

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council and the Planning Board, with such professional advice and assistance as they deem necessary and appropriate, shall study the Town's ordinances to determine the land use and other regulatory implications of signs and what sign regulations might be appropriate;

**WHEREAS**, amendments to existing ordinance may require public hearings by the Planning Board and Town Council and votes by the Planning Board and Town Council;

**WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that such a study, review, and development of recommended ordinance changes will take at least ninety (90) days from the date the Town first considers this emergency ordinance;

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to temporarily stay enforcement actions by the Town related to existing signs until the Town has an opportunity to consider potential amendments to existing ordinances;

**WHEREAS**, there is currently road construction in Town that has the potential to negatively impact local businesses by making it more difficult for customers to access businesses, and for businesses to make their presence known; and

**WHEREAS**, temporarily allowing businesses to place temporary signage during this time period is necessary to mitigate the impact of road construction on local businesses, and also to allow time for the Town to study its Code of Ordinances and to develop reasonable ordinance amendments;

**WHEREAS**, in the judgment of the Town, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of Section 2.08(b) of the Town Charter, and require this Emergency Sign Ordinance as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public welfare;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Town does hereby ordain that the following Emergency Sign Ordinance be, and hereby is, enacted:

**Section 1. Stay on Enforcement Actions.**

The Town hereby declares that there shall be a temporary stay on enforcement actions under the Town's existing sign ordinance related to all signs that existed on the effective date of this ordinance. This temporary stay on enforcement actions shall remain in effect for ninety (90) days from the effective

date of this Emergency Sign Ordinance, unless extended or modified by the Town Council, for the express purpose of allowing the Town to consider an amendment or amendments to the Town's existing sign ordinance; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that notwithstanding any law to the contrary, this temporary stay of enforcement actions, when enacted, shall apply to any enforcement actions related to signs that exist on the effective date of this Emergency Sign Ordinance, regardless of whether such enforcement actions were commenced prior to the effective date of this Emergency Sign Ordinance; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that during the time this Emergency Sign Ordinance is in effect, no officer, official, employee, office, administrative board or agency of the Town shall take any enforcement action under the existing sign ordinances related to signs that existed on the effective date of this Emergency Sign Ordinance; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that nothing in this Emergency Sign Ordinance shall limit or restrict the Town, after expiration of this Emergency Sign Ordinance, from initiating enforcement actions relating to any sign or from continuing enforcement actions related to signs that were initiated prior to the effective date of this Ordinance; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that existing Town ordinance provisions related to construction and permitting of new permanent signs shall remain in effect during the applicability of this Emergency Sign Ordinance, and the Code Enforcement Officer shall keep the Planning Board informed of any permit applications for new permanent signs that are submitted or approved during the applicability of this Ordinance.

## **Section 2. Suspension of Sign Ordinance Provisions Related to Temporary Signs**

The Town hereby declares that all provisions in the Town's existing sign ordinance related to temporary signs shall be suspended, and shall not be in effect, during the time that this Emergency Sign Ordinance is in effect. This suspension of the existing sign ordinance provisions related to temporary signs shall remain in effect for ninety (90) days from the effective date of this Ordinance, unless extended or modified by the Town Council, for the express purpose of allowing greater flexibility for businesses that may be impacted by current road construction in Town, and for the purpose of allowing time for the Town to consider an amendment or amendments to the Town's existing sign ordinance. The placement or display of any temporary signs during the applicability of this Emergency Sign Ordinance shall not create any right to maintain such signs beyond the time that this Ordinance is in effect, nor shall placement or display of any temporary sign during the applicability of this Ordinance create any rights related to non-conforming signs under applicable Town ordinances.

## **Section 3. Definitions.**

**Temporary sign** shall have the same meaning as set forth in the Town's existing sign ordinance, Lisbon Code of Ordinances Section 70-715, i.e., a sign that is not designed or intended to be permanently mounted or affixed to the ground, a building, or a structure, and which is displayed only for a temporary or limited timeframe.

**Town** means the Town of Lisbon, Maine, a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Maine.

## **Section 4. Effect on Existing Ordinances; Severability**

Those provisions of the Town's existing ordinances that are inconsistent or conflicting with the provisions of this Emergency Sign Ordinance, are hereby repealed to the extent that they are applicable for the duration of this Emergency Sign Ordinance, and as it may be extended as permitted by law, but not otherwise. Should any section or provision of this Emergency Sign Ordinance be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such a declaration shall not invalidate any other section or provision.

#### **Section 5. Effective Date; Emergency Declaration**

This Emergency Sign Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon enactment by the Town Council and shall remain in effect for 90 (ninety) days from the date of enactment unless it is terminated or extended in accordance with this Ordinance. In accordance with Section 2.08(b) of the Town Charter, this Ordinance shall be enacted as an emergency ordinance.

Extension Proposed: August 3, 2022

**COUNCILOR COMMENTS:** Councilor Fellows said the ordinance work is making a lot of progress and the attorneys have worked on it, they will be attending the next Planning Board meeting. He said since it expires on the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>, we will need to extend the moratorium.

**VOTE (2022-174)** Councilor Robishaw, seconded by Councilor Lunt, moved to extend the Emergency Sign Ordinance for an additional 90 days in accordance with the Emergency Sign Ordinance.

**Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**VOTE (2022-175)** Councilor Fellows, seconded by Councilor Robishaw, moved to adjourn at 5:13 PM.

**Order passed - Vote 7-0.**

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Lisa M. Ward, Council Secretary

Town Clerk

Date Approved: August 16, 2022