PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES City Council of the City of Bath, Maine Monday, September 15, 2014 6:00 PM Council Chambers Bath City Hall

Councilors Present: Brackett, Merrill, Paulhus, Wyman, Sinclair, Mitchell, Winglass and Madame Chair Eosco

PUBLIC HEARING – Proposed Charter Amendments to go on the Ballot on November 4, 2014

Madame Chair Eosco called the Hearing to order at 6:00 PM. She welcomed everyone.

CHARTER AMENDMENT – 1

"SHALL THE MUNICIPALITY APPROVE THE CHARTER AMENDMENT SHOWN BELOW?"

[] YES [] NO

AMEND AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER II CITY COUNCIL

SUMMARY: This proposed Charter amendment changes the time for the annual organizational meeting from 7:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. or at such other time as Council may determine.

Sec. 211. Induction of Council into Office.

The City Council shall meet at the usual place for holding meetings at <u>6:00 p.m.</u>7:30 p.m. o'clock in the evening, or at such other time as Council may determine prior to that meeting, on the first Wednesday in the month of December following the election date as established by this Charter, and at said meeting the Councilors elect shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of their duties by a Justice of the Peace or by the City Clerk. This section shall be effective with the first election of Councilors, following the final adoption of this section.

CHARTER AMENDMENT – 2

"SHALL THE MUNICIPALITY APPROVE THE CHARTER AMENDMENT SHOWN BELOW?"

[] YES [] NO

AMEND AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER II CITY COUNCIL

SUMMARY: This proposed Charter amendment allows electronic notification of special meetings to Councilors with verification of receipt.

Sec. 215. Special Meetings.

...Notice of such meetings shall be served in person upon, or left at the residence of each member of the City Council and of the City Manager at least 24 hours before the time of holding such special meetings. In the alternative, notice may be served by electronic mail with verification of receipt. The City Council may meet upon shorter notice by unanimous consent of all its members, recorded in the record of such meeting.

CHARTER AMENDMENT – 3

"SHALL THE MUNICIPALITY APPROVE THE CHARTER AMENDMENT SHOWN BELOW?"

[] YES [] NO

AMEND AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER III CITY MANAGER

SUMMARY: This proposed Charter amendment allows the City Manager to reside outside the City limits.

Sec. 301. Appointment; Qualifications; and Compensation.

The City Council shall appoint a City Manager for an indefinite term and fix his compensation. The City Manager shall be chosen by the City Council on the basis of his character, executive, and administrative qualifications. At the time of his appointment, he need not be a resident of the City of Bath or the State of Maine, but during his tenure of office he may not reside outside the City of Bath.

CHARTER AMENDMENT – 4

"SHALL THE MUNICIPALITY APPROVE THE CHARTER AMENDMENT SHOWN BELOW?"

[] YES [] NO

AMEND AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER VI FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

SUMMARY: This proposed Charter amendment exempts from the municipal expenditure cap revenues received and utilized for project costs related to a Tax Increment Financing District.

Sec. 617. Limitations on Municipal Expenditures.

(8) The tax proceeds allocated to the City with regard to any duly approved Tax Increment Financing District, to the extent that such tax revenue is utilized for any purpose that qualifies as a project cost, as that term is defined under the laws of the State of Maine.

CHARTER AMENDMENT – 5

"SHALL THE MUNICIPALITY APPROVE THE CHARTER AMENDMENT SHOWN BELOW?"

[] YES [] NO

AMEND AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER IX NOMINATION & ELECTIONS

SUMMARY: This proposed Charter amendment is for the purpose of providing alternate wardens and ward clerks to serve at City elections where appointed wardens and ward clerks are unavailable and to remove unneeded language.

Sec. 901. City Elections.

B) There shall be a warden and ward clerk for each City ward to be appointed by City Council. The appointment shall be made on the first Wednesday in December of each year and the term of the appointment shall run for three (3) years concurrent with the Council term for that ward. Council shall appoint on the first Wednesday in December of each year, up to fifteen (15) alternate wardens and ward clerks to serve in the absence or disability of the appointed wardens and ward clerks. Current terms due to expire in November of 1998 shall be extended to the first Wednesday of December 1998. At that time-City Council shall appoint wardens and ward clerks for wards 5 and 7 for a three (3) year term, wardens and ward clerks for wards 2, 3 and 4 for a two year term, and wardens and ward clerks for wards 1 and 6 for a one (1) year term. The wardens and ward clerks and their alternates shall have the duties and powers as prescribed by State Law.

CHARTER AMENDMENT – 6

"SHALL THE MUNICIPALITY APPROVE THE CHARTER AMENDMENT SHOWN BELOW?"

[] YES [] NO

AMEND AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER IX NOMINATION & ELECTIONS

SUMMARY: This proposed Charter amendment brings City elections concerning write-in candidates in line with State Law and eliminates the requirement for tallying of write-in candidates in most circumstances.

Sec. 902. Conduct of Election.

Except as otherwise provided by this Charter, the provisions of the general election laws of the State shall apply to all election officials provided for by Charter and all elections held under the Charter. Election of Director to the School District of which the City of Bath is a participating member shall be conducted in accordance with Sec. 8 and Sec. 9 of LD 910, "An act to Permit Public Schools in the Lower Kennebec River Area to Regionalize to Achieve Efficiency and Improve Quality." <u>The</u> requirements for the declaration of write-in candidates and the procedures for tallying and reporting of votes cast for all write-in candidates at municipal elections shall be in accordance with the provisions of State Law regarding candidates and State elections as set forth in Title 21-A of the Laws of the State of Maine.

Seeing no comments or questions, Madame Chair Eosco closed the Public Hearing at 6:01 PM.

Attest:

Mary J. White, City Clerk

Please note: These minutes are not recorded verbatim. A DVD recording of the meeting is available for review in the City Clerk's Office during regular business hours.