

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Zoom # 853 2915 6146
February 16, 2021, Tuesday

Present: Arthur Mathews, President
Michael Molisse, Vice President
Pascale Burga, Councilor
Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor
Brian Dwyer, Councilor
Fred Happel, Councilor
Ed Harrington, Councilor
Rebecca Haugh, Councilor
Christopher Heffernan, Councilor
Maureen Kiely, Councilor

Absent: Jane Hackett, Councilor

Also Present: Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor
James Malary, Director of Municipal Finance

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

President Mathews called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk Kathleen Deree called the roll, with one member absent. President Mathews reported Councilor Hackett had a previous work commitment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Burga announced that all dog licenses expired on December 31, 2021 and the grace period ends on February 29, 2021. She noted the late fees and fines for unlicensed dogs. Renewals can be made at the Town Clerk's office located at 75 Middle Street, or online through the town website.

Councilor Burga announced the COVID-19 testing site is still open and free to all Weymouth residents and town employees. To schedule an appointment, go to the Weymouth website and link to COVID-19, or call 781- 682-3880.

Councilor Kiely announced two programs with funding from the federal CARES Act are available, through the Weymouth Office of Elder Services, to isolated residents over the age of 62 in Weymouth who can't or won't leave home due to COVID:

- Project Care Pack for Seniors- a free care pack. First distribution is open to eligible applicants and is limited to one per household.
- Project IPADS for Seniors- free IPAD to help eligible applicants stay one step closer to friends, families and doctors, through technology.

Applications and details for both projects are in the February issue of Weymouth Elder Horizons and can be accessed online: <https://ourseniorcenter.com/find/weymouth-elder-services/bulletin/file/06-5205-20210201N.pdf>

Councilor Harrington announced that Measures Before Council is an update to the Town Council page of the Weymouth website that includes links to the current measures, that is available to the public. It will be updated as new measures are added. He thanked the staff for the addition to the Council's page.

Councilor Haugh announced that Supt. Whipple will be departing the Weymouth Public Schools shortly to join South Shore Stars. She attended her last School Committee meeting last week and Councilor Haugh acknowledged her 25 years of service in the Weymouth Public Schools and welcomed the interim superintendent, Dr. Kathleen Smith, who will remain through June 30, 2021. Councilor Haugh extended best wishes to Supt. Whipple.

MINUTES

Budget/Management Committee Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2021

Vice President Molisse made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2021 Budget/Management Committee meeting and was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Town Council Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2021

Vice President Molisse made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2021 Town Council meeting and was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Absent for Vote, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Budget/Management Committee Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2021

Vice President Molisse made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2021 Budget/Management Committee meeting and was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Absent for Vote, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Town Council Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2021

Vice President Molisse made a motion to approve the minutes from the of February 1, 2021 Town Council meeting and was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Absent for Vote, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR, TOWN OFFICERS AND TOWN BOARDS

21 006-Wharf Street Incinerator Demolition and Site Remediation

On behalf of Mayor Robert Hedlund, CFO James Malary requested that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$940,000 from the Stabilization Fund to a capital project fund for the purpose of funding costs associated with the demolition of the Wharf Street Incinerator and accompanying site remediation. This measure requires a legal notice, public hearing and a 2/3 vote.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to refer measure 21 006 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Absent for Vote, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 007-Community Preservation Fund Transfer for the Purpose of Digitizing Historic Library Documents

On behalf of Mayor Robert Hedlund, CFO James Malary requested that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$22,680 from the Community Preservation Historic Resources Fund for the digitization of microfilm reels of the Weymouth Gazette as submitted by the Weymouth Public Libraries and approved by the Community Preservation Committee. This measure requires a legal notice and public hearing.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to refer measure 21 007 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, (Councilor Dwyer-absent for vote), Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 008-Request to Enter into 5-Year school Bus Transportation Contract

On behalf of Mayor Robert Hedlund, CFO James Malary requested that the Town Council authorize the town to enter into a contract for school bus transportation for a term of 5 years, beginning with the school year commencing in September 2021, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B, Section 12.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to refer measure 21 008 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. President Mathews read a memo from Supt. Whipple into the record as back up to the measure.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

