

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Town Hall Council Chambers**  
**Zoom # 814 4985 6151**  
**September 12, 2022, Monday**

Present: Arthur Mathews, President  
Michael Molisse, Vice President  
John Abbott, Councilor  
Lisa Belmarsh, Councilor  
Pascale Burga, Councilor  
Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor  
Fred Happel, Councilor  
Christopher Heffernan, Councilor  
Maureen Kiely, Councilor  
Gary MacDougall, Councilor  
Greg Shanahan, Councilor

Also Present: Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk  
Richard McLeod, Town Solicitor  
Brian Connolly, Town Auditor  
James Malary, Director of Municipal Finance  
Rob MacLean, Director of Libraries  
John MacLeod, Director of Procurement

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

President Mathews called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk Kathleen Deree called the roll, with all present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilor Burga announced the Weymouth 400 Festival taking place on Saturday, September 17, 2022 from 2-7 PM in the vicinity of the Town Hall and surrounding area.

**Citation Issuance to Cal Ripken Baseball 12U Team and Coaches - Runners-Up at World Series**

**-Councilor Michael Molisse, Councilor John Abbott, Councilor Fred Happel**

President Mathews recognized Councilors Abbott, Molisse, and Happel to present the citations on behalf of the Town Council, and Steve Reilly, Director of Recreation, presenting citations on behalf of Mayor Hedlund. The coaches and players were commended for their standing as runners up in the Cal Ripken World Series.

## MINUTES

### **Special Town Council Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2022**

Vice President Molisse motioned to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2022 Special Town Council meeting and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. Unanimously voted.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

### **22 120- CPA Funding Request-Improvements at Osprey Overlook Park**

Vice President Molisse motioned to open the public hearing on measure 22 120 and Councilor Kiely seconded the motion. It was referred to the Budget/Management Committee on August 15, 2022 and the public hearing was advertised on September 2, 2022. Unanimously voted.

John MacLeod presented the measure; that the Town of Weymouth appropriate the sum of \$370,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance, for improvements at Osprey Overlook Park. He reported that they are approaching the finish of the 18-months of demolition; then rough grading and finish work will be done, followed by parking and walking trail and plantings. Councilor Mathews confirmed the cost of the measure. Vice President Molisse reported that the Budget/Management Committee reviewed the measure in its earlier meeting.

Councilor DiFazio asked if there are any plans for the animal building? Mr. MacLeod responded that the building had previously been renovated and used to house the school transportation department. The building is currently unoccupied, but in good shape. It could possibly be used as a recreation building.

Councilor Abbott asked what is the estimated timeline for completion of the demolition and improvements begun. Mr. MacLeod responded that they should be taking down the stack within a week, and then starting the final grading this fall, and be ready for plantings next spring.

President Mathews asked if there were any questions or comments from the public, to which there was no response.

Vice President Molisse motioned to close the public hearing and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. Unanimously voted.

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

### **22 123- Reserve Fund Transfer-Legal**

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, James Malary requested the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$50,000 from the FY23 Reserve Fund to the Town Solicitor-Labor Relations-Special Counsel line item for the purpose of paying costs associated with legal labor services.

Vice President Molisse motioned to refer the measure to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. Unanimously voted.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### **Budget/Management Committee-Chair Michael Molisse**

Vice President Molisse reported that the Budget/Management Committee met on September 12, 2022 to deliberate the following measures:

#### **22 119- Reserve Fund to Library Overtime**

This measure was referred to the committee on August 15, 2022. The committee met on September 12, 2022 and voted to forward the measure to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, Vice President Molisse motioned to approve measure 22 119; that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$12,000 from the FY23 Reserve Fund to the following line items:

\$4,000 to the Library Building & Grounds Maintenance Overtime line item and \$8,000 to the Library Main Library Overtime line item

Councilor Kiely seconded the motion.

Director MacLean provided a brief review of the measure which was deliberated in the earlier Budget/Management Committee meeting. The department has had several resignations, requiring overtime to cover custodial shifts and temporary closing of library programs during staff shortfalls. It is currently fully staffed and the funding request will last through this fiscal year.

Unanimously voted.

#### **22 120- CPA Funding Request-Improvements at Osprey Overlook Park**

This measure was referred to the committee on August 15, 2022. The committee met on September 12, 2022 and voted to forward the measure to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action. A public hearing on the measure was held and closed.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, Vice President Molisse motioned to approve measure 22 120; that the Town of Weymouth appropriate the sum of \$370,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance, for improvements at Osprey Overlook Park.

Councilor Kiely seconded the motion. Unanimously voted.

