



Regular Town Council Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 7:00 pm

MEETING LOCATION

24 Main Street, Gray, ME 04039 - Town Council Chambers

JOIN MEETING THROUGH TEAMS

- **Microsoft Teams:** <https://graymaine.link/TC-Meeting>
- **Phone:** 469-708-0487 / Meeting ID: 351 221 838#

1. OPENING STATEMENT

2. ROLL CALL - Led by the Town Manager

Minutes:

Councilors Present: Vincent Palange (Chair), Judith Simoneau (Vice Chair), Pamela Edson, Anne Gass, Michael Johnson

Other Town Officials: Lauren Asselin (Interim Town Manager), Britt Barton (Town Clerk)

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG - Led by the Town Manager

Minutes:

Interim Town Manager, Lauren Asselin led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance

4. PRESENTATIONS

a. Presentation of the Boston Post Cane

Minutes:

Town Clerk Britt Barton presented the Boston Post Cane to Eleanor Miriam Bisbee, recognizing her lifetime of contributions to the Town of Gray and her distinction as one of the community's eldest residents.

5. INDUCTION OF COUNCIL INTO OFFICE

Minutes:

Town Clerk Britt Barton administered the Oath of Office to Councilors-elect, Judith Simoneau and Pamela Edson.

6. ELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL OFFICERS

Minutes:

Interim Town Manager Lauren Asselin opened the floor for nominations for council officers.

Motion: To nomination for the position of Chair, and to appoint Vincent Palange for the 2026-2027 term

Moved by: Councilor Simoneau, Seconded by: Councilor Johnson

Ayes: *Johnson, Simoneau, Edson, Gass, Palange*

Nays: *None*

Motion: To nomination for the position of Vice Chair, and to appoint Judith Simoneau for the 2026-2027 term

Moved by: Councilor Palange, Seconded by: Councilor Johnson

Ayes: *Johnson, Simoneau, Palange, Edson*

Nays: *Gass*

Interim Town Manager Lauren Asselin presented Council Chair Palange with the gavel.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes:

Motion: To approve the June 2, 2026, and June 5, 2026, meeting minutes as amended.

Moved by Councilor Johnson, Seconded by Councilor Gass

Chair Palange opened the floor for requests for amendments. Councilor Gass requested grammatical adjustments.

Ayes: *Johnson, Gass, Palange*

Nays: *None*

Abstains: *Simoneau, Edson*

8. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

a. Report from Council Chair

Minutes:

Chair Palange had no items to report.

b. Council Correspondence & Committee Reports

Minutes:

Councilor Gass: Reported that the Open Space Committee is considering potential restructuring recommendations and that a grant proposal was submitted to support continued watershed management planning efforts. She also provided updates on exploring a public safety risk pool, proposed referrals related to a Council Code of Conduct and repayment of Land Acquisition Fund borrowing, and shared public correspondence on both topics.

Councilor Johnson: Reported receiving resident correspondence regarding a proposed Council Code of Conduct and provided an update on winter plowing services. He noted that multiple bids were received for road-specific plowing routes, which may improve efficiency and service delivery for the coming season.

9. REPORT FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Minutes:

Interim Town Manager Asselin reported that the annual staff training day would be held on June 24, with adjusted hours for Town facilities. She also shared election statistics provided by Town Clerk Britt Barton, noting a turnout of 2,830 voters (47%), including 663 absentee voters, representing a significant increase in participation compared to recent years.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF NON-AGENDA ITEMS (LIMIT 3 MINS PER PERSON)

Minutes:

Chair Palange opened the floor for the Public Comment portion of the agenda. The following individuals spoke: Lisa Lehne-Gilmore (Portland Rd), Robert Coleman (Valley High), Erin Demers (Starlight Rd)

OLD BUSINESS

No Items Presented for Consideration

NEW BUSINESS

11. RESOLVES (One Reading Required)

a. Resolve 2627-1 - Re-Affirming the Rules for Town Council Meetings & Workshops

Minutes:

Motion: Be resolved, that the Gray Town Council hereby reaffirms the Town Council Rules, Chapter 602, as currently adopted, to remain in full force and effect until amended by future Council action.

Chair Palange opened the floor for discussion on the motion. The following individuals spoke: None.

Chair Palange opened the floor for Council deliberation. The Council discussed proposed amendments to the Town Council Rules and agreed that additional review was needed before adoption. Councilors raised concerns about clarifying procedural requirements, updating provisions related to agenda setting and committees, and considering a process for removal of a Council Chair if warranted. The Council opted to table consideration of the rules to a future meeting, allowing members time to submit and review proposed changes.

Moved by Councilor Johnson, Seconded by Councilor Simoneau

Motion: To table Resolve 2627-1 for consideration at a future meeting.

Moved by Councilor Johnson, Seconded by Councilor Simoneau

Ayes: Johnson, Simoneau, Palange, Edson, Gass

Nays: None

b. Resolve 2627-2 - Approval of the 2026-2027 Town Council Meeting Schedule

Minutes:

Motion: Be resolved, that the Gray Town Council hereby adopts the FY 2026–2027 Town Council Meeting Schedule, as presented.

Chair Palange opened the floor for discussion on the motion. The following individuals spoke: None.

Chair Palange opened the floor for Council deliberation. The Council discussed the FY 2026–2027 meeting schedule, emphasizing the importance of starting the annual budget process earlier and providing residents with more time to review and comment on budget information. Members also considered operational changes to improve meeting efficiency and public participation. The Council ultimately approved changes to move regular meeting start times to 6:30 p.m., eliminate the July 7 and July 21 meetings, and hold a single July meeting on July 14, 2026.

Moved by Councilor Gass, Seconded by Councilor Johnson

Ayes: Johnson, Simoneau, Palange, Edson, Gass

Nays: None

c. Resolve 2627-3 - Approval of the Town Council Liaison Assignments

Minutes:

Motion: Be resolved, that the Gray Town Council hereby reaffirms the Town Council Rules, Chapter 602, as currently adopted, to remain in full force and effect until amended by future Council action.

Chair Palange opened the floor for discussion on the motion. The following individuals spoke: None.

Chair Palange opened the floor for Council deliberation. The Council reviewed and approved liaison assignments for Town boards, committees, and regional organizations for the upcoming year. During the discussion, members clarified the role of council liaisons, finalized assignments, and addressed scheduling considerations for certain committees. The Council subsequently approved the liaison assignments as amended and discussed.

Moved by Councilor Johnson, Seconded by Councilor Simoneau

Ayes: Johnson, Simoneau, Palange, Edson Gass

Nays: None

12. REFERRALS

Minutes:

No items were presented for consideration.

13. CURRENT COUNCIL REFERRALS

14. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Minutes:

July 14, 2026, 6:30 PM as discussed.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

Motion: To adjourn at 8:19 PM.

Moved by Councilor Simoneau, Seconded by Councilor Gass

Ayes: Johnson, Simoneau, Palange, Edson, Gass

Nays: None