

**Town Council Minutes
Town Hall Council Chambers
January 16, 2024**

Present: Michael Molisse, President
Pascale Burga, Vice President
John Abbott, Councilor
Rick Coughlin, Councilor
Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor
Christopher Heffernan, Councilor
Gary MacDougall, Councilor
Arthur Mathews, Councilor
Greg Shanahan, Councilor

Absent: Fred Happel, Councilor
Maureen Kiely, Councilor

Also Present: Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk
James Malary, Director of Municipal Finance
Richard McLeod, Town Solicitor

Recording Secretary: Kim McCutcheon

APPROVED

President Molisse called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk Kathleen Deree called the roll, with Councilor Happel and Councilor Kiely absent. President Molisse reported that Councilor Happel and Councilor Kiely both had family commitments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Molisse congratulated all Councilors on their re-election and welcomed Councilor Rick Coughlin to the Council.

President Molisse thanked outgoing President Arthur Mathews for his four years of service and dedication to the Council and appreciated all Councilor Mathews had done. President Molisse welcomed Vice President Pascale Burga and believes the Council will have a great year ahead of them.

President Molisse read into the record the Town Council Committee designations for the 2024-2026 committees. (Committee list attached).

MINUTES

Tabled Ordinance Committee Meeting Minutes of November 1, 2023

Vice President Burga made motion to remove the Ordinance Committee Meeting minutes of November 12, 2023 from the table. The minutes were tabled on November 20, 2023. Councilor Mathews seconded the motion yet noted that the minutes are as amended. President Molisse stated that they are not as amended. Vice President Burga motioned for favorable action on the minutes, motion seconded by Councilor Mathews and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Ordinance Committee Meeting Minutes of November 27, 2023

A motion was made by Vice President Burga to approve the minutes from the November 27, 2023 Ordinance Committee Meeting and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Budget/Management Committee Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2023

A motion was made by Vice President Burga to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2023 Budget/Management Committee Meeting and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Town Council Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2023

A motion was made by Vice President Burga to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2023 Town Council Meeting and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Southfield/Union Point Committee Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2023

A motion was made by Vice President Burga to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2023 Southfield/Union Point Committee Meeting and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Southfield/Union Point Committee Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2023

A motion was made by Vice President Burga to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2023 Southfield/Union Point Committee Meeting and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Town Council Meeting Minutes of January 2, 2024

A motion was made by Vice President Burga to approve the minutes from the January 2, 2024 Town Council Meeting and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Southfield/Union Point Committee Meeting Minutes of January 3, 2024

A motion was made by Vice President Burga to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2024 Town Council Meeting and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion/Withdrawal of Measure 23 120-Proposed Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Article II Section 120-6 and Article IV Section 120-13-Concerning In-Law Residence

Structures. President Molisse read into the record a letter from Mayor Hedlund (memorandum attached). President Molisse stated he appreciated all of the work the Ordinance Committee did on this measure but noted that the Mayor has withdrawn the measure.

Measure 23 135 Ritual Slaughter Ordinance

James Malary, Director of Municipal Finance, read the measure into the record on behalf of Mayor Hedlund.

That the Town of Weymouth, through Town Council with the approval of the Mayor, hereby amends the Town of Weymouth Ordinances in the following manner:

Section 6-700 Non-domesticated Animals and Domesticated Animals, of the Town of Weymouth Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding the following new subsection

§ 6-706 Ritual Slaughter

In accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 94 § 139G, the Town shall not prohibit, abridge, or in any way hinder the religious freedom of any person or group, from ritual slaughter and the handling or other preparation of livestock for ritual slaughter. The term "ritual slaughter" means slaughter in accordance with the ritual requirements of the Jewish faith or any other religious faith that prescribes a method of slaughter whereby the animal suffers loss of consciousness by anemia of the brain caused by the simultaneous and instantaneous severance of the carotid arteries with a sharp instrument. Provided that such livestock is healthy and is slaughtered under such sanitary standards, practices and procedures to not create a public health and safety hazard. Any practice ritual slaughter must be sheltered on private property and outside of public view.

This measure requires legal notice and a public hearing

Vice President Burga made a motion to refer measure 23 135- Ritual Slaughter Ordinance to the Ordinance Committee. Councilor Mathews seconded. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Councilor Abbott, Chair of the Southfield/Union Point committee read into the record his update regarding the Oversight of Redevelopment of Former NAS South Weymouth – MEPA and Notice of Project Change. (Document attached). President Molisse thanked the committee for the work done thus far.

NEW BUSINESS

24 001 Reappointment as Town Clerk – Kathy Deree

President Molisse introduced measure 24 001. Vice President Burga requested measure be taken under same night action in accordance with 2-9(b) of the Town Charter, the Town of Weymouth

re-appoints Kathleen Deree as the Town Clerk. Motion was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

24 002 Reappointment as Assistant Town Clerk – Lee Hultin

President Molisse introduced measure 24 002. Vice President Burga requested measure be taken under same night action in accordance with 2-9(b) of the Town Charter, The Town of Weymouth re-appoints Lee Hultin as the Assistant Town Clerk. Motion was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Council will be Monday February 5, 2024. At 7:44 p.m., there being no further business, Vice President Molisse motioned to adjourn the meeting, and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Kim McCutcheon as Recording Secretary



Approved by Council President Michael Molisse
Voted unanimously on 5 February 2024

APPROVED

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Committee Appointments 2024-2026 (1/12/24)
2. Withdrawal of Measure 23 120 – Concerning In-Law Residence (12/7/23)
3. Southfield/Union Point Committee Report (1/16/24)

WEYMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2024-2026

Budget/Management

Chair-Greg Shanahan
Vice Chair-Pascale Burga
Maureen Kiely
Rick Coughlin
Gary MacDougall

