

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Town Hall Council Chambers
September 7, 2021, Monday

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

Absent: Jane Hackett, Councilor
Ed Harrington, Councilor

Also Present: Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
Leilani Dalpe, Project Manager
James Malary, Chief Financial Officer

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 two councilors absent, Councilor Hackett and Councilor Harrington would not be attending.

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

21 108-Appointment to Board of Elder Services-Sally Furlong

James Malary, Chief Financial Officer, and on behalf of Mayor Robert Hedlund, requested that the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with 2-10 of the Town Charter, appoint Sally Furlong of 564 Pine Street to the Board of Elder Services for a 3-year term to expire on June 30, 2024. This is to replace the seat vacated by Dorothy Caniff.

Vice President Molisse made a motion to refer measure 21 108 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Heffernan. Unanimously voted.

21 109-Appointment to Housing Authority-Patricia Lydon

James Malary, Chief Financial Officer, and on behalf of Mayor Robert Hedlund, requested that That the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with 2-10 of the Town Charter, appoint Patricia Lydon of 25 Water Street to the Housing Authority for a 5-year term to expire on June 30, 2026.

Vice President Molisse made a motion to refer measure 21 109 to the Budget/Management

Committee and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. Unanimously voted.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on Status of Hybrid Town Council Meetings- Ted Langill, Chief of Staff / Mary Heinrichs, Jeff Cummings, WETC

President Mathews reported that WETC and administration have been working on getting a hybrid model for several months. Mary Heinrichs and Jeff Cummings were invited to this meeting along with Ted Langill, Chief Executive Officer, who sent a response. John MacLeod was present on behalf of the administration. Questions from the Council were submitted earlier in writing.

Mary Heinrichs and Jeff Cummings of WETC were invited to the table. Ms. Heinrichs reported that WETC staff began more than a year ago to coordinate hybrid meetings. Zoom meetings are recorded by Council and uploaded to WETC following a meeting. The work involves three sites, three cameras and associated robotics. They have been working in earnest the last 6 weeks. She explained that town hall is an older building and more difficult to wire. McCulloch is all set at this time to accommodate hybrid meetings.

Mr. Cummings explained the technical aspects. A link is sent out with the agenda. The meeting is joined with the WETC feed. The Zoom administrator would spotlight the video feed, which will be projected on the screen in the Council chambers. During public comment period, the room administrator would unspotlight and call on guests, who will then be visible on the screen in Council Chambers. Power Point presentations can toggle between sources. Hypothetically, it should be pretty smooth.

President Mathews asked if he will need an administrator, or could he do it. Mr. Cummings responded that it would be easier to have whomever is administering the zoom meeting unmute and allow speakers in. Mr. Cummings noted that the school committee has been running hybrid meetings, but the process is not as formal as they are intending to implement in Chambers, and was simply a band aid solution.

Ms. Heinrich added that WETC is the broadcasters, but their preference is that the town have a zoom “manager.”

President Mathews asked if this applies to committee meetings also? Ms. Heinrich responded that it would be needed in meetings with public hearings or public comment, but meetings that do not have them don’t need to be broadcast, or held on Zoom.

Councilor Haugh pointed out that committee meetings weren’t broadcast before. Will they be possibly in the future? Would it require WETC personnel to be present? Ms. Heinrich responded that WETC would have to be present.

Councilor Burga asked who will be assigned as the moderator; it would be distracting to the councilors. Someone needs to be identified and be fully trained. Mr. Cummings responded that he can provide training. He also noted that Zoom has a chat feature that could be used for

individuals requesting to be heard. Councilor Burga responded that it also is important that they can avoid any “Zoom bombs.” Ms. Heinrichs responded that they all know there will be hiccups initially, she asked everyone to have patience.

Discussion on Status of Water/Sewer in Town of Weymouth- Council President Arthur Mathews

President Mathews reported that he brought this issue up for discussion after hearing remarks at the last meeting and from constituents that there is concern about water supply/capacity and infrastructure. The annual report indicates 20-25% of water is leaking from infrastructure. He asked for a referral to the Public Works Committee to conduct a discussion. Councilors should submit questions and comments through Ms. Hachey and a meeting will be scheduled. He intends to bring in DPW staff to talk about the issues. He is especially interested in recent development along Washington Street and the comments from DEP in their letter and their concerns with water capacity.

President Mathews reported that he served on the Public Works Committee when the town was under a consent order in the 1990’s. He does not want to be in a position to have to tell residents they can’t water their lawns. He recalls when the town moved to city form of government, and prior to that, two boards were suing each other over water issues. There are measures they can take to address the infrastructure.

He further noted that the SRA has hired Environmental Partners to put together a study about joining MWRA for water. The town also uses MWRA. He will eventually bring in SRA’s representatives for an update. He has a problem with using the wastewater side and doesn’t want to see Weymouth accepting wastewater. DEP is looking at the town’s permit and yield. The Town Council must be a partner to any decision. With the developments- as a group, the Council should be cognizant and he feels this needs a discussion as a committee.

Vice President Molisse made a motion to refer the matter to the Public Works Committee and was seconded by Councilor Kiely. Vice President Molisse thanked President Mathews for bringing this issue to light. He looks forward to the discussion. Unanimously voted.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Council is September 20, 2021. At 7:56 PM; there being no further business, Vice President Molisse made a motion 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 20 September 2021