#### **22 121- Reserve Fund for Accounting Services**

This measure was referred to the committee on August 15, 2022. The committee met on September 12, 2022 and voted to forward the measure to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, Vice President Molisse motioned to approve measure 22 121; that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$30,000 from the FY23

Reserve Fund for the purpose of paying accounting services following the retirement of the town accountant.

Councilor Kiely seconded the motion. Unanimously voted.

**22 122- Appointment to Board of Registrars-Linda Rorie**

This measure was referred to the committee on August 15, 2022. The committee met on September 12, 2022 and voted to forward the measure to the full Town Council with a recommendation for unfavorable action.

Steven Horan, who introduced himself as Ms. Rorie's legal counsel, asked on her behalf, to go into executive session to refute the letter they received an hour prior to the budget committee meeting. President Mathews ruled the request out of order; only Ms. Rorie should be speaking on her own behalf. President Mathews pointed out that, although sometimes other speakers are recognized during deliberation of a measure, this is the first time since he has been on the Council that a proposed appointee has asked for an attorney to speak on his/her behalf for a committee appointment. It was unprecedented and he called it out of order.

Vice President Molisse asked Ms. Rorie why she sought the appointment. Ms. Rorie responded that she is a Republican, and this is a political position. She provided her educational background which includes a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Therapy, and a Masters in Quality Systems, which means she is very aware of process improvements, auditing of processes and procedures and laws. She pointed out the binder she brought is the MGL, that supersedes any others according to the parliamentary rules and procedures she reviewed over the weekend. She is trying to get her registrar as a parliamentarian. She would like the position on the board because she wants to ensure that the laws are being followed. She understands there are administrative issues that also need to be looked at and that the Town Clerk, as the chair of the Board of Registrars is the supervisor of the registrars. While she respects that position, there are definite improvements that need to be made. Right now, registrars are being appointed that are not looking at the Secretary of State memos that are sent in, to say how does this impact the voters, or are aware of what's going on. She asked the chair whether the Board had processes and procedures and they had none. Because she wanted to look at them and had followed the MGL, and whatever the Secretary of State sends down to them, like the new laws set in place for COVID. She is very concerned that today the Council received a letter which was not signed with any signatures that defames her; a character assassination. She is very concerned that it was used for the decision made in the Budget/Committee meeting, and she requested to go into executive session.

President Mathews responded that the Budget/Management Committee makes a recommendation to the Council. The Council has not taken a vote yet; there's been a recommendation. In past practice, there have been recommendations made by any standing committee that have been overturned by the full Council. Speaking for himself, she is presuming something. She is referring to something the Council received today that is a public record. The Council receives public records all the time; any email the Council receives from constituents is public record. Ms. Rorie confirmed it is public record. President Mathews responded that it is not being hidden. Anyone can ask for it under the law, and it has to be provided. Ms. Rorie added

that she was not given a reason for denying her appointment. She asked if they are supposed to give a reason? She doesn't know the process on how it works. She doesn't know why they don't want someone who is really qualified to be a registrar. It is a political position; she is a Republican; she is not afraid to say it and is proud of it. She knows that President Biden says that (Republicans) are "the enemy of the United States," but (we) are not. President Mathews responded that the position has to be held by a Republican. She cannot be denied the seat to seat a Democrat instead. The assertions she is making are off base. Ms. Rorie added that it must be held by someone who very qualified and is familiar with the rules and can investigate and do the research. She can definitely do that and she has in the past. She asserted she is very qualified and sees no reason she was not approved. She would be working very closely with the Town Clerk and she is not antagonistic. She just wants to understand what the law is and how it's being applied. One thing that's not being applied correctly is distribution of election officers- Republicans and Democrats-wardens should be of different political party than the clerk; that is not being done. There are also issues with training and she could be helpful with that, for anybody; the public could come in, because they need more election officers overall. She would like to do some training.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, Vice President Molisse motioned to take unfavorable action on measure 22 122; that, in accordance with Section 2-10 of the Town Charter, the Town of Weymouth appoint Linda Rorie of 693 Commercial Street to the Board of Registrars for a 3-year term due to expire on June 30, 2025.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

Councilor DiFazio asked if she met with someone in the administration to volunteer for this position? Ms. Rorie responded yes. Councilor DiFazio asked, up until the vote was taken in Budget/Management, was it still the recommendation of the administration that she serve in this capacity? The response was yes. Councilor DiFazio continued; allegedly, the Council received some communication, not signed, but from a number of people? Are all of these people Democrats? The response to both was yes. Councilor DiFazio responded that he knows how he'll vote.

Voted 10-1 (Councilor DiFazio- no).

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Council is September 19, 2022. At 8:05 PM; there being no further business, Vice President Molisse motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. Unanimously voted.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Arthur Mathews as President of the Town Council  
Voted unanimously on 3 October 2022