Ordinance

Chair-Kenneth DiFazio
Vice Chair-Arthur Mathews
Rick Coughlin
Fred Happel
Gary MacDougall

Economic Development

Chair-Greg Shanahan
Vice Chair-Chris Heffernan
Gary MacDougall
Maureen Kiely
Fred Happel

Public Safety

Chair- Fred Happel
Vice Chair-Maureen Kiely
Pascale Burga
Greg Shanahan
Gary MacDougall

Public Works

Chair-Arthur Mathews
Vice Chair-Ken DiFazio
John Abbott
Rick Coughlin
Gary MacDougall

Mental Health & Substance Abuse

Chair-Christopher Heffernan
Vice Chair- Fred Happel
John Abbott
Michael Molisse
Maureen Kiely

Southfield/Union Point

Chair-John Abbott
Vice Chair- Gary MacDougall
Christopher Heffernan
Fred Happel
Arthur Mathews

Community Preservation Committee-Fred Happel

Memorial Committee-Michael Molisse

Energy Advisory Committee-Greg Shanahan

Medical Marijuana Dispensary Review Committee-Gary MacDougall

Emerg Advisory Committee-Kenneth DiFazio

School Building Committee-Michael Molisse

Public Parks and Recreation

Chair-Chris Heffernan
Vice Chair- Michael Molisse
Maureen Kiely
Kenneth DiFazio
Pascale Burga

Rules

Chair-Pascale Burga
Vice Chair-Michael Molisse
Kenneth DiFazio
Arthur Mathews
Christopher Heffernan

Senior Citizens

Chair-Maureen Kiely
Vice Chair-Pascale Burga
Michael Molisse
Fred Happel
John Abbott

Education

Chair- Gary MacDougall
Vice Chair-John Abbott
Michael Molisse
Arthur Mathews
Maureen Kiely

Environmental

Chair-John Abbott
Vice Chair- Fred Happel
Christopher Heffernan
Kenneth DiFazio
Rick Coughlin

Long Range Planning

Chair-Gary MacDougall
Vice Chair-Fred Happel
Greg Shanahan
Kenneth DiFazio
John Abbott

Attachment #2

**Town of Weymouth
Massachusetts**

Robert L. Hedlund
Mayor

75 Middle Street
Weymouth, MA 02189




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MEMORANDUM

TO: KENNETH DIFAZIO, CHAIRMAN, ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

**CC: KATHLEEN DERE, TOWN CLERK
ROBERT LUONGO, DIR. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
ERIC SCHNEIDER, PRINCIPAL PLANNER
ARTHUR MATHEWS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT
RICHARD MCLEOD, TOWN SOLICITOR**

FROM: MAYOR ROBERT L. HEDLUND 

**RE: WITHDRAWAL OF MEASURE 23 120 – CONCERNING IN-LAW
RESIDENCE**

DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2023

I respectfully request the withdrawal of Measure 23 120, and that the Ordinance Committee ("OC") not take any action on the above referenced measure. We may take up this matter again after further consultation with the Town Solicitor.

Thank you for your attention and anticipated cooperation.

Weymouth
Town Council

2023 DEC -7 11 46 16

RECEIVED

**Town of Weymouth
Massachusetts**

**Richard McLeod
Town Solicitor**

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75 Middle Street
Weymouth, Massachusetts 02189
RmcLeod@weymouth.ma.us
(781) 682-3503



**Robert L. Hedlund
Mayor**

Town of Weymouth
75 Middle Street
Weymouth, Massachusetts 02189

December 7, 2023

**Kenneth DiFazio, Chairperson
Ordinance Sub-Committee
Town Council
75 Middle Street
Weymouth, MA 02189**

RE: Measure 23-120 - In-Law Residence ("ILR") Ordinance

Dear Councilor DiFazio:

I respectfully request that the Ordinance Committee ("OC") not take any action on the above reference measure.

During the OC meeting on November 27, 2023 the OC recommended substantive changes to the proposed ILR Ordinance which, if approved, may have had a negative impact upon the R-1 Residential Zoning District. The OC's undefined terms for the changes created ambiguity within the proposed ordinance.

Moreover, the proposed changes were made after the public meeting was closed. The residents in the R-1 District should have had an opportunity to comment on the substantive changes to the ordinance prior to any vote taken by the OC.

It is my understanding that the Mayor's Office will be forced to withdraw the measure prior to Council taking any action on the proposed ordinance due to the aforementioned issues described herein.

Thank you for attention and anticipated cooperation.

Very truly yours,

/s/ *Richard M. McLeod*
Richard M. McLeod

cc: Mayor Robert Hedlund
Arthur Matthews, Council President

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Weymouth
Town Council

Attachment #3

The Southfield/Union Point Committee has been working on one agenda item over the past four months:

- Oversight of Redevelopment of Former NAS-South Weymouth
 - MEPA Notice of Project Change

The committee has met six times to discuss the notice of project change and the potential impact full redevelopment of the former base would have on Weymouth. The Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Superintendent of Schools all attended meetings and answered questions about the needs of their departments in light of the redevelopment. The development team funded a peer reviewer to work for the town and with various department heads on reviewing the numerous required impact studies submitted along with the notice of project change. The committee specifically discussed stormwater, wastewater, water, and transportation impacts with the peer reviewer's team, departmental representatives and experts from the development team to examine the specific plans and mitigation efforts and commitments of the developer.

The notice of project change was submitted to MEPA on December 19th and published in the environmental monitor on December 22nd with public comments due January 30th. Given meeting schedules and notification requirements as well as the original due date of public comments, the committee did not have the chance to arrive at a consensus comment to propose to the full council. The committee will continue to convene as appropriate to provide transparent oversight of the ongoing development and its impacts on Weymouth.