21 009-Weymouth Fire Fighters Collective Bargaining Agreement

On behalf of Mayor Robert Hedlund, CFO James Malary requested that the Town of Weymouth transfer the following amounts from the Fiscal Year 2021 Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding costs associated with the FY20-FY22 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the Town of Weymouth and the Weymouth Fire Fighters, Local 1616 of the International Association of Fire Fighters:

\$161,191.52	FY20 Fire Department Salaries
\$10,396.53	FY20 Fire Department Overtime
\$104,569.72	FY21 Fire Department Salaries

The remaining CBA salary and overtime expenses for FY212 will be covered by anticipated year-end balances in salary and overtime line items.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to refer measure 21 009 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Public Safety Committee-Chair Fred Happel

Chair Happel reported that the Public Safety Committee met on February 2, 2021 with the Director of Public Health, Dan McCormack to receive an update on the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine. He provided a chronology of events. On January 5, 2021 the town received the first 200 doses of Moderna vaccine to be administered to first responders in Phase I of the state’s COVID-19 plan. On January 25, 2021, the DPH notified Weymouth that due to a shortage, the town can only order 100 doses per week. On January 27, 2021, the town received 200 doses, for the

second dose for the first responders. On February 2, 2021, the town received its first order of 100 doses to be administered to Phase 2, Step 1 citizens, which are residents over the age of 75. Weymouth has about 4,400 residents over the age of 75, and at a rate of 100 per week, it will be 40 weeks before they are all vaccinated. Fairing Way and Union Tower residents were vaccinated in a federal program. February 8-11, clinics were set up at the Senior Center to give the second dose to first responders. Hopefully, starting this week, the town will administer 100 doses per week to residents 75 and older. Residents will be randomly selected from each of the four zip codes.

Residents are encouraged to call 211 or go to Mass.gov to schedule an appointment at one of the state's larger vaccination sites, or to cvs.com to obtain vaccination appointments. Hopefully, the amount of vaccine will increase over time and the town can move on to the next groups.

Chair Happel requested the administration continue to update the Council as updates are received. The pandemic is affecting every aspect of life, and the residents' mental health is a huge concern. Small businesses are struggling, students need to get back to school, people are dying and families are struggling financially and emotionally. He thanked the town employees who continue to work during this time.

NEW BUSINESS

21 010-Review of Measure Number 17 127-Zoning Amendment to Create a Commercial Corridor Overlay District (Section 120-25.14)

A request was made by Council President Arthur Mathews for a review of Measure 17 127, with the following explanation read into the record:

"I am requesting the aforementioned measure be referred to the Ordinance Committee, Planning Board and the Planning Department for review.

This zoning change was passed by the Town Council on April 2, 2018 and signed by Mayor Hedlund on April 4, 2018.

When this was passed, the goal was to encourage redevelopment of commercial corridor districts; however there have been a number of developments which have mostly been apartments. I am concerned with the lack of commercial development and redevelopment since passing this zoning change. While I understand that we are in the midst of a pandemic, I am deeply concerned with some of the developments being mostly residential with limited commercial uses.

In addition, these apartment developments that have been or are being proposed, are putting us further away from the 10 percent state's affordable housing goal, as minimal or no affordable housing is being included in these developments.

I am requesting that the Ordinance Committee, Planning Board and the Town of Weymouth Planning Department, conduct a thorough review of the commercial overlay district in its entirety, in order to address these concerns. I would welcome revisions, removal of the overlay district and/or any other changes that these departments/boards deem reasonable in addressing my concerns."

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to refer measure 21 010 to the Ordinance Committee, the Planning Board and the Planning Department-- was seconded by Councilor Harrington.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Council will be Monday, March 1, 2021. At 8:02 PM; there being no further business, Vice President Molisse made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Attachments:

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Arthur Mathews as President of the Town Council
Voted unanimously on 1 March 2021